

Super Stars

Welcome to a special edition of "Connect." In May 2018 and 2019, Lee Kau Yan Memorial School saw the production of its Musical Dramas, "School Daze" and "Trouble at the Old School". "School Daze", our first ever school-based musical, was a comical, musical look at the goings-on in a fictitious secondary school in Hong Kong. There were lots of funny, memorable characters, lots of jokes and lots of lively music. Two performances were given, with the second one having a few groups of students from other schools in the audience. The students in the cast and crew did a wonderful job, across many months, to prepare for the show and to make it so entertaining. For all the actors, it was their first experience of being in a big English drama. They all said they enjoyed the challenge, the fun and making new friends. The success of this show has created a lot of interest around the school, and many students have said they want to be involved in next year's production. This issue of "Connect" includes reflections by the actors, which we hope you enjoy reading. Additionally, there are some more thoughts by some of these young people – to expand on the topic of their life as a teenager, which is an exciting and interesting period in their life.

"Trouble at the Old School" takes place in an old Starlight College which has had no classes for many years, but there are people from the past who are still there – a few members of the school's dance club. "Trouble at the Old School" has a large number of interesting characters, lots of jokes, lots of action, lots of great music, plenty of singing and dancing, and more than a few surprises. It is indeed a "scary, comedy musical drama".

The best thing about writing and directing a big musical is seeing the students work hard and get better. They are the centre of the whole project. Their lit-up eyes, their smiles, their struggles and their sense of achievement are wonderful to see. That's why I became a teacher, and that's why schools should do challenging things like big musicals. It has been a pleasure to work with the young people involved in these shows; I will remember them for a long time. The second best thing about creating shows like "School Daze" and "Trouble at the Old School" is seeing and hearing the audience's reaction to what happens on stage. The whole school community needs to experience big events that showcase the talents, dedication and generous hearts of the students. Having a good laugh at the same time is, of course, a real bonus. I say a wholehearted "thank you" to everyone who has participated in or helped bring this show to life. Well done!

Writer & Director Mr. Stuart MEAD

5A Carmen Li (2018-2019)
It's been fun rehearsing this drama. It will be an unforgettable experience for me, and a great addition to my school life. I hope everyone who sees the performance enjoys it very much.

3D Kelvin Chan (2018-2019)
This drama has been a lot of fun, and I have made some new friends. It's been great!

5A Peter Cheung (2018-2019)
This show is amazing and I'm excited to be a part of it. Acting is a new experience for me and I will remember it forever. I'm really glad I joined! It's pressure, but fun!

5A Hedy Sze (2018-2019)
This drama has uncovered my musical potential. It's also a good chance to improve my English. I really like the large number of jokes in this drama. I think it's really funny. This experience will be unforgettable! Thank you for the opportunity!

5A Jesse Wu (2018-2019)
I have really appreciated the opportunity to participate in this huge, exciting drama. The final result will be a great success and we will all look back happily on an enjoyable time.

5A Mia Leung (2018-2019)
I love this drama! The story is interesting and funny and the other actors are nice. I am very excited about performing at PolyU!

5A Carrie Yeung (2018-2019)
I'm very excited to see so much dancing in the drama this year. The story is funny and the characters are memorable. I'm very happy to be a part of this wonderful show.



Welcome to this year's Connect, the school's English language publication. It records our precious and memorable moments. In this issue, you will find the photographs of our school-based musical dramas. Besides, you can also enjoy articles and passages about students' views on street busking, 5G technology, being a teenager along with other stories. Our English Consultant Mrs. Ivy and Native-speaking English Teacher Mr. Brett Craig also introduce two interesting books for us. Enjoy your read!



A successful performance is proof of team work. The writing of scripts, the audition, the casting and all the rehearsals...

5A Jenny Wong (2018-2019)



Some people think a grand performance stage is the key, but for me, the people we work with are the souls.

5A Steve Mok (2018-2019)



The taste of failure may be bitter, yet the glitter of our team is shining bright! We tried our best, did our best. Now, we are all winners!

5E Greeny Cheung (2018-2019)

Moby Dick reviewed by Mr. Brett Craig

"Call me Ishmael." One of the most famous opening sentences in any English novel. Simple and to the point. And it's from Moby Dick. Want to know where Starbucks found its name? Read Moby Dick.

Moby Dick is one of the greatest novels written in the English language. It is set in the 1850s, when whaling was big business. Whales were hunted for their oil and fat and meat. There was a lot of money to be made.

But Moby Dick is more than a story about whales and whaling. It is the story of one man, Captain Ahab, who is obsessed with catching a rare white whale named Moby Dick. Ahab had clashed with Moby Dick many years before and the whale bit off one of his legs. Ahab becomes mad with revenge and will stop at nothing from killing Moby Dick, even if it means putting his crew in terrible danger.

The story is told by Ishmael, who becomes a crew member on Ahab's whaling ship, the Pequod.

I first read Moby Dick many years ago when I was still at school. The version I read then was an abridged version, much much shorter than the original novel and it also had many illustrations. Many years after leaving school, I decided to read the original novel... and wow! What a read! The book is exciting and funny; sad and melancholy; a journey through one man's madness and what that mad obsession can do to the people around him.

Moby Dick is a book I reread and it has become one of my favourite novels. It is a book about many things, but mostly it is a book about human nature (behavior and attitudes shared by all people of the world) and I like to read books that tell me about people; books that help me to learn about people and the world, and yes, these kinds of books can be funny and entertaining.

If you can find an abridged version, you should try reading Moby Dick. You might learn something about the world, too.

Reading is such an important skill. Reading novels will not only improve your English skills (all the brightest and most successful students I taught in Australia were big readers and loved reading novels) but it can take you to places and let you meet people you could never have imagined.



Book Review by Mrs. Ivy Lui

American Born Chinese was published in 2006. It was the first graphic novel to be a finalist for the National Book Award and the first graphic novel to win the American Library Association's Michael L. Printz Award for excellence in young adult literature. It also won an Eisner Award for the best new graphic novel.

American Born Chinese was my first graphic novel and it has changed my overall perspective and interest in graphic novels. It is a brilliant, funny, moving and thought-provoking graphic novel. What is this amazing novel about?

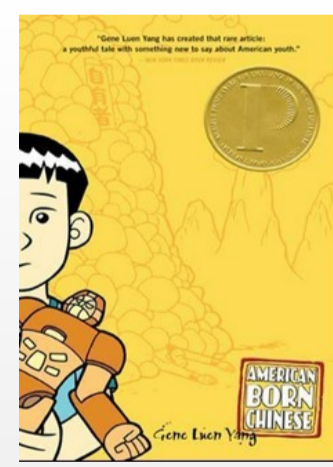
American Born Chinese tells a story in which Gene Luen Yang, the author and illustrator, cleverly divides into three parts. These three stories compliment each other. They come together with a twist that is predictable, but powerful, and another that is completely unexpected, and eventually form a surprise ending.

Through this graphic novel, we can see Jin, the main protagonist go through his school years while being a minority and trying to fit in. Alongside Jin's story, we can also see the trials of the Monkey King and his own journey of fitting in and becoming a worthy deity. Lastly, we can see the third story of Chin-kee; the personification of Chinese stereotypes and how he interacts with his cousin Danny.

Although American Born Chinese is visually similar to a comic book, the superb blending of art and story with its three-story parallel structure, clever storylines and important messages about tolerance and acceptance, make it a brilliant novel. It is also a great exploration of racial stereotyping, prejudice and self-identity told through three exciting but non-teachery stories. With so many young adults in their developing years, they seek a sense of identity and individuality. This graphic novel helps the readers reflect on their own individuality. Many ethnic teens around the world could also be facing the same problems as the main protagonist in this story. They can relate to the novel and the struggles that Jin Wang faces in the novel as being a minority in their schools.

Gene Luen Yang is a talented writer. He uses simple, yet lovely, colourful and beautiful drawings to tell three meaningful stories and masterfully brings all this together by the end. It is very entertaining and provides a visual aid to the readers that makes it easier to understand the struggles the characters go through. However, the climax seems to happen too fast and some readers may find the ending a bit quiet or sudden.

I would recommend anyone who loves comics or manga, with a great story, to give this graphic novel a go!



shop Reviews

Aeon is a department store. If you want to buy things, Aeon can help you. Aeon is in Kowloon Bay. Yesterday, I went to Aeon with my family. I asked the shop assistant there many questions. He was very polite and never thought I was noisy. I wanted to buy a chair, he let me sit on many different chairs. The shop is enormous and it is easy to find. Aeon always offers us discounts, so, many people like to buy things there. I will recommend you to shop at Aeon, because there are many things you can buy. Moreover, it is spacious and the price is reasonable. 2C Terry Li (2019-2020)

IKEA is a shop which sells furniture. If you are interested in western food, you can go to IKEA too. I shopped with my family in IKEA last weekend. There was a lot of furniture. The shop was huge but there were only a few shop assistants. We could not get any help when we were having problems. Although the IKEA service was not good enough, there were many styles of furniture for us to choose. Also, it was not noisy there so we shopped comfortably in a relaxing way. We also went to IKEA restaurant. It is a special feature of IKEA. It was very crowded and we saw long queues at the cashiers. We could not find a seat, so we bought hot dogs and ice-cream cones and enjoyed them at the food stand. I think IKEA is a good place for you to shop, but to be honest, I hope they can improve their services. 2D Carrie Chau (2019-2020)

Teenager



Being a Teenager

6A Yuki Lo (2018-2019)

Most parents say that adolescence is the best stage in a person's life, I would prefer to be an adult.

The most important reason for believing this is that adults can usually choose what they want to do. For instance, they can choose their job. Teenagers, on the other hand, have to follow the schedule written by their parents. In Hong Kong, there are many "helicopter" parents, who want their children to be successful, versatile people. Ten or so years ago, many children could be seen playing in the park after school or on weekends. Nowadays, more children are pressured into studying in tutorial centres instead.

All too often, teenagers cannot pursue their own dreams. Being merely their parents' robot, they just follow the instructions given by their parents. I can hardly wait for this period of my life to be over.

Being a Teenager

6A Zack Li (2-18-2019)

To be perfectly honest, I really want to cease being a teenager and start my real life—as an adult. Right now, I have to live under my parents' and teachers' control. For most of the things that I want to do, I have to obtain approval from them. Though I love my parents and respect my teachers, I don't think they always make the right decisions and I don't believe I really should be expected to follow their decisions or fulfill their requests all the time.

In the future, when I have a career of my own, I will live on my own, with more independence and privacy. I will decide things by myself. That will undoubtedly include making some mistakes, but that is part of life's learning process. I will be able to do what I want and I won't be judged by my parents anymore. That's why I want to see the end of being a teenager.

The Good Years

6A Kathy Ip (2018-2019)

For most teenagers, growing up and becoming an adult is a very strong desire. But it isn't for me.

Being a teenager is the most wonderful, beautiful and delightful stage in our life, which is full of colour and laughter. We can have plenty of fun with our schoolmates, such as taking part in extra-curricular activities, or simply chatting and laughing over lunch. More than that, we can also experience many "firsts" in our life: our first true date, first lover and even first truancy.

When we enter the adult world, everything will change. If we do something childish, we will not be able to lay the blame on our immaturity or youthful innocence. Adults have to shoulder more responsibility, such as holding down a job and providing financial support to a family. It is all so serious.

We can take advantage of being a teenager. There is still room for making mistakes, for learning, playing and practice. We have more freedom to explore what we are interested in, like fashion, hobbies and sport. And we can dream.

Teenage life is the most valuable period we will live through. We will never get the chance again, so we should treasure this special time.

Being a Teenager

6A Winky Lam

Most females want to be young. That is the time in their life when they look and feel their best. That is one of the reasons I love being a teenager. From the age of about fifteen to their early twenties, girls and women can dress beautifully, for example in the popular Japanese high school style, which I like. Such a youthful look matches their physical age, and they look very attractive. Just a few short years later, very few women still dress that way, which I think is strange.

Once the teenage years have been left behind, people not only start to look older, but they also start to act and feel older. Year by year, they slow down, they tire more easily and they are less involved in physical activities, such as sport. To make the situation worse, they are also usually heavily involved with their work and family responsibilities.

Teenagers are usually more relaxed, and freer to choose their activities and how they dress. Feeling good is a daily occurrence. That's why I love being a teenager. I plan to enjoy it while I can.

Being a Teenager

6D Robin Leung (2018-2019)

Now that I've been a teenager for a few years, I can see that there are both advantages and disadvantages in living through this age period.

The biggest advantage is that I have the chance to think for myself and choose which challenges I want to tackle. I am no longer a young child but also not yet an elderly person, so I am in the best age group to take advantage of all that life has to offer. It's an exciting time, even though there are frequent doubts and moments of confusion, which can make life a little scary at times.

The biggest disadvantage in being a teenager is having to constantly remember new things. There are facts about new friends that need to be remembered, such as their birthdays, likes, dislikes and so on. There are seemingly endless rules at school that should not be broken, and this is complicated by the fact that teachers can have their own little variations on classroom rules that are different from other teachers' requirements. Getting all the rules right can be a nightmare.

Every year, I feel I know more and am confident about more things, so this teenage part of my life is great. I know I am gradually growing into an adult, and I like that idea.

I want to be a Teenager

6A Joyce Chu (2018-2019)

I want to be a teenager, regardless of how teenagers are seen by others. Many people think teenagers are worse than people in older generations – for example, more selfish and less responsible.

But I think teenagers have some special characteristics and abilities that make them different. For example, they can handle today's information technology more expertly than others can. This technological ability will help them change the world, and that knowledge gives many teenagers a sense of power. Also, during my teenage years, I have learnt and am still learning a great deal. This makes this period in my life very special and important. I am laying the foundation for a good future, so it is an exciting time in my life. If I were asked whether or not I wanted to be a teenager, I would unhesitatingly say "yes."

There are a number of buskers in Hong Kong. Most of them can be found in some of the city's most crowded areas such as Tsim Sha Tsui, Mongkok and Causeway Bay, as well as new performance areas such as Kwun Tong. Busking has become a culture in Hong Kong. I agree that busking should be regulated in Hong Kong as there are some drawbacks to it.

To begin with, busking causes a "human traffic jam". Buskers always perform in the crowded streets and MTR stations on weekend nights, especially in Mongkok. Besides, a mountain of people like to hang out at the same time. It affects the street's order because the footpaths and streets are blocked. Some residents who live in these areas have also been affected. When they want to go out, they may find it annoying.

Furthermore, although street performers can play beautiful music, it still disturbs some residents. In fact, noise pollution forces the buskers out into the busy streets in Hong Kong. Lively street performances usually last until very late at night. In order to attract a bigger audience, buskers like playing their musical instruments very loudly. That's why people think busking causes noise pollution in Hong Kong. It is not only harmful to the environment but also the residents, who like to concentrate on their work and study, even if they are at home. The most important thing is that they cannot sleep at night.

What's more, buskers can perform in other places instead of the crowded streets. For most buskers, they aim to perform and make more friends who have the same hobbies. But they face a big problem, i.e. being treated like beggars on the street. Maybe in foreign countries, many people think they are artists, but in Hong Kong, few people seem to think so. As a result, many people pass by them and they don't stop to watch their shows. It is, no doubt, a waste of the buskers' efforts.

In a word, we can't deny street performance is an extraordinary culture in Hong Kong. However, if busking is harmful to the public, we need to regulate it and come up with a solution. With regulation of busking, residents can have a more comfortable and silent environment to live in. Also, buskers can gain more professional knowledge by making new friends. I believe both citizens and performers will have benefits.

5A Wong Ka Hei (2019-2020)

"Should the government regulate buskers in Hong Kong?" Of course! My answer is yes. Although there are a few art forms that add flavour to the city street, busking has different negative effects.

First of all, I think I should tell you that busking is a kind of performing art on the street. A busker's behaviour is clearly different from that of a beggar. The former focuses on demonstrating self-talented behaviour, while the latter aims to solicit donations. However, a number of performers destroy people's perceptions of street performers. They perform simply because they want to make money, not to show their talents. These behaviours make others feel disgusted.

Second, street performers can cause a lot of noise pollution. Some performers ignored others' feelings. Even if others ask them to lower their volume, they turn a deaf ear to it. The noise not only affects the lives of the surrounding households, but also the public.

Sai Yeung Choi Street South in Mongkok was once a vibrant performing ground for Hong Kong's unknown artists and budding street performers. The iconic strip stretches from Prince Edward to Yau Ma Tei, boasting a variety of acts from acrobatics to magic and music. I used to stroll around Sai Yeung Choi Street because it was full of lively and eye-catching performances, but now I would rather take a detour because it is too crowded and noisy. The seriousness of noise pollution has affected the regulation of the behaviour of street performers and made the area less attractive.



The Most Important Woman

1D Sandy Kong (2019-2020)

The most important woman in my life is my mother because she has brought me into this world. When I was a baby, she took care of me attentively. When I started primary school, she helped me with homework and taught me a lot of things. And now, she still does many things for me like planning all the activities and supports me when I want to give up. She always stays next to me like my angel. If she is not here, I will be worried whether I can survive by myself or not!

1D Helen Lai (2019-2020)

The most important woman in my life is my mother. It was her who endured the pain and gave birth to me. It was her who gave me life and the chance to survive. I remembered that once she helped me to complete my homework when I was in kindergarten because I fell asleep while doing homework. How silly I was!

She took good care of me and always promised to look after me, even my requests are silly. She cooks for our family and also does housework for us. I really appreciate her! When she grows old, I must take good care of her!

6A Grace Leung (2019-2020)

When the 5G comes, the technology will achieve a dominant position in the future. There will be more unimaginable technologies rolled out, more smart cities and it will be more convenient for the public. We can benefit from 5G, but in the meantime, it can pose a hazard to us. Some of us may not be aware that we will become a slave to the technology and we will be edged out. So, the fast-changing change has alarmed us to embrace the approaching challenges. When we realize that, we should rise to the occasion and never cease to equip ourselves. We can control the robots and capitalize on technology instead of being replaced. Then, human beings are still at the helm of the world and we can truly disrupt the world to better our lives.

6A Veron Chan (2019-2020)

I finally believe the 5G would provide any benefits to global citizens.

The evolution from 4G to 5G means faster speeds and lower latency. It will create a major boost for business, gamers, live streamers and more. In light of the evolution, I think we need to upgrade to a smartphone that's compatible with the new networks.

I am excited to be benefited from the future networks. The technology in the future is utterly unpredictable and the technology's progression is unstoppable. The only thing I can do is look forward to more innovations.

6A Jesse Wu (2019-2020)

Reflecting on the soaring development of disruptive apps, I can initially imagine what will happen in the future when there is a combination of these apps and the upcoming 5G network. Thanks to the Internet, people are taking advantage of disruptive apps such as Airbnb, Uber that are able to bring convenience, simplicity and profits.

With a new chapter of high-speed connectivity, 5G may allow an enormous amount of Internet users to upgrade their quality of life by providing faster speeds for downloading and uploading data and less delay that boosts on immediate interconnectivity. Thus, apps developers are having more opportunities of designing greater disruptive apps. For example, the robot industry, with the help from 5G data, can likely replace the accounting industry because of better performance. A number of manual tasks may also be diminished as robots can be programmed to do all the labouring jobs for people. This may become an indispensable part of our lives down the line.

6A Peter Cheung (2019-2020)

The smart phone may not be the greatest device, but it is definitely the device that has changed people's life in a dramatic manner. Smart phones have changed the way people see, talk and communicate.

First, people search for information on phones instead of reading a newspaper. Other than that, smart phones are versatile. They can provide videos, sound clips and texts. It is a big change!

Second, the way we see affects the way we talk. We receive more sounds, so we will talk in a more vivid or varied way because we will unconsciously imitate the intonation of the voices we have heard. We talk briefly because the video clips are short. A long dispute may no longer exist.

Third, talking face-to-face is not the only choice nowadays. We can talk and communicate wherever we are as long as there is an internet connection. Some say this brings people closer, but some disagree. I think it makes people closer because people can have more privacy, but less conflicts.



When 5G comes, what will happen to our lives? Are you excited about it?