

# 書香滿溢 · 喜閱

Surrounded by the Scent of Books • Joy of Reading in 60 Years

60

## 香港 Hong Kong

## 高小組 小四 (P4) ▶ 小六 (P6)

### Senior Primary

### CHAN Tsz Tung

#### Buddhist Chi King Primary School

**Topic** No Matter What

Dear Mum,

Yesterday I read a book called "No Matter What", by Debi Gliori. The book inspired me to write to someone that I love. That's you, mum!

It was about a little fox called Small, he was grim and grumpy one night. After breaking everything in the living room, his mum, Large, tried to make him feel better. Small thought no one loved him as he was grumpy and grim, but Large told him that she will love him "No matter what." Small started to ask Large if she will still love him if he becomes a grumpy bear, a squishy bug or a scary crocodile. Large reassures him that she will always love him. Mum, this also reminds me of your love to me even if I am naughty or grumpy like Small.

Small also worried that love can break or bend. But Large told him that love lasts forever. Mum, although I am not clever, just like Large, "I will love you forever" as Large told Small. And I decided to "hug you close and tight" like Small and Large.

I also know that love is like a star that reaches us every night. My favourite line of the story is "Still they shine in evening skies; love, like starlight, never dies." I am writing to tell you that I love you always. Just like the stars, they are far away from us but some of them still shine brightly in the sky and warm our heart. I can imagine that no matter how far away from each other we are, we can feel our love. So please never worry about being apart as I grow up, because you will always be in my heart.

From this book, I know that the greatest love of all is from you, mum. I will treasure it from the bottom of my heart and I will make you proud.

With Love and a big hug,  
Tredy

#### Book Read

Book title : No Matter What  
Author : Debi Gliori  
Publisher : Boston: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2017.

#### Comments

- Rich personal reflection.
- Vocabulary wide and precise. It had fluent expression, with logical sequencing. Ideas were insightful, thought-provoking.

### LAN Jacey Laura

#### St. Paul's Co-educational College Primary School

**Topic** Simple Happiness

Dear Jane,

How are you? I would like to share a picture book "Pass It On" with you. I find this book very meaningful and inspirational, especially during this pandemic which seems to be making many of us miserable.

I think I was around the age of four when my mum read this book with me. At that time, I was attracted by the bold and colourful pictures. The illustrations put me in a happy mood. Moreover, all the characters in the book had great big smiles, who wouldn't love this? Only recently, when I picked up the book from my bookshelf again, I realised that this book is conveying a message that will last a lifetime.

This book is about a little girl who is able to find joy and happiness in different things she encounters in life. They are the smallest and simplest things in life such as seeing a rainbow and hugging friends. In today's society, I find that many people's expectations are getting higher and higher, so it has become harder for them to feel happy and satisfied. This book reminds us to appreciate the little things in life that can make a difference.

Then, the little girl demonstrates kindness and the power of positivity by sharing the joy and happiness with others. We too, can participate in spreading happiness, at zero cost. If others do the same, everyone around us will benefit. Often, many people are blinded by selfishness and would only do things which may seem to produce the immediate profits. Therefore, we should understand that sometimes, happiness can be very simple.

The text of the book is very simple. Its message is consistent and repeated throughout the book. I wonder if it is just a coincidence that the author wrote simple words on purpose, to reinforce that being 'simple' can also bring in great things.

I hope you will consider my recommendation and read this inspiring picture book. I hope you will consider recommending it to your friends too. Remember, pass it on!

Yours sincerely,  
Jacey

#### Book Read

Book title : Pass It On  
Author : Sophy Henn  
Publisher : United States:  
Philomel Books,  
2017

#### Comments

- Well illustrated with clear focus.
- The writer has an excellent sense of the language for his/her age, lead sentence grabbed the reader's attention. Established a strong beginning, middle and end. The writer used sophisticated words, but it came across as very natural.

### LEUNG Sen Fung

#### G.T. (Ellen Yeung) College

**Topic** An Encouraging Book: "Be You!"

Dear Christie,

Have you ever read a book that inspired you? Well, I have, and the book is called "Be You!"

"Be You!" encourages readers to be their own version of themselves, teaching them that the qualities they possess are what make them unique. This book doesn't overcomplicate things, and the message to be yourself is delivered simply and easily. This book is a great example of children's literature.

After reading this book, I felt inspired. It boosted my confidence, and for once, I didn't feel the need to "fit in". I knew that I could be unapologetically myself and that I could follow my own path. I knew that I would be accepted even when I'm doing my own thing. Life's challenges won't be a piece of cake, but I learned that we can conquer them in our own unique way.

"Be You!" was honestly a really motivating book, with bright artwork and a moving message. It celebrates the individuality in each of us, and it was a reminder that you can be special, that you can follow your own dreams, that you can be YOU. This was an empowering story that I loved and I hope you will like it, too.

This book may seem like a simple children's book on the outside, but it's the meaning inside that really mattered. The life advice the book gave were suitable for both children and adults, and therefore it was a "magical" piece of writing.

So, be adventurous, be connected, be kind, but most importantly, as the book "Be You!" tells you, just be YOU.

Love from,  
Katie

#### Book Read

Book title : Be You!  
Author : Peter H. Reynolds  
Publisher : New York: Orchard Books, Scholastic, 2020.

#### Comments

- Fairly good with elaboration.

書香滿溢 · 喜閱  
Surrounded by the Scent of Books • Joy of Reading in 60 Years

60

香港 Hong Kong

高小組 小四 (P4) ▶ 小六 (P6)  
Senior Primary

LIU Bing Qing Tina

The Education University of Hong Kong Jockey Club Primary School

Topic The Inspiring Picture Book

Dear Mum,

Although I see you every day, I still like to chat with you by writing letters. A few days ago, I stumbled upon a picture book while tidying up my bookcase. Curiosity made me pick up the book and read it immediately. The story is short, but after reading it, it gave me a deep feeling so I wanted to share it with you.

This book is called "Someday". It is a book published by Little Simon in December 2015. The author is Alison McGhee from the United States, and the illustration is done by Peter H. Reynolds from Canada. It discusses the language that mothers use to convey their deep love. When the snow fell, the mother lifted the baby high; when the child grew up and sat on the side of the bed, watching the sleeping baby, the mother's heart began to dream about the child's future...thinking, one day, the child will start to explore the world; one day, the child will experience the ups and downs of life and when the day comes when the child is full of white hair, she will remember her mother's love.

I think this is a picture book that allows my soul to be enlightened. With beautiful sentimental sentences and simple pictures, the picture story is full of love and sincere emotion. When I first read this book, my mind was filled with sweet memories of you when I was a child. When I was halfway through it, I seemed to see who I am now: I feel that I have grown up, and I want to pursue new things and start my own adventures. Reading the last few pages of the book gave me a lot of thoughts and reveries: one day I will become a mother, and I will age slowly. By that time, will I have the same feelings as my mother? My inspiration from this book is that maternal love is a simple language. Mother's love has been throughout my entire life!

After reading the above, I don't know what you think. But I want to tell you...I love you!

Love,  
Your daughter

Comments

- Quite organised and logically presented.
- The writer exhibited an effective writing style and clearly engaged the readers. The ideas were simplistic and insightful.

Book Read

Book title : Someday  
Author : Alison McGhee, Peter Reynolds  
Publisher : New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2007.

MA Yui Ching Melanie

G.T. (Ellen Yeung) College

Topic Zero Capacity for Love

Dear mother,

The amount of anguish and grief mingled with overwhelming pain and loneliness I felt engendered by grandfather's demise was insane, striking me like a punch in the stomach. In Oliver Jeffers' The Heart and the Bottle, when an inquisitive girl filled with boundless curiosity of the world found a vacant chair, the truth dawns on her, hitting her like a bolt of lightning — her father deceased. Then the girl confined her capacity for love and jubilation as a lament to his departure. But when it finally occurred to her to liberate her heart from its prison, none of her attempts succeeded, it seemed impenetrable.

There are times when our hearts feel like they're ripped out of us or a piece of our soul has been taken away, and while trying to cope with our negative feelings, we tend to imprison our hearts hoping it could give us the relief and consolation we desire. As time flows, the essential connection to ourselves and others would break due to a nagging mistrust. We fear that we might end up wrenched and broken-hearted because of the scars we bear from our past. An invisible barrier isolates us from society. Love is permanent, even if the person we love passed away. They leave a footprint in our hearts and memory. Though the prison containing our hearts couldn't be obliterated by brute force since it has been fortified and thickened throughout the years, the tenderness and warmth we would encounter in another checkpoint could revert our hearts to their original form like the girl in the end.

I find the story inspiring and intriguing, especially the aesthetic illustrates and vital message brought by the author, which is why I would like to recommend this poignant yet remarkable book to you.

Love from,  
Melanie

Book Read

Book title : The Heart and the Bottle  
Author : Oliver Jeffers  
Publisher : London: HarperCollins Children's Books, 2010.

Comments

- A well-written and meaningful letter which introduces a book with in-depth description and feeling. Good job!
- Paragraphs had unity, were linked, and showed evidence of planning. The piece showed sophisticated range with effective words. Ideas were insightful, thought-provoking.

TUNG Ho Tsun

Salesian School

Topic A Story About Bravery

Dear Greg,

I recently read a book called "The Story of Ruby Bridges". It is about an African American girl named Ruby Bridges and her terrifying first day at a white school. I found this story inspiring and I would like to share it with you.

Being an African American, she was not used to going to school with white people and her education was not as good. But that all changed when she was picked with three other African American girls to go to two white primary schools. On her first day, she met with crowds yelling at her but she continued going to school. Finally, after a year, the crowds gave up and she was able to go to school normally. She eventually graduated from high school.

I have learned from this story that we should not discriminate other people for their races, religions, etc. For example, the Jewish people had once been discriminated for their religion. Only a few accepted them into their community and that brought a lot of pain and suffering. However, there were only a few who had the courage to defy their cruel oppressors.

Furthermore, Ruby Bridges also taught us to be brave when we encounter challenges. For instance, I was seven when I entered my first piano competition. I was confident but started being worried after I heard the performance of other competitors. Luckily, my mum saw me panicking and calmed me down. In the end, I got the second place.

Hope that you also find this book inspiring. I can lend you the book if you wish. Write back soon!

Love,  
Max

Book Read

Book title : The Story of Ruby Bridges  
Author : Robert Coles; illustrated by George Ford  
Publisher : New York: Scholastic, 1995.

Comments

- Ideas clearly presented.
- The structure was carefully planned. Easy to read. The expression was more than competent.

書香滿溢 · 喜閱 60  
Surrounded by the Scent of Books • Joy of Reading in 60 Years

香港 Hong Kong

高小組 小四 (P4) ▶ 小六 (P6)  
Senior Primary

### WONG Sze Yu Lilian

#### The True Light Middle School of Hong Kong (Primary Section)

**Topic** Embracing Your Uniqueness, Being Different Can Be Good!

Dear Jocelyn,

How are you? Time flies, it has been three months since you joined this new school. I hope you are all well getting along with your new classmates.

Recently, I have finished a book called "Carla's Sandwich". This colorfully and lively illustrated picture book tells a story which is incredibly funny yet meaningful. Let me share with you.

The story is about a young girl who thoroughly enjoyed making creative but unusual sandwiches to school every day. Her sandwiches were always filled with extraordinary food like olive, banana, chopped liver etc. To Carla, they were delicious, but her classmates were unconvinced. They kept laughing at her, teasing her with nasty words, and even abandoning her at the lunch table to eat her "bizarre" sandwiches alone. Carla felt sad but she took pride in being unique from the other children. One day, Buster, one of the worst teases, forgot to bring his lunch. Carla thoughtfully offered him her extra sandwich. Buster tried it, only to find that this unusual sandwich was indeed the most delicious sandwich he had ever eaten! From that moment on, all the classmates accepted Carla and they were also excited about creating sandwich masterpieces of their own!

After reading this awesome story, I feel deeply amused and inspired. And I am so impressed by the main character, Carla, who demonstrated resilience and self-confidence despite being teased and bullied. She taught others what it means to be yourself through kindness and generosity.

In today's world, we may easily face dislike or discrimination by others simply because of the differences in appearances, abilities, beliefs or behaviours. Through this story, I have learnt that it is okay to be different, not be afraid of being yourself and we should always respect the uniqueness of others.

I hope you will find this book captivating and inspiring. Let us learn from Carla — embrace our uniqueness, and treat others with kindness and respect. Next time when we meet, I will definitely give you a nice treat of "Vivian's Sandwich"!

Warm Wishes,  
Vivian

#### Book Read

Book title : Carla's Sandwich  
Author : Debbie Herman, Sheila Bailey  
Publisher : New York: Flashlight Press, 2004.

#### Comments

- Inspiring message in connection with contemporary issues.
- Demonstrated an orderly flow of ideas. The style is energetic and precise, the sentence structure is varied and the words are carefully chosen.

### WONG Tsz Ho Marco

#### St. John the Baptist Catholic Primary School

**Topic** The Magic School Bus: Gets Recycled

Dear Hanjin,

How are you recently? I want to introduce a fantastic book to you. It is one of the book from the Scholastic Reader series, "The Magic School Bus: Gets Recycled", which is written by Anne Capeci.

In this book, Ms. Frizzle's class is recycling their school's used bottles, paper, and other recyclable refuse when Phoebe realizes that she lost the necklace which her grandmother gave her. Then, they climbed into the bus and went to the recycling plant to look for it. In the recycling center, they learnt about the recycling process there. They also continued their journey to a special plant that worked with old papers which had been recycled and making them into new things.

I think this book is very interesting and educational. I learn new things about recycling after I read it. It is attractive and informative as well. With the colorful pictures and words, it helps us to learn about recycling center easily without really going there. It teaches us the concept of recycling, the different processes that plants use to sort recyclable materials, and the process that recycled paper must go through in order to be used again. It is an excellent way for us to learn about recycling.

As the environmental pollutions gets worse, we need to do something to save our earth. Recycling is an important part of keeping our planet clean and this book tells us what we can do to help. It reduces landfill and helps protect our environment. When we recycle, used materials are converted into new products, reducing the demands to consume natural resources and save energy. As recycling saves energy, it also reduces greenhouse gas emissions, which helps to slow down the climate change. We need to improve our recycling habits — both at home and in schools. Let us recycle and save our earth together.

Looking forward to hearing from you soon.

Best wishes,  
Marco

#### Book Read

Book title : The Magic School Bus: Gets Recycled  
Author : Anne Capeci  
Publisher : New York: Scholastic, 2007.

#### Comments

- Quite well structured.
- The ideas were clearly stated and supported. The expression was clear, accurate, and appropriate for purpose.