

## 2

COLLABORATIVE  
INNOVATIONS

## An Unforgettable Experience

**1S Li Tsz Hei Alvin**

I have done many things with other people, but I think this is the most unforgettable time working with my other classmates during primary school.

I was in primary six that time. One day the teacher told the whole class to do a science project in pairs. Once the teacher finished announcing, my classmates immediately found themselves a partner and reported to the teacher. Soon, everyone had a partner except for me. I went to find the teacher and she made me pair up with a classmate who bullied me a lot. At first we looked at each other angrily and I complained to the teacher I wanted to switch to another group, but the teacher refused because there was nobody left to pair up with me. Soon after that, we started on our science project and got to know each other, I figured out that he wasn't a bad person after all. We also exchanged our phone numbers so that we could contact each other.

We finished our project together and the teacher praised us in front of the class. I learned that working together is always better than working by yourself. Another thing I learned is that we shouldn't judge someone by his or her appearance and how he or she treats you. In that way, we can make more friends.

**Feedback from 1N Fung Fanny:**

I think many people can relate to you, Alvin. From this experience, I think you have learnt much about not judging people based on past experience and appearance.

## Are You a Team Player?

**2M Chan Wing Lam**

Every year, we need to do different kinds of group projects. Most of the group projects require us to do a presentation. We have to work with our teammates in order to finish our project efficiently. This year, as a S2 student, I had to do a group project about a dining experience in a special restaurant. This task was different to the ones they usually give us as we had to find information about the restaurant and we even had to dine in that restaurant to write a review about the food, the service and the atmosphere of the restaurant.

As a group, we were assigned to do different tasks to complete the project. We divided the labor of work so that all of us had equal amount of work. Throughout the group project, I understood what team spirit and cooperation are. If you want to succeed as a group, everyone in the group should be serious about their work. Everybody should be responsible and be willing to help their teammates who need help. It sounds easy. But it is easier said than done.

### **Feedback from 1M Goh Hin Shu:**

Doing a group project has always been a task that teachers like to give out. Cooperation is very important and we should not rely on only one person to finish the whole project. In conclusion, I think group projects help us understand the importance of teamwork and collaboration in school and in a work environment.

## Team Spirit Counts

**2M Cheung Dyane Rani**

Teamwork is indispensable in our daily lives. No matter what we do, team spirit is always needed whenever we are working as a group. Teamwork is essential because without it, we will be unable to make our presentations or finish our posters. Working in teams require much more than just cooperation. We need to be open to ideas and suggestions. Also, having a positive team spirit helps when you and your teammates encounter difficulties.

Recently, my friends and I teamed up and participated in an English Puppetry Competition. At first, we were excited about it as it was a new challenge for all of us. But then we started to realize how hard it was to get everything done. Things somehow didn't work as well as we thought. For example, we had to prepare a lot of props and backdrops and they weren't ready. Also, the backdrops were messy and the plot didn't seem to come together. At the beginning, I thought I could do everything by myself but I was wrong. However, our team finally had to join ends together to successfully finish everything before going for the competition. We worked out a plan for the task distribution for each of us. For example, some of us were in-charge of the props and some of us were responsible for the script. Eventually, we all successfully won the overall champion in the competition. I could never have done it on my own. We couldn't have achieved something like this without team spirit!

Working with others is always better than working alone. Learning how to cooperate is vital and remember teamwork counts!

### **Feedback from Miss Rihana:**

Yes! Teamwork counts! The sooner we realize the importance of working in a team, the better it would be. Learning how to use different talents of different members in a team can do wonders!

# Water Conservation is impossible?

**3N Fung Ho Fung**

Why do we need to conserve water? Although about 70 % of the Earth is covered with water, only about 1 % of the water is freshwater that we can use. Thus, the supply of freshwater is very limited. The aim of this article is to prove the importance of water conservation by showing the water supply and consumption in Hong Kong and the ways to conserve water.

Due to the growing population, the consumption of water in Hong Kong increases. In the 1960s, the only source of our water supply was the rainwater in our reservoirs and streams. Therefore, the amount of water supply is unsteady and far less than the consumption of water in Hong Kong. In 1964, the supply of water shrank from 24 hours to 8 hours and was divided into 2 sessions. But later on when the amount of rainfall dropped further, the shortage was even more severe that water could only be supplied for 4 hours in 48 hours.

In order to solve the problem for the unsteady water supply, nowadays we depend mainly on the supply from Dongjiang which accounts for 80% of the overall water supply in Hong Kong. However, does it mean that water conservation is still an importance issue to us? Of course! Every year, our government needs to pay for the cost of water supply, not only the supply from Dongjiang, but also the energy and other resources needed to purify and deliver water.

As water is a precious resource, and to reduce the cost for water supply, we need to conserve water. However, is it impossible to achieve? How can we conserve water? We can reduce the usage of water by the following methods:

- Take a short (5-minute) shower instead of a bath. A bath uses around 70 gallons of water while a 5-minute shower only uses 25 gallons of water.
- Water the plants with the water collected after rinsing fruits and vegetables.
- Fix dripping water taps regularly.
- Educate the public about water conservation. Setting games, animations, graphics and videos with the theme of water saving instead of only teacher's talk in the lesson in school, as they are much more attractive and interactive than the notes in the lesson. They will be more willing to save water in the future.

To conclude, water conservation is essential. Only when all of us make an effort, work together and make a difference can we truly conserve water. So, let us follow the above suggestions and use our creativity to think about other ways to conserve water.

## **Feedback from Miss Yeung Mui Chun:**

I do agree that water conservation is important even if the supply of water is steady in Hong Kong nowadays. Nothing is impossible with our willing heart. We can conserve water if we take action.

## Unleash Your Inner Talent

2J Yiu Choi Lam

Do you enjoy learning? Well, it may seem that I'm asking a stupid question, we all know that studying at school is hard and at times boring, right? However, learning is not only confined to learning different subjects at school, but learning should also involve things you are interested in, like drawing or playing table tennis. When you really like something, you will absolutely enjoy the process of improving your skills regardless of how challenging it might be.

In order to make learning enjoyable, we must find out what interests us. For example, self-directed learning requires motivation, in addition to creativity. So how can our school promote creative thinking and independent learning?

What we may need are some activities that can enhance students' interest in learning.

For example, the puppetry show I joined this year was a great way to encourage students to try something interesting and challenging. It was held by English teachers and it lasted for about a month. For this activity, we were required to perform a puppetry show. We were responsible for the whole process from writing the scripts, making the puppets, to performing it on the puppetry stage. Why do I encourage and appreciate such activities? It is because we can learn different skills in various aspects through this performance. All students were able to contribute to this project based on their talents and skills.

It was fascinating to see the students who don't seem quite interested in regular lessons were also working hard to put up a good show. There is no denying that different students have different talents. For example, some made great backdrops using their artistic skills. Some were good at stitching and making puppets whereas others had strong language skills and focused on polishing the script and directing the show. Additionally, students who like acting found puppetry interesting as they could learn more throughout the process. As inspiration lies within students, everyone could engage in the process as long as students are given such creative projects.

### Feedback from Miss Rihana:

A very reflective piece of writing Deborah. I'm so glad that you and your classmates truly enjoyed the process. I hope we could do more of such creative activities and projects to make learning more fun and fruitful.

## The Danger of Summer Jobs

3N Shih Yi Chun

Teenagers are very interested in earning their own pocket money, including me, of course. I interviewed some of my friends about their views of summer jobs. Surprisingly, some of my friends said they did not mind doing some illegal, dangerous and risky ones, like trafficking drugs, selling pirated products, selling smuggled cigarettes and providing sexual services by being 'compensated girls' or prostitutes or gigolos. The reason is these jobs let them earn quick money. For example, we may earn \$32.5 per hour if we work in a fast-food restaurant as a waiter while we can earn \$1000 after sending drugs from one place to another, which is extremely attractive to most of the people, especially the green teenagers.

In fact, I talked to my friends about the serious consequences when we met last time, like it is terribly risky as they are likely to be arrested by police. Then, they will be charged by a court and it is likely that they will be put to jail. After that, not only will they waste time in jail, but they will also have a criminal record for the rest of their lives. Since the general public generally have prejudice against the criminals, including the ones released, it will be very challenging for them to get a reasonably paid job and they will not be able to be any professionals, like accountants and teachers. As a result, they may only be able to take up some low-income and physically-demanding jobs, like janitors, cleaners and waiters and their lives will be so tough and they will definitely regret.

All in all, don't ruin your future for the sake of money. There are many precious things in our lives and let us enjoy them.

### Feedback from Miss Teresa Lam:

You are so right and I can't agree more with your analysis. Teenage crimes have been increasing remarkably and I hope you can spread the message to all your friends. Then, there will be less teenage crimes in the long run.

# Aspiration of Knowledge

4J Sin Cheuk Ying



**Aspiration of Knowledge**

The reason why this photo is meaningful to me is that it encourages me to continue studying whenever I wanted to give up when facing the academic difficulties. Recalling what had happened on the first day of the volunteering teaching scheme I joined in Sichuan after an earthquake struck the place, I could never forget the memorable time I spent with the misfortune but studious children. Shocked by the musty smell and the shabby facilities of the “school”, I wanted to quit at the first sight. But after looking at the innocent and hopeful eyes of the children, I started writing different vocabularies on the blackboard with a little piece of chalk. When I turned around to ask the young ones questions, I was amazed that all of them stood up waving their hands in order to grab my attention using their little hands without any hesitation.

Receiving the active response from them, I was quite ashamed that I had never actively answered a single question raised by teachers in class. Even when I was invited, I was reluctant to utter a word. I do not have any motivation in studying. But on that day, I could really feel the enthusiasm towards learning of those misfortune children, from the aspiring eyes and also from their rough hands. Having more resources, I should have actively learnt like them.

Their aspiration for knowledge comes from what they had lost from the disaster. I realize I had to move a step further, not only individually, but also in groups while interacting and cooperating with others.



**Seizing Every Chance**

Due to the fact that this photo symbolized the team spirits behind the first but last competition with the misfortune children in Sichuan, it is meaningful to me. I could clearly remember that before I left Sichuan, the optimistic and friendly children invited me to join a football match. Before the referee blew the whistle, we joined our hands tightly. Touching their rough but little hands, I could feel their gratitude and enthusiasm passing from my hands to my mind. Though we only had little practice before the competition, the trust we had built up helped us a lot. At that moment when we joined our hands, we could literally know what the others wanted to say from their warm hands even without uttering a word. We know that we had already won the most precious prize - trust and support from the others, even though we lost in the game eventually.

Looking back into the utilitarian society nowadays, I was satisfied by just watching their pure but thankful smile that appeared on their face. This kind of smile is barely seen nowadays. We should treat everyone fairly no matter they are rich or poor. I felt sorry for being loathing when facing them at the first sight, losing the precious chance to play with them.

We would never know when we will lose our precious things or people, like the children in Sichuan. But with our true heart, I believe we can cherish every single moment together.

### **Feedback from 4J Chong Ka Yee:**

This is a well-written piece of writing. The two photos are linked by a continuous flow of your experience, which is the time spending with Sichuan children as a teacher. It builds a clear image of your experience in my mind. What is even more attractive is your descriptive wordings regarding the surrounding environment as well as your own feelings. With these detailed descriptions, I feel like I am experiencing what you have done and I could understand your reflective feeling. Undoubtedly, readers can learn from your reflection and be able to cherish what we possess.

# My Memories

4N Tam Kwan Ting Jacky



**Being Part of the Class**

Everyone's eyes stopped on me with a weird look. This was the first time that I felt myself being part of this class. As a little girl, my shyness always held me back at school. I was not confident enough to open up to others and make friends. I was silent as a cat and thus was always on my own. This photo was taken by my class teacher on the first day of my secondary school. I was standing like a statue in front of the blackboard holding a piece of chalk. My body was shivering as my teacher asked me to introduce myself by writing something on the blackboard. When I was about to give up and walk back to my seat, something amazing happened. Mary, a girl sitting in the front row looked at me with her sincerely curious eyes and whispered to me, 'I want to know more about you.' Driven by her sincerity, I wrote down my name and hobbies on the backboard and introduced myself courteously. My introduction ended with loud applause. Since then, I was no longer alone at school.

The moment captured in the first photo is meaningful to me since it was the first time for me to be accepted as part of the class.

Little did Mary know that her encouragement helped me overcome my shyness and gave me the confidence which I had been lacking.



**Being a Leader of the Team**

After that, I have become an outgoing person soon. Because of the passion that I had in dodge ball, I was recommended to be the captain for the interclass competition. During the final of the interclass dodge ball competition, we tied the match score by 2-2. However, we fell behind the other class by 5 people in the beginning of set five. My classmates were disappointed. I immediately called time. We gathered a circle, joining our hands together. I shouted '4N' and they repeated after me loudly. It really lifted our team spirit. This was when the second photo was captured. I could deeply feel the pure happiness we shared and the mutual trust between each other. Finally, I led the team to victory. To me what was even more important was the experience of being a leader. This was something I could not believe would ever happen since I was so isolated just a year ago.

This photo is meaningful to me as it symbolizes confidence I have gained and trust built up between my friends and me.

Sometimes it is the slightest encouragement that can transform a person. Be generous to offer your support to the people around you.

### **Feedback from 4V Ho Sze Wai:**

Being able to develop a sense of belonging to a group is definitely something we have to achieve at school. However, it can be difficult for some people as they are not as outgoing as others. I am glad that Jacky has overcome his shyness and become a star.

# Faster, Stronger and Tougher: What the School Team Made Me

## 4V Cheung Coco Yit Yung

'Come on!' I slapped my partner's hand as the shuttle found its way from our opponent's racket into the net. Our coach nodded, satisfied as he crossed his arms comfortable. He wasn't nervous at all, and neither were we. The cheers of our teammates rang around the court, and I could practically hear their joy. Our opponents weren't as loud – understandably, because we were up seven match points, and were that close to bringing the entire Girls B Grade team into the knockout round of the Inter-School Badminton Competition, held yearly by the Hong Kong Schools Sports Federation. And we did it, advancing as we topped our group from the round robin stage. And I have to say, that was some experience.

We've been practicing since the start of the school year, even having additional training to effectively prepare for the competition, heading straight to the courts after school and warming up right away. After various types of training, such as using buckets to improve our aim, or training our stamina by running, we split up to train in singles and doubles as if they were actual matches. I specialise in doubles, and was assigned a regular partner like everyone else. Training with her consistently helped our chemistry on court as we grew to be much more familiar with each other and our games than before, like our respective strengths and weaknesses. Let's say, my partner and I. While I easily run out of breath for an athlete, I had pretty good shot-making, so my partner would cover the backcourt offense, which includes more running, while I stay at front and wait for opportunities to intercept and attack. By training competitively with our respective partners on the team, we could consistently stay in a serious mood instead of playing around. The constant seriousness helped us learn to come up with strategies fit for our pair on the spot during matches, which along with everything else, proved to be very useful in future competition.

Besides training with our partners regularly, we also had friendly competitions with other schools, playing with line-ups resembling that of actual interschool competitions. It helped us remain in a competitive spirit as we still feel the pressure on us, and our teammates cheer us on as if we were in a real match as well. We gradually got used to such an atmosphere, and were less nervous during actual matches. What's more, we had the precious chance to face opponents we've never played before, just like in the Inter-School Competition, where the opposing teams aren't just the teammates we know from head to toe. This type of training has offered us the experience we can't get from the usual training, and it has equipped us with the much needed confidence and trust within the team.

'Yes!' My partner hugged me in delight. We had clinched the victory for our team as we took the deciding rubber in convincing style. This was all thanks to our usual training and hard work, and the victory left me with some

realisations afterwards.

You see, we never could've done it without the whole team. If we haven't done all that training beforehand with the team and as a team, we wouldn't have been able to secure the win because otherwise, my partner and I wouldn't be nearly as familiar with each other's weak links, strengths and all that. It's all thanks to the training together that we got to know how to help each other out when necessary. Our on-court movements became more fluent as a team, and our attacks were more synchronised – aiming for the weaker opponent, changing sides to attack, pushing forward to the net. I no longer freaked out when the shuttle flew past me, because I know my partner would be ready, and everything would go as planned. And after this rollercoaster of a match – not even getting the lead until the change of ends, saving that one smash that seemed impossible to retrieve, then coming back to win the match with a perfect drop shot – I knew that teamwork was important, whether in singles or doubles, because it's always better to know your teammates have your back as usual, and really, what's a player without her team?

On top of that, if it wasn't for all the pre-match experience we gained, we wouldn't be smooth-sailing into the knockout draw like now. I used to be so nervous during matches that I could see myself shaking, but after a couple of friendly matches to simulate real ones, I found it much easier to clear my mind during games, especially tense ones. I could hold my nerves better, compared to a few years back, even if our team was match point down and I could be handing us our own end, because we've been there and saved that point. It was much easier for me now to not let the pressure get to my head as I've been worse and still found a way to dig out of the hole and win. By playing more competitions alike, controlling our nerves and emotions on court became less of a problem and we could sustain a better level of play, because, as they say, the more the better, and that goes for experience as well.

In short, we're still a couple of matches away from getting a glimpse at the champions' trophy, and we'll keep on training for that teamwork and experience that I personally believe go away further than badminton, be it your English group project or a band performance that you're dreading – you can't ace a presentation without practicing, and you can't play in the band without the band! If you're still lazing about all day, why not join a sports team? You'll end up learning a lot more than just playing ball. You game?

### Feedback from 4V Yip Cheuk Yu:

I think Coco's writing is extremely interesting since she has put in a wide range of vocabulary with detailed description. Also she has very clear paragraphing. On top of that, the message she is trying to convey is very reflective.

# Stop the Abuse, No more Excuse!

5J Chu Sing Ip

Upon reading the article “Indonesian Maid Suffers Abuse”, which has revealed the saddening situation where the young maid was not only physically scarred by being beaten and even burnt with irons, but also mentally bruised due to name-calling, withholding of holidays, and even non-payment of salary, it has come to my grave concern that her case is only the tip of the iceberg as similar cases are becoming more commonplace in our city, being frequently reported by the media. Hong Kong, as highly reputable in the world, should sternly put a halt to such cold-blooded, ruthless and malicious unfair treatment due to the following reasons.

Fundamentally, mistreating our helpers contradicts equality and respect, which are upheld as the core values of Hong Kong. Crowned a civilised city, Hong Kong strongly advocates mutual respect and egalitarianism as our deep-rooted beliefs to which each and every Hong Kong citizen tightly subscribes. Thus, any kind of abuse, be it physical or verbal, mental or religious, must not be allowed to exist in our society. To my dismay, the staggering trend in domestic helper abuse has shown the blatant truth that some employers have left our core values behind. Whatever the reason why those irresponsible employers opt for maltreatment, it should always be borne in mind that all our helpers, having left their own families to work for us, devote every ounce of themselves to assisting us in every domestic matter. When we are at work, they are the ones who clean our homes, look after the children, and cook the dishes for us so that our lives are made easier. Therefore, it is totally disrespectful to discriminate against them due to the races, nationalities or skin colours, let alone the inhumane physical harm such as caning or not providing meals. As citizens in a fully-fledged first-tier city, we should always treat people irrespective of their backgrounds equally fairly, justly and respectfully, especially our faithful and loyal helpers, in order to create a more harmonious society whilst securing our core values.

Not only should our core values be promoted, but it is equally essential that we respect domestic helpers so as to protect the international image of Hong Kong from instant deterioration. We Hongkongers very often pride ourselves on living in a multi-cultural and pluralistic metropolis which everyone can easily integrate into and be a member of. Sadly, it is in fact the other way round as more and more domestic helper abuse cases have come to light. Belittled as outcasts, the foreign helpers are treated on an inequitable basis, where they may not be given the statutory wages, their religions may not be respected as considered to be a minority, or they may even be deprived of the rights to go on holiday at weekends for relaxation. Such barbarous behaviour will undoubtedly give rise to a perception to the international community that Hong Kong is a superficial civilisation rather than a genuine one. Given Hong Kong’s eminence in the world, it is most certain that such outrageous instances will immediately gather international denunciation and disapproval, for example, the strong criticism made by Time Magazine upon the Indonesian

helper abuse case, condemning us for “treating the helpers as slaves”. Consequentially, our international image will be harmed to a substantial extent, weakening our competitive edges and threatening the development of our city.

Beyond safeguarding the global status, in the long term, the right moral mind-set should be instilled in our future pillars by treating our helpers fairly. Just as how faithfully and diligently our domestic helpers serve us and strive to reduce our burden, we should educate our future generations to appreciate and recognise their efforts, as well as to respect and communicate with them in a well-behaved manner. Yet, when our children witness how the maids are being mistreated by means of physical assaults, verbal insults and threats, they will gradually develop an incorrect value that they need not be considerate of the helpers who make great contributions to our daily lives; instead, the children may falsely agree to their parents’ merciless conduct and be indirectly encouraged to follow in their parents’ footsteps. The more abuse cases are found, the more children will be subtly inculcated with an immoral mind-set. Should we not put this declining situation to an end in time, the unscrupulous temperament will become firmly embedded in our future pillars, implying persistent existence of abuse. By that time, Hong Kong will only be looked down on for being an uncivil city with rude citizens being the majority. In the light of this, we ought to endeavour to terminate all cruel acts to domestic helpers and set a correct moral role model to whom our future generations can look up with a view to nurturing our children as a polite, respectful and courteous person.

As we all are proud of being a member of Hong Kong society, are we not responsible for ensuring that our city shows no deviations from its core values? Only with equality and respect can our beloved home maintain its position as an internationally recognised metropolis with which everyone, both local and foreign, falls in love. Most crucially, by providing our domestic helpers with fair treatment, our future pillars will be infused with a righteous mind-set so that Hong Kong can continue flourishing and embracing a bright future.

## Feedback from 5N Cheung Agnon Ngai Ron:

I think the structure of the text is well laid out with a good description of the message that is to be conveyed in the letter in the introduction, ideas in the text are supported with good examples and the conclusion is well rounded with a call for action.

# Dog-and-cat Cafes in Hong Kong

5J Hui Wing Po

I was walking back home today and saw a new cafe opening, but you cannot guess what type of cafe it was. It was a dog-and-cat cafe! I was really excited when I saw the shop's poster. But then, I heard two people walking past the shop, discussing the drawbacks of this cafe. Indeed, if you are not a pet lover, this can be a disaster, even if you love animals, there are still hidden problems in the cafe. I started to think – Are dog-and-cat cafes really that good? We can relax there, and this can bring economic benefits as it is a new business. However, there is hygienic problem, noise and it may destroy the atmosphere of the cafe.

Personally, I love the idea of dog-and-cat cafes because it is enjoyable to play with animals. The animals in the cafe are familiar with being touched by humans, and they may even come to invite you to play with them. I was stressed when studying, but when I saw those cute animals, it was just like I had been cured by them. I could sit there for the whole afternoon, touching the fur of dogs and cats, hugging them and giving them toys and playing with them. What's more, the drinks in cafe are usually related to pets, like having a paw shape cup, cat or dog face coffee etc. It is relaxing for pet lovers, especially for people like me, who are not allowed to have pets at home.

The above is only my personal feeling, but dog-and-cat cafes really bring benefits to the whole society, which is enhancing the economic development of Hong Kong. Dog-and-cat cafe is a new business in Hong Kong, and it is attractive to all pet lovers. Many people cannot keep a pet at home because of the rules of estates or fur allergy of family members, but in the cafe, they can play closely with animals just like their pets, so they may go to the cafe regularly. This brings revenues to the new business, attracting more and more companies to develop this industry. Finally, there may be foreign investors or companies opening cafes in Hong Kong, promoting economic growth for Hong Kong.

With that being said, dog-and-cat cafes have also got some drawbacks. They can bring health problems to customers, noise problem to nearby estates and even destroy the culture of cafes.

Hygiene is one of the main concerns of customers when visiting dog-

and-cat cafes. Their food and drinks may get contaminated by animals. Dog-and-cat cafes allow customers to play with the animals when they are enjoying the coffee and food. However, the animals may not be clean enough. They might step on the dirty floor before jumping on your laps. They might not take baths regularly and your hands are touching them before eating or drinking. You may eat food with bacteria, virus, parasites on the animals, causing different kinds of diseases. Of course, I believe that most of the cafes have kept the place and animals clean. It is not that scary, but there are still risks in those dog-and-cat cafes.

Other than the hygienic problem, dog-and-cat cafes affect nearby citizens by noise problem. It is hard to control the barking volume of animals, especially for dogs in this case, as they are very loud. At night, when citizens wake up, this affects the living standard and quality of citizens. This problem cannot be solved, which causes the strong voice against the dog-and-cat cafe business.

Talking about the whole society, dog-and-cat cafes destroy the atmosphere of cafe, which destroys the culture of Hong Kong. For normal cafes, it provides customers with a quiet and relaxing atmosphere, allowing them to enjoy the leisure in the shop. But for dog-and-cat cafes, it is full of noise from animals. They are running around the cafe and the unpleasant smell of animals fully destroys the quiet atmosphere that should be found in cafes.

Listing out all the benefits and drawbacks that I can think of, including relaxation, economic benefits, hygienic and noise concerns, and the culture of Hong Kong, you can decide whether you want to go to dog-and-cat cafes in Hong Kong.

## Feedback from 5J Shi Pok Lai:

To cater for different people's needs and interests, many new forms of business have been set up. It is practical to have dog-and-cat cafes in Hong Kong as many people treat dogs and cats as their family members. It is also a good place to hang out. Children can also get a chance to approach the animals in this concrete jungle as well.

## A Proposal Letter to the Principal on Whether to Spend Resources on a New Gym or a New Library

**5N Muhammad Zaqir**

Dear Principal,

After knowing about the large grant received by our school, I am glad that we finally have the financial flexibility to upgrade our school campus. From your presentation at our last PTA meeting, I know that the school is at a crossroad. Should we have a new gymnasium or a new library? As a student with firsthand school life experience, I would like to push for the proposal of building a new gymnasium. I would like to justify my suggestion in the following.

It is not surprising to notice that the fitness level of our students is in general low, and a new gymnasium can alleviate this problem. The tuck shop at school is our main source of nutrients, however, I must report that it is not helping us to stay healthy. The improvement of the catering service at school is beyond the scope of this letter. I would like to stress that a new gym can provide the space and the equipment for us to burn the extra fat. According to a survey conducted by our Student Council, 76% of students do not have at least two hours of exercise in a normal school week. This is an appalling figure as we, teenagers, should be at the prime of our physical health, and yet we sit more than we stand. A gymnasium can no doubt give us an opportunity to boost our fitness.

You might not notice, but our school has a lot of talented young athletes who are desperate to flex their muscles at the next inter-school competition. Our school teams have been working diligently to strive for excellence for our school. They have achieved fantastic results at previous competitions and have proven to be a talented group. The unfortunate thing is that we lack the training facilities and equipment to further explore their talent. With proper venues and resources, the sky is the limit for these burgeoning stars in the sporting field.

A new library might also benefit our students, but it would duplicate the role of our existing one. On behalf of all the students, I would like to express our sincerest appreciate for the setup of our existing library. It has a wide range of books from modern fictions to classic literature. It also has some of the latest multi-media devices which we can borrow. In my opinion, what we have is sufficient and we should think about how to organise it better instead of abandoning it for a new one. A new library would only repeat the job.

Thank you for your kind consideration. I am sure our students will be more than happy to be granted the use of either a new gym or a new library. However, I do think that a new gym will better suit the development of our school at this stage and more students will benefit from this modification. I hope to see our school becoming better and bright in the future with our evolution into the new era.

Yours sincerely,  
Chris Wong

### **Feedback from Mr. Tang Ho Man:**

This is a well-planned proposal with a lot of details thought out. Similar to what we have in our school at the moment, our new annex will no doubt provide more resources and facilities to our students. Well done.

# 一個好人，一件好事

1N 文曉鈞

他叫陳卓秀，是我的同班同學。他跟他的名字剛剛相反，沒有任何科目拿過卓越的成績，表現亦不優秀。他個子矮矮的，樣子也不怎樣，如果要形容他，只可說是大海裡的一顆小石頭，毫不起眼。

開學不久後，我們的班主任——李老師說校工投訴我們的教室很髒，但我和同學都毫不在乎，不以為意，就算那些同學知道了自己掉了食物在地上，也只會把它踢在一旁，若無其事。自從那天起，李老師幾乎每天都說一遍，同學們都已經把老師的話當作例行公事了。

直至兩星期前，同學們把課室弄髒的情況依舊沒有改善，但奇怪的是李老師再也沒提起過這件事。這時，我心裡的疑團一一浮現出來：為甚麼校工不再投訴我們？是李老師放棄了我們？還是……就在前天，我心裡的疑團都解開了。那天我離校大約十分鐘後，我發現自己把中文課本遺留在課室裡，於是我便折返學校。當我到達課室門前時，發現了原來這十幾天是因為陳卓秀留下來幫忙打掃，所以校工才沒有投訴我們課室髒。

那時，他的汗水像關不上的水龍頭一樣不停地流着，那時，我彷彿要把頭抬至最高才能看見他。他這只求付出，不求回報的精神實在值得我們學習。他可能並沒有把課室弄髒，但他也幫忙去清潔，通過這件事，我完全對他改觀。

香港大約有七百萬人，可能大部分的人都知道「只求付出，不求回報」這句話，但真正做到的又有多少人？這個社會的人，可能已經因為追求金錢和地位，已忘記了這句話的意思了。

卓秀雖然在學術方面的表現不大出眾，但他所擁有的這高尚品格，可能有些人學一輩子也不及他。透過這件事，我發現到要評價一個人，不能只看他的外表，也不能只看他的學習成績，內涵才是重點、最不能被忽視的一項。

## 溫剛老師評語：

文章從反面下筆，形容卓秀同學既不卓越，也不優秀，卻願意為班付出而不求回報。這種寫法可鼓勵讀者，多留意身邊不耀眼的無名英雄，正好凸顯了本文的重點——人應追求更高尚的品格。

# 沙士讓人感動的一面

1V 李梓欣

孟子曾說：「人之所以異於禽獸，幾希。」意思就是說人和禽獸的差別只有一點點，就是「仁」，這點我是十分同意的。在這弱肉強食的世界，仍有著仁者，不惜一切，願意幫助別人，讓人感受到這世界上的溫暖。

你有聽過沙士嗎？如果有，我想你也必聽過謝婉雯這位偉人。在二零零三年，嚴重急性呼吸道症候群在香港爆發，當時人心惶惶，在街上只有幾個戴著口罩、急著回家的路人。其他的人就留在家裡，不敢出外，心怕會染上致命病毒；不幸的人則在醫院中被隔離。

就在這個時候，屯門醫院也接收了三名沙士病人。但院內胸肺科醫生卻人手不足。如果是你，你會自願冒著生命危險，走上前救助這些病人嗎？相信大家的心中也是有一點抗拒的，但她卻走上前來，自願幫助那些病人。她，就是謝婉雯，那位充滿愛心、不怕恐懼、想要讓大家重拾信心的偉大醫生。由內科病房轉到沙士病房工作後，她每天一心一意、不厭疲累地為病人治療，看病，還會近距離做一些冒險工作。就在某一天，謝婉雯醫生在親自為病人插喉的過程中不幸感染病毒。四月三日留院治療，過了十二天後，也就是四月十五日便轉入深切治療部，五月十三日，她因搶救無效而逝世。謝醫生就這樣離開了我們，因染上病毒而殉職。

這是一件多麼感人的事啊！她原本可以選擇留在內科，但她卻自願轉到沙士病房；她原本可以坐視不理，但她卻親自為病人插喉；她原本可以健健康康活到現在，但她卻因染上沙士這種致命病毒而去世。這一切都出自於她那一顆濃厚的愛心和那一份熱情救人的精神。

雖然我們不可能像謝婉雯醫生那樣冒生命危險去救人，但出手幫助那些有需要的人，展現你的愛心，也是可以做到的。例如在老婆婆過馬路時，你可以去攙扶她，避免她跌倒。又例如在同學遇到功課不懂的時候，你可以去為他解題。既然是在我們的能力範圍之內，為何我們不向他們伸出援手，讓他們也能在困境內感受到這世界讓人感動的愛和溫暖呢？

## 黃秋強老師評語：

梓欣藉著謝婉雯醫生在沙士一疫中犧牲個人生命，挽救病人一事，帶出人之異於禽獸，在於人有仁義。雖然每個人皆俱備惻隱之心，但要付諸實行，擴而充之方能令我們這個世界更加美好。梓欣很有愛心，她明白到行動比言語更難，因此，她呼籲世人莫因事小而不行，正所謂水能穿石，積少成多。希望大家亦能從謝醫生的無私精神中獲得一點體悟，然後多幫助身邊人，他人開心，自己的心靈亦得到富足。

# 四川大地震中的感人故事

1V 游蕙嘉

世界上最偉大的人是誰？是孫中山、毛澤東，還是拿破崙？不，都不是，世界上最偉大的人莫過於母親了。她在你成長的路上支持你、照顧你、鼓勵你，為了你付出寶貴的時間。而世界上最無私的愛，莫過於母愛。她就像一縷陽光，讓你在寒冷的冬天，也能感受到溫暖。

在二零零八年五月，四川發生大地震，地震強度高達八級，導致死傷無數。而在這次地震裏，有一位母親為了保護孩子，犧牲了自己。她用脊背頂住正在倒塌的房屋，用溫暖的懷抱呵護熟睡的嬰兒，她覺得自己快堅持不住了。她拿出自己的手機，打出一條短信，然後把手機放到孩子的小被子裏。她已用盡了自己的力氣，再也撐不住了……她看著懷裏的小嬰兒，默默留下淚來。

不久以後，搶救人員到達了，可是這位母親已被垮塌的房子壓死了，再也起不來。當清理完廢墟後，人們才發現她身下躺著一個仍然熟睡的小嬰兒。小嬰兒被一張紅底黃花的小被子仔細包裹著，搶救人員為了要檢查嬰兒是否存活，小心翼翼地將小被子打開，這才發現了她的手機。手機裏有一封短信：「親愛的寶貝，如果你能活著，一定要記著我愛你。」手機被一個一個傳著看，不少人都感動得淚流滿面。檢查過後，得知小嬰兒毫髮未傷，身體情況良好，而她的母親卻已經離世。

有人說，母愛只是一種本能，我並不認同。若果母愛是女性的本能，世界上又怎會出現虐兒的案件呢？相信母親是不少人心目中最重要的一個人，可能不是最重要，但也一定佔一席位吧！她用約半個人生來照顧你，在你身上付出了很多很多的愛和時間，給你吃的穿的。每個人也只會有一位母親，我們應珍惜她、感謝她、回報她。

## 黃秋強老師評語：

蕙嘉舉地震中一位母親為保護子女而犧牲生命的事例，帶出母愛的偉大。同時，蕙嘉又提出一個質疑：母愛是否必然？她沒有進一步闡述，但在末段已能窺出她對於母愛的可貴甚是推崇，亦間接講出親情並非必然，勸戒世人要好好珍惜。如果你問我，我最想知道的是：為何由古至今，不孝之行依然普遍？父母含辛茹苦照顧子女成人，最終下場卻……這是我一直以來，對人性的不解之一。

# 善心的小食店東主

2M 張鎧蕎

「女兒，辛苦了。聽說樓下小食店新開張，不如去買點吃的吧！」  
「弟弟呢？」  
「幾分鐘前哄他入睡了，應該快要退燒。」  
我放下剛洗好的碗碟，脫下圍裙。  
「記得帶錢包啊！」

「應該是這裡沒錯……」我擦擦頭上的汗，喃喃自語道。  
「年輕人，是來找東西吃嗎？我家小食店剛開業，進來吧！」突然有個面容慈祥的老伯伯在不遠處冒了出來。  
一踏進小食店，林林總總、各式各樣的零食呈現在我眼前，直至我的雙眼瞪得不能再大了，我才回過神來。  
「老闆，我要魚蛋、燒賣各一串！」我大喊。  
此時，一位年紀與老伯伯相若的女士走到了廚櫃旁，為我準備魚蛋和燒賣。我打開了袋子，只見手機和鑰匙孤零零地躺在袋子的最底層，完全看不到錢包的蹤影。急忙的我馬上在褲袋裡尋找希望，卻只找到一枚五元硬幣。  
「那個……我帶的錢只夠買一串魚蛋……」我頓時低下頭，儘量避免去跟那些誘人的燒賣有任何視線交流。  
「不要緊，反正食物弄好了就別浪費。來，老闆送你一塊餅，給你弟弟吃吧。」老伯伯話音未落就把食物都塞給我。  
「這樣……不太好意思呢……等一下，你怎知道我有弟弟……」  
「拿去吧！幾個小錢也無傷大雅！」  
然而，我飢餓的肚子戰勝了我的良心。

第二天，我手握著十五塊錢，正是昨天那些小食合共的價錢，走到老伯伯的店前。看看門外，貼著「東主有要事，休假一天」這麼一句。我只好心灰意冷地回家。  
沿途路經公園，怎料一看，遠處正站著兩個熟悉的背影，是小食店店主！我隨即走向他們，恍然大悟：原來他們的「要事」是跟流浪漢們派吃的，當中有炒麵、白粥和熱湯等等。  
此時此刻的老伯伯和婆婆，一邊派食物，一邊熱切地問候流浪漢們，有如一對被指派下凡的天使，仿佛頭上頂著一個大光環，帶給人們溫暖。看到流浪漢臉上的滿足和喜悅，兩位店主真誠的笑容，我都不想打擾他們了，為免破壞這幅賞心悅目的畫面，我唯有明天再來找他們還錢。

下一天，我又帶著相同數目的錢，來到了小食店。  
不同的是，在我面前的已經不再是之前的小食店，而是一個被封的陳舊舖位；至於那兩位善心的東主，也無影無蹤。百思不得其解的我看見一位路過的老街坊，便道：「阿姨，這裡新開張的小食店呢？」  
「甚麼小食店？我都在附近住了十幾年，這條街沒有賣吃的啊！」

## 梁達欣老師評語：

見鬼了？相信讀者心中都有此疑問，然而答案不甚重要，我們應該思考小食店的消失是否暗示了某種價值、情懷的流逝？

# 分享，還是分擔

4N 陳如珈

那一場驚豔了歷史的繁華落幕，而你，終於累了……終於可以告訴他，你累了。終於，可以躺在他的懷中，笑看風月了。

你倦極睡去之際，你將要長眠之時，你說，你知道人們都是怎樣看你的——責怪你曾經囚禁自己的親生兒子，責怪你曾大興告密之風，斥你陰險殘忍、善弄權術……你笑了，你說，你當了皇帝十多年，甚至參政了四十多年，你竟不曉得，愛一個人，是該分享，還是分擔。面對任何困難都游刃有餘的你，這樣聰穎能幹的你，竟也不曉得，愛一個人，是該分享，還是分擔。

後人傳說，你最後立下的無字碑，是愧疚也是懺悔。他們不懂，其實你問心無愧，你只是不曉得，努力為他分擔，到底是對是錯。

此刻，濛濛細雨落下你的思戀，你又想起了那個雨天，那個兩花紛揚的下午。那天，是你的生辰之日。進了宮，離開了母親，誰還會記住你的生辰呢？誰還願意為你煮一隻充滿祝福的雞蛋呢？可是原來，除了母親，世上還會有一個萬人之上的李世民願意記住你的生辰，為你烹煮一隻充滿祝福的雞蛋。那天，你突然就覺得，今生今世，無人能再及他——他為你蕩秋千，他陪你放風箏，他教你畫畫舞劍……那時候，是你一生中最快樂的時光。李世民寵你入骨——他貴為天子，卻縱容你的任性肆意綻放；他九五之尊，卻親手為你蕩著秋千；他高不可攀，在你面前卻只像是一個尋常布衣家的丈夫。

你曾經以為，李世民是愛你的，至少，也喜歡你。只是，「侯門一入深似海」，這樣非比尋常的寵愛，在比海還深的帝王家怎可能是天子純粹的喜歡所致呢？至今，你還未忘那天夜裡的震驚。那天夜裡，你看見他站在一幅畫像前，畫中女子姿容嬌美秀麗，眉眼之間透著一絲狡黠，驚為天人的容顏與你有七分相似，然而又有些說不清道不明的不同。很多年後，你說，或許你和她最大的不同在於你們身上迥異的氣質。即使驕傲如你，也不得不承認她身上與生俱來的氣質是你所不能觸及的。你說，或許那便叫蘭心蕙質。你說，如果她是溫順的，那你便是桀驁的。那天，你才明白，李世民對你的寵愛，是對長孫皇后的念念不忘。他眷戀的，始終是那為他分擔的女子，而不是與他分享的你。或

許，很多年後你為李治分擔，與那夜的震驚也有些許關係吧。終究，這段怡然自得的日子與心灰意冷交識，纏繞在你心中，留竄在歲月的皺紋中。

你說，你沒想過，要為自己「鬼神之所不容，臣民之所共怨」的行為辯解。你說，再有理的辯解，在認定了你有錯的人眼中，也只不過是你無力的掩飾。你說，你只求問心無愧。你的丈夫李治身為一國之主，你心疼他日夜憂勤，日理政事，終年不息，於是與他共同處理政事，你有何錯？你的兒子平庸無能，竟口出狂言「以天下與韋玄貞何不可！而惜侍中邪！」，你廢其皇位又有何錯？你的兒子沒有治國安民的才能，你為保社稷安好，你自立為皇又有何錯？你僅是為了守住那盛世，你僅是為了守住那江山啊！你做的這一切，只是為了分擔李治肩負的沉重責任。你做這麼多，只為對得起他臨終前那一句「軍國大事有不能決斷者，請天后處理決斷。」你做這麼多，只是你曾答應他要把這片江山守下去。而你也確實不負所托，在位期間政策穩當、兵略妥善、文化復興、百姓富裕，又何以「唐之罪人也，幾危社稷」呢？

終究，你撒手人寰之際，依然不懂，愛一個人，是該分享，還是分擔。聰穎能幹如你，終其一生竟還是不懂愛一個人，是該分享，還是分擔。終究，你只能立下無字碑，無聲地問世人，愛一個人，是該分享，還是分擔；傾盡一生為他分擔，到底是對是錯。

## 嚴聯昆老師評語：

結合傳說與史料，把武則天一生的遭際娓娓道出，在品評人物的同時，亦帶出了對愛情的思考——到底是該分享，還是分擔？取材不俗，頗有新意。

此外，善用第二人稱寫作，使讀者頓時都變成了武則天，一字一句，直達心靈，感人至深。