



華中國際學校

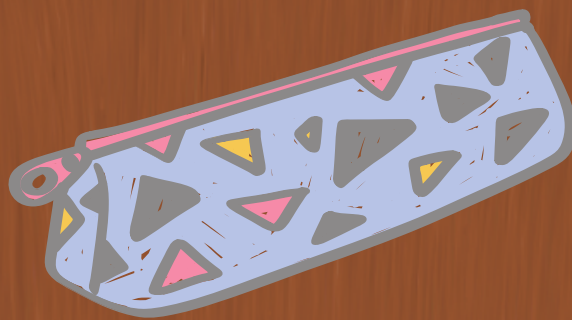
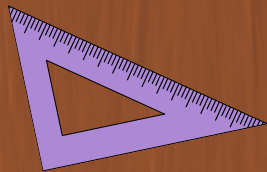
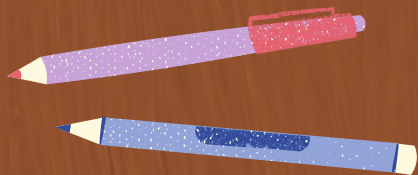
Hwa Chong INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

You're On Your Own.. Kid*

Please picture me in the weeds.

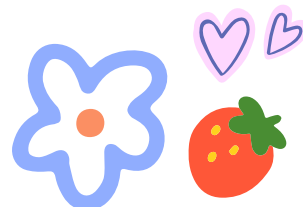
HCIS HEARTBEAT
ISSUE #4 FOR 2023

WE READ TO
KNOW WE
ARE NOT
ALONE.
-C.S. LEWIS



PROLOGUE

growing pains



it feels like it was just yesterday,
when i was 5,
wishing to be 18.

how funny it is that all we wanted to do
was become adults,
but now it's the last thing i want to be.

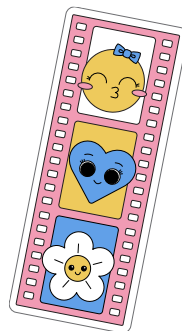
i long for the carefreeness of childhood,
days filled with endless joy,
innocence abound.

but instead,
i'm met with the continuous marching of
time,
frozen as a statue.

but there too comes excitement,
for freedom and new places,
for new memories and new faces.

with every page turned,
every fork in the road,
with everything you lost.

it's a step you take.
you're on your own kid,
you always have been.



editors of Y2C

Megan Goh IBIP & Audrey Shi IBII

Table of Contents



PG. 1
INTO THE
UNKNOWN

PG. 4
MOVING UP IN
THE WORLD

click on the page
number to jump
there!



PG. 6
NEEDS

PG. 7
MR SPEAKER, SIR

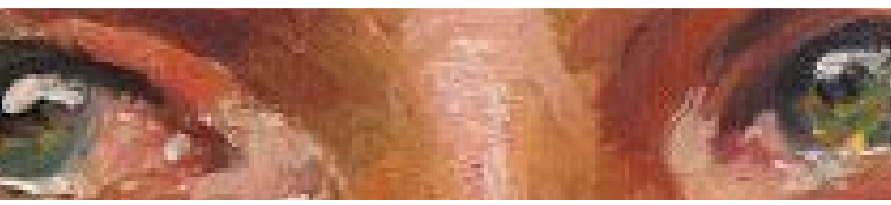


PG. 10
SUPPOSEDLY

PG. 12
RECOMMENDATION
STATION
(INTERACTIVE
SEGMENT)



PG. 16
DO YOU HAVE WHAT
IT TAKES TO SUCCEED



PG. 20
DEATH OF A
MENTOR

PG. 22
BLOOMING



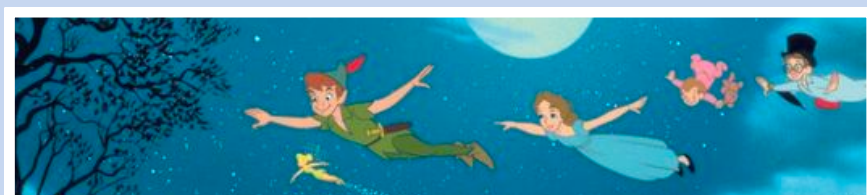
PG. 23
EVERYTHING HAS
CHANGED

PG. 25
WHICH ERA IS
YOUR ERA?



PG. 29
THE WILD

PG. 30
ONE GIANT LEAP IN
LIFE



PG. 32
GROWING UP

PG. 33
FAMILIAL ISOLATION
EXPRESSED IN DEMAIN





INTO THE UNKNOWN

WRITTEN BY MEGAN GOH IB1P

Most of the time when someone asks me what I want to do with my life I would answer, "Oh I'm not very sure... possibly a lawyer?" And most people would reply with, "I can definitely see that happening!" At which point I would attempt to redirect the conversation and ask them about their future plans. I would say 90% of me is pretty set on becoming a lawyer in the future but there are times when I would catch myself daydreaming of what my life could be if I were to choose a different life path.

I can already guess how my life would be if I were to become one. I would probably live in Singapore for the rest of my life, settle down and marry someone, have a few kids and live for the June and December periods when I would be able to go overseas and travel.

Don't get me wrong, there are plenty of benefits that come with this life, I'll be

near my parents and my children will spend a lot of time with them. Singapore is one of the relatively safer countries and though it has its flaws, it is still objectively better than most other countries. I don't know if it's the teenager in me but some part of me yearns for more. 'That can't be all there is to my life, can it?' I think to myself sometimes. There are several scenarios in which I dream about, having a cottage in rural England with a lake next to it where I'll swim in every day, moving to Australia where I'll spend my days just surfing, moving to New York and becoming a hotshot lawyer like the people in Suits, becoming a professional prima ballerina or even dancing on Broadway. These dreams aren't as fleshed out as the one where I move to Italy though.

Hear me out: I would move to a rural town in Italy, preferably a seaside town

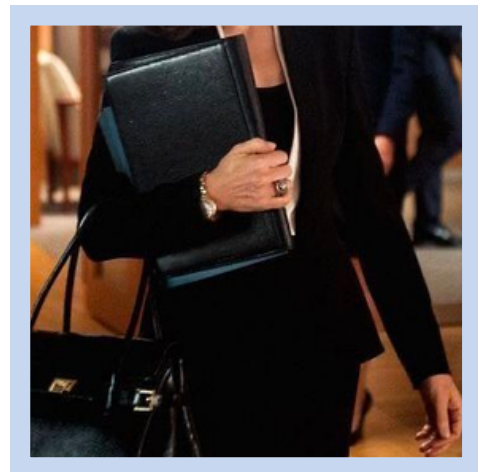
(like the one in the Disney movie Luca). I would open my own shophouse, which has a cafe on the first level and then a bookshop on the second floor. In the bookshop, some rooms would be themed to a specific world such as Harry Potter or Belle's Library.



My days would be spent working in the bookshop and on the weekends, lazing around on the beach with a book in my hand. And all my meals would consist of seafood pasta and tiramisu. Although it seems nice, I know that I am someone who enjoys being busy and takes pride in being productive. So, I usually catch myself thinking about this scenario even more when life gets too stressful and I have this overwhelming urge to just run away from everything. I would definitely consider this life when I retire though (so if I ever just disappear one day, you know where I went :D)



There's a lot of pressure on teenagers to decide what they want to do with their lives. The minute we graduate from high school we have to decide what course we want to take in university which ultimately shapes the direction of our future. Most of us do it without any idea of what we want in the future, our choices pushed forward by the pressure of society and our parents. That leads to many college students graduating with a degree that they have no interest in, being burned out while also being hundreds of thousands of dollars in debt. As much as I would like to think that I am not affected by what other people say or think, I am very much not. Some part of me wishes that it was socially acceptable for every 18-year-old to go on a gap year to discover who they are and where their interests lie and thereafter come up with a course of action. Unfortunately, we do not live in that world.



I used to stress majorly because I did not know what I wanted to do in the future. It felt like there was a ticking time bomb that could go off at any moment and I had to have a plan for the next 15 years of my life. When I finally settled on the idea of being a lawyer, there was this immense relief

that got taken off my chest because even though it might not come true, it feels that I at least have a backup plan.

There was this one quote I saw off of Instagram (I know it ruins my credibility but just hear me out). It said,

For those who know what they want to do with their lives, they will become that. But to be able to reinvent yourself every day, that is the true beauty of life.

This quote resonated with me a lot and brought me immense comfort at that time and whenever I find myself going down that downward spiral, I remind myself of it.

Unfortunately, I do not have a conclusion for you. No simple cut-out answer or a step-by-step solution to be able to stop completely worrying about your future. I think some part of me will always worry, but I try to remind myself to take each step as it comes and to just live in the moment. Recently, I find myself thinking this same line to myself, 'I can't believe this is my life...' and there's an overwhelming feeling of awe and wonderment at... just how lucky I am?

And I realized, these moments usually come at very mundane moments, when I'm sitting in a bus looking out at a pretty view, looking at the bright stars on an extremely clear night, having a cup of coffee at a cafe or just talking to my friends and family and laughing over something extremely stupid.

I've promised myself that I will make my life full of these moments and I cannot wait to experience them. You should try it, it just might change your perspective on things.

Step bravely into the unknown cause you'll never know just how much it might change your life.

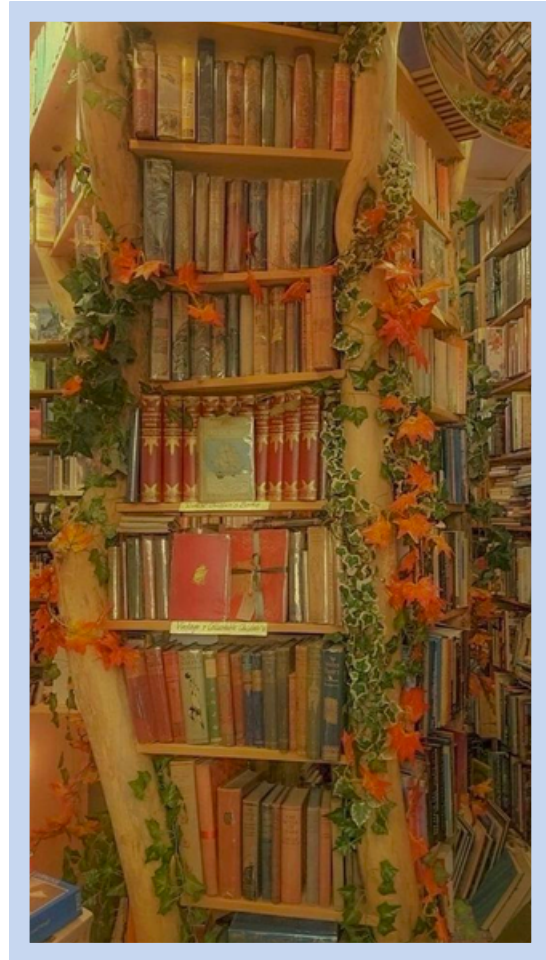


Image references

1. <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/332703491239720426/>
2. <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/455708056059290579/>
3. <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/348395721188291817/>

Moving up in the world

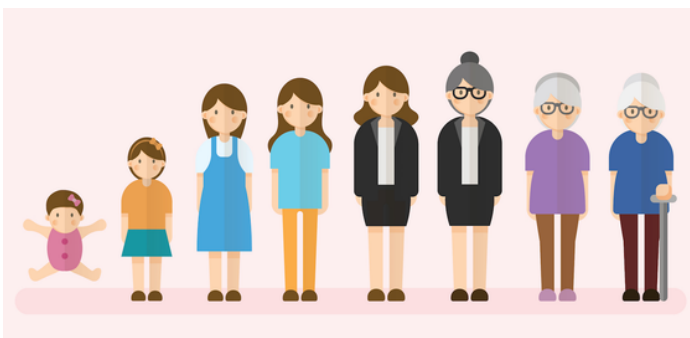
WRITTEN BY DARRELL HO 31

You, reader! Yes, you. You are probably a student in Secondary School, like me. If you are in Secondary 1, then...welcome to the jungle. This is nothing like primary school. As a matter of fact, it's a huge change. Coming into Secondary school is a step up into the world, the real world.

But first, what is the real world? Allow me to explain. The real world is the society which we will grow up to live in. It's where we have to face adulthood and even more difficulties in life. School is here for us to build our future and help us move up in the world. School is just like a mini society to prepare us for the real world.

Do you know the legal age that we are considered adults? I think most of us do. But for those who don't, it's 18 years old. Let's say you are a secondary 1 student who's only 13 years old. That's only 5 years away from adulthood! Time flies, and we'll become adults before we even know it.

In this article, I will not only explain to you but share with you tips on how to cope with growth, and how you can move up in the world.



1. Find a hobby

This is by far one of the most important pieces of advice out there. Right now, you're probably still below 18, still not an adult. You should savour your childhood, and find something that you would like to do that is not only fun, but meaningful as well. Because when you move up into the adult world, life will be tough. There will not be much time to do the things you like. So I suggest that you make full use of your childhood!



2. Be responsible for your actions

Not only as an adult, but with every step up into the world, you will have more and more responsibilities to bear, which is why it is crucial to start taking responsibilities for your own things from a young age. If you develop this habit from young, it goes without a doubt that it will be easier to survive as you grow up, even in the adulting world.

3. Speak to an adult you trust

If you are still scared, nervous or worried that you may not be able to survive in the adulting world, you can try consulting close adult friends you have, or even your parents and teachers! Take advice from people who are already adults ;they might be able to share some of their experiences as an adult. You could also ask them to share some tips on how they coped with moving up into adulthood.

Growing up, moving up in the world, it's all part of change, and change is a part of life. All of us have to deal with it. Some earlier than others. But at some point in life, we all have to grow up. We can't hide from it. Instead, we can start preparing ourselves to move up in the world. It may come with a lot of difficulties, but if we endure it, we can reap the benefits of becoming an adult.

Image references

1. <https://www.google.com/url?q=https://www.vecteezy.com/free-vector/growing-up&sa=D&source=docs&ust=1687789078140190&usg=AOvVawOzTAfo0j0m1y3OVUV49stD>

needs

WRITTEN BY KATE WEE IB1P

In the shadows of childhood's remembrance,
I sought the things I needed to embrace,
All the things I needed growing up,
And yes, that includes parental love.

But what is love when it withers in neglect?
And what is love when tethered with condition?
I tread the path of self-discovery,
Learning to parent myself and my parents.

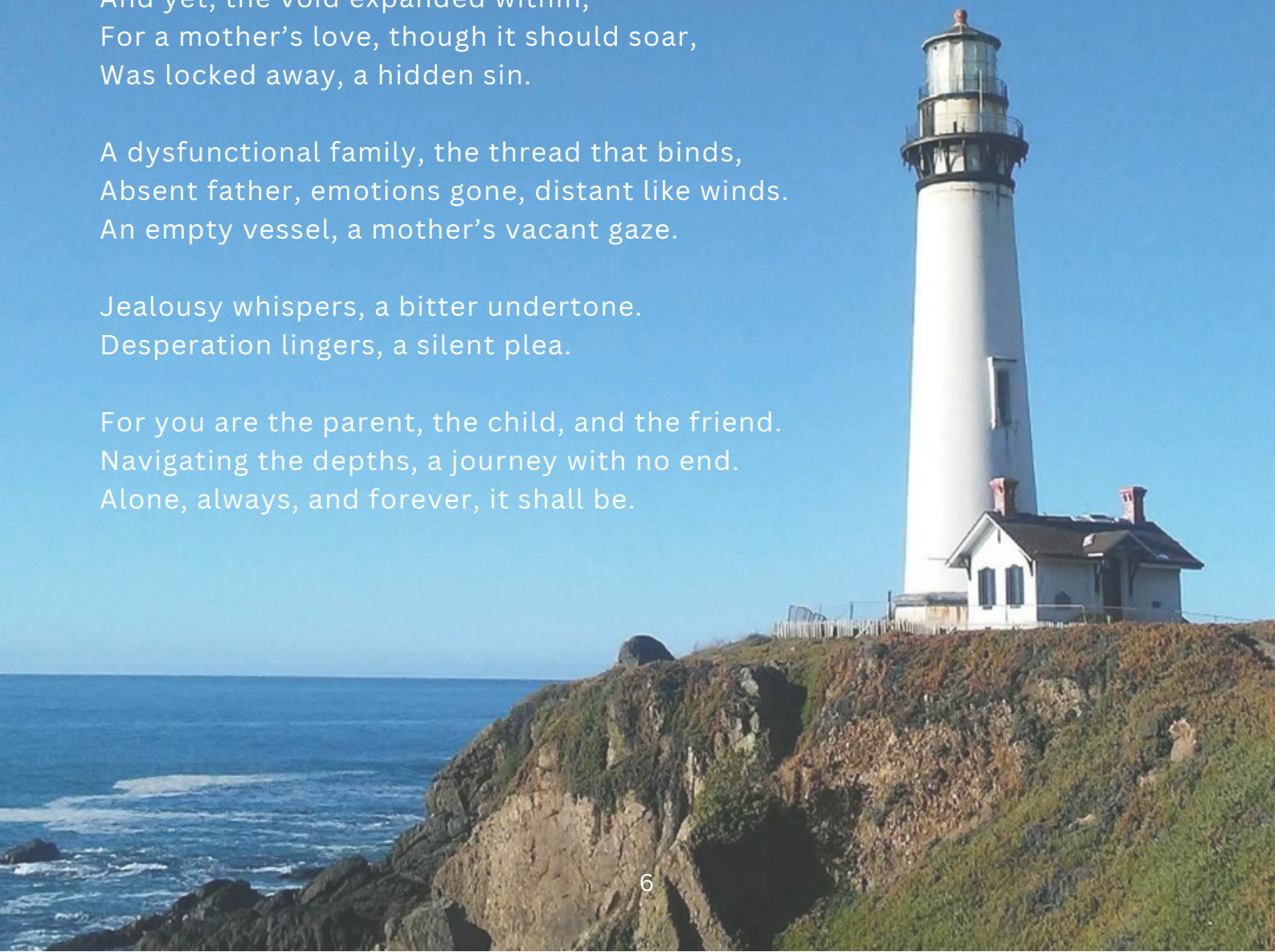
The tendrils of yearning intertwined,
With the memories of a father's ghost.
A phantom figure, absent in kind,
A missing presence, what I craved most.

And yet, the void expanded within,
For a mother's love, though it should soar,
Was locked away, a hidden sin.

A dysfunctional family, the thread that binds,
Absent father, emotions gone, distant like winds.
An empty vessel, a mother's vacant gaze.

Jealousy whispers, a bitter undertone.
Desperation lingers, a silent plea.

For you are the parent, the child, and the friend.
Navigating the depths, a journey with no end.
Alone, always, and forever, it shall be.



Mr. Speaker, Sir

WRITTEN BY FOO JUN HAN 4M

Disclaimer: ‘Mr. Speaker, Sir’ is a short story set in the era of the Singapore Merdeka Movement. Any and all individual(s) and / or Political Party(ies) mentioned are purely fictional; the author is in no way attempting to draw parallels from said fictional story to actual history.



The bell dinged. It’s time. I looked at Koon Teck, across the room, before scanning the large board in the middle of the chamber; written on it were the words, “THIS HOUSE BELIEVES THAT Colonies Ought to Gain Independence from Their Colonisers.”. I have prepared this speech for the past three months. Prime Minister Churchill is here, Lord High Chancellor Fyfe is here, and so are over half a thousand Cantabrigians. I have no room to mess up whatsoever. Koon Teck made an excellent opener for the Proposition. It’s my turn now...



“Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as my Most Honourable friend, the first speaker from the Proposition House, would eloquently comprehend – us both being Singaporeans after all, Sir – Crown Colonies such as the Colony of Singapore warrants and merits self-governing, that is not the debate here, Sir. However, Sir, does that in any way, shape, or form correlate or equate to the Colony of Singapore attaining independence?”

I continued, similar to the countless times I had rehearsed in front of my bedroom mirror. I have had it etched on the very tip of my skull. All was going smoothly, my deliberate pauses and breaks in certain sentences, my stress and emphasis on certain words, my-

“Point of information!”

There he was, on the other side of the chamber, disrupting my smooth-sailing speech with a dirty mark. Nonetheless, I must retain my composure; I cannot allow him to enter my head, or my heart; other times were fine, but not today. Albeit, it seems that a spot was already reserved for him in the latter.

There he was, on the other side of the chamber, disrupting my smooth-sailing speech with a dirty mark. Nonetheless, I must retain my composure; I cannot allow him to enter my head, or my heart; other times were fine, but not today. Albeit, it seems that a spot was already reserved for him in the latter.

“I’ll give way, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, to my learned and Most High, Potent, and Noble companion that is the Proposition House’s chief speaker, under your Venerable mandate, Sir.”

“I wasn’t intending to speak but I have to make a very brief intervention—first of all, I’d like to say, on behalf of all Singaporeans, that we’re relieved my friend on the Opposition bench remembers his nationality and hasn’t vacated it in Buckingham.”

Laughter were heard from the gallery,

only adding on to the already tense atmosphere.

“Now, now, I’ll have to interject the Proposition. As speakers would know, I’m a strong proponent of debates in forums such as these; however, as the Chairperson of the Panel and the Presiding Officer of the House, I’ll have to remind speakers to speak with decorum, and there shall be no digs from speaker to speaker. Proposition first speaker, you may continue.”

That was Chin Siong, the Chairperson of the Panel, Presiding Officer of the House, and the final member of our trio, which, perhaps, made up the entire Singaporean population studying (see: being tormented) at the University of Cambridge. Koon Teck asked his questions and I answered, attempting not to falter with the hundreds of pairs of eyes staring daggers at me, dissecting and scrutinising each and every single word I uttered.



Soon, the debate concluded. Prime Minister Churchill had his glory time, standing at the podium, speaking about the usual, about how he encourages the youth to speak up and voice out their opinions and, somehow, the Prime Minister unfailingly links his speech to his role in leading the Allies to victory in the Second World War. No interest. We’ve all heard it before.

The results were released. And? To many’s surprise, celebration, and dismay, but none from me, the Proposition won,

and Koon Teck was awarded the Best Speaker distinction. What a surprise; what a surprise, indeed.

When it comes to Koon Teck, it always seems that I’m merely playing the second fiddle in the orchestra. Simply the side character of his autobiography. He was always the first in class, just a mere few marks above me, he was elected to serve as the President of The Cambridge Union Society, although I undisputedly had the higher qualifications, and, now, he had to disgrace me in front of the war hero that is the Prime Minister.

I had to show sportsmanship. After all, in public, he was my peer; in private, he was my childhood friend; perhaps, he meant more to me deep in my heart. I shook his hand and moved on. Moved on like the countless times I had before.



“The third General Election of the State of Singapore, and the first of the newly established Legislative Assembly, will be held in two days’ time. This election is august to all Singaporeans, as the Party which triumphs with the most seats will form the first-ever elected Government of Singapore!

This election has both veteran and virgin Political Parties and Politicians contesting to garner votes, but I’d like to point everyone’s concentration to three Parties: the pro-British, Progressive Party, led by Businessman Danny Cheung Chun Sing; the pro-Malaya, Democratic Action Party, led by Lawyer Harry Lim Koon Teck; and lastly, the pro-Union,

Workers' Front, led by Lawyer David Saul Marchman. Which Party will receive the people's mandate to rule? We will, soon, find out."

The Workers' Front is predicted to attain the most seats. I'm starting to doubt why I even came back to Singapore in the first place, and chose to enter into politics, of all things. I was doing quite well in Great Britain; cash certainly wasn't an issue bugging me, but Singapore is my birthplace, and I simply cannot vacate my Motherland.

Having to run against Koon Teck, my childhood friend, no, more than that, the single person who means the most to me, is the worst feeling ever. It was just like the University Debate Championships we had years ago. Koon Teck, Chin Siong and I all returned to Singapore and went the political route. Chin Siong took the easy course, opting to serve as the non-partisan Speaker of the House, while Koon Teck and I founded our respective Political Parties.

As political rivals, we didn't take the American and British convention of dragging each other's names in the mud; in fact, we were closer as can be; my admiration and love for him only grew more prominent and significant with each passing day; however, being Progressive's Leader meant that our friendship will naturally be strained, purely on our diverging views on politics. I simply wish for this courtship of ours not to end, not for this.



Supposedly: Unpopular Opinions and Expectations

WRITTEN BY YISHEN ZHANG 3R

Teenagers occupy a unique space in society, straddling the line between childhood and adulthood. During this pivotal stage of development, they often find themselves bombarded with expectations and assumptions about their behaviour and responsibilities. However, it is important to critically examine these societal expectations and consider alternative perspectives. In this article, we explore some unpopular opinions about what teenagers are supposed to do and challenge the conventional notions that can hinder their growth and potential.

SHOULD TEENAGERS HAVE THEIR LIVES METICULOUSLY PLANNED OUT?

There is a common belief that teenagers should have their future paths clearly defined, with concrete goals and plans in place. However, it is essential to recognize that adolescence is a time of exploration and self-discovery. It is perfectly acceptable for teenagers to engage in unstructured exploration, experimenting with different interests and passions without feeling pressured to have it all figured out. Trying to embrace this period of discovery can help with personal growth, allowing teenagers to gain a deeper understanding of themselves and their aspirations.

SHOULD TEENAGERS' MENTAL WELL-BEING BE PRIORITIZED OVER PRESSURES FOR HIGH ACHIEVEMENT?

Quite often, there is an overwhelming emphasis on academic success and achievement during one's teenage years. While education is undoubtedly important, it should not come at the expense of teenagers' mental well-being. Unrealistic expectations and pressure can lead to stress, anxiety, and burnout.

It is crucial for society to prioritize the mental health of teenagers, promoting a supportive environment that values self-care, stress management, and open dialogue about emotional well-being. By doing so, teenagers can thrive academically and personally, leading to more balanced and fulfilling lives.

SHOULD TEENAGERS BE ENCOURAGED TO EMBRACE FAILURE AS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR GROWTH AND LEARNING?

Actually, yes! Society often expects teenagers to achieve excellence in everything they do, perpetuating a fear of failure. However, failure is an inevitable part of life and an invaluable teacher. Instead of fostering an environment of constant achievement, it is crucial to encourage teenagers to embrace failure as an opportunity for growth, resilience, and learning. By reframing failure as a stepping stone rather than a setback, teenagers can

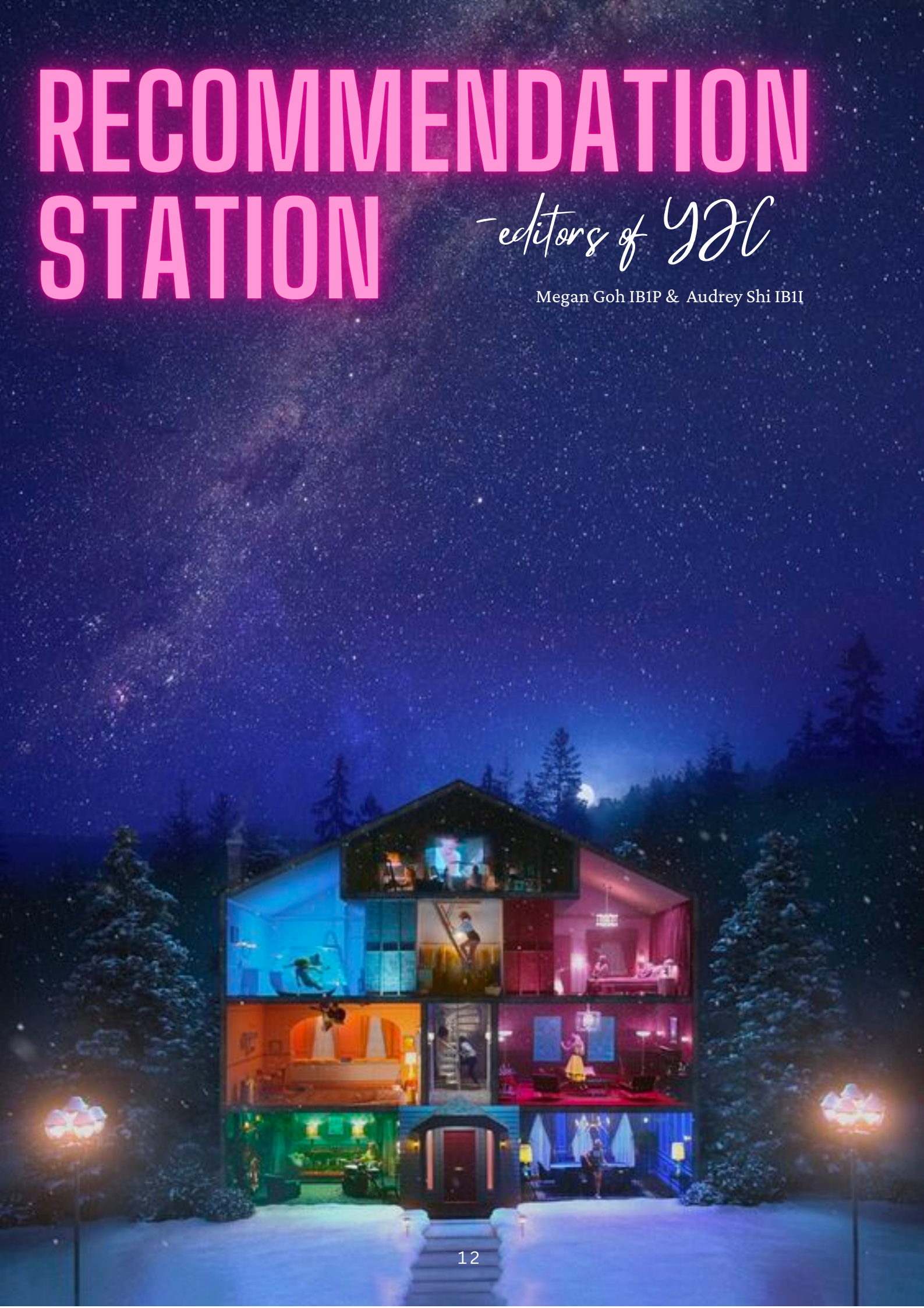
develop a healthy mindset that allows them to take risks, learn from mistakes, and ultimately achieve greater success in the long run.

In conclusion, teenagers should not be confined by societal expectations that limit their growth and potential. Embracing alternative perspectives allows us to challenge the conventional notions of what teenagers are supposed to do. By encouraging unstructured exploration, supporting diverse interests, prioritizing mental well-being, and embracing failure, we empower teenagers to navigate their paths with authenticity, resilience, and a sense of self-discovery. Let us create a society that fosters their individuality and supports them in becoming well-rounded individuals ready to face the challenges of the future.

RECOMMENDATION STATION

— editors of Y2C

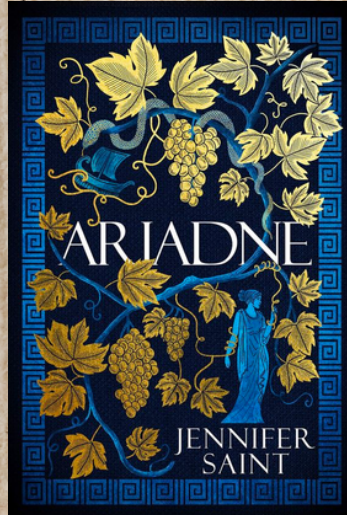
Megan Goh IBIP & Audrey Shi IBII



Books



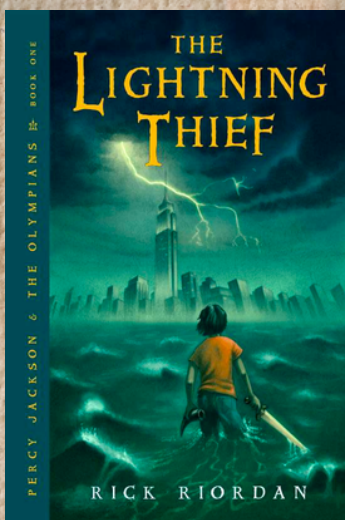
narrated by
death??



the best
understanding
of a
misunderstood
woman.



incredibly
thought-
provoking
piece on
racism



dare i say
this series is
better than
Harry Potter



'break my heart
a thousand
times, it was
only ever yours
to break
anyways.



you never
know what
to expect in
this murder
mystery

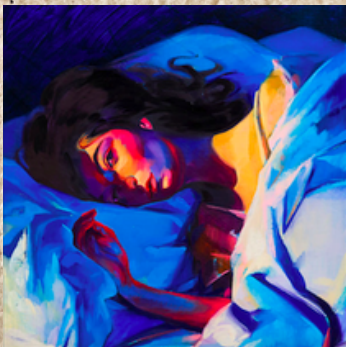
Albums



Silence between
songs
- Madison Beer



Tears Dry on
Their Own
- CIL



Melodrama
- Lorde



This is what it
feels like
- Gracie Abrams

Activity

mini
golfing
with
friends



luge at
sentosa

make a
time
capsule

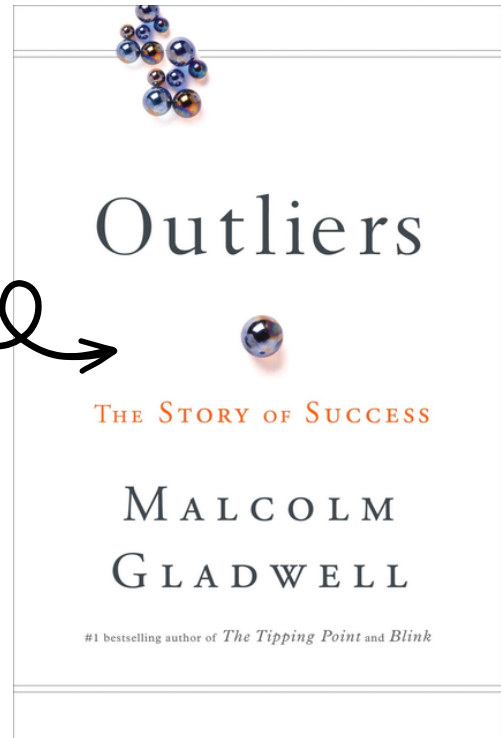


DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO SUCCEED?

WRITTEN BY AUDREY SHI IB11

My parents used to make me listen to this audiobook called *Outliers* by Malcolm Gladwell all the time on road trips. I would protest that anyone who reads self-help books does it because they couldn't afford therapy - I mean look at this cover. But years later I would come to realize that you really can't judge a book by its cover, because it actually wasn't too bad 😊.

It's a book that studied the outliers of our society and more specifically, what made them so outstanding in life. So what is the secret sauce to success...?



CULTURE MATTERS

First, let me show you a really cool experiment.

4 5 5 3 9 7 6

Now try memorizing this number sequence in 20 seconds. Did you get it?

A study conducted this experiment revealed that only 50% of people who attempted to memorize this sequence in English could do it, while almost everyone who memorized it in Chinese could.

Why is this so? It all comes down to the numbering system in both

languages, it takes a lot more syllables to say this number sequence in English than in Chinese, hence also making it more difficult to memorize on the fly. Furthermore, the numbering system in English is much harder to grasp than in Chinese because there are a lot of deviations in our counting pattern.

In English	logically, this makes more sense...	In Chinese
Eleven, twelve, thirteen	oneteen, twoteen, threeteen	ten-one, ten-two, ten-three
twenty, thirty, fifty	twoty, threety, fivety	two-ten, three-ten, five-ten

It's much easier to count in Mandarin because it makes more logical sense. Thus, by the age of 5, American children are already a year behind their Chinese counterparts.

Another distinction that the book also mentions that differentiated a person's success is their cultural upbringing. For example, way back when agriculture was the pinnacle of human technology: In many Eastern countries, the crop of choice was often grain, and to increase the yield of grain, there was no choice but to get down and dirty in the rice paddies and plant more stalks or individually pick out the grains.



While in Western countries, people often farmed corn, where the fastest way to increase corn production was to build better technology. So the difference in these practices instilled hard work, in fact- many Asian farmers spent 3000 hours under the hot sun each year tending to their rice paddies.

Therefore, a strong contender in what makes a person successful in life is the culture in which they were brought up as it can really shape their core values and their work ethic.

WHEN YOU WERE BORN MATTERS

This might seem really odd because we were always told that only hard work matters and nothing else right? But Mr. Gladwell discovered that other external factors also played into the part of a person's trajectory in life. Interestingly enough, what the astrology girlies said about when you were born weren't completely off.

Most schools and clubs arrange the kids in levels according to their ages. For example, a hockey team in Canada would have all the 10 year olds born in 2013 in one class together. However, that means that the kids born in January of 2013 were placed in the same class as the kids born in December of 2013. Which means there would be up to almost a year of difference in the age of the kids. The older kids would be more mentally and physically developed than their younger counterparts. This increases their chances of success in the hockey games, because they started getting more training, equipment, and gear. All their extra talent could have actually been chalked up to their age difference and physical maturity.



Gladewell said this can be proven in how all the best hockey players anywhere were all born in January, February, and March. At first, it seems hard to believe but once you analyse the statistics , you'll start to see the recurring pattern.

**NHL players from this season born from
1980-1990**

January	51
February	46
March	61
April	49
May	46
June	49
July	36
August	41
September	36
October	34
November	33
December	30

FAMILY'S SOCIAL & FINANCIAL STATUS MATTERS

In other words: Nepotism! Just kidding. Gladwell essentially says that how families help their children to social network and live an upper-class lifestyle brings great advantages for their future success. Many nepo children didn't have to have any inherent skill or hard work because their parents just handed them everything in life, and though vehemently unfair - it definitely works for them.

Wealthy parents tend to instil a strong sense of entitlement in their children. While this is extremely annoying, it actually gives many of them the confidence to ask for more opportunities. These parents also enrolled their kids in special programs, summer school, or advanced learning opportunities as well as providing guidance to their growing children. All these small advantages culminate in their children prospering more in life.

This leaves children who are born into wealthy families in a much stronger position than less fortunate families because of the silver spoon they were born with.

HARD WORK MATTERS

Last but not least, the most important factor is your perseverance and determination that will put you on top. Everything else mentioned are simply factors that will give you an advantage, but people who aren't as lucky to possess all of these traits can still make it up in effort.

Nevertheless, Gladwell still agrees that for a person to be successful, they must have a minimum amount of intelligence or skill. You need that minimum amount to get your foot in the door, after that, the only thing that separates the great from the good is how much work you're willing to put in. For example, if you are choosing to delve into an academic field, you need an at least above average IQ in order to succeed.

In fact, he suggested that one needed to accumulate at least 10,000 hours to reach a level of superiority at anything. This number was deduced after a great deal of analysis of chess grandmasters and other people who were really good at their craft.

For example, Bill Gates is an excellent programmer and is the creator of the Microsoft program that revolutionised the software industry. But this success wasn't created overnight. It started out when he was in the 8th grade, when he had access to the newest computers and made full use of them. He spent his summers trying to understand how the programming system worked and for the first 7 months of using it, he spent over 1500 hours on it! That means 8 hours a day, 7 days a week. For the next 7 years, he practised way past 10,000 hours! This eventually helped him to create Microsoft and become one of the wealthiest men alive.

Hence, this amazing book with a boring cover taught me and hopefully you- 4 very important factors on what can help you become successful. Of course, I gave a very summarised version of the book and you should definitely try reading it for yourself, he probably phrases everything in a much more profound way. Nevertheless, do remember that all of these factors will all work if you

also have a little luck! Being at the right place at the right time- with a mix of a good upbringing, birthday, and hardwork, you can also become an outlier.



Image references

1. <https://www.ecosia.org/imagesq=rice%20paddy%20farming#id=04F9A3E172EE163204D7C59BDED15D531DB0C2D5>
2. <https://www.chicagowolves.com/thank-you/youth-hockey-experience-request/>
3. <https://www.nhl.com/stars/news/outliers-a-myth/c-677844>
4. <https://vintagenewsdaily.com/amazing-vintage-photos-of-a-very-young-bill-gates-in-1984/>

DEATH OF A MENTOR: WHAT DO YOU DO NEXT?

WRITTEN BY REYNA ONG 3R & LEE SOONMIN 3R

As our mentors pass on, we experience the terrible loss that goes along with it and we suddenly find ourselves at a precipice, facing a world that is foreign and intimidating. We are now left to deal with the complexity of existence without these guiding lights, whose knowledge and expertise were once a beacon in our lives. While struggling with the harsh realisation that we must now rely completely on our own strength, wisdom and intuition, the loss of these mentors creates an unfillable hole. As a result of their passing, we are now sent on a bittersweet path of self-discovery where we must confront the limits of our own ability and etch our own pathways in this dog-eat-dog world. Although we may feel the weight of their absence, it is due to this loss that we have the chance to fully embrace our own strength.

Well, just like Harry Potter, we too experience the devastation that comes with the death of our beloved mentors. Harry found comfort and guidance in Albus Dumbledore and Sirius Black who became his mentors once he entered the wizarding world. They supported Harry's development and imparted to him priceless lessons about bravery, loyalty, grit and the strength of love through their knowledge and unfailing support. Whether they are our parents, teachers or simply prominent people, mentors who serve comparable responsibilities are frequently found in our own lives. These people mould us by establishing morals, educating us and helping us to navigate the complicated nature of the outside world. Unfortunately, all things must come to an end.

When they leave, whether intentionally or due to passing on, we are left with an empty space that sometimes feels impassable.

So, what do we do next?

In such times, we must embrace the important lessons our mentors have taught us in order to honour their legacies during the aftermath of the loss of our dear loved ones as we stand on the edge of a world without them, becoming their living legacy. We need to consider what they taught us and live according to the principles they have embedded in us, just as we did when they were still the supporting pillar of our lives. We could discover our genuine power and resilience during these times of isolation and introspection. Keeping in mind that their influence in our lives is not diminished by their physical absence, we should let the memory of them be a source of inspiration that motivates us to uphold their spirit in whatever we do. We should become one with the mentors we once sought as we negotiated the unpredictable ways of life while offering love, compassion and direction to others on their journey. By doing this, we are able to honour the lasting impression our mentors had on us and guarantee that their guidance will continue to guide future generations. Even though they might no longer be with us, their lessons will stay with us forever, serving as a constant reminder of the immense power of mentoring and the long-lasting effects we can have on the lives of others.

Although the cumbersome hole they leave in our hearts as they pass may never go away, we can aim to fill this hole, and this can be done by becoming a mentor ourselves. Once a beacon in our lives, mentors live on through their mentees, their light shining through all they teach, never dimming as their values shine through all they are passed down to. We must learn that a mentor's legacy never truly dies and lives on. We must aim to become the breathing and standing legacies of our mentors, becoming one with what they have taught us, so as to hopefully pass it on as we travel through this journey called life. Mentors do not simply go looking for a mentee to pass on their knowledge and guidance to, but come upon it by chance. Did Harry Potter meet Sirius Black in expectation of a guiding father figure? No. He believed Sirius Black to be a fugitive going against his Father's closest friends. The journey of a mentor and mentee does not start off as one, but gradually becomes one, as the mentee learns from the mentor of the ropes of life, and how to survive in a cutthroat world. What more could a mentor want, than hope that his mentee could one day grow up and have the same impact on another person in search of enlightenment?

As Dumbledore said, "To have been loved so deeply, even though the person we love is gone, will give us some protection forever." A mentor would simply have not been a proper one, if they could not even teach their mentee how to live on without their mentor. Being able to thrive and prosper through our own intuition and strength is the best gift a mentor could impart on us, and can be considered the true definition of success for a mentor. We hope to never see those we look up to as such strong figures fall and eventually leave us. But the good news is, they never do, they

simply mentor us from afar. Whether it be in the stars or from another walk of life, mentors never truly leave us. Mentors never truly die.

The background of the page is a soft-focus photograph. It features delicate pink cherry blossoms in the foreground, with a traditional Japanese building, possibly a temple or shrine, visible in the background. The building has a curved roof with dark tiles and light-colored walls. The overall color palette is pastel, with pinks, whites, and light blues.

BLOOMING

WRITTEN BY ASHLEY TAN 41

Rise and shine,
another new day.

Now its time,
and in the wind I sway...

Oh? My petals opened!
What's this strange feeling?

Another gust blows and
I'm still breathing...

But it feels different...
This tingling wave in me?

Though it does seem magnificent,
a new sense of free!

Yet my fantasies slowly untwine...
Does this mean my childhood's concluding?

Oh well, I guess now it's time,
where we all start blooming.

Everything has changed

WRITTEN BY SHANAE TAN 4P

Her fingertips brushed against the smooth surface of the kitchen countertop as her lips stretched into a hint of a sad smile. The cardboard boxes that were scattered across the floor seemed to stare back at her with hollow, drooping eyes. She dreamily gazed at the rough walls, textured by the ghosts of laughter which echoed through the empty hallway; tears of suffering, heartbreaking loneliness, and ambition that somehow always seemed to taper off halfway in its course. But she refused to accept it.

No one should have to let go of their childhood, she angrily thought. Nor forget their days of innocence, laughter, suffering, and tears - whether for joy or sadness. Her gaze softened and her eyebrows unknitted themselves. She felt strange.

She fingered the doorknob on the main door. It felt far too early for her to leave. No, it didn't feel right to leave behind an empty apartment to replace the house of her dreams. It was distinct in her memory, slowly fading, yet distinct enough. She watched on as three children chased each other around the living room, with her in the middle, chortling and guffawing in the most unladylike of manners. Big smiles plastered their faces, and they soon tumbled to the floor. "Who's laughing so loudly?" a booming voice came as they were soon swept up into an embrace by their teasing Father.

A shadow of a figure watched on from the kitchen, bursting into laughter as she continued preparing dinner, the aroma wafting gently through the air.

Her mother was still faint in her memory, even though she hadn't been alive. Not for the last eleven years, anyway. So much had changed since then.

She remembered looking out the tiny window beside her bed and seeing the dimming lights from neighbouring homes as the sun slowly went down, painting the pale sky a hue of orange and yellow. It seemed to soothe the numbing pain of losing a loved one. In her black dress, she sat there in shock, her eyes glistening with tears. She thought of Mother's high cheekbones, her soft black hair and her shapely nose. She had just talked to her hours before - it felt surreal that she was no longer alive. The house was filled with quiet chatter, but she heard a stinging silence take over. Downstairs, guests walked in one by one, uttering those words of condolences to her father that made her feel sick inside. How could they truly be sorrowful? No, they would never understand. They would never understand what her mother had to go through to be healed - all in vain.

Doctors' promises to her were all a lie until the last hour.

Being a doctor was one of the funniest occupations she had ever heard of.

You studied your brains out, spent countless years training, thereafter stressing for the next few decades making decisions to save lives. It was strange how one person's suffering could evolve into another's saving grace. Or end.

That day, she swore to never become one. "But look at me now", she thought, and smiled faintly.

Walking into the empty living room, she shoved her hands into her pockets (the long-awaited presence of deep pockets in her outfits alone was so comforting!) and stared at where the picture frame once was hanging. It was now all placed neatly into a cardboard box. When she was younger, she remembered she had been watching television when it came crashing down - along with the things on the shelves. It felt threatening how the floor shook as if it had a life of its own. Father had run to her side, her two siblings following suit.

She remembered exclaiming in a confused-yet-angry tone how Ariel was getting chased by a shark and she wanted to see what happened next, thereafter getting rudely shushed as the television flickered off by itself. "Earthquake," her brother whispered. "Feels like a rollercoaster," she thought to herself.

After what felt like forever, it stopped.

Her priorities had definitely been somewhere, she now thought with a grin. It was funny that what should have been the end of the world was mere amusement to her.

Wandering along the corridor one last time, she touched the marker drawings on the wall, which displayed all of her and her siblings' favourite characters, drawn with much excitement and zest.

By the time her father realised that it was there, it was far too late to be erased (much to their joy). He reluctantly left them there, and later that day, she found a new drawing of her father's favourite superhero that had been added to the collection.

A figure appeared at the doorframe.

"You ready to go?"

She nodded, smiling as she walked out, looking back as the ghost of her childhood remained hidden in the walls of the house she once loved.

Which Era Is Your Era?

WRITTEN BY ASHA KISHAN 4R



Taylor Swift

Taylor Swift is a globally recognised singer who is known for her global pop hits. From her first album, “Taylor Swift” to her latest album “Midnights”, she is widely known for producing some of the best music in the industry. Shortly after the release of her latest album, the singer announced that she would be going on a tour. This tour of hers would be particularly different from her world tours before as this tour is not focused on celebrating her current album, but it covers songs from all her albums. Since her tour has started, her fans have created “customs” to follow for fun during her concert, such as: giving out friendship bracelets to trade with other fans during the concert and dressing up in outfits that represent their favourite album! Personally, I feel that this makes the concert more enjoyable and that it’s so cool to see how people interpret their favourite music albums into fashion. This article will give you some outfit inspirations and will showcase how people incorporate their favorite albums into their outfit.



Her debut album was named after herself, Taylor Swift. It contains very country-styled music and the singer explained in an interview that the album was country-styled because of her heavy influence from her late grandmother, Marjorie, who used to play Dolly Parton and Patsy Cline. This album is so comforting to look back on since it kind of offers a look into the singer’s personal life before she rose up to fame. These outfits are comfortable to wear, especially in humid weather conditions, and they still give an ode to the singer’s debut album!

FEARLESS



The basic themes to note would be the sparkly-sequin theme and the use of yellow, white and gold colours. These outfits are also comfortable for hot and humid weather conditions and they will certainly make you look fearless!

Speak Now



The main colour combination of this album is purple and white, which can be seen through the outfits presented above. One of the main points of this album was someone leaving their bride at the altar to run away with whoever the song is about. The wedding theme colour of white can be seen in these outfits but also the main colour of her dress, which is purple, on the album cover.

RED



If you're looking to dress up as her 4th album, Red, then your outfit will definitely have to be red! In these outfits, the main colour palette would be black and red and it would be a sleek style with added "funky" accessories.

1989



Out of all the outfits, I feel that the 1989 outfits are the most practical and comfortable to wear to a 3-hour long show. Its main colour palette would be blue and white and the theme would probably be summer nights. It gives very 2015-2018 vibes and it's definitely the easiest outfit to go with. Although these outfits are basic, you can go crazy on makeup and accessories!

reputation



The main colour palette of this album would be silver, black and white. The outfits above are gorgeous and they wouldn't be too bad for humid weather conditions. The outfits also have a theme of snake accessories and that is why the first outfit's accessories would be the best choice if you want to dress up based on reputation!

lover



Lover is a romantic album so the target colours would definitely be pink and white while hearts should try to be incorporated in each outfit as that's the symbol for Lover. The outfits above do give off Lover vibes while also being comfortable.

folklore



The colour palette of folklore is very neutral colours with green and grey. The vibes of the album are sombre, autumn, and rainy vibes, as shown in the outfits above with the cardigans.

evermore



Evermore and folklore have similar vibes. They are known as sister albums and both radiate the same somber energy. Thus, the colour palettes are the same while the outfits are only slightly different.

Midnights



Midnights is her most recent album where the colour palette is dark blue and silver, to represent the night sky alongside the stars. The dresses above are not practical at all but they are cute and fit in with the theme. They also do not seem too thick so fans will not be sweating badly during the concert if the weather gets humid.

Taylor Swift is definitely iconic and no matter what you wear, you will definitely enjoy her concert! I hope this article shows you the vibes of each album and how to style them.

Image references

1. <https://www.pinterest.co.uk/pin/10485011633324311/>
2. <https://www.pinterest.co.uk/pin/92605336080537066/>
3. <https://www.pinterest.co.uk/pin/7248049393649534/>
4. <https://www.shffls.com/shuffles/5296382251599186259>
5. <https://www.shffls.com/shuffles/5265050724934400110>
6. https://www.amazon.com/shop/nancyroseford/list/2CV4580PZLDSM?ref_=aipsflist_aipsfnancyroseford
7. <https://pin.it/V4LAmSI>
<https://www.shffls.com/shuffles/5265084283357290810>
8. <https://www.pinterest.co.uk/pin/70437487485326/>
9. <https://www.shffls.com/shuffles/5286659544905212468>
10. <https://www.shffls.com/shuffles/5299320551521706498>
11. <https://www.shffls.com/shuffles/5290698938284824830>
12. <https://www.shffls.com/shuffles/5289375661232801045>
13. <https://www.shffls.com/shuffles/5284044945016014634>
14. <https://www.shffls.com/shuffles/5301901159030637723>
15. <https://www.pinterest.co.uk/pin/211174975975510/>
16. <https://www.shffls.com/shuffles/5287500228763630462>
17. <https://www.shffls.com/shuffles/5294781107309437224>
18. <https://www.shffls.com/shuffles/5290597168799867512>
19. <https://www.shffls.com/shuffles/5286787571628688139>
20. <https://www.shffls.com/shuffles/5288303217782864501>
21. <https://www.shffls.com/shuffles/5287376260777954306>
22. <https://www.shffls.com/shuffles/5287376260777954306>
23. <https://www.shffls.com/shuffles/5289477261022518831>
24. https://allisonjeffers.com/taylor-swift-concert-outfit-ideas-for-the-eras-tour/?utm_medium=social&utm_source=pinterest&utm_campaign=tailwind_smartloop&utm_content=smartloop&utm_term=71148047
25. <https://www.pinterest.co.uk/pin/2251868555980288/>
26. <https://www.shffls.com/shuffles/5292703840735389487>
27. <https://www.shffls.com/shuffles/5294914377890184890>



THE WILD

WRITTEN BY ETHAN LEE IB1T

Why must we shy from the mild to join the wild?
The eyes of the child hounds as he bellowed,
The Angel only wants to grow up,
Only, only in horror- to see the Devil acting beguiled.

No to forgiveness and no to mercy,
Open the door to the ruthless egomania,
In this world of nihilists and optimists, who can see?
Are we merely blind pawns in a world of insania?

But despite the cloud of darkness brewing,
We never falter to look past the troubles,
And perambulate away into the ensuing regime,
Approaching the hopes of life we've mumbled.

Dear Child, the wild will take you down into the mud,
But when you emerge, you will emerge on a cloud.

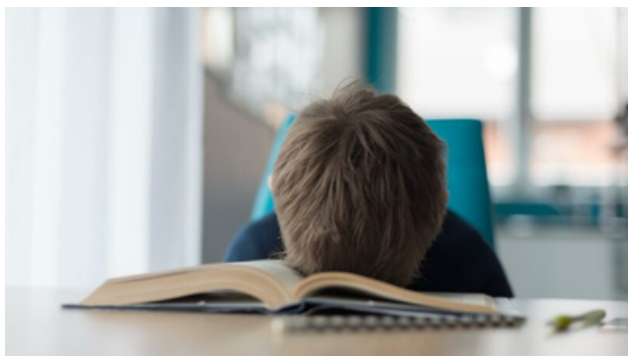
How many do you know?



One Giant Leap in Life

WRITTEN BY POLLAPHAT RUTIRAVUTH 4M &
GABRIEL GOH KAI YUAN 4K

Whoosh. Seconds and minutes and hours melted like wax in the flame of fleeting moments. Three whole years have passed, in the real world, I am now embarking onto the high school journey of ups and downs. On the subconscious level, I was still the same, the same old me. Inevitable, it felt, for me to mechanically reenact the scene that I was cramming before the final test like a doll, a plain one at that. Maybe somewhere in these fleeting moments did I have some delightful time to play with my friends.



I couldn't exactly pinpoint when this happened, but I realized that my life had totally diverted off course – or on course to my destined path – when I was promoted to the senior years. It felt... exquisitely dreadful and pleasant at the same time. For instance, I was struggling with my academics, tip-toeing on the precipice of being expelled from school, for performing too poorly in my academics. Okay, now, let's quit the theatrics, because it wasn't that bad; a little over exaggeration wouldn't hurt, would it?

This article will touch upon my personal instances of the numerous obstacles that I met and how I overcame them, sprinkled with some magic of exaggeration, of course.

The story begins from the commencement of term 1... I was assigned to a class embodied by countless unacquainted persons whose visages were nothing but layers of foggy clouds. Fortunately, this class that I was presented to had an amiable form teacher, Ms. Z (whose name we'll keep private), who made me feel more comfortable and fit into the class within a short time. To know someone better was the same as uncovering the layers of clouds; their visage becomes more clear as you forge through. Well, you would never truly know whether that visage was merely a facade well fabricated to a consummate level. Okay, first challenge—I had to make friends. Simple and easy, a piece of cake. As time flashed by, I found myself within a bubble of friends, the type of bubbly friends that you could rely on every once in a while, but not too much, if not that delicate bubble will pop. Some bubbles combined into larger ones, some bursted into miniature ones, some stuck to others but never combined. Some were like supernovas, you know? The only thing you could do is to hold on and let it subside naturally. Disagreements, conflicts, arguments, permanent breaches within the frail bubble walls—they came and went. They said the calm always came after the storm, so you should leverage the calm. Make the best of it, because you never know.

Unlike in middle years, these times felt too fragile as it's too slapdash, so that's why I tried to gain without compromise. In other words, I tried to build stronger friendships without foregoing anything vital, which possibly



can explain why this challenge of making friends was done pretty well where I was left unscathed, emotionally.

In retrospect, if there was something that changed about me in this regard, it's definitely how I treat others, as that's how they'll treat you back; it's the golden rule, Confucius was right.

Moving on, as I was already in my senior years, my parents had loosened their hands off me as a subtle indication that I would have to become more independent, enough to be on my own. I believe most of you would recklessly fall in line with this train of thought: Hooray! I'm finally liberated from these parental confines! Second challenge—I had no self-discipline, what a surprise.

As expected, without any supervision, I was perpetually sleeping like an overgrown baby, daydreaming during my school lessons (at least my imagination skills were improving), fooling around without consequence, taking my studies as a joke, and didn't realize at all that my nightmare was imminent, perhaps I needed a jackhammer to drill in some discipline into my cerebrum.

image references

1. https://cms-tc.pbskids.org/parents/articles/_pbsKidsForParentsSixteenNineRatioSmall/When-Your-Child-is-Struggling-Academically.jpg
2. <https://thumbs.dreamstime.com/b/kids-school-set-cartoon-education-collection-happy-friends-children-study-read-books-kids-school-vectorillustration-197448549.jpg>



GROWING UP

WRITTEN BY KOW XUEMIN 3C

Growing up,
An expedition of understanding oneself.
A journey exploring and navigating.

Let us enjoy this road we are on,
Embrace the lessons and tears we have had
Because growing up is a memorable journey,
A journey of happiness and wonderlust.

As I explore the world I am on,
I find people, places and wonderful experiences.
An interesting yet amazing journey.

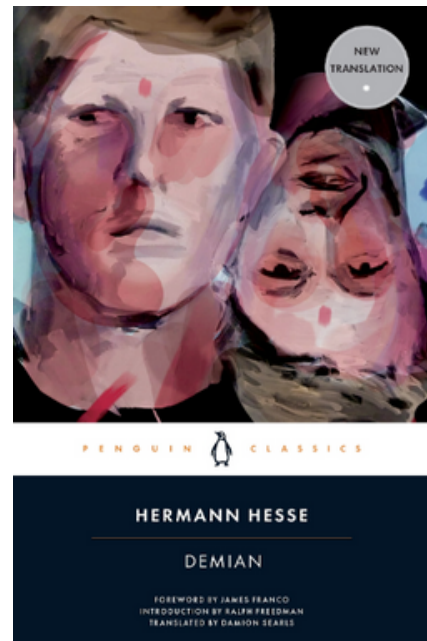
To find the joy in growing up.
Going on many adventures and discoveries.

Always alone however,
I try to find companions.

But they come and go
And I am left alone once again.

Familial isolation expressed in demian

WRITTEN BY HAN HTOO ZAW 3R



Demian

Demian is a reflection of the modern day's isolation felt by children in their teenage years and childhood over the difference in beliefs and morality. It is the propensity of every generation to differentiate and distance themselves from the generation before them, which in turn causes a separation between parent and child socially. This can be seen by any young adult or teenager in the 21st century with the turbulent changes in social beliefs and what is deemed right and wrong.

As a bildungsroman, it is inevitable that one of Demian's main themes is the growth and refinement of Sinclair's thoughts. Yet at the same time it is noticeable that in the process of this growth, Sinclair drifts further away from his parents and seeks alternate guides to affirm and further his studies into his beliefs. This drifting way is an age-old song and dance — especially during decades in which cultural revolutions occur. The child is left in the wilderness of thought to fend for themselves and their beliefs are no longer welcome in the eyes of their father and mother.

Demian explores the growth of Sinclair in two major areas. Those being his growth and shifts in his morality and the growth of his beliefs separate from his family. Once again, it must be imposed that these are two major reasons why families are generally separated figuratively. That is what must be looked at in retrospect in this essay. The effects of these changes in the child have effects that extend well beyond the reach of the self and into the community that the child identifies themselves with. The effects of these changes in the child have effects that extend well beyond the reach of the self and into the community that the child identifies with. They are the unifiers of the familial structure and the breaker of the same bonds. It is the breaking of these bonds that bring about the lonely isolation that is inherent to every young man or woman in the time of their youth.

Ideals

A major concern of Sinclair's throughout the story is in regards to his faith. Being the son of a pious Christian family, his faith has a heavy emphasis on his place in the family. This emphasis on the keeping of belief in the faith would lead to Sinclair's early detachment from his family. Despite being born and raised in a Christian household, he holds values that do not correlate with that of his parents and thus reserves those thoughts to himself; letting them torment his conscience in his belief that they were wrong.

"There was something very wrong with me. I had lived in a wholesome and unsullied world; I had been a kind of Abel and now I was struck so deeply in the 'other' world, I had fallen and sunk and yet, at heart, I could not really help it." - Demian, Page 25, Chap. 2

Religion has been partially replaced by other highly influential categories of thought in the modern day in the role of the galvaniser of men, women and children. Things such as views on social phenomena or politics act as a substitute for religion in the 21st Century. Faith, in this case defined as a belief in an ideal or ideals, is an important glue that closes the social distance between members of a family. This can be attributed to the psychology that explains human habit of grouping themselves together with people sharing the same beliefs or characteristics. This 'grouping' affirms the individual's belief and satisfies their craving for belonging in a community. This basic concept of psychology interacts with the inherent craving for sociality that exists in all humans to give rise to the reservation of thoughts by individuals who seemingly belong to a group in fear of being isolated.

Sinclair's fear of revealing his true thoughts stems from this collision of ideas. He understands that his tongue must be held to hang on to the first community he belongs to. He decides to remain silent because of this fear. This is the first stage of a child's confrontation with the differences in belief that exists in the family. This stage is reflected in the maturation of a child in the 21st Century too. The rapid strides made in the perceptions of demographics or politics or popular trends has led to a world of difference between the child and parents. Many young children follow the same path that Sinclair has; a reflection to his own journey of finding his own beliefs. The first instinct of a child is to hide the vulnerable and supposedly ugly seed in the dirt to nurture.

However, Sinclair's growth marks a change in his attitude towards his beliefs. As a young adult, he no longer fears a world separated from his parents but rather accepts it as an inevitable. This comes about due to the increased independence that develops at this point in life. It is coupled with the desire to discover new things that encourages the flight from the caged world of 'normalcy'. In light of this discovery, he realizes that his place in his family is a privilege he has been revoked of. It is this moment in time that is once again reflected in the modern day too.

"A strange spirit had come over me; I no longer fitted into our community with which I had previously been so closely bound up and I was often overcome with a wild hankering for it as for some kind of lost paradise." - Demian, Page 27, Ch. 2

It is commonly in the teenage years that most people begin to experiment and experience new things. Most of one's youth is generally detached from the full experience of the outside world and in these years is the first contact with everything outside. This is where individuality is formed as it is this stage of maturation in which people properly develop the skill of deep thinking. It allows for the refinement of already existing perceptions of the world into something that can be affirmed and stood up for rather than something to be hidden. The child is no longer a sheep following a shepherd but rather the shepherd himself. Sinclair's growth in the novel represents the second phase of the growth of one's attitude towards one's own stance and in turn the relationship between the parents and the child.

In adulthood, views are generally solidified and refined rather than discovered. It is this point in maturation that seems to stagnate on the new and focus on the old. It is also at this state that one becomes almost entirely detached from one's parents. Not to say that it is an entire rejection of relations with one's parents but more so that one's thoughts are rarely ever confided in them due to a rift in beliefs. This is evidently reflected in his notable interactions between himself and his parents in the story.

For example, at the start of the story after first meeting Demian and being confused by his interpretation of the Mark Of Cain, he questions his father.

"Yet six months later I was unable to resist the temptation, and during a walk I asked my father what one was to make of the fact that many people considered Cain better than Abel." - Demian, Page 37, Ch. 2

The questioning of the parent in this scenario implies that there is trust in the sharing of ideas without any fear of rejection.

This is in contrast to the middle of the novel in which Sinclair's family as a whole is barely mentioned.

"My father now wrote to me in his old vein, free from reproach and threat. Yet I felt no impulse to explain to him or to anyone else how the transformation had been effected in me. It was chance that this conversion coincided with my parents' and teachers' wishes. But it did not bring me any closer to the others or indeed to anyone; it merely increased my loneliness." - Demian, Page 72, Ch. 4

This distance from his family is already evident as a young adult. He is unwilling to explain the going-ons of his mind. He is detached from his parents and believes that they would not understand his reasons for his changes in behavior. He nears the stage of true independence from his parents with the final step being his parents' 'rejection' of him.

The first extract suggests an air of welcoming confidentiality. Sinclair is willing to share his thoughts and feelings with his father. However, the second suggests an air of secrecy. Sinclair does not want to bother with explaining his thoughts to his father. This contrast shows the difference between the first stage and the third that is nigh inevitable in growth.

It is finally important to note that beyond this point in the story, Sinclair's parents are barely mentioned. This can be implicated that in the narrative of Hesse the parents no longer matter beyond this point, or rather that they serve no narrative purpose anymore.

Their impact on Sinclair's life has lessened and they are no longer at close hand influentially or physically.

This phenomena is evident in the modern day. As the oldest members of the current generation of teenagers and young adults grow, join the workforce and settle down, they are to some extent distanced from their parents in their thoughts. Despite occasional visits for festivities or emergencies, parents are no longer the main confidants of information with the role being moved to friends. It seems to be a phenomenon that the family is rejected partially as the main social group of a person as they grow up.

Morality

Another factor that is considered in a person's place in the familial structure is morality. Morality affects the perception of a person as 'good' or 'bad' and is the deciding factor for whether another person warrants acceptance into a personal community. For example, someone who may not condone shoplifting is less willing to accept a person who has shoplifted or someone who justifies it. The psychology present in a social situation splits people into a 'wrong' group and 'right' group who continually reject each others' advancements.

This psychology plays a major role in the middle part of *Demian*, in which Sinclair is first introduced to alcohol. Sinclair undertakes this common poison with the understanding that his mother and father disapprove of drinking. When he reaches home in a drunken stupor and wakes up for a hangover, he first laments about the rejection of himself from the world of his parents.

"I saw my home, father and mother and sisters and the garden. I saw my quiet, familiar bedroom. I saw school and the market-place, Demian and the conformation classes — everything about it was light, it had an aura of brightness; it was all wonderful, righteous and pure. And everything, as I now realize, that had been mine only yesterday, nay a few hours before and was mine for the asking, had at this very hour, this very moment, depraved and cursed as I was, ceased to belong to me, rejected me, regarded me with disgust." - *Demian*, Page 59, Ch. 4

This represents the first stage of a separation in morality. Sinclair's perception of himself shatters as he relies on the moral values of his parents to judge himself. It is from this arbitration that he realizes that he no longer belongs in the world of his parents due to his transgressions. From this he feels despair, regret and rejection. He realizes that there is distance.

This is generally how most people feel when doing something 'wrong' for the first time. It is a suffocating, self deprecating feeling. It is especially so when the transgression is done towards a parent rather than a friend, in which one feels as if one's foundation has crumbled away and one can no longer bear to look at one's parents in the eyes.

This is followed by the final stage which is marked by an indifference to the reactions of the rest of the family. A state of apathy and distance away from the family. It is a state of miasma to which one views those that one was once so close to yet feel nothing.

"...my father appeared unexpectedly in St- and came to meet me. When towards the end of that winter he paid me a second visit, I was already hardened and indifferent and allowed him to scold and entreat me, and remind me of my mother. Finally he grew angry and said that unless I improved he would have me sent away from the school in disgrace and put me in a reformatory. I wished he would! When he went away that time, I pitied him; he had achieved nothing; he could no longer find a way into my heart..." - Demian, Page 62, Ch. 4

This final stage of indifference can be attributed to two factors. As implied by the extract in "...he paid me a second visit...", even without the rest of the novel to work with, it implicates a continuous repeat of the same offense. This generally leads to one's own moral code shifting away from the premature one born from the teachings of the parents. This in turn makes one judge oneself as 'right', or rather one no longer deems the act as 'wrong'. This leads one to no longer lament the rejection from the loving arms of the parents in their entirety while at the same time accepting that one is indeed rejected. It is from this realization that Sinclair is hardened against his father.

Secondly, it can be attributed to a devaluation of the parents' morality. Under the concept of the separation of people into communities through the perceptions of 'good' and 'bad', it is logical to make the assumption that the antithesis to the person's moral code would be wrong. From this, it must be understood that something that is perceived as 'wrong' has less value than something that is 'right'. Thus it is now of less importance and can be ignored. This second realization is what makes Sinclair's heart impenetrable in regards to that one moral argument.

Sinclair

It is evident that the processes of familial 'conflict' and rejection that exist in the modern day are reflected in Demian. Any adult who tries to understand the beliefs of the modern day may find them abhorrently vile. In a similar vein, they may find the modern generationally accepted moral code bogus and full of justified wrongs. In the same vein, it is especially harder for those young adults and teenagers who differentiate themselves from the older generation with their new beliefs and morals to defend them.

Social phenomena such as LGBTQ+ rights, representation and identification is still not acceptable in many households across the world, creating a large rift between the parent and child as one tries to justify it. Trivial things to the current generation such as teenage dating may seem odd to parents in some parts of the world.

It is that same struggle that is reflected in Herman Hesse's Demian. An entirely different set of values that is considered sinful and wrong in the same vein as the modern day's set of values. It is something that is rejected and thus the person too is rejected. At the end of the day, the difference between 'right' and 'wrong' or 'us' and 'them' are almost impossibly irreconcilable. We are left to fend for ourselves out of the propensity of each generation to seem alien to the one before. In the early 1900s, this was reflected in a change in faith and what is 'wrong'. In the early 200s, this is reflected in the change in social beliefs and what is 'right'.

Author's Notes:

This is a revision of my original essay which will not be published. I would first like to thank the person who pointed out the major flaws that existed in the original so that I could rectify them here. It is funny (to me at least) that the original had an extra section titled 'Idolism', in reference to how people cope with a detachment from their parents. That was scrapped as it seemed a black sheep in the whole essay. Maybe one day I'll do a separate essay on that, who knows?

As with practically almost every author's notes that has ever been written down, I would like to say that I hope you enjoyed this essay. I hope you don't mind the little wordiness that exists in here (if it can be counted as such) and I especially hope the whole point of this essay has actually been gotten across well. Anyways, that's all.

Bibliography:

Demian: The Story Of Emil Sinclair's Youth, by Herman Hesse, Published In 1919

About the Authors

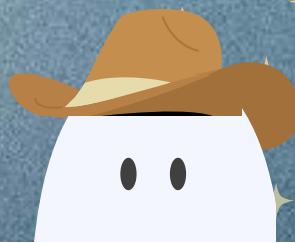


Audrey is your run of the mill teenage girl. She loves pretending that she has a really profound taste in movies but is just another victim to the Taylor Swift-Hamilton-Gilmore Girls pipeline. Taylor Swift is the only religion she subscribes to and she is willing to sell an arm, leg, kidney, and her biological sister for floor seats to the Eras concert.

Reyna is a Year 3 student with a passion for History, English (her top two favourite subjects) and current affairs. As someone who deems herself as a MUN addict, Reyna enjoys reading up on updates regarding the UN or ASEAN and occasionally watching debates on Youtube.



Soomin is a student who loves math, history and chemistry. She enjoys listening to music, art and most of all, Tetris.



Xuemin, also known as **Crystal**, loves to spend a lot of her free time reading and writing while listening to music. She is also a little delusional sometimes and will not stop for a long time because being delusional helps her write her classic heartwarming stories. She would like to spend the rest of her life travelling around the world if she has the financial ability to do so.



Pollaphat is a Thai student in Year 4. Even though he enjoys reading novels, he prefers watching meme videos because he thinks they are his future. You may bump into him once in a while, loitering around school all day. Pollaphat also enjoys writing nice, short and sweet stories while listening to catchy electronic music.

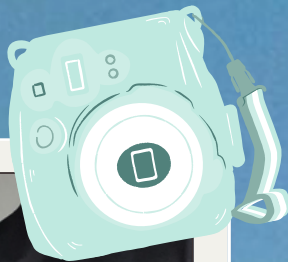
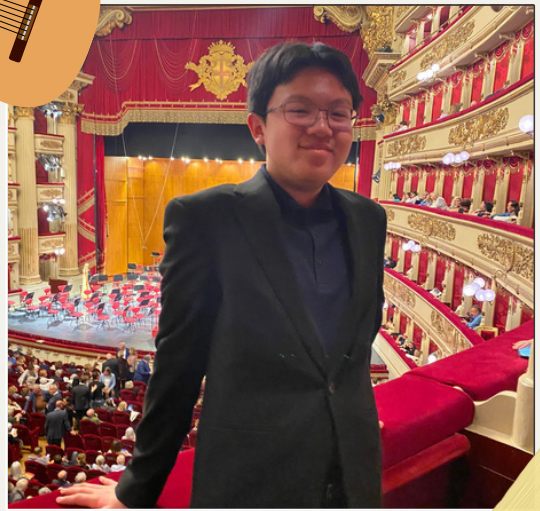


Gabriel is a Year 4 student who is motivated to work hard and improve his academics. He enjoys playing sports like table tennis and badminton. He wishes to travel around the world



Lover

Darrell is a secondary school student. He likes to play chess, checkers and a variety of board games. If you want to play against him, he will gladly be up for the challenge. He also hopes to improve his English and writing skills by joining the Young Journalists Club and hopes that his articles inspire students in HCIS.



Kate is your struggling IB1 student (with amazing music taste, might I add) who has daily battles on whether she really has a purpose in life. Outside of school, she likes to play video games and uninstall them whenever she rage quits.<3
(P.S you can always approach her to talk about dogs, she will not shut up)



Outside of his hectic school life, **Ethan** enjoys discussing politics with his friends. In addition, he plays table tennis and enjoys watching Star Wars.

T.S.

1989





Megan is currently listening to Taylor Swift trying to figure out how to make herself sound cool. Her perfect day consists of iced coffees, a sweet treat, a pretty sky, books, surrounded by family and friends. Megan is almost always taking on a new opportunity and she has difficulty juggling between everything (she is improving though!). She doesn't know how she would survive without her Google calendar. Ironically, even though Megan loves love, she is perfectly happy with her own company and always brings herself out for self-dates! Megan is also utterly grateful for all her friends and family and just... everything that she has in her life now. And she cannot wait for what is to come.



22

Ashley is a Year 4 student who enjoys watching dramas/movies. She is currently in Japan while writing these articles and likes to play with her poodle, Kiyo.

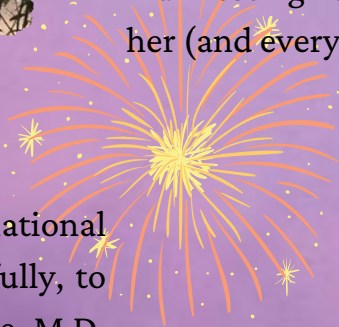
Shanae is a Year 4 student who has many diverse interests, including creating art and picking up a new instrument (and getting regularly criticised for not practising by *someone*). She takes great joy in watching the rain fall and loves to take random photos of the pretty sky.



Asha is a 16 year old girl who would run away to the South of France or Italy and would open a flower shop if given the chance. If she isn't stressing over her academics or school-related matters, she would probably be watching legally blonde for the 800th time or her head would be buried in a good romance book



Yishen's family moved to Singapore when she started year one, but she also can't really remember what she was like before moving, she doesn't want to remember anyway. She finds philosophy interesting, just not the stuff taught in school. Her current daily activity is manifesting for Eras tour tickets, good luck to her (and everyone else of course).



Foo Junhan (left) is a Year 4 International Hwachie attempting, albeit unsuccessfully, to balance his obsessive bingeing of House, M.D. with the rest of his hectic life. He, too, prides himself in instant replies to any and all messages he receives. Outside of his academic life, Danny keeps up with domestic and international politics, which led to his frequent trips to the Singaporean Model United Nations circuit. As an Editor of Heartbeat, Danny wishes all Readers a wondrous time perusing the articles all Columnists, including himself, spent valiant effort and countless hours writing.





Han Htoo Zaw is a Coffee enthusiast, George Orwell's second biggest fan and a sucker for any good rock band from the 1980s to the early 2000s, he spends most of his free time reading, writing unfinished projects (that will get finished one day) and listening to every other Green Day album (somehow this band never fails to impress with their albums). Besides Orwell, his other favorite author is Osamu Dazai (unfortunately most of his works are not translated) and he finds adding sugar to coffee odd.



*i'd meet you
where the spirit
meets the bones*

evermore



華中國際學校

Hwa Chong INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

You're on Your
own, Kid You
always have
been



ISSUE #4 FOR 2023

