

2020年



4 · 23 World Book Day
Creative Competition in 2020



香港 Hong Kong

高中組 中四 (S4) ▶ 中六 (S6)
Senior Secondary

Eeman

Po Leung Kuk Vicwood K.T. Chong Sixth Form College

Topic Growing Up With Reading - What Reading Means to Me

I believe that everyone has their own reading experience. In the following, I would unfold my reading life and reading experiences to you. Reading has played a very important part in my life. I have been reading since I was a toddler. When I was little, I used to read almost every day. I started reading books when I was 5 like most children nowadays. The first book I read was “The Very Hungry Caterpillar” by Eric Carle. It was about a caterpillar who ate a lot and was always hungry but at last, it became a beautiful butterfly. I can still remember from childhood, I used to make weekly visits to the public library.

Most people have read over tens or even hundreds of books and everyone has different opinions on reading and different reasons why they read or do not read. Some of my friends have not even touched a book for ages. My reading experience has been rather different from these friends'. Each book has provided me with a new experience and a challenge for my imagination. Whenever I read a book, I put myself in the character's shoes. Reading has expanded my imagination to a whole new level. Reading also reduces stress for me. Whenever I am stressed I go and read a book. My favorite part of reading books is that it improves my writing skills. I love reading history books and fiction.

Last summer, I read a book called “The Diary of a Young Girl” and I was utterly surprised by how wise and knowledgeable the author is. This is a very heart-breaking story of a little girl. There are just so many important messages in this book, but the most important message for me is that all people have the right to live in freedom. The book is a real diary of a teenage girl that begins on 12 June 1942 when she gets a diary. It tells the story of Anne and her family who lived in Frankfurt, Germany and suddenly had to go into hiding as a result of Hitler and the Nazi Party's treatment of Jews in Europe during the Second World War. Anne was a happy, cheerful, chattering girl. She was fond of writing and wanted to be an author. They were hiding in the Secret Annex from July 1942 to August 1944. There were eight people staying there; 3 kids and 5 adults and they had books to read and a radio to listen to. Anne's story shows us that just because people may have a different religion or race doesn't mean that they should be treated differently. The diary shows us things that people don't think about now. For example, Anne and her family have to worry about being found and getting punished or even killed for just being Jew every day.

Anne Franks' opinion on 'Love' has impressed me and I share her view.

Love, what is love? I don't think you can really put it into words. Love is understanding someone, caring for him, sharing his joys and sorrows. This eventually includes physical love. You have shared something, given something away and received something in return, whether or not you are married, whether or not you have a baby. Losing your virtue doesn't matter, as long as you know that for as long as you live you will have someone at your side who understands you, and who doesn't have to be shared with anyone else!

The diary suddenly ended in 1944.

In August 1944, they were discovered and taken to concentration camps. Anne died of typhus in 1945, imprisoned at Bergen-Belsen, just a few months before her sixteenth birthday. Her diary which started on 12 June 1942 and ended at 1 August 1944 was found after the war and later published by her father Otto H. Frank, the only surviving member of the whole family.

I adored this book; reading it was a knowledgeable experience. This can be the simplest book that I have read. While reading, I was able to visualize what was happening in that period of history. This book also highlights Hitler's cruel deeds. I am also amazed by Anne's words, bold and frank. She wrote them when she was only 14. When I first read this book, I could not understand why an entire government - or even regime - would ever want to kill a 13-year-old girl just because of the religion she practiced. I could not understand why the Nazis would hate people for just being Jewish. I could not imagine how I would have felt if I were in Anne's place. My favorite part of Anne's writing was her positivity. Even at the worst time, she tried to remind herself that there was good in the world and she kept being positive. Her endless wish for peace and remembering that there is beauty in the dark world are the reasons for my admiration for her. Every time I read her words, I want to strive to see the world the way she saw it - a beautiful place with room to grow. I would recommend this book to people of all ages. This book is truly a life changer. This book was a great experience for me.

My goal this year is to read 30 books. If you want to start reading, here is some advice. Start with a book which is based on something you are very much interested in or something you like a lot.

For example, if you are interested in thrillers, try to read Dan Brown's novels.

If you are interested in autobiography and cricket, try starting with Sachin's biography.

You need to start a book which makes you sit and read continuously. It's never too late to start.

Comments

- Logically and consistently written with her favorite quote.
- To acquire the habit of reading is to construct for yourself a refuge from almost all the miseries of life.

KAUR Ramanjot

Po Leung Kuk Vicwood K.T. Chong Sixth Form College

Topic Life Without Books

Imagine how lifestyles might be without books. Have you ever thought approximately where you would be right now standing at a point in life where you wouldn't be analyzing a book or this article? It's essentially like staring at a blank page, or having a thought that you couldn't share, because if you did, nobody would be capable of understanding it.

A world without studying is like fish without water or, a balloon without air. We're analyzing more today in 2019 than whilst the Sumerians invented writing 6,000 years ago. It's now not simply on clay tablets but additionally on our smartphones, computers, e-readers, and on tablets where the Sumerians could only dream about using. For a child, reading's importance is first learnt to understand letters, or to count to 20. For a parent, it is reading aloud a favorite children's classic before bedtime. For a physician, it's getting updates on latest medical breakthroughs, and for a student like me, it's far for studying capabilities with a view to make me equip them for a competitive job marketplace sooner or later.

When I was a child, at around 4 or 5 years old, I was gaining knowledge of pre-analyzing capabilities. This is when I learnt a way to write letters or short words, and also to seek a broader vocabulary and studying simple, one-syllable words. That's after I started being exposed to reading and writing. Up till now, teachers are usually pushing us to read. They would hold reading activities and make us take reading lessons every day just to read a book. And if I'm going to be honest, it was quite annoying. I would constantly hear teachers asking us students to pick a book up to read. I in no way understood the point of doing so, and let me tell you. I'm sure I wasn't the only person who thought so. I was really tired and not eager to do it at first but I later started understanding why. After reading a bunch of books, I started becoming more curious and interested in certain types of things. I would always ask questions in all honesty, my peers got really annoyed and tired of my endless guesses. I mean, I really couldn't blame them... and even I sometimes wondered why I was like this!

Reading has not only made me enthusiastic, but it has broadened my vocabulary. I love reading all kinds of books such as classical literature, poetry, fiction and all other sorts. They all use many distinctive vocabularies which have expanded my understanding on many forms of things. I recently read a book called "Life Without Limits". It touched my heart in ways you couldn't imagine. It's about this person who was born without any limbs. I've asked a few people how they all feel like if they didn't have any arms or legs, and they all said it would be miserable. But not this guy, Nick Vujicic battles his disabilities and tries living an independent life which turned out to be successful. I used to suppose I had the worst life but after reading this book, I honestly cannot imagine what it'd be like dwelling on an existence like Nick. He truly is an inspiration as he made me overcome some of my difficulties in certain situations. When I was a kid, I've heard of this book and thought it was just your typical cliché book of positive thinking... and guess what, I was wrong! If I'm going to suggest a book to anyone with difficulties or just finding a book to make use of their time, I would most definitely recommend this book. It talks about many aspects of things in which you may have never considered.

Apart from reading causing you to expand your vocabulary, it also improves your writing and language capabilities. It makes you become more imaginative such as creating new settings and themes. Furthermore, every time you read, it enhances your memory and creates a new memory of what you've read - essentially exercising your memory muscles. Along with, you'd also be most likely to vote and be more culturally involved. A study by the National Endowment for the Arts found that people who regularly read were much more likely to be engaged civically and culturally. Besides, it's always true of the saying that people who read are more likely to get ahead when it comes to their careers, and life in general. Which means, reading actually makes you win at life.

Besides printed books, there are numerous other electronic versioned books to read from too! E-books are a useful tool nowadays if you're a lazy person like me and don't want to carry a heavy stack of books with you, not only do you have the ease of reading, but you also have access to thousands of books just at your fingertips. Websites or apps such as Kindle include many varieties of books to choose from, you'd have a never ending catalogue of books just waiting to be read.

Overall, I'm pretty sure writers work hard with heart, hustle, and dedication just to write books for people to read. It's very exhausting writing an article let alone a book, and if you have a "heart" as many people would say, why put a writer's efforts to waste? Read them and help them earn what they deserve, and in return, perhaps one day, if you write your own book, you'd get the favor returned!

I've read many books in my 15 years. They all had many different styles and languages which made them interesting and eye capturing. Some of my favorite writers would probably include J.K. Rowling, William Shakespeare and Stephan King. In my opinion, they have got to be some of the best writers anyone has ever seen. Their style in writing is just astonishing and ridiculously good. As you know, when the great notable Lloyd Alexander said, "Keep reading, it's one of the most marvelous adventures that anyone can have.", that was probably one of the most legitimate sentences I've ever had. I've gone through many phases of reading while growing up and at the end, I don't regret it all.

Comments

- An engaging essay which attracts reader's interest to read on and find out more.
- Right! Read more, this can lead you find out what you lack in your life.

作品排名不分先後，以獲獎者姓名排序。
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KAUR Suchleen

Marymount Secondary School

Topic Turning Over a New Leaf

“I am never going to read” was the motto of my life since primary school. I had always secluded myself from the world of bibliophiles, and barely even stepped foot into the library. I was always so engulfed in watching television or movies as it provided me with a chance to empathise and resonate with the characters. How could you possibly connect with a book when there is no live projection of emotions or feelings, but merely words to describe them?

This perception of mine was altered when I was first introduced to the book “When Breath becomes Air” by Paul Kalinithi. This autobiography of a doctor turned patient suffering from metastatic lung cancer turned around my entire life by allowing me to be so deeply involved which I never imagined would be impossible in my life. I would have never been presented with the opportunity to read the book if it weren't for the compulsory book fair at school. Planning to step into the medical field for my career, I always had this thought in my mind about a doctor being diagnosed with a disease. Will his life come to a halt, and how will he deal with the fact he is a patient needed to be taken care of than a doctor who tends the needs of others? It is like working so hard to earn something whilst life just decides to slap you in the face. Immediately after reading the blurb and the mesmerizing title, I was completely enchanted by the book and in a jiffy, I finished it in a week's time which was a new personal record for me.

“When Breath becomes Air” was the one book that I read by my choice instead of being forced to read due to the school curriculum. This book allowed my mind to be drifted in so many different ways - from the world of the living to the world of the dead, from the world of happiness to the world of misery and pain. The last few moments of Dr. Kalanithi's life on Earth allowed me to build a connection with his pain such as the instance when he was writing during a session of chemotherapy or lying on his deathbed and still being grateful for his wonderful time on this planet. Though I had always considered non-fiction books to be boring as they depict real life struggles or stories, this amazing piece by a top-notch neurologist truly touched my heart in a way I could have never imagined.

Another book that had a moving effect on my life was “The Mortal Instruments” series. Having watched the television drama consisting of 3 seasons which was adapted from the original books by Cassandra Clare, I always used to be condemned for preferring the drama over the books by many of my avid reader friends. At one point to rid my ears of their biased opinions, I took the initiative to read at least one book of the series and ironically, fell in love with it. Having kept the gist of the original story with minor amendments such as hair colour or the height of the characters, the book left me completely awestruck, just as I was when I concluded watching the drama.

Not only did the book make me more alert to all the differences as opposed to in the show, it also made me visualize each and every moment in there solely through descriptive language. The unfeigned feelings between the gay couple Alexander and Magnus, or the immense jealousy felt by Simon when he found his love and best friend kissing someone else could also be experienced by reading a book. My mind was able to create vivid images as I flipped the pages and pages of “The Mortal Instruments” consecutively without feeling the need to stop reading due to boredom. A person such as me who takes months to finish a book that has above 200 pages finished this specific series in about two weeks' time.

Apart from books themselves, I always had the curiosity to read articles which were closely related to my life. It could be educational ones such as following a proper exercise or diet routine to keep fit or even mind-boggling ones such as how the human mind operates. This belief of mine by reading articles was solidified when I came across one handy website which allowed me to gain insight as well as put effort to shape my future for the better. Invented by James Clear to guide people on how to live a better life, this website, jamesclear.com, made me further fall in love with reading due to the huge change it brought in my ways of living.

Struggling to strike a balance between academic excellence and physical education, I always chose to prioritise studies first so that I could have a stable future. However, this meant neglecting health and being inactive due to the lack of sports. This habit of mine was transformed when I discovered this website as it allowed me to be on track with my schedule. By providing pragmatic ways, which are backed up by statistics and data, I learnt how to deal with problems such as procrastination and unproductivity. For instance, the Eisenhower Matrix enabled my better time management skills or even the Ivy Lee method which let me be efficiently productive.

Through such narrative approach of writing, reading has enabled me to understand the power of language which can be used to evoke feelings in a person. To feel different emotions, one needn't have real-life encounters, but one can also do so through reading and understanding books which is a creative process in itself. Emotions needn't only be expressed verbally, but can as well be written in a way that leaves one astonished.

Furthermore, I am totally ready to delve into this world of creativity and imagination. In fact, I have already selected the next marvellous piece I am going to be reading in preparation to truly appreciating the beauty that the books are able to capture. Though I might have started as a person who despises book, I think I will gradually become a bookworm and in all my senses, I have no problem being one now.

Comments

- An in-depth sharing of own experiences and feelings.
- It is true that a good book can teach you about how to make right judgement to many things.
- Great and clear ideas and arguments. Nicely written with good organization.

SHERPA Yeashe

Tak Nga Secondary School

Topic Growing Up With Reading

Ever since I was a kid, reading has been my go-to way to escape reality for a bit or gain a little knowledge. Whether it was a fantasy book or an encyclopaedia, I always have had my nose stuck in a book. I never took being a bookworm as a unique thing as back in Nepal I had to be studious to prove myself to my extended family.

Reading came naturally to me as I was a pretty curious kid with no fear. My mother always said that I was a troublemaker and that I used to run to random places just to look around. So, living in a competitive environment with a curious personality enabled me to open my eyes to a lot of different materials to binge on. I was and still am very attached to fiction, it didn't matter what type it was, as long as it was interesting and had fun characters to emotionally relate to, I was set.

My start in reading purely for fun, and some for education, came from reading my textbooks before the school year started. I used to be an overachiever and always took my opportunities to read through all my materials but, I found it fun. I loved reading through all my new syllabus and looking at all the new questions. I was a nerd I suppose.

I started reading fiction books when I visited my grandma's place and my cousin would lend me her favourite books that had lore of different mythologies, I guess this is also how I got my love for mythology. My favourite myth that I read and re-read every single time was the myth of different ghosts. I thought little spooky anecdotes were the best thing there is. That's how I became a scare junkie as well.

When I first came to Hong Kong, it was a very hard adjustment. The pace of life is so different as in Nepal, life is pretty slow, but in Hong Kong, the pace is so fast. Life changed so fast for me. I had left my whole life back home because my parents believed that I would have a better future here, which I don't blame them for. I had to adjust really fast as I had to study hard, and all that, plus the stress put on me by my family, left me aching for some kind of escape and reading gave me that.

One series that really helped me was the Harry Potter saga. The thought of being able to go to a magical school with fellow witches and wizards and having a pet owl just appealed to me to no end. I got very invested in the whole series and I found myself imagining being a character in the book. I made a bunch of friends that were fans of Harry Potter as well and it helped me feel not so alone and I felt like I belonged. It really cheered me up and the books really motivated me to be myself and help me accept that mourning and being sad is okay.

It also was my first exposure to the fact that not everything is black and white. The Half-Blood Prince really pulled at my strings when I was young. The story behind Snape and all of the little wise anecdotes from Dumbledore really helped me find myself. The Harry Potter saga really shaped me into who I am right now. My love for fantasy really grew from the series.

Another book series that really shaped me into who I am has to be the Dan Brown series with his character Robert Langdon. I remember I picked up “The Da Vinci Code” in the bookstore I used to go to in sale and I begged my mother to buy it for me, and fortunately for me, she did! I loved the book so much, it had all the things I loved, history, thriller, mythology, everything. I loved Sophie as a character because she was so headstrong. As a girl in a family that was traditional, I didn't have a lot of freedom. There was a lot of prejudice and everyone wanted me to be in a certain way, which led to me hating my feminine side. Sophie made me realise that I can be a feminine lady with grace and also a code-breaking boss. The character really made me accept myself and flourish, it also helped me broaden my horizon vastly. I learned new concepts and it sparked a thirst for knowledge about different concepts, especially about different religions and symbolism. It made me want to reach out to different people and learn about their experiences. It really helped me nurture the mystery loving side of me.

Another big book that really shaped me into who I am is definitely “1984” from George Orwell. I learned so many different concepts from this book. It took my love for history and led me to the darkest version of it. It helped me find my stance in my political views and my love for psychology and such. I learned how important free speech really is, especially for such a snarky kid like me, and how horrible totalitarianism really is. The book really opened up my eyes to different views and ideas. My mom used to say that I speak like a politician and I believe that this book really nourished that part of me. This book is a classic and it just aided me in not only my views in certain ideologies but also my love for self-expression. The character Julia really hit me as she was strong and rebelled for her sexual freedom and her life. She illegally wore makeup and wore pretty dresses as a silent rebel and to revel in her new sexual freedom she found in Winston. It helped me realise how important sexual freedom is when it comes to being a woman. It helped me come to terms with my guilt when it came to sexuality and helped me grow as a person.

All I have to say is, reading and education are very important to me as I grew up with parents who prioritized education and good livelihood. So many books have influenced me to become who I am and I treasure every book that I read, no matter how “deep” it may be. I honestly feel that through reading, I have learned so many of my values like how much I value freedom, free thinking, individuality and femininity. Reading has just been a big part of me and I just think that reading frees people's mind and it helps nurture different parts of people.

Comments

- Good! Books really influence your mind and make you know more about yourself.
- Excellent points. Clear and concise arguments. Very personal and moving well-structured.

作品排名不分先後，以獲獎者姓名排序。
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Senior Secondary

SIRISAMBHAND Aaron Lim

Delia Memorial School (Hip Wo)

Topic Reading in Retrospect

It is an undisputed fact that reading is an essential part of one's life. Being taught to read is one of the first things we encounter when it comes to education, yet its value and specialty are often understated. For many, it is but an inescapable skill that you must learn in order to survive. However, how else could we effectively learn about the things out of our direct grasp and vision? Reading truly is a powerful ability that is unique to us, and therein lies the beauty of it all; comprehension of the world itself and all its intricacies through nothing but a man-made system, developed over millennia.

Certainly, I too have learnt much through reading. As an individual who is profoundly interested in the world, there is genuinely no greater means to learn. I would attribute the emergence of my enthusiasm for learning to the *National Geographic Almanacs*, specifically the 2010 edition as that is the version I owned and adored as a child. Providing vast amounts of facts on just about everything, it doesn't just satiate curiosity; it further cultivates it into a desire to seek even more information. Learning small bits of trivia may not have much pragmatic value, but their fun appeal goes a long way in driving the love for learning.

Naturally, an affinity for reading would mean an attraction to studies as well, wouldn't it? That is true, to a certain extent. Yet, I cannot say with a straight face that I actually study ardently like some friends I know that do. My reading is purely driven by curiosity, so the degree of impact on academics is dependent on the subject and topic. What I can say though, is that my desire to learn let me know significantly more than what would be taught in school normally. This allows me to converse with more diversity and depth than I would have if I had not partaken in as much reading. As a result, since I adore science, my performance in physics in particular is boosted due to my enthusiasm for it.

Whenever I pay a visit to a library or a bookstore, the science section is where I always flock to in order to see what there is to learn and study up on. You can always expect a healthy abundance of books there that provide such knowledge, although I must admit they can sometimes even be a bit too technical, or esoteric for me to fully follow. In spite of that, I always try to read on ahead in an attempt to comprehend the material nonetheless.

Fortunately, there are some fun and easy-to-read science books that anyone can enjoy, regardless of literacy. The *Manga Guides* series are very charming, especially for those who find appeal in Japanese animation and manga aesthetics like I do. The volume that I had the pleasure of reading is the *Manga Guide to Relativity*, which as its namesake implies, teaches the concepts of special and general relativity. It is a topic that most do not ever encounter till university, therefore it could appear as an intimidating and untouchable topic at first. However, the way that it is presented breaks the preconception in a rather ingenious manner: a relatable scenario is established, and characters learn about the topic through relatively casual dialogue. In other words, it moves along just like any manga you would read purely for fun, just that the exposition now teaches real-world phenomena. Despite the casual and unpretentious presentation, they still can explain facts in impressive detail, even providing mathematical proofs to back them up. It is an excellent way of introducing and decoding otherwise daunting subjects.

A contributor to this hobby of mine that cannot be ignored is the internet itself. The possibilities are endless, and all topics there are in the world to read about are available right at your fingertips. Countless articles can be found for reading, most of which I can assure you wouldn't see going about your daily lives. Many people focus on the ill-effects of using the internet, but I personally have experienced benefits that far outweigh any drawbacks. What you reap from the internet depends on how you use it though, and improper usage may not yield very productive results.

Some may not take browsing forums to be a genuine form of reading, but I must disagree. Sites such as Reddit can act as gateways to more knowledge, and keep you updated in world affairs, or simply your hobbies. Reddit functions as a news aggregator, and comprises of 'subreddits', which are dedicated to specific topics. For example, the physics subreddit 'r/Physics' simply focuses on none other than physics, often linking to scientific articles and papers. If you are interested in learning more about particular historic details, then you can follow r/AskHistorians. There really is a subreddit for virtually anything, whether it be for academic purposes or for fun. It's another great learning tool, as long as you don't become addicted to it! Sometimes, I keep checking back to refresh the feed thirsting to view more posts, wasting a lot of time.

All this may sound as if reading is a serious and scholarly endeavour, requiring much toiling and dedication. That however, is simply not the case! It can be a very enjoyable experience even for those who aren't looking to study or learn. Fictional stories, such as in the form of young adult novels are absolutely viable choices for entertainment, not being of any lesser value compared to movies or TV shows. I remember being deeply engrossed in the *Maze Runner* series of novels after my friend lent the first volume to me; I read it whenever I had free time, chatting with him about it just like I would with any other form of entertainment. It's important to note that this was before I even considered reading fictional novels as something I would really partake in for recreational purposes. Following this, I acquired a larger interest in reading novels, and sought to read more to assuage the desire.

It is fun to entertain the idea of how different I could have turned out if I hadn't made reading such a big part of my lifestyle. One thing is certain though, I wouldn't be able to write this right now even if I wanted to! It has made an unimaginably positive impact on my life, and I hope that I can accommodate more time for it in the future. After all, there are still infinitely many things I could read up more on!

Comments

- Messages conveyed in the essay reach the heart of the readers.
- Clear and precise arguments. Ideas are original. Good organization skills.

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