

詩

Gifted



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「詩」？聽起來頗為遙不可及。很少人懂得寫詩，殊不知大家都是自己生活的詩人。

這是非常特殊的一個學年：校園生活受疫情影響而三番四次地「腰斬」，確實有點遺憾。寫詩也是這樣的：縫縫補補、跌宕起伏，最後回看仍是不甚滿意。不過正是不一樣的時代，成就了一首首獨特的「詩」篇。這些意想不到的經歷，或許還能成為點睛之筆。

作家席慕容曾將人生比作詩稿，確實貼切：「一生或許只是幾頁，不斷在修改和謄抄著的詩稿，從青絲到白髮，有人還在燈下。」從青絲到白髮，在「創作生活」的過程中不斷修改、不斷謄抄，是每個人的必經階段。對很多人來說，「青春」是其中一段靈感最多的創作時期。所有情感、靈感和想法乍然浮現、才思如泉湧。以後翻看，文筆可能略顯青澀稚嫩（這篇文章也是如此），但這便是「青春」的獨特印記，也沒所謂對與錯。所以，倒不如趁這青春年華，將自己的所思所想與經歷全都義無反顧地「寫」下來，留下一些凹凸不平的印記也無妨。這樣想來，寫詩便不顯得那麼難了。

「青春」筆下的每一刻，其實都值得紀念：坐在書桌前奮筆疾書、埋頭苦幹，凌晨時分，才疲乏地鑽進被窩、倒頭大睡；在學校和朋友打打鬧鬧、推推搡搡（在學校最好別這麼玩），壞情緒被悄悄地按了個「清空」鍵……學校各人都有著微妙的關聯，交織著各種複雜而純潔無瑕的情感。說「寫詩」不過是個比較文藝（或者造作）的講法；在這裡，每時每刻我們都在「寫詩」，編織一段段校園故事。身邊的同學和老師並不只是詩篇裡的小腳色，字裏行間流露的喜悅、憤怒、傷心、遺憾……是真實存在、躍然紙上的。這樣的詩篇，也是最富生命力和感染力的。

文首說每個人都是詩人，聽起來是有些抽象。應該這麼說——生活本身就是一首詩。能否從中尋到詩意全憑個人感知，一點也不困難。

今年的校報一如以往，負責給鄉中人做個「年末總結」。有賴校方的大力支持、校報負責老師郭老師的鼎力相助，更少不了眾多可愛又盡責的編輯，最終得以在充滿挑戰的一年裡順利出版。薄薄數十頁的內容，最後仍望交給各位鄉中人自行感受和體味。

梁雅儀老師

1. 在求學時期，請問你餘暇時最喜歡做什麼？

中學放學時，我喜歡與幾個女同學「掃街」。我們乘巴士去黃金商場，那裡滿街都是無牌熟食小販，最記得有咖喱魚蛋和碗仔翅等。我們「掃掃掃」，從街頭走到街尾，然後回到家吃不下飯，便會被爸爸責罵。大家有所不知，中學時的我參加了很多課外活動：跑步、打籃球、手球、排球，也參加了合唱團和基督徒團契，所以放學後總是很忙。至於空閒時，我喜歡看小說，喜歡的作家有阿濃、何紫、衛斯理和李碧華。看書的時候，腦海裡會浮現很多畫面。我很愛幻想，所以我很愛看書，這也奠定了我日後成為中文老師的方向。

2. 現在梁老師是一名訓導老師。在您求學時，對於訓導老師有什麼印象呢？

大家有所不知，我也曾被訓導主任「捉」過。記得某天老師發現，有同學用大頭針釘在老師的照片上。我在上課途中被男訓導主任帶去問話。當時的我確實膽大：基於自己根本沒有做過這件事，在被老師三番四次質問後，很大聲地說：「不管你信不信，我沒有這樣做！」話畢，甚至是有迴音的，眼淚也不住地掉下來。最後出於對我的信任，老師還是放走了我。

3. 疫情給您甚麼新的體會？

這段期間我學懂了忍耐，若有同學欠交功課，我會接受他們遲上載功課，就算上載不到，我也會忍耐，然後再打電話給同學，過程又要容忍同學不接聽我的電話。無奈之下，我會打給他們的爸爸媽媽。我要學習跟同學「傾訴心事」，不過他們復課後就「知味道」了（哈哈）……當然我亦學會了堅持，那是堅持追功課！

4. 最後，請問您有沒有甚麼話語想與同學分享？

同學們做事必須要有方向，即便迷失時也要欣賞自己。無論如何，要知道自己總會有比別人優勝的地方。不要輕言放棄，因為你們終有一天能達成自己的夢想。



鄭德森老師

1. 請問學生時期的您最喜歡做甚麼？

小學時我喜歡玩電子遊戲。到中學時期愛看書、聽音樂和唱卡拉OK，也經常打籃球和看電影。慶幸考公開試前愛上計算數學題目，「操數是娛樂」（笑）。上了大學後便喜歡去旅行和研習劍道。

2. 請問你覺得這一代的老師和學生跟以前的有甚麼不同？

在任何年代，老師對教學的熱誠始終如一，只是表現的方式有所改變。我以前的老師深信「教不嚴、師之情」，對我們非常嚴厲，可謂「嚴中有愛」。至於現今世代強調溝通和諒解，我們老師對同學都以關愛行先，變成「愛中有嚴」。而這一代同學成長於資訊科技發達的時代，空間感會比我們那時優勝。不過你們習慣從網路快速得到資料，當面對較長的題目時就可能失去作答的耐性。

3. 假如時光倒流，你還會成為一名數學老師嗎？

會。我喜歡數學，更樂意表達自己，與別人交流，分享不同的事物。之前做過大學的研究工作，感覺較為孤單。因此我還是更喜歡教學這個職業。

4. 請問你在畢業後仍有進修嗎？除了數學，你會想學習甚麼範疇的知識？

我在中學時除了數學，對天文學和相對論也很有興趣，因此我取得的第一個大學學位是物理學。然而接觸得多「物的道理」，也想了解一些「人的道理」，所以之後進修了決策科學、博弈論、金融數學和數學教育等。由於喜歡去日本旅行和研習劍道，大學時期也學習了初階日文。

5. 請問你以前的計數機是甚麼樣子的？之前沒有這麼多功能對你學習有影響嗎？

（自信地回答）：我可以肯定地說，沒有。因為即使計數機不先進，我有一顆先進的腦袋呢！（笑）



吳漢偉老師



1. 請問您小時候有甚麼興趣？
踢足球、跑步
2. 您會怎樣形容小時候的自己？
「調皮」。我媽媽替我數過，我的頭在小學前已經縫針無數次。因為我曾踩三輪車時撞到牆、被人擲石頭扔中、摔倒，又曾在幫我哥哥拿書包時受傷。
3. 有沒有甚麼現在已經找不到，卻令您很懷念的玩意或食物？
我往昔愛吃的食物現在還能找到，其中比較難買到的是墨西哥包。玩具的話有搖搖、風箏……不過現在四周都是高樓大廈，已經很難放風箏了。
4. 做TL老師是您小時候的志願嗎？如果不是的話，您本來想擔任甚麼職業？
我本來也想做木匠，打算去一間錶盒廠做師傅。
5. 成為TL老師多年，有哪些製成品令您印象深刻？
茶几（右圖）
6. 您如今還有保留當年的物件，如特別日子的紀念品嗎？
有的，在家裏（這些物件）多得像垃圾堆，不捨得丟掉。如我的小學手冊、紀念冊、中學乘車的半價證、小時候掉下來的牙齒和一中一買的畫圖工具等等。



老師訪問一

「余憶年少時」

Herman Sir

1. 90年代有很多經典卡通，那也是互聯網興起的年代。你童年時有甚麼興趣呢？
以前每個人都會抽“YES! CARD”，希望抽到特別版、夜光版、磨砂版，能貼在紀念冊上炫耀。我小學時讀下午班，可以在早上一邊看教育電視、一邊和同學「煲電話粥」。
2. 你覺得香港現時的讀書風氣和以前的有何分別？
我認為是差不多的，不過現在相比之下多了很多外來因素。現在的學生喜歡玩電子遊戲。不過鄉中學生都很自律，會很關注自己的成績。
3. 疫情爆發時，大家的的生活都有改變，你這段時間有甚麼特別的得着嗎？
現在上課時對着螢幕，而個別學生因某些原因，未必能回應提問。因此有時像在自言自語，感到頗辛苦。另外，我是一個不愛運動的人，即使是（從地面）到一樓也要乘電梯。現在因上網課，沒有時間運動，希望能在閒暇時多活動一下筋骨。
4. 請問做老師是你小時候的志願嗎？你讀中學的時候還沒有「通識」這一科目，為什麼後來您會想教授這門學科的呢？
可以這麼說。我小時候曾幻想成為老師，但因為大學聯招未能考進心儀的教育學系。後來因為一個偶然的機會下，我能回到鄉中這個大家庭工作，也得到機會修讀教育文憑。我選擇了通識科，因為這科目講求邏輯，對我而言相對容易。看着學生（對所教授的內容）從一知半解到完全明白，感覺當老師很有意義，或許這就是「以生命影響生命」吧。



網課趣事

網課冷知識

- 2021最溫情的祝福：記得熄咪啊！
- 2020年，全港學生打破世界紀錄，以一秒鐘能敲擊十四次鋼琴鍵的速度按下end call
- 據非官方統計，全港學生在上課時未有過流暢看完老師分享的視頻的經歷
- 神速抄完note祕技～手機cap圖
- 舉手是證明你認真聽書的唯一憑證

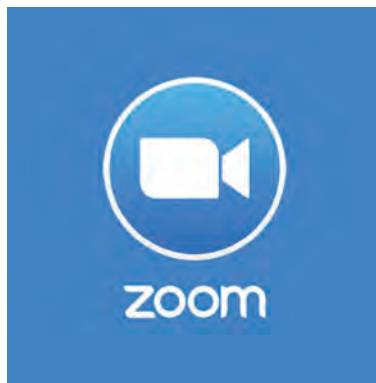
網課風雲人物榜

TOP1 小zoom zoom

人物特徵：反覆無常，你永遠猜不透這個女人的心思

著名事蹟：

1. 出於敏感的性格，她經常在你不經意之間打開你的mic，令全班人聽到你和家人共享天倫之樂的笑聲
2. 升級到新版之後，她悄悄地調換了聊天室和舉手鍵，令不少同學在學習之餘還能和老師互動
3. 喜歡欺負可愛的老師，經常關掉老師的mic而不讓老師知道，令同學喪失很多珍貴的學習機會



TOP3 體育老師

人物特徵：親和大方，容忍力很高

著名事蹟：

1. 同學在這堂課能學到最多東西，是眾多同學最喜歡的課堂
2. 運動時間沒有運動

Top2 各位老師的兒女

人物特徵：天真懵懂，小鳥依人

著名事蹟：

1. 擁有天籟之聲，非常熱心為同學獻上金曲一首
2. 渴望親子互動，經常在上課期間和老師共享天倫
3. 可愛的聲音為同學的學習生活帶來了一束光

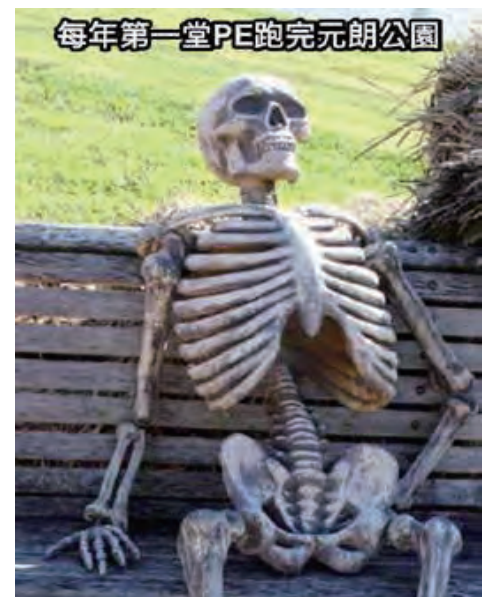
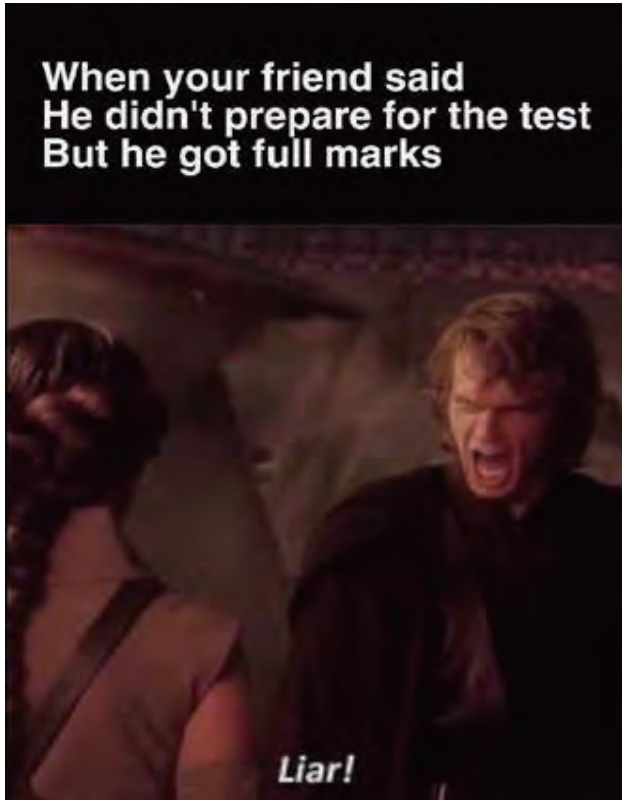


師生金句

- 老師我開不了mic
- 如果你能聽到我把聲，請你舉手
- 亙古不變的 'this is common sense' 和 'you are band 1 students'

Here are some 'memes' to brighten your day!

看完這些 'memes'，大家也要開心起來呀！



華服文化 - 女裝篇

華服，泛指具有中國風格或中式元素的一種服裝概念。除了古代各朝各族的衣飾，近代的旗袍、唐裝和中山裝等服裝亦可歸類為華服的一種。華服不單表現出一種生活美學，更是印證了華夏民族在不同社會時期文明的累積、發展和進步。就讓我們在歷史長河中穿梭，從女裝的角度感受華服的錦繡之美。

秦朝至漢朝

秦漢時期女子最常見的服飾為「曲裾深衣」。其最大特點為續衽鉤邊，即把衣襟接長，將其由下至上彎曲纏繞，包裹全身。通身窄體，長可及地，下襪呈喇叭狀。衣袖分寬、窄兩種，袖口大多鑲邊。曲裾深衣完美展現了女子曼妙的身姿，看上去雍容典雅，高貴大方。

唐朝

唐代經濟繁榮，社會開放，服飾更是融入了外族的色彩。上身穿大袖衫，外披紗羅衫，使肌膚若隱若現。配搭齊胸襦裙，風雅飄逸，宛若天仙。這種配搭充分反映了唐代繁華、恢弘、大氣的文化特徵，呈現出當時華麗奔放的審美風尚。

宋朝

宋代一改唐代的豔麗風格，以淡雅和質樸為美。褙子是當時最受歡迎的常服款式。其衣襟相對而立，於胸前垂下。多為窄袖，衣長一般到大腿或膝蓋下，兩側開叉，下面配有襦裙。宋代服飾大膽的走向了人文主義方向，以舒適方便至上，展示出宋代簡約至極的物象之美。

明朝

明朝服飾最大的特點是鈕扣代替了幾千年來的帶結，穿起來更方便快捷。明代女裝上衣拉長，露裙縮短，領口以圓領為主。裙子寬大，有各種樣式如百褶裙、鳳尾裙、月華裙等。比甲亦是當時流行的款式，類似一件背心，穿在大袖衫外，總體儀態端莊，氣度宏美。

現代漢服

近年來有越來越多的人關注起了漢服，一些融合古風與現代元素的華服亦隨之出現。這些衣服穿起來充滿韻味，高貴優雅又不失時尚。



秦朝至漢朝



唐朝



明朝



宋朝



現代漢服

華服的設計取靈感於世間萬象，人們再用絲線裝扮出萬象世界。每件衣服的剪裁、花紋、圖案都是人們對美好事物的描繪，蘊含了各種豐富的寓意：

剪裁佈局

華服的上片由四塊布拼接而成，意味著一年有四季。深衣的下擺使用十二幅布帛，以應一年有十二月之意；古代以右為尊，交領因此左衽在外，右衽在內，呈字母 y 形，使整體服裝向右傾斜，同時寓意做人要有規矩；漢服的袖子皆為圓袖，意為天道圓潤；背部的正中間有一條貫穿首尾的縫合線名為「中縫」，人們穿上漢服時中縫垂直於地面，代表正直。



花紋圖案



菊花紋

菊花紋

菊花為花中隱者，不以嬌豔姿色取媚，以素雅堅貞取勝，象徵隱逸之人品性。



蓮花紋

蓮花紋

出淤泥而不染，濯清漣而不妖，蓮花象徵純潔、生生不息。



仙鶴紋

仙鶴紋

仙鶴被稱為「羽族之長」，寓意著吉祥、長壽、富貴、幸福。

鳳鳥紋

鳳鳥象徵和美、安寧和幸福，讓人感到溫馨、親近、安全。

寶相花紋

是一種寓有「寶」、「仙」之意的裝飾圖案，是聖潔、端莊的象徵。



纏枝紋

纏枝紋

因為結構連綿不斷，因此象徵生生不息，寓意吉慶。

信期紋

繡燕子，因為燕子是候鳥，年年按期南遷，信期而返，因此有期待良人歸來的意思。

雲紋

寓意高升和如意，同時表達古人祈求天公造美的願景。

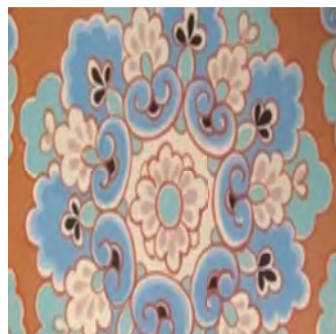
「中國有禮儀之大，故稱夏；有服章之美，謂之華。」華服是我們的文化傳統，正如日本有和服，韓國有韓服，中國也應有自己的傳統服飾。但願有更多的人愛上華服文化，一同向世界展現這東方獨有之美。



雲紋



鳳凰紋



寶相花紋



信期紋

的 妙 詩 趣 詞 橫 與 生 對 聯



今年校報主題為「詩」。很多人往往將「沈悶」、「古板」與其劃上等號。但詩詞形式千變萬化、姿態萬千，其中真趣實在值得細細品味！

壹 疊韻詩

指全詩所用的字，皆為同一韻部。

如：《飢雞集磯記》（用普通話讀才可品出其趣味！）

唧唧雞，雞唧唧，幾雞擠擠集磯背。機極疾，雞飢極，雞糞已技激及鯽。
機即濟薊鯽，雞計疾機激幾鯽。機極疾，鯽極悸，急急擠集磯級際。
繼即鯽跡極寂寂，繼即幾雞飢，即唧唧。

全詩只用了一個音節，卻巧妙地道出了一整個關於「飢雞」的故事，趣味橫生！

貳 疊字聯

指運用疊字創作聯語的特別格式。

譬如《唐伯虎點秋香》裏就有這麼一個對子，或許大家也有所耳聞：

上聯：鶯鶯燕燕翠翠紅紅處處融融洽洽

下聯：雨雨風風花花葉葉年年暮暮朝朝

另有一首對聯，上聯疊「事」，下聯疊「人」。更富人生哲理之啟發，值得大家細細思考呀！

上聯：不生事不怕事自然無事；

下聯：能愛人能惡人方是正人。



叁 回文對

即無論是從前往後、還是從後往前讀，都是同一句子、同一意思。

譬如：

上聯：上海自來水來自海上；

下聯：山西懸空寺空懸西山。

又有一例：

上聯：畫上荷花和尚畫；

下聯：書臨漢帖翰林書。

此聯順讀倒唸，讀音皆不變。不信，大家試著順序、倒序分別唸一遍，便會明白其中精妙之處。耐人尋味！

還有一首頗為可愛的回文詞：

《菩薩蠻·迴文夏閨怨》蘇軾

柳庭風靜人眠晝，晝眠人靜風庭柳。

香汗薄衫涼，涼衫薄汗香。

手紅冰碗藕，藕碗冰紅手。

郎笑藕絲長，長絲藕笑郎。

肆 諧音聯

指利用諧音，做到一語雙關的效果。如：
蓮（連）子心中苦，梨（離）兒腹內酸。

還有另一對：

因荷而得藕；

有杏不須梅。

「荷、藕、杏、梅」分別諧「何、偶、幸、媒」。



神茶



鬱壘



伍 春聯

先來回顧一番春聯之歷史吧！春聯起源於桃符（周代懸掛在大門兩旁的長方形桃木板）。在《後漢書·禮儀志》中，桃符長六寸，寬三寸，桃木板上書降鬼大神「神荼」、「鬱壘」的名字，用以鎮邪去惡。

王安石的《元日》中，正描述了新年與「桃符」相關的歡快場景：

爆竹聲中一歲除，春風送暖入屠蘇。

千門萬戶曠曠日，總把新桃換舊符。

其中，清代名醫范文甫的春聯富有深意。

他一生救人無數，卻一貧如洗：

但願人皆健，何妨我獨貧。

從這寥寥數字，便可看出其醫者仁心。

隨著時代更迭，近年也出現了許多有趣、脫離傳統的春聯。讓人不禁莞爾！

上聯：¥

下聯：\$

橫批：財源廣進

不難發現，這些詩詞、對聯所承載著的，往往是人們對於美好生活的祝願與追求。縱使生活習慣不斷改變，其對於我們的象徵意義仍是亙古不變。

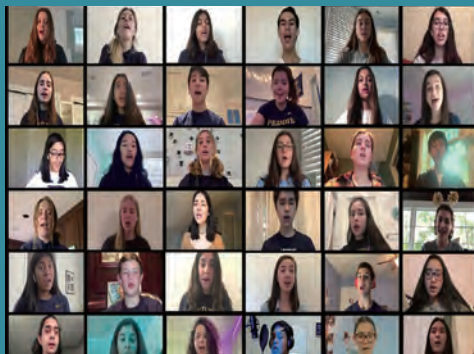
Quarantine Live

It has been a whole year since the coronavirus swept across the whole globe, and yet it's still an insurmountable obstacle for lots of countries and people. People encounter problems that they have never faced before. And the coronavirus also brought us a new friend, quarantine. Let's figure out how people spend time with this "friend".

For the first destination, let's go across the continent to Italy. In Italy, people are taking their quarantine lives into another level. Despite the fact that their country is on a lockdown, and people can only go out for grocery stores, banks, and pharmacies, their passion in singing is still unstoppable. In a video shared by a Twitter user, the empty streets of Siena are filled with songs as people are singing from their balconies, giving breathtaking performances. Considering that Italy has been one of the most severely affected countries during the pandemic, their dynamic spirits and how they deal with the whole situation are definitely worth learning. Quarantine lives are arguably dreary, or I can say, uninteresting. But the Italians made it look like they were having a carnival!



During quarantine, we need to self-isolate ourselves. But people around the globe still find something to do during this mind-numbing period of time to not only entertain themselves but also draw public attention. Some people come up with innovative ideas, using only sticky notes and markers to decorate their windows. You may ask me why they want to decorate their windows. To be precise, the decorations are for the people outside. They will use sticky notes to deliver some messages or use markers to write quotes, so that the people outside can see the messages they want to express. These messages are giving people a way to stay connected, offer help and gratitude to medical workers on the front line. Or others might choose to write some humorous quotes to attract attention. Either way, putting messages on windows is a great way for people to communicate with each other even though they are being quarantined. Not to mention, it can also remind people that we are all actually in this together.



Back to Hong Kong, the current situation also makes people's quarantine life 'futuristic.' People's lifestyles have changed drastically from going to school to having zoom lessons in pyjamas. A lot of activities are held online. For universities in Hong Kong, in order to welcome the newcomers, students used to hold orientation camps to let everybody meet each other, or play some ice-breaking games. Who would have imagined that orientation camps could be held online? For schools, Hong Kong students adapt to online learning amid class suspension over the pandemic. For people who have to maintain social distancing and are in hotels, a technology company at the Science Park has developed a compact little robot called Rice to help them. As its name implies, Rice would deliver food for people who are in a quarantine. As a matter of fact, people always say that the innovation of technology might lengthen the distance between people, having said that, during quarantine, I believe that these kinds of technology are definitely a must.

At the end of the day, the whole pandemic is still an enormous challenge for us, but remember that we're fighting the virus together, and we will get through this together!

Hotel ?

Try These n'Go

Stepping into a hotel room, you may find it so similar to the one you visited in Paris, New York, or Tokyo last Christmas. They all have the same overnight setup: a bed, a bathtub, a closet, and that's it. However, these unique hotels are going to defy your imagination and you will wish to visit all of them!

You gonna hear them running, roaring: Giraffe Manor in Kenya

If you are obsessed with nature, this hotel is much beyond your wildest dreams. The 12-room Giraffe Manor is owned by The Safari Collection, located in Nairobi, within 140 acres of the primitive forest. It harks back to the 1930s when travelers first embarked on a journey in Africa. The original manor was built in 1932 and came up with the Garden Manor created in 2011. With the antique furniture, delicate bibelots, and glamorous decoration, the hotel itself is a great piece of art. Each of the rooms is named by the Rothchild's giraffes. Besides the spectacular view of the exotic champignons, you will probably be surprised to see the giraffes poking their necks into your windows looking for some treats. But don't worry, the rooms are stocked with giraffe food. Just enjoy your breakfast with these unexpected long-neck visitors. You may also spend some time with a baby elephant. Guests who adopted an orphaned elephant are offered an exclusive privilege to visit them after sunsets. Put the baby elephants to bed and wish them goodnight. The Giraffe Manor is providing opportunities for interactions of humans and wildlife, as well as revealing the beauty of nature.



The best option for budget travelers: Capsule hotels in Japan

Capsule hotel, as its name suggests, is a hotel that consists of only pod-like rooms like capsules. The first capsule hotel was designed by Kisho Kurokawa in Osaka in 1979. While some tourists are paying thousands of dollars for the king-size bed and luxurious room service in a five-star hotel, the others seem to be highly impressed by the more affordable capsule hotels, where they are able to find tons of comic books and movies, enjoy video game night in the 24-hour cyber cafe next to their rooms and have a sumptuous





breakfast in the cafeteria as the fresh start of a day. Not just aiming to please their guests with all these satisfying services, capsule hotels also care about the privacy and safety of their visitors. Guests will need particular keys to access their sleeping quarters. In addition, to cater to female travelers, some capsule hotels keep a separated and isolated area for women. No wonder that capsule hotels have become so popular among backpackers.

The modern Trojan Horse: La Balade des Gnomes in Belgium

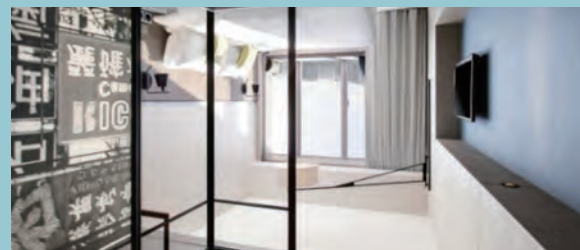
We have all heard of the well-known story of the Trojan Horse, in which the Greeks were hidden inside an enormous wooden horse and defeated the Trojans. Inspired by the story of Trojan Horse, Mr. Noel, an architect, operates the fascinating La Balade des Gnomes – a wooden-horse-shaped hotel that captivates our imaginations. Besides its attractive and stunning appearance, the 10 rooms inside are also extraordinarily decorated. The name of the hotel, La Balade des Gnomes, means the walk of Gnomes in French. Each of the rooms has its own theme. Inside a room that is filled with starry skies, if you wish on the morning star, your wish might be heard and answered. Or you may explore the mysterious Caribbean Sea with Captain Jack Sparrow in the pirate-themed room. Moreover, the hotel is located near Durbuy, a 17th-century town with old-timey buildings and cobbled streets. It is definitely an incredible and other-worldly place for those fairy tale lovers.



A cactus in the cultural desert: Pentahotel in Hong Kong

Hong Kong has been said to be a cultural desert for many years. It seems to be hard to spot a stylish hotel among these similar lodgings. And here comes Pentahotel, classy and modern hotels with elements of local cultures. Pentahotels are known for their unique design and altitude. There are 27 operating hotels under the brand from all over the world. Two of them are located in Kowloon and Tuen Mun respectively. The hallmark of these hotels is a combination of bars, lounges, cafes, and everything that gives you uptown vibes. Not only fashionable furniture and decorations are found, but familiar signboards you may discover on the streets of Hong Kong also become a feature of the Pentahotels in Hong Kong. You probably cannot find these in other hotels under their brands. With the local and modern elements, these hotels undergo cultural fusion, as Hong Kong did. Another signature of Pentahotels is their food as they serve a wide variety of dishes.

Enjoy your meals in the hotel on East street. Pentahotels also provide rooms for hosting a meeting or an event. If you are the kind of person who wants to add a little leisure to work, Pentahotels will be your favorite.



Songs to cheer you up

好歌分享



不少人在訴說着香港樂壇經已衰落，誠然，在全球化的影響下，聽廣東歌的人越來越少，不少好苗子都在洪流中被活埋。但其實，香港不乏優秀的歌手、作詞人、作曲家，他們的曲風內含不同元素，絕能媲美海外，他們皆在默默耕耘，務求令香港樂壇重回昔日的輝煌。但香港人，你們可曾留意過？讓我們好好欣賞廣東話歌詞的奧妙，好好感受粵語歌的神韻，支持我們的廣東歌。

▶ 叮噹可否不要老 - 張敬軒

作詞：陳耀森 作曲：Edmond Tsang

「盤旋於天空的蜻蜓 盤旋之間告別無聲 沒你擔當小孩救星 憑什麼任性 難忘舊夢有你和應」
「童年那獨有深刻的聲線 原來一閃即過 再沒重現 從無期望成年後 發現你 已別去 化做雨點
懷念站到你的跟前 仍能天真的說聲 再見」

2015年，叮噹的配音員林保全先生與世長辭，這把陪伴無數小朋友成長的聲音成為絕響。現實中，我們沒有時間布，沒有時光機，不能回到過去，改變既定的事實。「叮噹可否不要老」，我們總希望美好的事物能夠永恆，只是在成長的過程中，我們總要學會說「再見」。在《Stand By Me：多啦A夢3D》中，叮噹說：「我唔可以再留喺度，真係要走啦！」，叮噹已老去，而我們也需長大了。

▶ 預言書 - 關智斌

作詞：林若寧 作曲：張敬軒

「萬能俠舊日伴隨自己 屋企通處飛 七歲幾膽敢預言自己 操一艘戰機」
「為了生活而放棄 要奮鬥來盡厚利 世界是大人遊戲 那幼稚預言誰謹記」

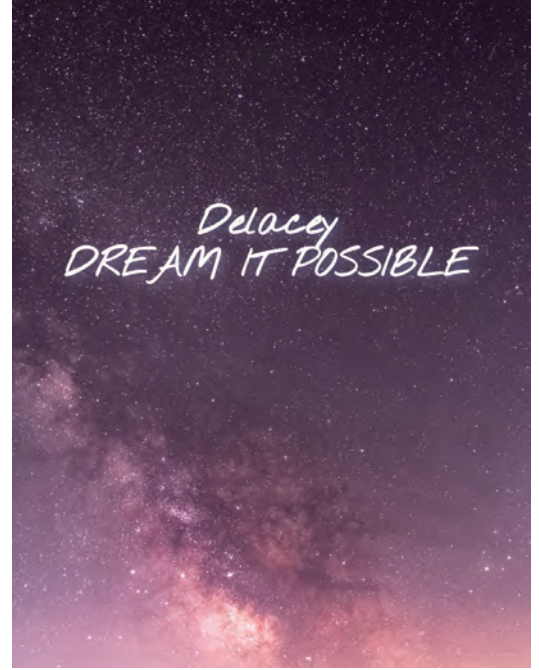
小時候，我們總是幻想自己能像動畫片中的主角般拯救世界、探索宇宙，大放厥詞地向世界告知自己的夢想。可惜，長大後經歷多了，面對殘酷的現實，才驚覺小時候的預言都只是天方夜譚。在力爭上游的奮鬥中回過頭，那擠迫的生活節奏中，根本沒有位置容下「夢想」二字，而一切都彷彿只是幼稚的笑話。

兒時幻想與成年人現實生活之間難免有矛盾衝突，隨著歲月的流逝，難免變得世故及勢利，年輕時的狂想被迫化作幻影。我想，這是很多人長大後的縮影。不過，既然如此，年少時何妨不多想一點，多做一點，而那些在追求夢想過程中獲得的經驗，便是你生命中額外獲得的財富。

▶ ***Dream It Possible – Delacey***

*“I will run I will climb I will soar
I'm undefeated
Jumping out of my skin pull the chord
Yeah I believe it
The past is everything we were don't make us who we are
So I'll dream until I make it real and all I see is stars”*

*From the bottom to the top
We're sparking wild fire's
Never quit and never stop
It's not until you fall that you fly
When your dreams come alive you're unstoppable
Take a shot chase the sun find the beautiful
We will glow in the dark turning dust to gold
And we'll dream it possible”*



It is wonderful if we can have a dream. Maybe it is arduous for us to pursue it. However, keeping going until the end, we may enjoy the achievements from your efforts. When you suffer, don't give up. We should be determined to chase our dream. It is impossible for us to lead a life without obstacles or challenges. And vice versa, you will always see the rainbow after it rains. Sorrow and sadness will not last forever.

▶ ***Happy – Pharrell Williams***



*“It might seem crazy what I am 'bout to say
Sunshine she's here, you can take a break
I'm a hot air balloon that could go to space
With the air, like I don't care, baby by the way*

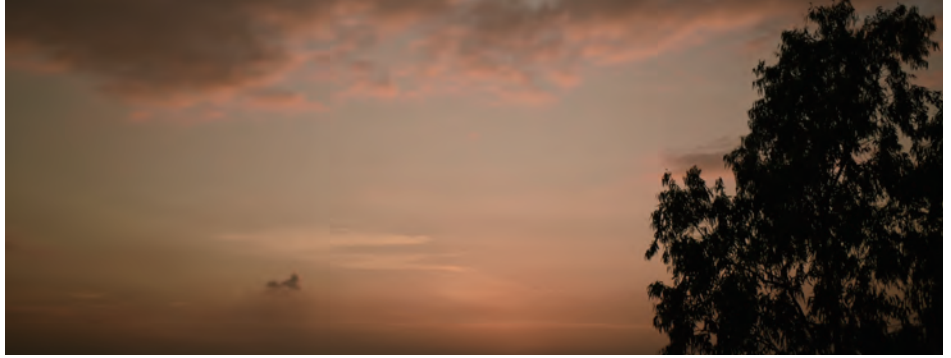
*Clap along if you feel like a room without a roof
Clap along if you feel like happiness is the truth
Clap along if you know what happiness is to you
Clap along if you feel like that's what you wanna do
Here come bad news talking this and that
Well give me all you got, don't hold back
Well I should probably warn you I'll be just fine
No offence to you don't waste your time Here's why”*

Life is full of setbacks that may drive us mad, or let us down. But don't forget that we can sometimes press the 'pause button' in life, and take a break from our hectic schedule! Listen to some upbeat songs, chill with friends, and enjoy the preciousness in life!

Hope this song can buoy you up no matter what happens. Just remember to be happy! :)

詩

□
4E
麥靖嵐



我無時無刻不與它交談著。

他說水繞陂田竹繞籬，榆錢落盡槿花稀。夕陽牛背無人臥，帶得寒鴉兩兩歸。

我說殘陽懸空，紅橘光暈伴著紫霞斑駁陸離，我與妹妹在園中漫步傾談，火樹銀花時，最後一絲自然光束被銷鑠殆盡，媽媽端著一盤月亮，掛在陽台喚我歸家吃飯。

她說鉅艦只緣因利往，扁舟亦是為名來。往來有愧先生德，特地通宵過釣臺。

我說世俗煩擾事，不過一頭枯枯地糾纏著的烏絲，如我們學生這般純粹，在分數上爾虞我詐的卻大有人在，唯有焚膏繼晷，做好自己份內的事，便不被現世塵囂所擾。它說嗚嘶吠語啼呱呱吼吟嘯咆。

我說窗外鳥兒翩躚旋掠，聽似雀鳥吱喳，不過樓下眾生嬉鬧喧嘩，那字句的韻律被人聲拉扯的參差不齊，竟也是錚琮悅耳。貓狗在邊上互吠，也並未顯得焚琴煮鶴，倒是為了這首詩歌添上了省略號。

他們吟著，它誦著，我說著。

你說詩太好，用唇舌讀不出百年前都邑滿目風華，你說詩太壞，鮮活的人與景早被文字困住，血肉模糊。

我說詩不好，舊人的肺腑之言若是稱作詩，便遭人猜測評論，好不苦悶；我說詩也很好，即使消亡殞滅，卻也是會有人用平仄將你從已停滯的人生中拉出來。

於是我也不願刻意讀詩、寫詩，只在有渴望時讀，因為世間萬物本就是一首撰寫中的詩，詩意的況味何須特意去找、去感知？在這座語言的寺廟裡，我不需朝拜詩人，每人皆平起平坐，朝拜著生命，供奉著文字，每人輪流握著筆硯紙墨，書寫著同一首詩，有時，豪放如蘇軾，婉約如秦觀之人便在詩旁作上註腳，好讓後來人對這首詩篇看得清楚點。

詩歌，詩歌。到底詩是一首橫跨江河、時代的山歌，還是歌是一種紀錄生活的詩呢？他們唱過，你在聽，而我們正在唱著。

新 星 熠 熠 ，
界 限 無 涯 ；
鄉 亭 里 外 ，
議 語 訪 話 。

局 氣 磅 礴 ，
元 形 若 夏 ，
朗 朗 乾 坤 ，
區 區 如 畫 。

中 有 夫 子 不 知 委 頓 授 徒 佳 ，
學 有 赤 子 苦 讀 詩 書 吐 氣 華 。

徵稿作品 | 贈鄉中

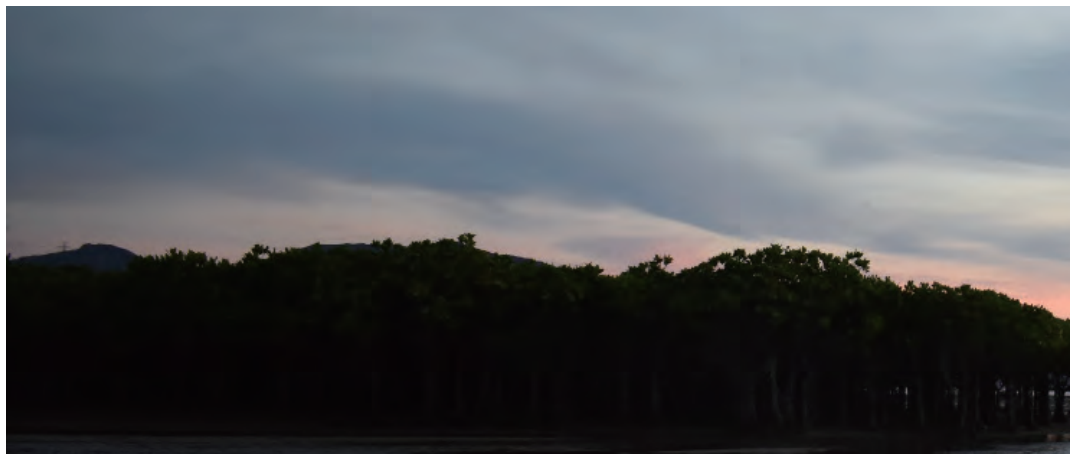


□
4B
趙峻嫻

贈鄉中

閒筆

□
6E
林如盈



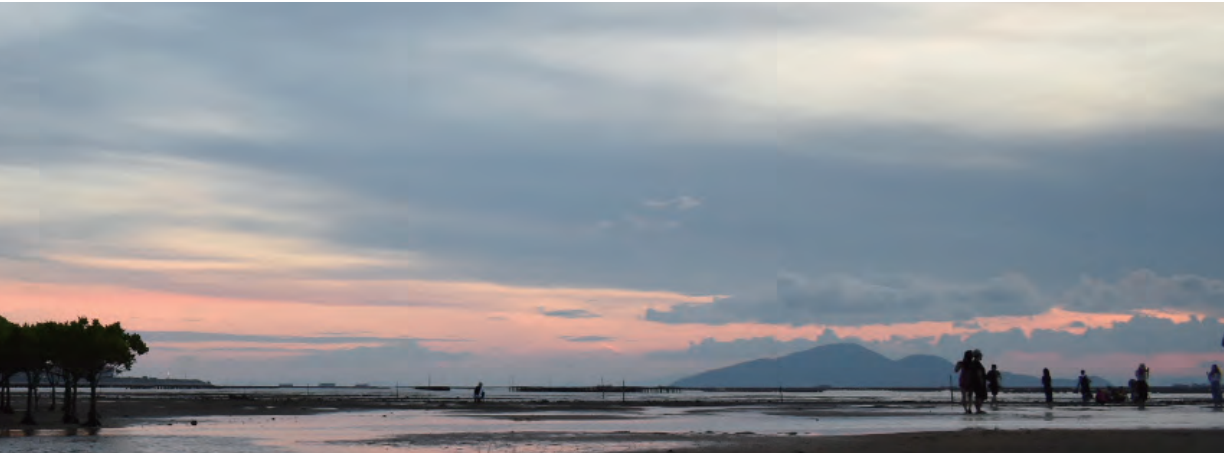
(一) 水與鹽

忘了在哪兒看過這麼一道作文題目：「物各有性，水至淡，鹽得味。水加水還是水，鹽加鹽還是鹽。酸甜苦辣鹹，五味調和，共存相生，百味紛呈。物猶是，事猶是，人亦然。」在消化這數行文字之際，似是有一盞盞燈泡「叮」地在腦海中亮起——水與鹽的道理，不正是能兌出許多人間哲理來麼？

先說思想與技藝。晏子曾說過：「若以水濟水，誰能食之？若琴瑟之專一，誰能聽之？」五味不調的包子的確難以下嚥，連狗都不屑一顧。而即使是出了名一枝獨秀的嗩吶，也少不了樂團的相襯。萬物和諧共處建立在獨特個體的協奏上，中國有百家爭鳴，西方有托勒密地心說和哥白尼日心說，正是多方思想的對撞，才會擦出文明的火花，折射出理性的光輝，將名為「真理」的拼圖在不斷的變幻中逐漸拼湊完整。倘若一味故步自封，則久坐不動的大腦也要纏滿蛛絲，被封塵在時代的角落了。正如有些歌劇演員，把前人的一腔一調都奉為圭臬，不敢有一步逾越，卻是在時代變遷中向「創新」說不，使流派再不能企及新的角度，只能拿來給後人圍觀憑弔，淡淡地說一句：「喔，舊時代長這樣啊？」單調，從來不是答案。

而把鏡頭拉到地域界限外，在全球化浪潮席捲而來的科技世代，國與國之間的文化交融已成為必然。先不說薄荷、蒜頭、橄欖油等各色調味料的聚集一堂，宏觀而言，哪個偉大的時代沒有海納百川的氣象呢？大唐的開明之風容下了西域風情與中原文化，匯聚成至今為人所追念的一代盛世。文藝復興衝破中世紀的黑暗，向東方文化敞開大門，一座座教堂、宮殿拔地而起，才造就了數之不盡的藝術巨匠。反觀今日，保護主義思潮正在肆虐生長，叫囂著保持語言乃至人種的「純淨度」，像清朝統治者一般不由分說鎖緊門戶。你勸他說這是自斷活路，他反倒指責你不懂未來，真教人想劈頭蓋臉地吼一句：「變則興，不變則衰，這哪是什麼算命，這是千百年來經反覆驗證的至理！」連最初階的廚子都明白調味料要五味俱全，烹飪如是，文化的延續與變遷亦如是。

至於我們身處的宇宙本身，也終究是一個調和不同「味道」的精彩演出。大爆炸結束後，燃燒的行星內核創造出了最簡單的元素，在高溫高壓的雙重作用下再逐漸演變出更為複雜的金、鋁、鉛來，成為拼湊星系的積木。多得一整元素週期表作為原材料，才有了你我抬頭所見的絢爛星空，以及地球上的造物奇蹟



— 洶湧的巨濤，炙熱的熔岩，呼嘯的雷暴。倘若世上只得一種元素、一種味道，那將是何等索然無味的世界？萬物的啟示無比明顯：讓眾生百相匯聚！讓千百萬種面目，造就「各美其美，美人之美，美美與共，天下大同」之最終境界。

說到底，水和鹽亦僅僅是啟示，而無法粗暴地概況這無比複雜的世界本身。總之：為「不同」而煩惱往往是徒勞無功的，畢竟世事沒有唯一一個標準答案、模範面貌，即使有，亦經歷不起時間的考驗。

(二) 我看寫作

「人們往往把樸素誤認作淺顯，又把華麗誤認作豐富。」——周國平

初學寫作之人如我，往往心浮氣躁，一味雕章琢句、引經據典，卻不知華麗的辭藻只是文章的外衣，深刻的思想才是它的靈魂。文字之美不在於數字的精確、環環相扣，不僅在一個個方格子編織成的絢麗圖景，更在於它的穿透力，狠狠把思想和時弊從裡到外扎穿，把那些埋藏在靈魂或社會深處的東西，高貴的、骯髒的，一併挖出來暴露在光天化日之下，語不驚人死不休。丟失了靈魂的衣服，也充其量只是一堆亂七八糟的繡花線頭。

掌握穿衣規則很容易，練就敏銳的時尚觸覺卻需要經年累月的能力。同樣，模仿金章玉句易，網上一搜索「佳句大全」，五湖四海的漂亮罐頭句都會奉命而來。但正如周國平所言：「一個人可以模仿蘇格拉底的口氣說話，卻不可能靠模仿成為一個蘇格拉底式的思想家。」我們可能背誦了十本佳句集也無法讓墨水隨著思緒流淌，可能將世間真理塞入腦袋亦終究過不好這一生。到頭來，只有剪開那些嚷嚷著「快點！我要快點學會！」的噪音，才能靜下心來真誠地感知浮沉萬物，在日復一日的潛心思考中脫胎換骨。

作為未滿十八歲的學生，我談論寫作或亦是班門弄斧。閱歷尚淺，功力更未到火候。但卻有兩件事是我無比肯定的：一、辭藻是工具，不是捷徑。二、在持續打磨下，終有一日，高尚的思想將成為衣架子，輕鬆撐起百般搭配。而文字將被釀成酒，奔騰在血管之中，翻湧不息，衝擊著人們每一個末梢，拉開一場精神盛宴的序幕。

詩

□
2D
黃榆婷



隨著殘月的落下，帶著淡淡晨輝的太陽噴薄欲出，嬰兒如雷貫耳的啼哭聲也在這旭日東升之際響了起來。小傢伙白嫩的臉蛋透著兩抹紅，兩隻小手胡亂地擺著，甚是可愛。此時，這粉妝玉琢的小娃娃只不過是一張純潔無瑕的白紙，什麼也不懂，只會看著母親咯咯地笑。而他的人生也隨著這張空白的紙緩緩展開。

朝暉滿地，很快便到了日出三竿的時候，小孩也到了進學堂的年紀。只見他面前放著一本厚厚的《唐詩三百首》，卻是用手托著小臉昏昏欲睡，小嘴還在小聲嘀咕著什麼。湊近一聽，原來是在背那首家喻戶曉的詩歌——「床前明……明……月光，疑……疑是……地上霜。舉頭望……望明月，低頭思……故鄉……」過了幾天，當母親要小孩向老師背書時，小孩已經倒背如流，不費吹灰之力就獲得了母親和老師的連連讚美。在小孩還在得意洋洋地笑著時，這首如兒歌般琅琅上口的《靜夜思》已經悄悄地在白紙上畫了一筆，為這天真無邪的小朋友記錄下來。同時，童年卻也伴隨著笑聲和美妙詩歌悄無聲息溜走了。

轉眼間，霞光瑰麗，赤日高昇，令人眩目的光芒火辣辣地照向大地。當初那個單純可愛的小團子已經長成了朝氣蓬勃的青少年，化作在運動場上奔跑的背影。聽著觀眾席上此起彼落的打氣聲，少年心中更是熱血沸騰，堅定不移地朝著終點線飛奔。當天晚上，興高采烈的少年拿著沉甸甸的獎杯與朋友在草地上促膝長談。這是他們畢業前最後一次在校園的草地上傾心交談，彼此約定著來一場不顧一切的畢業旅行，憧憬著未來生活的五光十色。突然，一陣雜亂的腳步聲打斷他們的談話，那是一群正值青春年華的小姑娘。少年如痴如醉地看向人群中心那明眸皓齒的少女，只覺得天上的仙女也不過如此。耳旁響起了朋友們插科打諢的調侃聲，心裡想著「花開堪折直須折，莫待無花空折枝」，便步伐堅定地走向了那名少女。情竇初開的少年看著面前手足無措的少女，悄然無息地給心裡的那張紙添上幾筆粉色的印記。

紅日西沈，山銜落日，緋紅色的太陽彷彿累了一般，疲憊地彎下了腰。從前意氣風發的少年不再年輕，命運也彷彿怕他沒有如詩人般傷春悲秋的情懷，還特意在他生活的縫隙裏加上了憂愁的藍調。除了職場上的失意外，男人要面對的更是與身邊人的離別。不管是與父母的生死別離，還是與朋友的各散東西，抑或是與伴侶的聚散離合，都壓得男人快喘不過氣來。坐在沙發上，本來一片空白的腦海裡卻突然浮現出《詠世》中的意境——「月有盈虧花有開謝，想人生最苦離別。」男人潸然淚下，不知為何他此刻竟有些後悔對父母的忽視，對朋友的無禮，對伴侶的冷淡。然而可笑的是，人們只有在失去後才懂得珍惜，這樣的愛惜，又有何用呢？男人覺得身體彷彿被掏空一般空蕩蕩的，心中本來雜亂卻五彩繽紛的紙上，不知從何時開始，到現在只剩下一片片壓抑的黑。

曾經金光萬縷的旭日如今只剩下落日餘暉。可它依舊拼盡全力留下了那蔚為壯觀的一片暮色，映紅了天上的雲，看上去恍如仙境。那兩鬢斑白的花甲老人坐在小屋前的躺椅上來回搖晃，甚是愜意。他已不再是那個整天抑鬱不振的男人。如今這年逾古稀的老人只想追尋詩人隱世的世外桃源，徹底拋卻一切煩惱，過平淡而又舒適的愜意生活。看著如畫般的美景，老人抿了一口茶，輕輕吟道：「人間桂花落，夜靜春山空。月出驚山鳥，時鳴春澗中。」在這種迷人的湖光山色之下，老人心裡的那張紙終於回歸平靜，變回一片空白。

紙鎮下壓着一張空白的宣紙，旁邊放了幾隻盛墨水與顏料的小碟子。我左手托着腮，右手握着毛筆，躊躇良久，終未能下筆。「素尺無緣知錦繡，紅塵有幸識丹青。」多富詩情畫意的題目啊！我的腦袋偏偏一片空白，毫無靈感。

人間錦繡為何？是萬里河山，是珍禽異獸，還是奇花異草？古人熱愛吟詩作畫，不論是詩詞歌賦還是水墨古畫，這些題材總在一眾作品中展現。最近讀到李白的《望廬山瀑布》：「日照香爐生紫煙，遙看瀑布挂前川。飛流直下三千尺，疑是銀河落九天。」氣勢磅礴、意象深遠，是水墨畫的不二之選。就它吧。

須臾之間，一幅山水畫呈現眼前。細細端詳，總覺有一絲不完滿——缺了人。

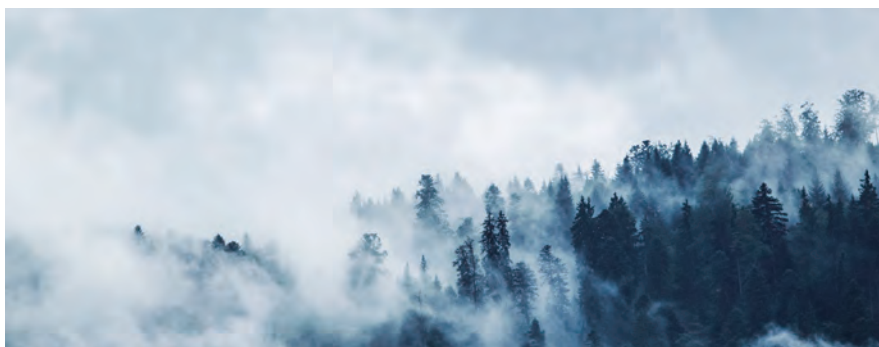
一覽眾多水墨名畫，或有絕美的山川河泊，或有鳥語花香，卻鮮有畫人與景相融的場景。大自然再美，若缺少了伯樂，她的存在不過如同一件擺設，終不能體現其價值。若能與自然相知相識，如今周邊的景象或大有不同。

記得兩年前到蒲台島，是我初見萬物之美：明媚的陽光、和煦的春風與波光粼粼的海面；春意盎然的花草、巍峨壯觀的石塊與延綿不絕的山巒；天上翱翔的飛鳥、花間舞動的蝴蝶與歡聲笑語的我們。終於明白古人為何總祈願歸隱山林了，遠離世俗煩囂，與花草相伴，享受平靜，實為美事一樁。

自那以後我也不知不覺間愛上了自然之美。閒暇之餘，我常到郊野樹下流連，渴望拉近與她的距離。漸漸，她彷彿懂我所思，悲傷時，降下雨水，陪我一同落淚；歡樂時，花草隨風搖曳，與我一同手舞足蹈；孤單時，撐起樹蔭，為我遮風擋雨，默默陪伴。

人與自然的相遇，正如錦繡色彩遇上了本平平無奇的白布，人能得到大自然春華秋實的饋贈，大自然能遇上她的伯樂。所謂投我以木瓜，報之以瓊琚，我願常與自然相伴，用心感受這一花一木的美好。

靈感忽如泉湧，我重新放了一張紙，瀟灑揮筆，筆下訴說的是一個女孩與大自然的故事。



□ 4E
陳境宜

知遇

Quotes

5E Wong Pak Ching Janice

Everything has beauty, but not everyone sees it. It is generally accepted as a law of nature that humans love beautiful things and we tend to pursue beauty throughout our lives. What really sets us apart from one another is that we all have different perspectives towards the definition of beauty. For instance, some people enjoy traveling to different gorgeous places on Earth while others find paintings appealing so they put their noses to the grindstone to conjure up the painting of their dreams. As for me, although this may sound like an unusual and rather quirky obsession, I personally find quotes astonishingly beautiful and intriguing. Even though this passion is a feeling that I could hardly explain, I would still like to share some of my favourite quotes with you and see if I can find someone who shares my feelings.

We all know William Shakespeare, the famous playwright in history, right? I have read some of his plays and here is the quote that really caught my eye, 'It is not in the stars to hold our destiny but in ourselves.' In the past, people believed in a superstition that each star in the sky represented an individual and by observing how the stars moved and formed constellations, we could determine how everyone's life would be, just like Feng Shui in traditional Chinese culture. I found this quote so encouraging and uplifting that I felt touched by it. I'm pretty sure that everyone of us has once felt so desperate in our lives that we were moaning about our terrible luck and why nothing was going as it should have been. At this point, I think it is vital to remember that our lives are in our hands and it is cowardly to blame the result of our own actions as an unfair treatment of some unrecognized but mystical and potent powers. The quote reminds me that I am the one in charge of my own life and when I face adversities, what I should be doing is to stand up after I trip and take action to fight against whatever that is dragging me down instead of grumbling about how unfair life can be.

Another quote that really strikes me is 'Fear is a reaction, courage is a decision' by Winston Churchill. I first laid my eyes on this quote when I was searching about Churchill in Secondary Three. The History textbook says that he is the person who gave the Iron Curtain Speech in the Cold War. I was completely detached from my

studies once I started giving this quote a second thought because fear is an emotion that all of us have no matter how hard we deny it. How to overcome fear has always been a topic that I plan to dig into in my life. This quote gave me a sudden acknowledgement that I have mistaken fear all the time because it is our natural reaction to be scared of something. What I should try to learn is to be decisive in building up the courage to face my deepest fear. I can be afraid of a thing but that doesn't mean I can't embrace it when circumstances force me to, does it? I only have to make sure that I can bravely get out of my comfort zone at the crucial moment when fear is blocking my way then it won't become the burden that I have to shoulder in my journey to success.

Apart from this, I also happen to find a multitude of quotes from the novels of John Green which are thought-provoking and meaningful. One that stands out from the others is 'Imagining the future is a kind of nostalgia.' Nostalgia is used to describe people who always daydream about their past, for example, childhood memories or some items that allow them to reminisce about the happy moments that they remember by heart. Imagining the future is just like nostalgia since in the cases of both situations, people are not living in the present. Instead, they keep thinking about themselves in another time but not enjoying life that is unfolding right in front of them which results in them missing out on the reality and not moving forward. Just by looking ahead, whatever hopes you hold for the future, you will never succeed when time is wasted through fantasizing and nothing is done to contribute to the realization of your dreams. The quote reminds me that even though I am in Secondary Five this year and I should be making plans for my tertiary studies, there is still time for me to have fun and live in the moment as I will never be the me in this age in the mysterious future.

In my opinion, the beauty in quotes is that they are illustrations of life in a few words and when these simple words are thought through, they can become companions and perhaps apprentices in our lives. Afterall, as John Green said, '*Maybe our favourite quotations say more about us than about the stories and people we're quoting.*'

Gifted

3D Tse Wing Kei

One Friday night, I just felt upset for no reason when I was practising a very hard piano piece. I was wondering why I was wearing myself out instead of taking a good rest after studying hard for a whole week. At weekends, having a tight schedule joining competitions and doing homework, I live as if I were a bird without legs flying through an endless journey. Shall I surrender? I pondered for a long time and figured out that I have to be grateful for being alive.

Have you ever groaned about having a tough life?

Look at the healthy body you have. Take a deep breath. Place your hand at your chest to feel your heartbeats. We are so used to our own existence and even take it for granted. I do believe it is not guaranteed. Experience in our life is so complicated and sometimes messy that we start to forget why we are here. We forget what gave us the chance to see the world. We forget what enables us to think and feel.

We may not be gifted with talents or superpowers. Nevertheless, everyone has a gorgeous gift which should be cherished. It is life. We are lucky to have this special ability - to live and experience life. Without this ability, we won't even exist. We won't even have the strength to complain. Life may not be perfect but it is already the best gift we could ever have. You can use it to explore the universe. You can use it to find love. You can use it to bring happiness to millions of people. You can use it to create your own talents and superpowers. In case you haven't realized this fact, unwrap your gift right now and hone it. Try to do something meaningful with it!

'Life is too precious, do not destroy it,' said Mother Teresa. Next time you feel discontented, please remind yourself that you are unique and important. Don't think of giving up on your life. Treasure your gift and enjoy your ability to its fullest.

Be thankful that you have the gift of life.

Life is a competition. We compete for a position of monitor, a gold medal at Sports Day, academic degrees, jobs, and for many other things we want. In order to raise our competitiveness, we are highly motivated to improve our competence. However, we have gradually forgotten how special we are as we are just striving for achievements blindly, like a group of robots. That's why we should unwrap the 'gifts', which is our uniqueness.

I used to be an optimistic girl with confidence. I started my ballet life when I was three. When I danced, I gained countless enjoyment. I knew that I really enjoyed performing, especially on stage. Therefore, there was always a big smile on my face. However, after I had joined several dance competitions, I found my smile disappeared. Why? That's because I competed with others and I found that there were many dancers who performed better. I had a sense of inferiority. I practised almost every day and pursued for improvement. I lost the enjoyment when I danced. My technique had improved, but my performances were less attractive. My teacher knew me well and told me to chin up and unwind. He said, 'No one is perfect. But you are dazzling when you follow your heart to dance. Your charisma is your confidence. Get it back!' I found that I could be more outstanding with confidence. My performances were more impressive to others and I could even progress more speedily. My confidence is seasoning that makes my dance more tastier. The most treasurable reward is the satisfaction I have when I dance, then the appreciation and applause of the audience. The actual awards are the least important.

Do not be in a hurry to succeed. Spend time looking for your own happiness and unwrap your uniqueness. Cherish them. And you can shine on your own stage!

Gifted

4B Cheung Esther

Gifted

3D Beatrix Agatha Wong

When we first arrived in this world, we were all gifted with different talents. We are all unique. All of us are different and special. You can discover your uniqueness if you feel it from your heart.

I have been gifted with calmness and honesty since I was born. They are also my values in my life. I can remain calm in most situations. This makes me able to stay focused all the time, even in adverse situations. Also, I won't do anything against my conscience so I can always enjoy peace of mind. I am an observant and determined person. I am seldom affected by external factors. No matter what environment I am in, I just go for what I want to do. These gifts help me to weather the storms in my life!

As I can stay calm and focused most of the time, I can pick up something new quickly. I usually first observe, then analyse what skills are used, and memorise the steps to practise it. I got used to the way I learnt and didn't think it was anything special until I started my ballet lessons. My ballet teacher usually shows us a set of complicated ballet steps only once. After that she only gives us a few minutes to learn and practise. I realised that I could memorise all steps quickly as though I had practiced it for a long time. My calmness also helped me a lot in the ballet performances on the stage during sudden situations.

Besides, I was born to be honest. I hate people who always tell lies, I hate lying to others too. I like to be straightforward. This gives me peace of mind. I don't have any burden to be trustworthy. Thus this unique personality really brightens my life a lot. I am very glad to be born with it. This makes me feel proud of myself. I still remember in one of my very important examinations in primary school, I found out one small mistake that my teacher had marked wrongly during exam paper checking. With that single mark deducted, I would be lowered by one grade. However, I still reported to the teacher without any hesitation. I got a lower grade but I felt happy and thankful that I showed my honesty.

As we grow up, there are many distractions internally and externally. We experience ups and downs, we may be stressed or emotional. There are so many things that can take away our attention. It is not easy to stay focused and calm. I am pleased that I can face and tackle challenges positively while being calm and focused. I can go for my goals with no struggles. I hope I can further enrich my life by doing so.

As a famous quote goes, 'Being unique is better than being perfect.' It is important for us to unwrap our gifts so as to be special with our abilities. All of us can find our own gifts if you seek them in your heart deep down.

As the old saying goes, 'All things in their being are good for something.' Some people are gifted for their strong memory; some are hailed for their kind heart; some are acclaimed for their high IQ. I would say my smile is my greatest gift.

Born in a blissful family, I used to be a joyful boy who smiled a lot. 'Your smile is so sweet. You are so special that you have the superpower to brighten people's mood,' all my teachers, friends, classmates exclaimed. Whenever I smiled, others would smile as well. Warm as the shining sun, glamorous as a blossoming flower, my smile had an intrinsically magical power that brought joy to everyone.

However, as times goes by, my in born smiling ability fades. Since I was a Secondary Four student, I have lost my way and sense of direction, as if I was swimming in the vast ocean or running in the boundless desert. What I can see is only the gloomy outlook: struggling in the head-scratching Maths questions, revolving around tests and quizzes, drowning in a gruesome schedule. Worse still, piles of homework, tons of drilling, a series of after-school tutorial classes—all these placed a substantial strain on my shoulder and dragged me down.

I couldn't help asking myself, 'Why? Why can life be so demanding? Why can life be so exhausting? Why is life like a hell-like torture?' I was psychologically drained and mentally fatigued about my life.

Soon, I suffered from mental breakdown and was diagnosed with depressive disorder. I have been dragged into the abyss and drowned into the sea of melancholy when my smile had diametrically vanished from the face of the earth...

It was a cloudy day. The gloomy sky was cloaked with a canopy of fog and mist.

'Drip...drip...drip...' raindrops fell down from the rooftop drop by drop, hitting the ground and smashing into scrapes. I gazed at the reflection of my ego on the turbid puddles.

'A depressed little boy with no smile,' I murmured.

Suddenly, I came across Jack, my long-lost primary school bestie. We went to a cafe and chatted for a while.

Jack said in an exciting voice, 'Hey! It's been a long time since I last met you. I can barely recognize you without your impressive smile. How're you going bro?'

'Having a stressful life as usual. Being a senior form student is really not an easy task. I am nearly burnt out by the daily mind-blowing pressure.' I groaned and moaned about my despairing school life.

Ben suddenly showed me our primary school class photo from his phone. He exclaimed, 'How charming your smile was!'

'Wow. Is that really me? It's entirely different from the present me,' I pondered and sighed, 'Who doesn't want to be content and smile all the time? Who doesn't crave for a delightful and pleasant life? Yet, hardly can I breathe a sigh of relief now, let alone having a smile.'

'Silly boy. I totally understand that school life is tough with immense workload and pressure. I know how frustrating it is. But trust me, every failure is paving the way for your success; every obstacle is paving the path for your rosy future. So don't be knocked down by them, but do knock them down by your tightened fists. When you're too weary to move on, just give yourself a smile. I still validly remember how impressive your smile is. Enchanting and captivating, your smile is like the scorching sun hanging in the blue sky, the stars sprinkling in the darkness, an oasis in the deadly desert. Don't let this hidden gem be tucked away by those barriers. Use your charming smile to energize people around you as well as yourself!'

Jack's words greatly inspired and enlightened me. Life is a fruitful journey with ups and downs. During the journey, we may find some seemingly impossible odds standing in our way, and we might even be plagued by some plight or challenges. All the hardships we encounter play a vital role in pushing us to improve, nurturing a better us and strengthening our mental toughness. Thus, we should keep our chin up and weather the obstacles ahead with a cheerful smile.

Clouded by the endless pressure, I have once lost my compass as well as my intrinsic unique superpower—smile. But finally, my unparalleled smile is unwrapped and emerges again. I promise that I will do my utmost to cherish it, treasure it and hone it, ever and forever.

Unwrapping Gifts

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