

Foreword

Pride in Our Words is finally born! You may be wondering what is so special about this booklet. Well, this is a fine selection of outstanding English writing from the extraordinarily intelligent and smart students in FLSS. Here you will find 24 interesting, touching and inspiring pieces of writing from students in various forms.

This book is prepared and compiled by the English Society 2010-2011, which holds the strong belief that through the process of sharing and appreciating our peers' excellent works, the smart writers can show their talent and passion in English writing. At the same time, all students in FLSS can enjoy and learn from these inspiring works.

To make this publication successful, we would like to acknowledge some people who gave us indispensable support. First of all, we would like to thank all the brilliant writers for their excellent works. *Pride in our words* could not be made possible without their efforts in producing and refining their great works. Secondly, we would like to express our heartfelt thanks to our English teachers, who has contributed a lot in this publication by giving us professional advice and guidance. Credit is also given to the members of the English Society, who offered great help in publishing this book. Last but not least, we would like to show our gratitude to our Principal, Mr. Simon Chan, for his continuous efforts in building up our English learning environment and his invaluable support in the publication of this book.

The most important of all, we would love to dedicate this book to all of you, our dear schoolmates. We sincerely hope that this book can bring you a sense of pride in being an FLSS student.

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A letter to humans

by 2B Lo Shun Kwan Tommy

Dear humans,

Hi, my name is Tom. Let me introduce myself first. I am a toy poodle. I have a lovely face and I am always nice and cheerful. Sadly, I was still abandoned by my dear master.

Why? I don't know. Maybe it's because he didn't think clearly before raising me.

I remember that he always talked to me at first, but he gradually stopped taking care of me, and finally he almost didn't pay me any attention. But I didn't do anything wrong! Why was I treated like that?

I think you should think about us first. If your mum loved you very much when you were young and cute, but she abandoned you when you grew up, how would you feel?

When you abandon us, you will not have any feeling, but we do! We will feel unhappy too! We also know how to cry!

Have you ever thought about how we can stay alive after you abandon us? If we want to survive, we must fight with other dogs, and maybe we will die! Where can we get food? Where should we sleep? What should we do if there is heavy rain? Have you ever thought about that?

So, please help us spread the message- think before you raise a dog, this can protect my friends.

Love,

Tom

A little dog



My Days as a Hawker

BY 2B TSOI KA NGO, MARCO

Being a hawker was quite fun. I started to be a hawker when I was sixteen. I decided to become a hawker because my mum was seriously sick, and my dad couldn't get enough money for us as he had just lost his job. I was very desperate, but I found that being a hawker could make a lot of money. I had got excellent cooking skills from my grandmother, so I found a very special partner and started my life as a hawker.

First I sold some simple food, like dim sum, dumpling noodles and cart noodles. Because of my grandmother's great recipes, my stall became popular. I usually worked in Central or Kowloon, because I could get the most customers there.

I liked being a hawker because every time when I sold my food to someone else, I could feel the happiness from them. The worst time to be a hawker was when I got lots of customers at the same time, but I was running out of food, and I had to run for more food. At such times, I was so exhausted but I still felt great.



When I was twenty something, my stall was well-known in Kowloon. One day, a boss from a good restaurant asked me to work for him, and I thought that was a golden chance to make money. So I accepted that job.

For around twenty years, I was a chef and a hawker. Two jobs were killing me, but it was worth it, because I earned lots of money to raise my children and offer them good opportunities to have good education. It was the most unforgettable experience in my life.

Now my life as a hawker has gone. My stall was sold to someone and I just retired from the restaurant. But I never want to forget those memories because being a hawker is where my life began.

On the taxi by 2B Alex Yu

Red taxis are apples

Green taxis are vegetables

Blue taxis are beautiful

They're all very comfortable

Travelling by taxis is so expensive

But it provides a great service

Taxis are faster than dogs

When we look at a clock

There is a police block

I need to hurry

I open my Gregory

And take out my blueberry

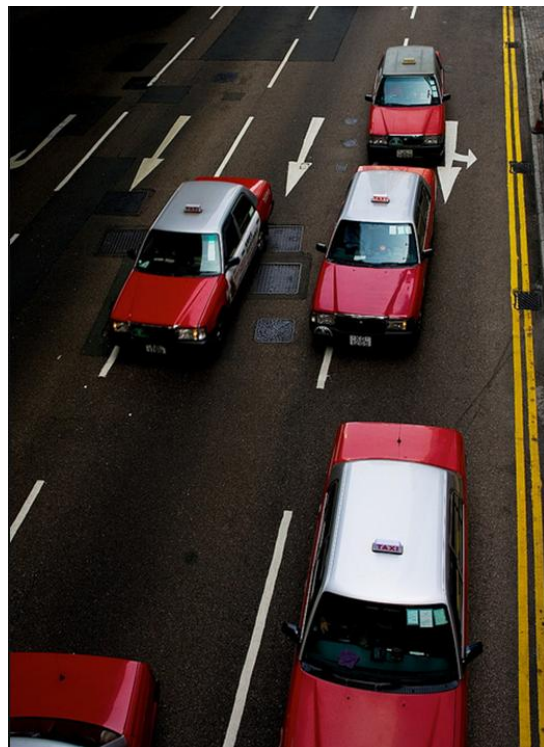
I am hungry

It is yummy

But at the same time

The driver is angry

Don't eat in the taxi



A \$1000 note by 2E Cheung Wai Yan

One day, my sister, Elaine, and I found a \$1000 note in the lift. When I was looking at the note and thinking what I could do, she told me we should throw the \$1000 note away. I didn't know what to do, then Elaine took it and went home.

When we were walking to our bedroom, our mother told us to have lunch. Our mother didn't know what had happened. We finished our lunch, and I went to my bedroom and closed the door. I sat on my bed. When I was studying my homework, I remembered one golden statement from my mother, 'Always be an honest and obedient person.' Oh, I was unhappy. If I lost the \$1000 note, how would I feel? I would be unhappy and anxious. One thousand dollars is a huge sum for me. I could buy many things, for example, toys and books. But would I break the law? Would I be a bad girl? I didn't want to think about it anymore. When I was trying to find the solution, my sister, Elaine came in and closed the door.

I asked her, "Where is that \$1000 note? I remembered our mother said to us, 'We must be an honest and obedient person!' Do you remember, Elaine?" Hearing that, Elaine gave the \$1000 note to me, I was happy and glad!

Finally, Elaine and I went to the police station and gave the \$1000 note to the policeman. We were punished by our mother at home. But I was happy about this!





When you were young, did you have a teddy bear? Did you hold it while you were sleeping?
Was it still sitting in your bedroom and waiting for you to come back?

I had a lovely bear when I was in primary two. However, since I had nasal allergy and easily sneezed when I was in contact with some fluffy things, it no longer belongs to me

My teddy bear was brown in colour. It had a pair of big eyes. I got it in a carnival and I put it on my bed. Every night I would say good night to it and I would comb its hair!

From that day on, I treated it as my best friend.

A few months later, I found that I always sneezed. My mother took me to see the doctor. At first, I thought I had just got a running nose. But actually, I had nasal allergy. The doctor said that it might be caused by the hair of the teddy bear, so he advised me to throw it away.

At that moment, I didn't know what I could do. I only knew that I couldn't throw it into the rubbish bin as the bear was my best friend.

Unfortunately, since my problem became more serious, my parents finally donated the teddy bear to a charity

Since then, we have never seen each other again.

We all had a teddy bear when we were young. It is our memory.

Although my bear no longer belongs to me now, I still remember its lovely face.

But, my teddy bear, do you remember me?

My unforgettable experience by 3B Lai Wai Shan

Last summer, during our stay in Xinjiang, we visited a children's village which is located in Urumqi, the capital of Xinjiang province in northwestern China.

More than 100 orphans belonging to various ethnic groups from the western provinces of Shanxi, Gansu, Qinghai, Ningxia, and Xinjiang have found their homes there. Although every child only has \$140 to maintain their life and doesn't have extra money to join a lot of extracurricular activities, the children still treasure everything. They always work hard. For instance, many children in the Urumqi village are interested in music and dancing, so they choose to learn how to play a musical instrument or have a dancing lesson several times a week. Their spirit impressed me a lot.



On the contrary, although children in Hong Kong are very lucky, they have delicious food, warm clothes, and a lot of resources to experience different kinds of things, some of them never treasure them and do not feel contented. I think that is the problem of Hong Kong children. Why don't we know how to be grateful? Why don't we know how to treasure everything? We have a wonderful family, we can study. But we never cherish these things although our lives are better than others'.

This experience also let me think about how I can do better. I hope I can improve myself and I am grateful that I have learnt a lot from the children in SOS children's village.



My unforgettable Sports Day by 3D Macy Lam

In the past, I used to be a very passive spectator chatting with friends on School Sports Day. But this year, it was different because I have joined Red Cross. I had many new tasks to try and to challenge myself with.

Because of Red Cross, I became one of the guards for the opening ceremony. Before Sports Day, we had never practised, so we arrived at the playground early to get ourselves ready. It was so cold! Although we wore lots of clothes, the cold wind was still chilling.

At the opening ceremony, we stood for a long time in the playground, but finally things went very smoothly.

After the opening ceremony, some members and I were asked to stay at the first aid station. On Sports Day, some athletes would be injured, so some members were ready to help the athletes at the first aid station.

I was so happy that I could help one of the wounded. Although she only hurt her knee, and I only helped her to stop the bleeding, I was still very happy. After I helped her, she said 'thank you' to me. I felt so warm. I think helping people is rewarding because you don't just offer help to the needy, at the same time, you can gain a sense of satisfaction. So, I like helping people so much! It's really a great thing.

After the Sports Day, we all could see everyone strive hard for their best. Sports Day is an activity where we can show our friendship and spirit. It is awesome! I love Sports Day so much!



If there was no summer

by 3D Ng Ting Chee Venus

Summer is the season that I hate most. If there was no summer, it would be so nice. People would not sweat that much. We would not need to worry about the sudden change of weather. Our mood would not be affected by the hot weather and we won't become short – tempered. We would not be lacking in motivation because of hot weather. We would not switch on the air – conditioners every day and make the global warming worse.

I hate sunshine, especially that in the hot summer days, which makes people dizzy. When we are standing under the sun, the people around and I seem to be dried out.

Although I hate summer, I should not be so selfish that I wish summer would disappear. Indeed, summer brings us a lot of good things. If there was no summer, the summer holidays that I hope for would disappear, which would be miserable. If it really happened, the students would be very disappointed.

Summer is also a season with sufficient rainfall and warm weather. They are good for the growth of crops. If there was no summer, the farmers would live a hard life.

Hot summer makes beaches and swimming pools fun. It gives a place for a family to keep their relationship. If there was no summer, busy people would not have a happy time.

If there was no summer, there would be lots of inconvenience. Though I hate it personally, humans need summer.



Letters from a “stranger” by 4A Jacky Chung

In the 1980s, the internet wasn't very popular. People used to write letters to contact their friends. At that time, everyone had their own pen pals because it was fashionable.

Macy was a thirteen-year-old girl who had just learned how to write a letter. She couldn't wait to write her first letter and send it.

Dear stranger,

Hi! This is my first letter and I hope I can make a new friend by this letter. I am so excited! How do you do? Can I have your name?

Look forward to your reply!

Cheers,
Macy

Then, she wrote down an address which she had never known where it was and put the letter in the mailbox.

After two weeks she had almost forgotten the letter she sent. Surprisingly, she got a reply from the stranger who had received her letter. The stranger said that he would love to be Macy's new pen pal.

“Oh my god! That's amazing! I can't believe that he would write back to me!” said Macy.

After that, Macy told everything to “the stranger” no matter whether it was about her life, her friends or her family, and “the stranger” told her about his job and friends.

When Macy was sixteen, she wrote a letter to “the stranger”.

Dear stranger,

I've got some troubles these days and I'm upset. I had a big fight with my parents because they don't allow me to have a relationship. But I really love my boyfriend! And my father said that if I still hang out with this boy, he won't treat me as his daughter anymore. The problem has been bothering me for weeks. I am sad now. What should I do?

Please write back soon.

Cheers,
Macy

A week after she had sent this letter, she got a reply letter which made her feel comfortable and warm. Also, it pushed her to make a decision that she would never regret.

Dear Macy,

I was so sorry to hear about that. But which one will you choose? A boy who you love for 3 months or a couple who love you for 16 years?

Love,
Stranger

Macy thought over it for a little while. She chose her parents. Also, it made her trust the stranger more. "He must be a good person," Macy thought.

As time went by, they were closer and closer. She told him everything and she tried to ask for his phone number. He refused. She requested to see him. He said no. He rejected everything and said, "Letters are a treasure because we don't know or care about what we look like or how old we are."

After that, she never asked how to contact him.

When Macy was eighteen, she told him that she had got into a university. He congratulated her.

When she was twenty, she told him that she had broken up with her boyfriend. He comforted her.

When she was twenty three, she told him that she had got her first job. He said "good for her".

When she was twenty six, she told him that she was getting married. He blessed her.

When she was thirty, she told him that her father who was an outstanding postman had just passed away and she wished him to comfort her. But this time, she never got any reply.



An Unforgettable Experience

by 4A Portia Lee



What is “life”? And, what is “death”? I hadn’t got an answer for myself until I attended the very first funeral in my life. It gave me a very clear picture of “life” and “death”. It was so clear that no matter how long since it happened, I still can’t put it aside. It happened a long time ago. I think I was only six or seven at that time.

The place was filled with black suits and tears. Everything was monochrome and dull. To be frank, I really enjoyed being in an atmosphere like this—everything being silent

and peaceful. I didn’t understand why people around me had to cry. “It was just someone dying.” I thought to myself. Death didn’t mean so much to me at that time. My parents were afraid that I couldn’t face the death of that person so they told me that they would only let me look at that person’s face once more. I think that was when my world started to move, beginning its change.

With my parents beside me, I walked towards the coffin where that person lay. I still remember who this person was. He was my teacher’s husband, a good church mate of mine. His skin was as white as snow. He lay there as if he was just sleeping. I didn’t feel sad or any kind of negative feelings, but it was peace that filled my heart. I never thought that “death” and “peace” can be bound together. I’ve read a story about life before. It says that before a person is born, we will make three wishes to God. We won’t remember what wishes we have made, but we will use our life to search for and accomplish them. I think this is also the answer to “life” and “death”.

“Life” is the time we work and strive for the best. “Death” is the time for us to rest. I think this is the reason why people look so calm when they die. That funeral was really unforgettable. It wasn’t because it was scary but it taught me a very precious lesson, which has changed my life deeply.

My story

by 4BYeung Yat Jing, Matthew

This summer, I went to Australia with my parents. It was extremely unforgettable.

We sat near the emergency door on the airplane and we were thinking what Australia would be like when we sat down. Did the kangaroos shop around with you in the supermarket? We believed everything would be fine and the trip would be awesome.



We fastened our seatbelts until the fastening seatbelt light had been turned off. I slept for 4 to 5 hours. When I woke up, the plane was crossing the big Pacific Ocean. Everything was fine until I went to the washroom, which was far away from our seats.

Suddenly, the plane shook vigorously. I grabbed the sink tightly before I lost balance. I heard much noise, people were screaming, yelling, crying, and the emergency lights were on, beeping, and also, a big noise came from the back of the plane. It sounded like a truck crashing into the plane. I yelled, "What's happening?" I was afraid. 'Mum, Dad!'

I decided to go back to them as soon as possible, but when I opened the door, I was breathless. I took a breathing mask quickly and I heard someone saying, 'The luggage compartment is broken and the passenger compartment is losing pressure.' "It is going to break!", "We are going to die!"

I heard plenty of these depressing sentences, but I just wanted to stay with my parents. Therefore I rushed to them... Just before I touched their hands, the emergency door broke.

"Aaagh...!" Yelling was getting louder. Things were flying out extremely quickly to the sky. And I was pulled by a big force towards the exit.

"I don't want to die!" I screamed hopelessly.

I was flying towards the broken hole. I expanded my body as big as I could in order to catch hold of anything. Unluckily, I flew out. But luckily, I had grabbed the side of the broken plane body.

'Ah!.. It was sharp. My fingers are bleeding.' I was depressed.

I was imagining that I could fly without wings after I let go. At this moment, I heard my mother said, 'Sweetheart!! It will be okay....hang on!!'

She was crying and I knew she was about to collapse.

I thought, 'I need to hang on for her. I shouldn't let go. I shouldn't give up.' I smiled to her. I did my best to hold on for 30 seconds more. I was exhausted. But I looked down; I knew we were landing, I could see the sea clearly. At the same time, all the air bags were filled up with air. We landed on the Pacific Ocean safely. Thank god! We stayed in our own life raft and waited for the rescue team.

Finally, we were rescued. A few passengers died in this accident. Many of them were injured. Scientists and the police were trying to find out why this accident happened. However, we didn't have to know. The only thing we have to know is that family is really important to us, and so, we live happily now.



The life of an i-phone

by 4B Manta Ho

Not long ago I received a wonderful present from my master. 'Wow! What a beautiful outfit! A lovely-blue. It's about two hundred dollars. I am very lucky to have such an expensive outfit. I love it very much! Now I look cool and cute.' I was so proud of myself because a lot of people looked at me and took good care of me. However, now I know I am not so loved.

I felt so happy to have fun with my master. He took me along for entertainment wherever he went to. For example, he carried me to meet his friends by MTR. He sometimes carried me to take the bus, the train and ferry. I felt extremely happy to try so many different means of transport. Oh! I almost forgot I was once a passenger on a flight.

Things went well until one day, I was taken to Beijing. My master took me out to a night market. It was crowded with people and a lot of stalls. "Three dollars a piece." "Buy one get one free." Shouts were heard in the night market. Suddenly, my master saw a unique case. He was bargaining hard with the hawker. At that moment, he planned to take me out for the case. He suddenly realized that a stranger was trying to fish me from his pocket.



"What are you doing? What do you want from me?" my master shouted. I was dropped on the floor as they both tried to snatch me. My master picked me up from the floor at last. "You have scratches all over your body. I don't think I want to keep you any longer." I was heartbroken to hear what my master had said. "What will happen to me?" I thought. "Will I be replaced?" "Or will I be traded off?" I was lost and didn't know what my future would be.

When we returned home, my master put me somewhere out of sight. He was busy looking for a new model of the latest phones. I lost his attention. Actually, I am still functional. But who cares?

Do you know where I am living now? It's a dark, cold place.

Love Story by 4B Tse Wing Sum



One day, I walked around the shopping mall because I was very bored. Suddenly, I saw someone who looked like Joey Yung .And I walked straight to her and said, 'Joey, we haven't seen each other for a long time, I am John .Do you remember me? '

Joey said, 'Oh, you are the fat boy before, you have changed a lot.' Joey was my classmate in the secondary school and I loved her very much. However, she was busy when she became a singer. That day, originally she had a show but it was cancelled, so we chatted in a coffee shop.

That night, she left first because she had something else to do. When I left, I saw a necklace on her seat, I knew that this necklace belonged to Joey. So, I kept it. The next day, Joey called me and asked if I saw the necklace. I said. 'Yes, is it with a silver ring?'

She said, 'Yes, thank you very much, this necklace is very important to me. Thank you. John, I have a mini concert this Saturday, will you come? I will send the ticket to you. See you!' I was very happy and I thought that I had a chance.

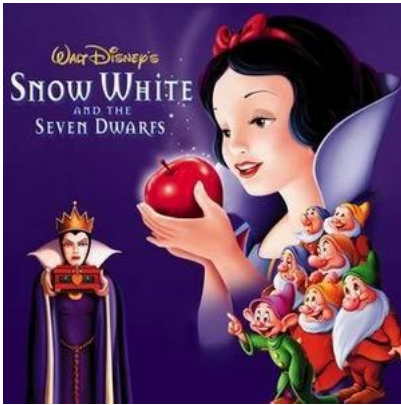
That day, I went to her concert. She sang very well. However, there was some noise around me because some of the audience were eating popcorn but it was alright. When she sang the last song, I ran to the stage, gave her a bunch of flowers and wanted to unveil my true feeling to her. However, I was so nervous and I said, 'Joey, can...can you...'

Joey said, 'What do you want to say?'

I said, 'Can...can you be my girlfriend?'

Joey asked, 'Do you remember the song in the music box that I gave you after our graduation ceremony?' And then she smiled at me. I was very happy and I hugged her. The whole audience was clapping their hands.

Do you know which song it was? Let me tell you, the song was 'I Do'.



Snow White

by 4E Wong Ho Yee

Anyone who has watched 'Snow White' from Disney should know Snow White is a mild, beautiful girl. Everything was just like a picture, Snow White was playing with the seven dwarfs in the forest. But, it is not real, let's see what the real story is.....

A long time ago, there was a princess called Snow White. After she was born, her mother died. Snow White lost her mother's love, she became bad.....

After the queen was dead, the king married again. The new queen envied the beauty of Snow White. She did many bad things to this girl, she wanted to make her disappear. She thought Snow White was weak, just like her mother. But soon, she found she was wrong.

Whatever she did to Snow White, Snow White could always see through the traps. The scariest thing was, Snow White would double the revenge. It was a headache to the new queen. Although she stopped her traps, Snow White didn't stop her bad work! The queen was planning to get Snow White out of the castle. Out of the blue, Snow White agreed.

Snow White came to the forest near the castle, suddenly she heard someone speaking. She walked towards the voice, and saw the seven dwarfs. She shouted 'How can you be so short!' , it's one of the reasons that the queen wanted to send her away. Snow White always shouted harshly.

'Who is this impolite girl?' one of them asked. They got a little bit angry.

'I'm the princess of this kingdom, Snow White. From now on, you must give me a place to live, and serve me.'

Although those seven dwarfs didn't want to serve Snow White, finally they submitted to the threats by Snow White.

But they didn't want to live with her anymore. Snow White always had many demands. Like on the first day she came, she occupied their seven beds, so they could only sleep on the floor.

'I can't stand her anymore!' all of them shouted together. They gave a poisoned apple to Snow White, it made her go into a deep, deep sleep. Quickly, the seven dwarfs wrote a letter to the prince of another kingdom.

The prince came quickly. The seven dwarfs said to him 'Give her a kiss, then she'll sleep forever.' 'Quickly, quickly, quickly!' The prince went forward slowly.....

Suddenly, Snow White opened her eyes, and shouted 'Get away from me!' The prince was petrified. She kept saying 'Why did you come so late!' 'Look at your stupid petrified face!' At that moment, those dwarfs knew their plan was ruined. 'How did you wake up?' asked the dwarfs.

‘Because all of you are so noisy! I can’t sleep well, so I woke up!’ The prince was still shocked by Snow White’s impoliteness. ‘Hey stupid prince, why are you still here? I’ll not go with you, so, get back to your country!’ Oh, the poor prince’s heart was broken by Snow White. He thought, although Snow White was beautiful, there were still many other beauties in the world.

‘I can find a girl better than her.’ So, he continued his trip, to go and find other princesses. That’s why we have the story ‘Sleeping beauty’, ‘Cinderella’ and so on.

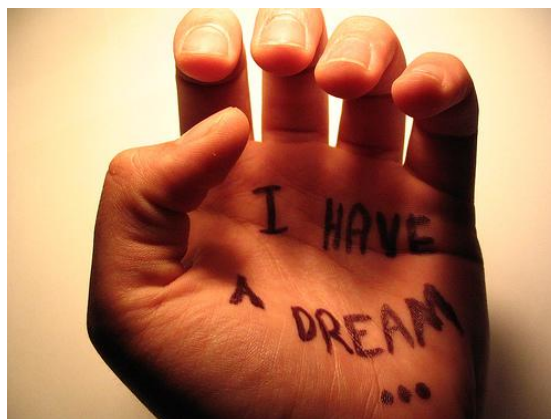
My dream and my mother

by 4E Amber Law

When I was just a little boy, I had a dream. I wanted to be a doctor and join Médecins sans Frontières to help the others. It’s lucky that I could realise my dream after my education.

Once, I had to go to Africa for work. I hoped that I could go faster and help the others as quickly as possible.

Before I left Hong Kong, I had checked everything carefully. But when I arrived at Hong Kong International Airport, something happened! I lost the most important thing—my I.D. card! I was so anxious and I talked to my mother.



“Oh no, have you seen my I.D. card?” I asked.

“No, I haven’t seen it,” she answered me.

“Let us find it as quickly as possible!” I shouted.

We opened my baggage and checked it. I ran to the toilet to look for my I.D. card. We checked everything carefully, but we could not find anything. I was so disappointed.

“Hey mum, do you think that I can go to Africa?” I asked mum. Mum said nothing and I felt so queer. “Are you okay?”

“Sorry my son……” she said.

“Why do you say sorry to me?”

“Because I took your I.D. card……”

“What! Why did you do that!” I shouted at her.

“Sorry!” She gave me back my I.D. card back and ran away.

After half an hour, I needed to leave Hong Kong. I was sad because I could not say good-bye to my mother. But after fifteen minutes, my mother came back! She gave me a breakfast and said, “I did this because I was worried about you. I worried that you may get sick or tired……”

“Mum, I know that you love me, but I also want you to let me try different things...”

“I know it now. Please take care in Africa.”

Now, I am staying in Africa to make my dream come true. I feel grateful to my mother because of her support. I will be a good doctor in Africa and I’m sure one day, I

will make her proud.

Limiting billboards' spotlighting time, Yes or No?

By 5A Kwan Hau Tung



It is common to see places such as Mong Kok and Causeway Bay are always covered with strong light around the clock. These strong spotlights mainly come from outdoor advertising billboards. Many local residents complain that their daily lives are affected by those strong lights and hence limiting the time that spotlights can be switched on is suggested. In fact, there are both advantages and drawbacks of limiting the time of using spotlights.

The first and foremost advantage of limiting the time of switching on spotlights is that it can lower the disturbance towards citizens. Many citizens complain that they have been suffering from sleeping problems due to the strong spotlights at night. Also, those citizens may even find it difficult to concentrate on their work because the strong light is affecting them seriously. Through limiting the time of spotlights, citizens can enjoy a more suitable and comfortable environment to rest. What is more, they can lead a normal lifestyle since their health will not be affected by strong light anymore. Hence, the disturbance towards citizens will be lowered when a limitation on the time of switching on spotlights is enforced.

Another advantage of limiting the time of spotlights is that it is beneficial to the environment. Keeping the spotlights on will consume a huge amount of electricity and energy, which is very environmentally-unfriendly. Also, heat energy is released to the environment near the billboards, which will increase the temperature of this area or affect the normal life of living things in the neighboring area. If the time that spotlights are switched on is limited, a large amount of electricity and energy will hence be saved. Moreover, the light pollution which is caused by these strong lights will also be lowered. Therefore, limiting the time of spotlights to be switched on helps improve the environment.

Although limiting the time of spotlights may benefit the environment and citizens, it may also result in some problems.

The major disadvantage of such limitation is that it is not economically efficient enough. Since Hong Kong is a profit-oriented society, companies always want to promote their products through advertisements. Billboards provide a fast, effective way of promotion towards the public as they attract the public's eyes. If the time of spotlight adverts to be switched on is limited, the time for advertising is also limited. Due to the shorter advertising time, the promotion will become less effective. Hence, limiting the spotlight of light boards may lower the economic efficiency, which is undesirable for Hong Kong's economy.

Another drawback we should not overlook is that limiting the time of spotlights to be switched on

may affect the image of Hong Kong. Hong Kong is famous for its night life. Shops, pubs and also shopping malls always work until mid-night. Therefore, although it is night time, visitors can still feel the vibrant side of Hong Kong. What will happen if the spotlight time is limited? Places such as Mong Kok will become all dark and the active atmosphere will disappear. It will affect the image of vibrant city of Hong Kong. Hence, the time limit of spotlights will affect the image of Hong Kong.

All in all, whether limiting the spotlight time or not, it will result in both advantages and drawbacks. We should strike the right balance between environmental protection and economic development.



Should students be restricted from entering the new staff room?

By 5A Miu Ching Wan

Our school has just constructed a new building and one of the brand new facilities is a huge staff room that can accommodate all teachers in our school. According to the new regulations, students are not allowed to enter the staff room under any circumstances. The only means for students to contact teachers is to call them up with a phone installed outside the staff room. Some teachers think that this policy can stop the disturbance which is caused by students. In my opinion, however, the policy will influence the relationships between teachers and students and it is inconvenient. These two drawbacks definitely outweigh the advantages.



The first and foremost reason why students should not be restricted from entering the new staff room is that it is unfavorable for teacher-student interaction. In the lessons, teachers do not have much time to have enough interaction with students, so most of them may choose to communicate with their students in the staff room after class. Those interactions can help teachers to know more about the needs of each student in their class and even help to find out means to improve students' studies. What is more, teachers can choose to have a small talk with students in the staff room as there are not any classmates around. Some students may not be willing to express themselves frankly and naturally in the classroom as what they say is watched over and overheard by classmates around every corner of the classroom. If the chatting place is moved out to the staff room, students might feel more relaxed since there are not any classmates. Supposing that students cannot enter the staff room anymore, there will be fewer opportunities for teachers to communicate with students. Hence, it is not advisable for school to

restrict students from entering the new staff room. Otherwise, the relationship between teachers and students will become distant.

In addition, if students are restricted from entering the new staff room, it will cause troubles to teachers. The teachers' workload is extremely heavy, so they may have a risk of forgetting to bring their things to the lessons, for instance, the microphone, the textbooks or even some teaching materials. At these moments, teachers may seek help from students since the teachers cannot leave the students alone in the classrooms during lessons, so the teachers will need some students to go to the staff room and help them carry their items. Also, the average number of students in a class is around forty, after a teacher collects the homework from students, it may be a difficulty for teachers to carry their exercise books back to their office. If these situations happen, students can help teachers to carry those weights to the staff room. Can you imagine how toilsome the teachers' task will be when students are no longer welcome to go into the staff room? Seeing this, school should not restrict students from entering the new staff room.

It is argued that students may cause disturbance to teachers if they can go in and out of the staff room freely. Indeed, if students are forbidden to go into the new staff room, students will not appear in the staff room anymore, and the teachers can take rest due to the fact that they do not need to worry about students entering the staff room while they are taking a nap or doing other personal affairs, which are something they do not want students to catch sight of. However, teachers should not treat the staff room as their home since it is their work place. Have you ever heard that employees are allowed to take a nap or do some private matters in working hours? Therefore, it is unnecessary to restrict students from entering the new staff room.

Considering the defects of the policy, it is obvious that students should not be restricted from entering the new staff room as it is affecting the relationship between teachers and students and it is inconvenient.



Should school install CCTVs all over the campus?

By 5A Law Shui Shan

Dear Editor,

I am writing to express my views on whether schools should install CCTVs all over the campus. CCTVs are closed-circuit television cameras which have been widely adopted in housing estates, shopping malls and even some villages in the New Territories. Their usage is to monitor suspicious people who are likely to steal things or commit crimes. It has been proposed that CCTVs should be installed in all common areas at school such as classrooms, corridors and playground. However, schools should think twice and take careful considerations about the



necessity of installing CCTVs at school.

The first and foremost reason why schools are not advised to install CCTVs is that it infringes students' privacy. If CCTVs are being installed, students' behaviour will be recorded, such as their conversations, learning attitude, etc. This undoubtedly deprives them of students' rights and freedom and it may exert tremendous pressure on them. Worse still, if the video of students' disciplinary problems or misbehaviour problems are exposed, it adversely affects the well-being of the students because they may face humiliation from their peers. They may even have low motivation to go to school. Therefore, schools should by no means install CCTVs for the sake of protecting the personal privacy of students. Otherwise, students may suffer severe stress and may feel hostile to the school.

Not only is the students' privacy infringed, it also costs a lot of money to install CCTVs in all the classrooms and corridors. For instance, there are more than 35 classrooms in our school. It will definitely cost a large amount of money to install CCTVs all over the school, when they are in fact unnecessary. Obviously, the cost of installing CCTV will be shifted to students. Some poor families might not be able to afford the cost of installing CCTVs as well as the tuition fee. Installing CCTVs at school then create an enormous financial burden on the students and parents of needy families. In addition, the maintenance problem also arises from installing CCTVs. If a certain component does not work, who is going to bear the cost of maintenance? Both students and parents are probably the victims in this case. Thus, the financial problem should be taken into consideration before the implementation of installing CCTVs at school.

It is argued that installing CCTVs can prevent people from stealing expensive equipment in classrooms or personal belongings. Indeed, installing CCTVs can act as a deterrent and it monitors students' and others' behaviour regarding stealing things like test paper or other people's stationery. However, students and teachers should store their personal belongings in their lockers or take them along with themselves. Even if the CCTVs are installed, the stealer can always spoil the CCTVs or wear masks and black sunglasses to cover up their face, which make it harder to recognize them. Therefore, it is a good idea that students and teachers should keep their things with care and develop a sense of responsibility for their personal belongings. They should never rely on CCTVs.

Considering the abovementioned drawbacks, it is apparent that schools should not install CCTVs as it is not effective and it infringes students' personal privacy.

Yours faithfully,

Susanna Law

Susanna Law



There should be a ban on idling engines

By 5B Fan Kai Kei

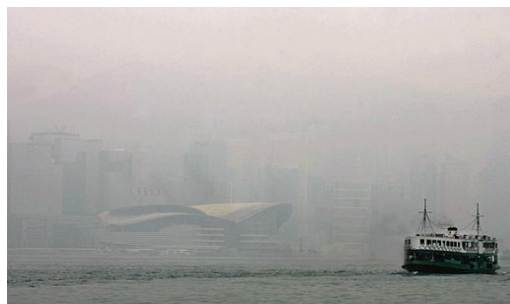
Do you feel very hot in summers? Do you think that the air quality of Hong Kong is extremely poor? According to some information, greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide and other air pollutants are mainly released by vehicles, causing global warming and the air quality to deteriorate. Therefore, the government has an idea to ban idling engines. I think this policy can bring many advantages to both people and the environment. This policy should be implemented immediately to tackle the problems that originate from poor air quality.



First, one major benefit of this ban is that it can improve the air quality of Hong Kong. As we know, Hong Kong usually has a very high API(usually higher than 100), which means the air pollutants are likely to cause respiratory discomfort. Some information reflected that the poor air quality has led to an increase in hospital admissions for asthma. With the ban on idling engines, fewer air pollutants will be released by the vehicles. As the air quality will be improved by this ban, the air will be fresher so the chances that Hong Kong people get respiratory diseases, lung cancers and skin allergies will be lowered. Hong Kong people will be healthier. Moreover, more tourists and business people will visit Hong Kong since Hong Kong will have a clearer and bluer sky. It shows that this policy is not only good for people' s health, but also important to keep Hong Kong as an international financial and tourist centre.

Air Quality Index (AQI) Values	Levels of Health Concern	Colors
<i>When the AQI is in this range:</i>	<i>...air quality conditions are:</i>	<i>...as symbolized by this color:</i>
0 to 50	Good	Green
51 to 100	Moderate	Yellow
101 to 150	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	Orange
151 to 200	Unhealthy	Red
201 to 300	Very Unhealthy	Purple
301 to 500	Hazardous	Maroon

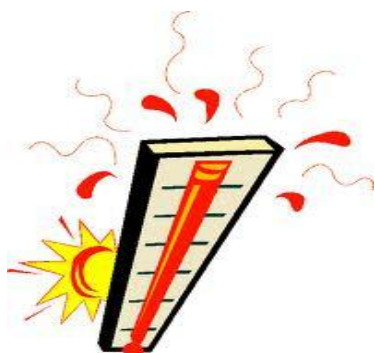
Courtesy of the Environmental Protection Agency



Besides, the second benefit is that this policy is environmentally friendly. When the drivers switch off idling engines, less gasoline is used, so much energy is saved, which helps to save the energy resources. Also, drivers can save their money too. Moreover, if a smaller amount of greenhouse gases is released into the environment, the problem of global warming will not be so serious so Hong Kong will have a cooler summer. More importantly, people will not need to face so many extreme weather conditions such as hurricanes, floods and droughts that threaten the lives of both wildlife and humans. Therefore, the ban on idling engines is good for the environment.



However, some people may say that banning idling engines will lead to higher temperature in the vehicles. Normally, when the car engine is turned off, there is no air-conditioning. Thus, people may be afraid that hot weather condition will affect drivers' health, such as causing the drivers to suffer from heatstroke easily. However, there is a technology that can power the air-conditioning in vehicles with the engine turned off by the GP battery system. The drivers can turn on this system in summer so that they will feel comfortable even when they switch off the idling engines. It costs about \$20,000 and I think the government can help the drivers to pay for it. At the end, the drivers will support and implement this policy and a smaller amount of greenhouse gases will be released by the vehicles. It shows that banning idling engines is not a problem for drivers' health.



Furthermore, some people say that this ban is difficult to enforce because Hong Kong does not have enough inspectors to measure the waiting time of every car which usually parks at the roadside. In fact, this problem can be solved by installing high technology machines like cameras. Now there are machines that are able to detect the speed of the cars. Therefore, I think the government can buy the machines that are able to measure the waiting time for every car. It shows that the enforcement problems can be easily solved.

From the examples demonstrated above, a ban on idling engines brings many advantages to people and the environment. The problems that we may face in implementation can be solved by technology. Therefore, I hope that the policy can be implemented



A special diary—Headache of a ‘clever student’ by 5B Charles Chau

Today was quite cold, the wind kept blowing throughout the whole night. I didn't want to get up in the morning, but I knew I had to. I had something more important to do – to join the knotting class of the Red Cross.

[illegible]

As you know, although maybe I'm very good at studying, I had nothing to do with these kinds of 'household' things, which can only bring me a headache. So when it was the end of the class, even when I was given ten minutes, I was not sure whether I could finish this job. But thanks God, the teacher gave us a sheet of notes, which could tell us how to make the knots. Also the teacher told us that there were still five more hours to go before the exam. This offered me a much needed opportunity to try my best.

When I got home, I started working immediately. Using notes to help my studies is always my studying habit, and that was why I got the hang of it very quickly. After I knew how to make these knots all by myself, I tried to make them as fast as possible. When I counted the time, what surprised me was that it took about eight minutes for me to finish this. God helps those who help themselves. When four hours had passed, I could do the task within three minutes.



At last, it was time to test my working achievement. We all had three chances to complete the task. The first time I failed. Not because of my speed, the problem was I didn't have enough string to use when I came to the last part. So I told myself to calm down, and said to myself that I could do it. Then I tried again, and finally got a pass in the exam! Even now, I'm still very excited and happy about this.

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become possible.

Unimaginable

by 5C Tsoi Hiu Kwan

'Oh, my god!' Mr. Bean shouted. The baby was flying into the sky as Mr. Bean had done a good job on that baby.

I could not stop laughing, although I had seen this movie a hundred times. I wanted to take part in my favorite movie. I was watching my favorite movie at home last weekend.

Suddenly, the main character of the movie, Mr. Bean, came out from the screen and pulled me into the movie.

I certainly confirmed I was pulled into Mr. Bean's movie. He looked very simple, had short hair and a round face. He wore a suit, which had a white shirt and cream-colored trousers. I was sitting on the back seat of his little green car. The driver was...

'What an unimaginable thing! Mr. Bean's teddy bear, who has brown skin and black button eyes, is the driver.' I exclaimed.

'Oops, don't you know he is my friend?' Mr. Bean replied.

'Ah! He is your real life friend.' I whispered embarrassedly.

After a few minutes, we parked outside the amusement park. When we were going to leave the car, we heard a child crying behind our car.

'Whose baby?' I asked myself quietly. 'Is Mr. Bean a father?'

Mr. Bean looked at me and shook his head, 'Hmm, I don't know him.'

Whatever, we decided to take him to the customer service centre. The baby in his baby pram kept crying.

Mr. Bean asked the teddy bear, 'How can we keep him quiet?'

The teddy bear looked around, and then pointed at some balloons.

'Uh-huh! We can buy some balloons.' I was surprised that the teddy bear was so smart.

I bought a balloon and tied it to the baby pram. The little baby stopped crying.

Mr. Bean bought all the balloons and tied them to the baby carriage. The little baby laughed loudly. There were a lot of balloons around him. One, two, three... forty... fifty...

This moment was the same as the movie, we shouldn't tie too many balloons to the baby car.

'Oh, my god!' I shouted. It was too late when I noticed the problem. The baby was flying into the sky.

That was my fault, it wasn't Mr. Bean's fault. I didn't know how to help the baby. I couldn't solve it.

At that moment, the teddy bear jumped high, about ten meters, and caught the baby pram. Unfortunately, his weight wasn't enough. Then, Mr. Bean jumped and caught the leg of the teddy bear. However, the baby pram was still rising into the air.

Finally, I jumped to catch Mr. Bean's leg. "Wow! That's impossible! I can jump over ten meters high." I screamed.

At last, we saved the baby. But my scream was too loud, and shook the universe! Everything was being smashed into pieces. I didn't

want to stay there any longer.

Suddenly I saw a TV which looked like the one at home. I stepped into the screen carefully.

Fortunately, I came back home. But unfortunately after I had returned, the screen of the television



broke! I guess no more TV for me for a while!

Advertising exerts too great an influence on our daily lives

by 7B Li Tin Shing Tony

Have you ever noticed that when we turn on the TV, read the newspaper, switch on the radio or just walk on the street, something always appears in front of us----advertisement. Admit it or not, advertisements spread widely into every corner of our society and have a great effect on our daily lives. In light of the incessant bombardment of commercial advertising, some people suggest this powerful business tool exerts too great an influence on our daily lives. Then, who's the black hand behind the prevalence of advertising? What does it bring about to our society? And what attitude should we have towards it?

Why is the business and commercial sector willing to spend such a large amount of money on advertising to promote their products and services? These hardnosed businessmen won't let a single dollar go easily. In their eyes, commercial advertisements are a magic trick which can attract all people's attention. By doing so, the money in your pocket will fly voluntarily into their bank accounts. Therefore, please don't be so naïve as to think that advertising guarantees consumers' right to compare the products in the market. Actually, what the commercial sector wants is your money.

Of course, advertising is just a tool to promote the products and services. However, the prevalence of it does bring about serious consequence---materialism. Indeed, the commercial promotions on TV, radio and newspapers send a strong message to the society: if you want to be happy, just buy it! With the 24-hour "free education", people cannot control themselves. It is common to see that young people are in debt from over-shopping. Some people want to release the pressure from their heavy workload by buying brand name products. In serious cases, these people even develop a disease called "involuntary shopping". Undoubtedly, happiness originates from our heart, not from the possession of brand name products. The advertising is misleading us.

It comes as no surprise to find that buying the most fashionable product won't make people happy. What it emphasises is self-satisfaction. As the saying goes, "giving is better than receiving." Those



people who are willing to spend time and money to help others are the happiest ones. According to many studies, materialistic possession won't make people happy.

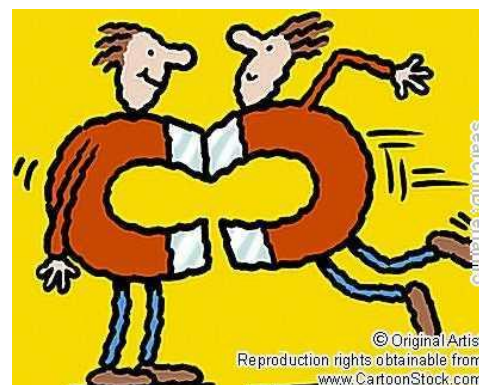
If we have a correct attitude towards materialistic possession, the advertising will lose its magic power. We should think twice before we buy any products. It is important to remember we should buy what we need, not what we want. When we know how to spend our money properly, we will find that shopping is so enjoyable!

Is love at first sight reliable?

By 7B Liu Ka Yan Grace

Is love at first sight reliable? If you ask any one of your parents, teachers, or seniors, they will probably endeavor to persuade you that no love can be developed within an instant, not to mention reliability. Love seems to be a pretty strong, consecrated thing that deserves ample time and space to nurture. When everything comes to love, there will always be some reasons and conditions behind. Love at first sight therefore turns out to be a rushed, impulsive and untrustworthy action of teenagers. But to be down to earth, love at first sight does exist at all ages and it is a true feeling with no doubts.

In the first place, the reliability of love at first sight depends on what you can see with your sight at the first glance. If you merely look at someone's appearance and start your own wishful thinking that he or she is ideal, then you would possibly soon be disappointed and become distrustful towards love. Love at first sight can only be true if you can see people's hearts at a single glance. With no concerns for attractive appearance, one can still fall in love at first sight with keen perception right through to the true colours of a particular person. Take myself as an example, I can bizarrely tell if I will be able to get along well with someone by the time I have first seen him or her. This kind of instinct with great discernment is all down to the light of nature that is far more reliable than hearsay or promises given by men.



Secondly, love does not require a proper reason. When speaking of falling in love at first sight, people tend to ask one typical question: how can you possibly love someone you know nothing about? Therefore, here comes the modern and effective way of falling in love: first, seek a guy or a fine woman and obtain all of his or her background information. Then, consider the profits or benefits that can be gained: external beauty, money, social status or fame. After much consideration and weighing the pros and cons, choose the best one to start a relationship. No love is involved in all these steps. People tend to provide reasons for love without knowing none is ever needed. If you fall in love at first sight with someone, it does not matter if you know why and how or not, just be honest to yourself and love, as love is a feeling that does not lie and will always be loyal to one's heart.

Thirdly, love at first sight is reliable as it may be a quick response but can last for long. You can fall in love in a twinkling of an eye but at the same time the feeling can be a life-long one. Not everyone who believes in love at first sight tends to stop half way and shift his love to another person. Moreover, you can fall in love with someone in a flash but you do not have to start a relationship in a second. Love at first sight is just a swift signal that reminds you of the person who is meant to be in your life. This shows no indication of people abusing love in all circumstances.

To recapitulate, love at first sight may not be an impetuous and unreliable action. It can also represent true love. And falling in love at first sight is not a sin, but a faithful, genuine feeling from

one's heart.

There's nothing worse than stupidity

by 7B Ng Chun Yuen Nigel

OUT OUT!!
YOU DEMONS OF
STUPIDITY!!



Everyone acts stupidly sometimes. We all remember those embarrassing moments when we acted stupidly. Stupidity is a common element of humans. It means a lack of intelligence and sense. Stupidity always causes adverse effects in our daily lives. Here are some examples of the bad effects.

In our schools, stupidity causes us to have bad results in our examinations. We make careless mistakes since we do not pay attention to the wording of the questions. We misunderstand the questions and answer something unrelated. All these are about stupidity. We may know the correct answer but we just cannot answer correctly.

In our family, we often say something unconsciously that may upset our family members. We know that we should show how much we care about our family members, but we usually punish our little brothers or sisters instead of explaining to them patiently when they do something wrong. It is a stupid decision to punish as it will raise tension among the family.

In our society, our government officials may make some stupid plans. We may still remember how the prices of flats decreased crazily in Hong Kong when Mr. Tung announced his housing policy. He wanted to lower the prices to let people have their own flats easily but he failed.

All these examples above show how stupidity affects our lives greatly. What make stupidity the worst thing in the world? The answer is that it can easily turn something bad even if the intention is good. A stupid action can waste all the effort we pay. Many people argue that if we work hard enough, we can avoid the adverse effects brought by stupidity. It is common that people like to compare stupidity with laziness. Let's take examination as an example.

Someone who isn't smart tries to memorize all the content in the syllabus. Finally, he can pass all the subjects, but he cannot get a result as excellent as he wants. On the other hand, a lazy student may get a quite good result even if he does not work hard. We always hear some similar cases, right? Why can't the hard-working student succeed? It is because he chose a wrong method. To achieve high marks in the examination, we do not need to memorize all the things. Instead, we must remember the key words and understand them. No matter how much we remember, if we are not clever enough to understand thoroughly, we won't answer the questions correctly. This shows how stupidity plays an important role.

Although stupidity is such a bad thing, we can hardly avoid it. Even if we think carefully before we do everything, there is still the possibility of being stupid. Therefore, we should learn to accept it. If we do things stupidly, let's smile, and remember not to do this again.