

2026年

4.23 世界閱讀日

4·23 World Book Day 創作比賽 Creative Competition in 2026



香港 Hong Kong

初中組 中一 (S1) ▶ 中三 (S3) Junior Secondary



Chan Yat Fei

Hon Wah College

Topic My Safe Harbour: Finding
Courage in Wonder

Life as a fourteen-year-old in Hong Kong often feels like navigating through stormy waters. The constant pressure of school exams, the complicated dynamics of friendships, and the overwhelming need to fit in frequently left me feeling adrift in a sea of stress and anxiety. My salvation came unexpectedly from the shelves of my local public library, in the form of R.J. Palacio's *Wonder*. What began as casual reading soon transformed into a profound journey that would become my personal harbour—a sanctuary where I learned to weather life's storms with courage and kindness.

I still remember that rainy Saturday afternoon when I first discovered *Wonder*, its colourful cover standing out like a beacon among the more solemn-looking books. The story follows Auggie Pullman, a boy with facial differences who bravely enters middle school after years of being homeschooled. Initially, I approached it as simple leisure reading, but I soon discovered startling parallels between Auggie's struggles and my own experiences. Like him, I had known the sting of exclusion when classmates whispered behind my back, and the burning shame of messing up a presentation while everyone watched. Yet Auggie's unwavering courage in facing daily stares and unkindness inspired me deeply. Through his journey, I came to understand that bravery isn't the absence of fear, but the choice to move forward despite it.

The novel's powerful message about kindness became my guiding light. Mr. Browne's monthly precept—"When given the choice between being right and being kind, choose kind"—echoed in my mind long after I closed the book. I realized how much energy I had wasted trying to appear "cool" and perfect, while neglecting simple kindness toward others and myself. This revelation prompted small but significant changes in my daily life: offering a genuine smile to the new student who always sat alone, patiently explaining math concepts to a struggling friend, and learning to treat imperfect grades as opportunities for growth rather than personal failures. To my surprise, these acts of kindness became my shelter—by lifting others up, I found my own burdens becoming lighter.

The library itself transformed into my sacred space, where I could retreat and reconnect with Auggie's story. Sitting comfortably between towering bookshelves, surrounded by the soft rustle of pages and the quiet concentration of fellow readers, I would trace the familiar words with my fingers, finding comfort in the margin notes I had left during previous visits. In these peaceful moments, Auggie's journey felt tangibly present—not just a story, but a companion offering wisdom and comfort. During particularly stressful exam periods or after friendship conflicts, I would return to these passages like a sailor seeking refuge in a familiar port, drawing strength from Auggie's resilience.

What makes *Wonder* so special is how it reveals the multiple perspectives of each character. Reading about Via's struggle of living in Auggie's shadow, or Jack Will's internal conflict about popularity versus doing what's right, helped me understand that everyone carries invisible burdens. This realization made me more compassionate—not just toward others, but toward myself when I felt overwhelmed by my own challenges.

Wonder didn't magically erase my problems, but it equipped me with something far more valuable: the courage to face them with compassion and resilience. The book taught me that our differences don't make us weak—they make us uniquely beautiful. In a world that often feels loud and intimidating, *Wonder* remains my quiet sanctuary, reminding me that we're all navigating our own battles, and that trying our best with kindness is always enough. This book is more than just reading material; it's the harbour that continues to shelter me, teaching me that true strength flows from compassion, and that even the smallest acts of kindness can calm the stormiest seas.

Book Read Book Title : Wonder
Author : R.J. Palacio
Publisher : London: Corgi, 2013.

Comments • Deep thematic integration with personal relevance.
• Cohesive and fluent narrative progression.



Hong Yuk Ching

Catholic Ming Yuen Secondary School

Topic Shelter from the Storm

Have you ever had any hard times? If yes, how do you help yourself to keep going in your life? If you still do not have any answers, please read the following prose to help you get some ideas.

J.M. Barrie's *Peter Pan* is more than just a story about a boy who never grows up and the magical land of Neverland - it is my 'Shelter from the storm' whenever stress, anxiety, or tough days come my way. This book does not teach us to run from problems; instead, it has taught me to hold onto curiosity and courage when facing difficulties head-on. These truths have changed how I cope with academic pressure, self-doubt, and hard times in life.

Once, I was stuck in a terrible bind after a tough exam and a mistake I made in a competition. I felt overwhelmed with anxiety, and that was when I thought of *Peter Pan*, which I had read before. Peter flees the adult world, yet he still loves the stories Wendy tells about family and doing what is right. Barrie shows that true freedom is not escaping growth, but keeping that childlike curiosity alive when confronting challenges. Instead of wallowing in self-pity, I learned from Peter's 'belief' - that anything is possible. I broke my study down into tasks into small goals, just as Peter and the Lost Boys solved problems step by step during their adventures in Neverland. It was not an easy process, but I realized that anxiety fades away once you summon the courage to take the first step, much like Peter leaping into the sky to fly.

Wendy's story also helped me a great deal, especially when I struggled to balance my schoolwork with my passion for basketball. I once thought I had to give up playing basketball to get good grades, and this thought made me sad and unmotivated to study. But Wendy's experience teaches me that growing up is not about forgetting the child within, but about balancing the courage of a child with the responsibilities of a student. I started playing basketball for an hour or two every day after finishing my homework. It was not a distraction; on the contrary, it recharged my energy. I found that doing what I love made me more focused on my studies. When I felt stressed about exams, playing basketball allowed me to relax, clear my mind, and return to my books with a fresh perspective. This sense of balance I learned from Wendy made me understand that hard days do not necessarily take away joy - instead, joy gives us the strength to get through tough times.

Peter Pan also taught me to face my mistakes head-on, a lesson that proved especially important when I messed up during a basketball game. I felt embarrassed and afraid of being blamed by everyone, but I remembered that Peter's greatest skill was not flying, but his willingness to try again even after failing. Peter never lets failure stop him; he just dusts himself off and sets off on a new adventure. This resilience has become my life's guiding principle.

In the end, *Peter Pan* is my shelter from the storm because it does not promise a life free of stress and hardship, but instead gives me the tools to face difficulties with curiosity and courage. Neverland is not a place to escape to, but a way of thinking: be brave like Peter, balance responsibilities like Wendy, and believe that good things will happen even when times are tough. When life feels overwhelming, I remember Barrie's lesson: true growth is not losing your curiosity, but using that curiosity to find your way through the storms.

Book Read Book Title : Peter Pan
Author : J.M. Barrie
Publisher : London: Egmont UK Limited, 2015.

Comments • Well-written and analytical, the essay also demonstrates carefully planned structure.
• Nice connections between personal experience and major themes.



作品以原作展示並以獲獎者姓名排序。
Works are displayed in original form and arranged in the order of the winner's name.

支持機構 Supporting Organisations
教育局 Education Bureau
香港學校圖書館主任協會 Hong Kong Teacher-Librarians' Association
香港創意閱讀教育協會 Association of Innovative Reading
香港貿易發展局 Hong Kong Trade Development Council



香港悅讀周 HONG KONG READING WEEK



今年香港公共圖書館再度與深圳圖書館、廣東省立中山圖書館及澳門公共圖書館合作，各自以同一主題舉辦比賽。所有得獎作品均會在指定圖書館展出，以促進大灣區讀者交流，共享閱讀與創作的樂趣。展覽詳情可參閱香港公共圖書館網頁。
This year, the Hong Kong Public Libraries continues to collaborate with the Shenzhen Library, the Sun Yat-sen Library of Guangdong Province and the Macao Public Library in organising competitions under the same theme separately. All winning entries will be displayed in selected public libraries to foster exchanges among readers of the Greater Bay Area for sharing the fun of reading and creation. Please visit the Hong Kong Public Libraries website for details of the exhibition.



<https://www.hkpl.gov.hk/wbd>

2026年

4.23 世界閱讀日

4 · 23 World Book Day 創作比賽 Creative Competition in 2026



香港 Hong Kong

初中組 中一 (S1) ▶ 中三 (S3) Junior Secondary



Suen Ching Bo

Hon Wah College

**Topic My Shelter from the Storm:
A Christmas Carol**

The first year of secondary school can feel like a violent storm. The dark clouds gathered quickly: a heavy downpour of new subjects and the thunder of challenging homework. The pressure to do well in my studies was a constant weight. One anxious afternoon, I escaped into a book called *A Christmas Carol*. It not only offered a temporary escape but also became my true shelter from the storm, a safe harbour that taught me how to weather any difficulty.

Charles Dickens first published this wonderful story in 1843. It tells the tale of a lonely old moneylender named Ebenezer Scrooge, a man who cares only for money. One cold Christmas Eve, he is visited by the ghost of his former business partner, Jacob Marley. Marley is doomed to wander the earth forever as punishment for his selfish life. He warns Scrooge that he will suffer the same fate if he does not change his ways.

This warning is followed by visits from three mysterious spirits. The Ghost of Christmas Past takes Scrooge back to see his own childhood where he sees himself as a lonely boy and later as a young man who chose money over the woman he loved. Next, the Ghost of Christmas Present, a giant, shows Scrooge how people are celebrating Christmas. He sees his clerk's humble home, where, despite having very little money, the family is filled with love. Finally, the terrifying Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come shows Scrooge a future where he has died, and people are relieved or even happy about it.

This story was my shelter for deep and personal reasons. First, it showed me that no one is forever trapped by sadness or bad habits. Seeing Scrooge, who was deeply stuck in his miserable ways, completely change his heart gave me incredible hope. When I felt stressed, it was easy to become negative and irritable, pushing away my family and friends. Scrooge's journey taught me that I always have the power to change my attitude. I can choose to face a problem with courage instead of hiding from it in fear.

Second, the lessons from the spirits felt as if they were meant especially for me. The Ghost of Christmas Past did not just show Scrooge his life; it made me reflect on my own. It reminded me of the excitement of starting secondary school, the joy of learning new things which I had forgotten under all the stress. The Ghost of Christmas Future, while the most frightening, was also the most empowering. It showed me that the future I sometimes feared—failing my exams—was not a certainty. Just as Scrooge decided to change his actions, I realized that my own efforts and choices every single day could shape a better and happier tomorrow. This thought made me feel strong.

But most of all, the book itself was a warm, comforting blanket for my mind. The vivid descriptions of the festive streets, the warmth of Christmas dinner, and the final, glorious scene where Scrooge wakes up a changed man, laughing and eager to be kind—all filled me with a genuine feeling of warmth and happiness. While I was reading, the storm of school stress outside faded away. I was safe inside a story that celebrated the best parts of being human: the chance for a second start, the importance of hope, and the power of love.

In conclusion, reading *A Christmas Carol* was a journey that helped me navigate a difficult time. It was more than a story; it was my guide and my shelter. It protected me from anxiety and helped me build a more positive mindset. I would strongly recommend this book to any student who sometimes feels the pressure of growing up. It is a perfect shelter for anyone who needs a reminder that it is never too late to change, that our past does not define our future, and that even in the coldest winter, a warm heart can find joy. It is a timeless safe harbour for any weary soul.

Book Read Book Title : A Christmas carol
Author : Charles Dickens
Publisher : London: Arcturus, 2017.

Comments

- Clear structure and logical flow of ideas.
- The content is enriched by providing concrete personal reflections.



Lam Tsz Ham

Catholic Ming Yuen Secondary School

Topic Shelter from the Storm

Last year, I was swamped by stress and anxiety—school assignments piled up, group projects went wrong repeatedly, and I'd lie awake nightly, tormented by the thought of 'not being good enough'. Overwhelmed by seemingly insurmountable challenges, I often wanted to give up. Then I read 'Atomic Habits' by James Clear, my best friend's recommendation that proved to be my saving grace. Rejecting fancy fixes and empty promises, the book advocates tackling stress and hardship through tiny, daily changes—lessons that didn't just get me through tough days, but transformed how I face life's hurdles.

One quote that resonated deeply, 'Success is the product of daily habits—not one-in-a-life transformations.' Before reading, I chased dramatic overhauls, setting impossible goals like 'finish all homework in one night' or 'never feel anxious again'. Failure left me more stressed and guilty. But Clear argues small, consistent habits are the key to progress. When exams bombed, instead of panicking over 8-hour study marathons, I tried his 'atomic habit' trick, '15 minutes of studying daily.' At first, it felt trivial, but sticking to it—some days longer, some days just 15 minutes. Let me cover most of my textbook in a month without burnout. This taught me progress doesn't need to be grand to matter; small steps accumulate and ease the pressure of perfection.

The book also quelled my anxiety with a revelatory idea, 'Motivation is overrated; environment often matters more.' I used to blame myself for constant anxiety, but Clear shows surroundings shape our feelings. My cluttered desk and nearby phone left me distracted and anxious as I accomplished nothing. After tidying my workspace and stowing my phone in another room, focusing became effortless, and my anxiety ended without the fight against distractions. Another pivotal quote: 'The problem is not slipping up; the problem is thinking that if you can't do something perfectly, then you shouldn't do it at all.' I once spirited into despair over a project mistake or a missed study day, thinking 'I messed up, why bother trying?' This quote made me see slip-ups are universal. Instead of self-punishment, I simply tried again the next day, a mindset shift that drained much of my anxiety about imperfection.

For handling difficulties, the book's 'identity change' lesson was life-altering. Clear states, 'True behaviour change is identity change.' Rather than fixating on goals, focus on who you want to become. Last semester, my group project descended into chaos, arguments, lost work and a ticking clock. I wanted to quit, but recalling the quote, I redefined myself: 'I am someone who persists when things get hard.' I proposed splitting work into tiny tasks and 20-minute daily meetings. Slowly, we fixed mistakes and finished the project. We didn't become the top of the class, but I was proud of not quitting, realizing difficulties forge the person we aspire to be.

What I cherish most about Atomic Habits is its honesty and practicality. When my grandma felt ill and I felt helpless, I used 'habit stacking', pairing my daily bedtime with a call to her. The small virtual eased my overwhelm, making me feel like I was doing something meaningful. The book also taught me self-compassion, trading 'I should be stronger' for 'I'm doing something meaningful.' The book also taught me self-compassion, trading 'I should be stronger' for 'I'm doing my best with small steps' made all the difference.

A year later, stress and challenges still come, but I no longer feel stuck. I break big tasks into tiny habits, optimize my environment to reduce anxiety and prioritize over goals. Clear's words are my compass, 'The small habits you repeat every day are the ones that shape your life.' This book taught me I don't need to handle everything at once, I just need the courage to take the next small step. Those steps are the building blocks of profound change. If you're feeling stressed or overwhelmed, Atomic Habits is a must-read. Its simple words hold powerful lessons that won't erase your problems, but will forever change how you see them.

Book Read Book Title : Atomic habits: tiny changes, remarkable results: an easy and proven way to build good habits and break bad ones
Author : James Clear
Publisher : London: Random House Business Books, 2018.

Comments

- Insightful reflections are presented within a well-organised structure.
- The ideas were clearly stated and supported.



作品以原作展示並以獲獎者姓名排序。
Works are displayed in original form and arranged in the order of the winner's name.

支持機構 Supporting Organisations
教育局 Education Bureau
香港學校圖書館主任協會 Hong Kong Teacher-Librarians' Association
香港創意閱讀教育協會 Association of Innovative Reading
香港貿易發展局 Hong Kong Trade Development Council



香港悅讀周 HONG KONG READING WEEK

今年香港公共圖書館再度與深圳圖書館、廣東省立中山圖書館及澳門公共圖書館合作，各自以同一主題舉辦比賽。所有得獎作品均會在指定圖書館展出，以促進大灣區讀者交流，共享閱讀與創作的樂趣。展覽詳情可參閱香港公共圖書館網頁。
This year, the Hong Kong Public Libraries continues to collaborate with the Shenzhen Library, the Sun Yat-sen Library of Guangdong Province and the Macao Public Library in organising competitions under the same theme separately. All winning entries will be displayed in selected public libraries to foster exchanges among readers of the Greater Bay Area for sharing the fun of reading and creation. Please visit the Hong Kong Public Libraries website for details of the exhibition.



<https://www.hkpl.gov.hk/wbd>



2026年

4.23 世界閱讀日

4·23 World Book Day 創作比賽 Creative Competition in 2026



香港 Hong Kong

初中組 中一 (S1) ▶ 中三 (S3) Junior Secondary



Tong Joy Hei Giselle

Hon Wah College

Topic Shelter from the Storm: "Flipped" Changed My Perspective

Life has a way of testing us when we least expect it. My test came during football trials for the school team—the one thing I loved most in the world. In a moment of misstep, I fell hard, and the doctor's words shattered me: a broken ankle, months of recovery, no more football. Overnight, my world turned gray. It felt as though a relentless storm had swept away everything that gave me joy.

During those difficult days, I often found myself at the Hong Kong Public Library—crutches and all. One quiet afternoon, a bright cover caught my eye: *Flipped* by Wendelin Van Draanen. Little did I know that this book would become my shelter, a place where I learned to see the rain not as an end, but as a beginning.

Flipped tells the story of Juli and Bryce, two teenagers whose perspectives on the same events couldn't be more different. At first, I saw myself in Bryce—someone who just wanted life to be simple and painless. But as I read on, something shifted inside me. Juli, with her unwavering spirit and unique way of seeing the world, began to change the way I saw my own situation.

There's a scene in the book I'll never forget: the day Juli's beloved sycamore tree was cut down. Her grief was raw and real, much like what I felt when I lost the game I loved. I remember reading this scene while sitting in my usual spot by the library window, watching rain streak down the glass as tears welled in my eyes. But what struck me wasn't just her sadness—it was her resilience. She didn't look away from the loss. Instead, she picked up a paintbrush and began to capture the tree's memory on canvas. She didn't just mourn what was gone; she found a new way to keep it alive.

That's when it hit me: maybe I didn't have to give up football entirely. Maybe, like Juli, I could find a different way to love what I'd lost.

So I began to "flip" my own story. While my ankle healed, I dove into books—not just *Flipped*, but stories of all kinds. I discovered that even when my body was still, my mind could travel anywhere. I paid closer attention in biology class, fascinated by how the body repairs itself. I learned about bones, muscles, and the incredible process of healing—my own healing.

When I returned to school on crutches, I carried Juli's courage with me. Instead of hiding, I held my head high. And my friends? They didn't laugh or look away. They welcomed me back with open arms.

Most importantly, I found my way back to football—not as a player, but as a strategist. I began helping the coach analyze game footage and observe opponents' tactics. I'll never forget the first game where my observation led to a winning goal—the team carried me on their shoulders in celebration, and in that moment, I understood that I was still valued. It was a different kind of passion, one that used my mind as much as my heart. I was still part of the team, just in a way I'd never imagined.

Flipped didn't heal my ankle—but it healed something deeper. It taught me that when life takes something away, it often leaves a space for something new to emerge. My injury was the storm, but this book was the shelter that helped me see clearly again. It reminded me that I am more than a football player—I am a reader, a thinker, a friend, and someone who can always find a way to "flip" the storm into strength.

Now, whenever I face a challenge, I remember Juli and her tree. I remember that there's always another perspective, always a way through. And I know, no matter how hard the rain falls, I have the courage to seek shelter—and to emerge stronger on the other side.

Book Read Book Title : Flipped
Author : Wendelin Van Draanen
Publisher : New York: Ember, ©2016.

Comments • Creative connection between major themes and personal experience.
• Throughout the narrative, vivid descriptions of personal experience make the writing engaging.



Tse Margaux Schentellie Velasquez

Concordia Lutheran School - North Point

Topic Shelter from the Storm

My first thoughts about reading novels were that they were difficult, even intimidating. They contained long paragraphs crowded with unfamiliar words, which felt overwhelming to me as a young girl. Many books didn't even have pictures, making it hard to visualize the stories, leaving me feeling disconnected and anxious that I wasn't "smart enough" to understand them. Reading felt like a task, a source of quiet stress in a world where study and social pressures were already complicated. I saw books as storms of confusing text, not shelters from my own worries.

However, *Pride and Prejudice*, a novel I borrowed on a whim from the library, became an unexpected shelter. It taught me more than morals, connection, or love; it offered a new way of thinking that I now use to steady myself during times of anxiety and difficulty. Through the struggles of its characters, I found a mirror for my own and a strategy for peace.

Set in 19th-century England, the novel follows the intelligent and principled Elizabeth Bennet. Her mother is eagerly arranging marriages for her five daughters, seeing marriage as their only path to financial security and social standing. This context initially taught me about historical hardship, but on a deeper level, it showed me the profound anxiety that comes from external pressure—the fear of not meeting expectations, of having your future decided by circumstances. Elizabeth's stress was not so different from my own when facing exams and the pressure to figure out my path. Yet, she responded not with acceptance, but with wit and careful observation. She became my role model for facing pressure.

The real transformative lesson, however, came through Mr. Darcy. His journey from arrogant pride to humble love is a lesson in courage. He had to confront his own flaws and biases. His famed proposal to Elizabeth resulted in a painful self-calculation. This reminded me of a personal challenge. I used to think that I wasn't very likable and that it was safer to think of myself first. This mindset, I see now, was a defense against the anxiety of rejection. When I enrolled in my secondary school, I expected more of the same impoliteness I'd encountered before, but I was met with unexpected kindness.

It was here that Elizabeth's and Darcy's lessons blended. Like Elizabeth, I had to observe clearly, setting aside my prejudged expectations. And like Darcy, I had to overcome my own pride, the fear that kept me isolated, to be open to others. Letting my guard down was stressful at first, but in a few days, I made friends who cared for me, and whom I learned to care for at the same time. Building these friendships taught me that true understanding acts as a remedy to social anxiety.

Now, the principles from *Pride and Prejudice* form a personal framework I usually use when facing stress. During a recent challenging group project, tensions were high and there were disagreements. My old anxiety urged me to withdraw. Instead, I asked myself Elizabeth's silent question, 'Am I responding to the real situation, or to my own frightened pride?' I took a deep breath and chose to communicate with patience, seeking to understand my teammates' perspectives before insisting on my own. The conflict didn't vanish, but it had lost its sharp edge and became a manageable problem we could solve together.

I remember that growth, like Darcy's, often comes through uncomfortable self-awareness, not by avoiding difficulty. *Pride and Prejudice* taught me that love is not just a feeling, but a true practice of patience, and courage in the face of life's storms. It showed me not only the love others need, but the steady compassion I must also extend to myself, especially when times are hard. In this way, a book I once feared became a reliable guide, transforming from a storm of words into a shelter for me to build a more positive and meaningful life.

Book Read Book Title : Pride and prejudice
Author : Jane Austen
Publisher : London: Penguin Books, 2009.

Comments • Clear, logical, and well-balanced structure.
• Effective linkage between the story and personal experience.



作品以原作展示並以獲獎者姓名排序。
Works are displayed in original form and arranged in the order of the winner's name.

支持機構 Supporting Organisations
教育局 Education Bureau
香港學校圖書館主任協會 Hong Kong Teacher-Librarians' Association
香港創意閱讀教育協會 Association of Innovative Reading
香港貿易發展局 Hong Kong Trade Development Council



香港悅讀周 HONG KONG READING WEEK

今年香港公共圖書館再度與深圳圖書館、廣東省立中山圖書館及澳門公共圖書館合作，各自以同一主題舉辦比賽。所有得獎作品均會在指定圖書館展出，以促進大灣區讀者交流，共享閱讀創作的樂趣。展覽詳情可參閱香港公共圖書館網頁。

This year, the Hong Kong Public Libraries continues to collaborate with the Shenzhen Library, the Sun Yat-sen Library of Guangdong Province and the Macao Public Library in organising competitions under the same theme separately. All winning entries will be displayed in selected public libraries to foster exchanges among readers of the Greater Bay Area for sharing the fun of reading and creation. Please visit the Hong Kong Public Libraries website for details of the exhibition.



https://www.hkpl.gov.hk/wbd



2026年

4.23 世界閱讀日

4·23 World Book Day 創作比賽 Creative Competition in 2026



香港 Hong Kong

初中組 中一 (S1) ▶ 中三 (S3) Junior Secondary



Wong Wai Ki Kiki

TWGHs Li Ka Shing College

Topic Shelter in the Pages: How a "Wimpy Kid" Taught me Resilience

Storms don't always roll in with drama. Most of the time, they sneak up on you—like a tight deadline, a weird comment that sticks in your head, or that anxious feeling you can't quite pin down. For years, my go-to move was to hide out: in my cozy room, blanket over my head, door closed, hoping the world would quiet down. But it never worked. I thought "shelter" meant disappearing. Then I stumbled into a new kind of refuge—one I never expected—in the messy, hilarious chaos of Jeff Kinney's *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Hard Luck*. People might write it off as silly kid stuff, but honestly, that book turned out to be not only entertaining but also a survival guide for me as a twelve-year-old struggling with exam stress and depression.

In *Hard Luck*, Greg Heffley is having a rough time. His buddy Rowley finds a girlfriend and leaves Greg stranded in middle school chaos. At home, it's worse—like a circus, with embarrassment waiting around every corner. Every plan Greg cooks up backfires spectacularly. He's not slaying dragons; he's getting nipped at by tiny annoyances: embarrassment, loneliness, frustration. And still, he keeps going—maybe sulking, but moving forward.

Similar to Greg, I also have my student worries—anxiety, bad grades that never seem to go up, that feeling you'll never get it right. Those cheesy motivational quotes never helped. But Greg's endless, hilarious failures? Weirdly comforting. His wild attempt to use a made-up curse for social gain looked a lot like my own awkward maneuvers. When Greg blows it and ruins his mom's present, he gets a crash course in consequences. Watching him muddle through made my own messes feel less catastrophic, more human. There was relief in that. See? The book seemed to say, Nobody knows what they're doing. Everyone's just stumbling along, messing up, and trying again.

Here's the real trick I learned: humor changes everything. Greg spins his worst days as... not that bad. At first, I laughed. Then I started doing it myself—like when juice spilled over an artwork I'd spent weeks on. I thought, "Sure, I ruined it, but maybe I've unlocked a new phase of drawing." Silly? Maybe. But that thinking turns a crisis into a problem to solve. A little perspective, and suddenly you can breathe. Humor doesn't erase the storm, but it gives you an umbrella.

The best part of *Hard Luck* isn't a big win. It's Greg and Rowley, sitting at the school dance, sharing candy in silence. No heroic fix—just two friends in the mess. That moment flipped my idea of shelter. Strength isn't isolation; it's connection. Real shelter is having someone beside you, even when you're grumpy and defeated. It's reaching out instead of shutting down, finding comfort in company instead of solitude. Since then, I've started building my own shelter—not with walls, but with people and perspective. Sometimes it's a quick text to a friend, sometimes it's laughing over memes with my cousin. Those tiny acts feel like candy at the school dance—small, sweet, and enough to keep you going. Shelter isn't about escaping the storm; it's about finding warmth in the middle of it.

Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Hard Luck didn't sugarcoat life. It gave me humor, perspective, and connection—and let me stumble through. I still get rough days, but now I laugh, ease up, and keep an eye out for my own Rowley. Shelter isn't a fortress; it's a cozy spot you make for yourself, maybe with a good book and someone who understands. And honestly, some days, candy in your pocket is all you need.

Book Read Book Title : Diary of a wimpy kid: hard luck
Author : Jeff Kinney
Publisher : New York: Amulet Books, c2013.

Comments • The expression is clear, accurate, and appropriate for purpose.
• Engaging use of anecdotes and coherent structure.



Wu Tsz Lam

TWGHs Li Ka Shing College

Topic Diary of a Wimpy Kid

There is a kind of storm that brews not in the sky but within. A storm of anxiety, of self-doubt, of the pressure to be "good enough." In the middle of my own storm, I found shelter in an unlikely place, the book "Diary of a Wimpy Kid" which I borrowed from Fanling Public Library.

It was a freezing morning, where I headed to the school and borrowed "Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules" from the shelves. The art, cover, and illustration were so funny and childish that the book could easily be mistaken for something light, silly, or trivial. However, as I started to read Greg's diary, I realized that not only this isn't a silly novel but also a book that can relate to all of us.

We've all been through many changes, and the biggest for most of us is graduating from primary school to secondary school. Moving onto secondary school had caused many students anxiety, the feeling to "fit in" or to be "good enough" for validations, which includes me. Secondary school brought louder hallways, sharper comparisons, and the grueling fear of falling behind everything. Everyone around me seemed to have someone they belonged to, academics, sports, music..... while I felt like I belonged to nothing and couldn't "fit in" my class because of it. That made me anxious wherever I had group projects, presentations, and stuff. The storm continued to rattle my confidence because of that.

However, Greg Heffley's world, with all its playful fonts and stick-figure drawings, gave me a new lens through which to see my own struggles. Greg's problems were mundane, like trying to become popular or surviving his brother's pranks, but they were also relatable, treated with a mix of honesty and humor. His failures weren't tragic, they were relatable, often funny, and never final. Reading his book felt like listening to a friend who wasn't afraid to be imperfect. And in that, I found my first comfort, maybe it was okay to not have everything figured out.

The book didn't offer advice. Instead, it offered perspectives. Greg's exaggerated sense of catastrophe, like treating a school play mishap as a life-ruining event or mirrored my own tendency to magnify small setbacks. However, seeing his melodramatic narration laid out so plainly and how he moved past each "disaster," helped me laugh at my own anxieties. It reminded me that most storms are passing, and what feels like a crisis today might be a funny story tomorrow.

That library book taught me about resilience through humor. Greg faced embarrassment things constantly, but he never stopped telling his story. His resilience wasn't about being tough, it was about enduring with a sense of irony. When I faced a difficult week of exams or social tension, I'd recall Greg's deadpan reactions to his own misfortunes. It didn't solve my problems, but it softened their edges. I learned that sometimes, the best way to weather a storm is to laugh while you're holding the umbrella.

Returning the book to the school library felt like saying goodbye to a quiet mentor. I didn't borrow a self-help guide or a motivational manifesto, instead I borrowed a simple, funny story about a middle school kid trying to get through the day. And yet, it helped me more than any explicit lesson could. It gave me companionship in my uncertainty, humor in my hardship, and the gentle reassurance that I wasn't alone in feeling lost in the world.

Now, whenever I feel the winds of the storm pick up again, I think of Greg. I remember that it's ok to be a work in progress, to find joy in the smallest thing, even if you tell your story in little doodles and words. The library didn't just lend me a book that day, it lent me a friend, a perspective, and a quiet room in the storm.

And sometimes, that's all the shelter you needed.

Book Read Book Title : Diary of a wimpy kid: Rodrick rules
Author : Jeff Kinney
Publisher : New York: Amulet Books, 2008.

Comments • Deep thematic integration with personal relevance.
• Cohesive and fluent narrative progression.



作品以原作展示並以獲獎者姓名排序。
Works are displayed in original form and arranged in the order of the winner's name.

支持機構 Supporting Organisations
教育局 Education Bureau
香港學校圖書館主任協會 Hong Kong Teacher-Librarians' Association
香港創意閱讀教育協會 Association of Innovative Reading
香港貿易發展局 Hong Kong Trade Development Council



香港悅讀周 HONG KONG READING WEEK

今年香港公共圖書館再度與深圳圖書館、廣東省立中山圖書館及澳門公共圖書館合作，各自以同一主題舉辦比賽。所有得獎作品均會在指定圖書館展出，以促進大灣區讀者交流，共享閱讀與創作的樂趣。展覽詳情可參閱香港公共圖書館網頁。
This year, the Hong Kong Public Libraries continues to collaborate with the Shenzhen Library, the Sun Yat-sen Library of Guangdong Province and the Macao Public Library in organising competitions under the same theme separately. All winning entries will be displayed in selected public libraries to foster exchanges among readers of the Greater Bay Area for sharing the fun of reading and creation. Please visit the Hong Kong Public Libraries website for details of the exhibition.



https://www.hkpl.gov.hk/wbd