



The Bard- Putting words in my mouth

Amy Lo 4E

Four hundred years ago, William Shakespeare, the creator of an astonishing number of literary masterpieces died. "He was not of an age, but for all time," Ben Jonson, Shakespeare's rival once said.

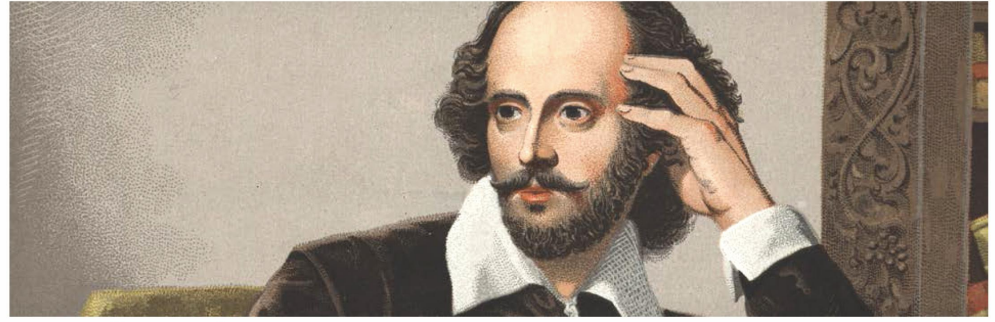
Born into a modest farmer's home, Shakespeare was raised by his two illiterate parents, John Shakespeare and Mary Arden. William grew up in a countryside town and received education at a local grammar school, King's New School, where he learnt the rudiments of Roman comedy. Surprisingly, Shakespeare, the well-known author of many English classics did not attend university due to his family's serious financial debt.

Despite Shakespeare's simple childhood and education, he turned out to be an outstanding playwright who won the hearts of both the London locals and the royal family. In his early years (1590-1592), "Henry VI series", "Richard III" and "The Comedy of Errors" were performed. After the plague in 1593, William also wrote "The Taming of the Shrew", "The Two Gentlemen of Verona" and "Love's Labour's

Lost". Impressed by Shakespeare's eminent talent, King James issued a royal license to Shakespeare and the Lord Chamberlain's Men, the most popular acting company in London at that time, naming them "the King's Men". Meanwhile, Shakespeare created our all-time favourites, including "Romeo and Juliet" and "King Lear".

Up till now, the significance of Shakespeare's fascinating writings can be seen in modern English. The Oxford English Dictionary has given credit to Shakespeare for introducing almost 3000 new words to the English language. It is estimated that his vocabulary ranges from 17,000 to a shocking 29,000 words (at least double the number of words used by a common person). Besides influencing English vocabulary, the names that Shakespeare had used in his plays are now popular names, such as Jessica and Olivia.

Although four centuries have passed since the death of Shakespeare in 1616, he remains the second most-quoted writer in the English language, after the various writers of the Bible.



The King's Men English

After the performance of *The Taming of the Shrew*, some SS Literature students launched a programme *The King's Men English* to introduce quotes from Shakespeare's works.

1. To give someone a dose of his/her medicine
-from "He kills her in her own humour" (*The Taming of the Shrew*)
It means to treat someone as badly as they have treated you
2. To be or not to be, that is the question
-one of the most quoted lines from the Bard's works. *Hamlet* asks himself whether it is better to live and suffer or end the pain by death.
3. Better three hours too soon than a minute too late
-from *The Merry Wives of Windsor*
-it means it's better to get things done before it is too late

Sizzling steak sent from Heaven

Minnie Ip 3B

I'm just a small, amateur food blogger, so when the popular authentic restaurant Garden Steak House downtown asked me to write a review on its signature dish, you couldn't imagine my surprise and excitement over this unexpected invitation. Of course, with humble heart I accepted the proposal. ----- all I can say is that their dishes were ten times better than I had imagined, and I can only hope my words can do them justice!

After settling down in the rustic-looking, European style restaurant, a polite waiter came and took my order. Needless to say, I had the restaurant's signature, a medium-cooked steak. Within minutes, the main dish had arrived, but before I could even see it, the tantalizing aroma of the hot sauce and spices had already reached my nose, then my eyes were treated to a wonderful sight. A big and generous slab of rib-eye steak, sizzling golden-brown,

was sitting on a wooden plate and served with a few delicate leafy herbs atop. As the waiter carefully set the plate of perfection onto the white-linen tablecloth in front of me, I couldn't help but start to drool a little.

The steak was seared flawlessly, glistening with tenderness. Aside from the touch of freshness of the herb leaves, sprinklings of pepper also accompanied the steak, as

well as a couple of fresh cherry tomatoes and some spicy-looking barbecue sauce on the side. As a steak-lover, I couldn't have asked for more.

Without further ado, I quickly grabbed the cutlery and slowly cut into the steak, which was so juicy and tender that the knife passed smoothly through. Cutting a small piece, I silently admired the unbelievable skills of the chef. The steak



was a perfect medium, going from tender brown to soft pink from the sear to the centre, as near to perfection as any chef could have done it. Gently dipping the piece of steak into the barbecue sauce and lifting it to my mouth, I delighted in the heavenly fragrance of the steak and sauce, imagining myself away before I couldn't help showing it into my mouth. All at once the flavours exploded in my mouth. The rich tenderness of the steak almost

melted immediately in the spiciness of the sauce. Both flavours complemented each other in perfect harmony, taking the rib-eye steak to the next level. The herbs and spices all came together well and lit up the beef, leaving the blown away and unable to stop. After I had finished the whole steak with none of the grace it deserved, I tried some of the cherry tomatoes lingering patiently on the side. The sweet acidity contrasted the richness of

the steak vibrantly, lighting up the dish with its freshness.

With a heavy heart I left Garden Steak House, my stomach full and senses tingling from the divine palate experience. The signature certainly did not disappoint, and not only did it look amazing and refined, it also tasted like a dish fit for kings and queens.



ACTOR BREAKING THE MOLD

Kennis Lau 4C

Hugh Hu, or Hu Ge, born in 1982, is one of the most popular actors in China. He has more than 50 million followers on his Weibo account. But his road to success has not been smooth or easy.

Hugh began to show his talent in performing arts in his teenage years. At the age of fourteen, Hugh started to host a television show *Sunshine Youth* on the Shanghai Television Education Channel. This continued for three years. He also appeared in various commercials, a lucrative endeavour. In 2001, Hugh received offers from two prestigious performing arts institutes in China, the Central Academy of Drama for directing and Shanghai Theatre Academy for acting. He decided to enter the latter as he could have work opportunities and save money for his family when studying in his hometown, Shanghai. At university, Hugh was recommended by a friend to Tangren Media. He signed a contract with the company and thus began his acting career.

In 2005, Hugh played Li Xiaoyao in *Chinese Paladin*, a drama adaptation of a popular video game. He rose to fame and

became very popular among youngsters. However, he faced his biggest challenge in the following year. On 29 August 2006, he had a serious car accident. He survived with severe injuries, whilst his assistant died. Hugh had to undergo many operations in order to recover. He also received multiple skin transplants near his right eye. Although the operations were successful, a scar was left on his face. As a young actor, an attractive and flawless appearance was crucial to his career. He lost his perfect features after the accident, but he has not given up. Rather, he regards the scar as a badge of masculinity. He even published a book titled "Scavenger of Happiness", expounding his views on the traffic accident, interesting childhood events and his friends' support. The book proves his transformation from a young rising star to a mature actor with profound thoughts who can deal with difficulties optimistically as a "scavenger of happiness".

After the accident, Hugh became active in acting again, starting in various period dramas. To avoid being typecast, he stopped playing such roles after filming

The Myth in 2009. Instead he turned to modern dramas such as *Cafe*, *Modern People*, *Unbeatable*, *The Disguiser* and *Good Times* to extend his repertoire of acting skills.

In 2015, Hugh reached the peak of his career in his return to period drama. His portrayal of Mei Changsu in *Nirvana in Fire* won him the *Magnum Award for the Best Actor* in 2016. He is the youngest ever actor to receive this honour. His extraordinary acting skills have been recognised by the public at last.

Recently, Hugh has been appointed the Shanghai Tourism Ambassador to represent his hometown. There are two wax figures of him to be displayed in Madam Tussauds Shanghai. After overcoming the huge obstacle of disfigurement, Hugh has continued to strive hard and finally risen to stardom. A quote from Nirvana of Fire can reflect his hard work, "Since I have survived, I should not live without purpose." That is why Hugh Hu has become a top actor in China.

Is the tourism industry doing more harm than good?

Louise Lu 3E

As technology is advancing nowadays, it has become more common and popular for people to travel around the world. Most of the people enjoy exploring new things. Nevertheless, recently some people suggested that travelling brings about certain negative impacts. Despite these claims, the overall impact of travel is beneficial. The benefits can be divided into two aspects: economic and cultural aspects.

It is not hard to understand that travelling benefits the economy. In fact, both tourists and local people can enjoy some economic benefits of travelling. Tourists may find goods cheaper in some places than in their own countries. This helps them save money. They will be able to buy a variety of things too. On the other hand, since many travellers go to a place and consume, the economy grows

faster in that place. Local people therefore benefit. For instance, goods being sold in Hong Kong are usually cheap and of good quality. Many residents from Mainland China visit Hong Kong and buy a lot of things there. Due to their huge consumption, many shops and companies have made impressive profits. As the largest theme park in Hong Kong, Disneyland is one of the biggest beneficiaries. Therefore, travel is good for the economy.

There is also a positive impact of travelling on culture. Through travelling, people can have cultural exchange among one another. Different cultures, especially some special ones can be spread around the world so traditions will not disappear so easily. People can learn about different cultures and broaden their views too. Also, due to globalisation, it is essential for people to know more about places around the world. We have to take the broader view and cannot only care about

our own things in our own countries. For example, some Chinese people went to western countries and brought Chinese culture there. Nowadays, there are Chinatowns in many countries, including Canada, Britain and the USA, for example. In Hong Kong, there are many dishes which are the combinations of Chinese and Western cultures.

To summarise, it is undoubtedly clear that tourism has positive impacts on the economy and culture. Consequently, tourism should be promoted and encouraged. Even disadvantaged people should have the opportunity to go travelling. What other positive impacts will travel have in the future as travelling becomes accessible to everyone? We'll wait and see.

Height- The long and short of it

Rachel Kwan 4E
Toastmasters 16-17 Prepared Speech Contest

Good morning everyone, I'm Rachel. Like many others, my wish has always been to grow taller. When I was a baby, I was already considered to be smaller than the average new born. Even though I know it's not likely I'll reach it, being 172cm tall has always been my ideal height. I remember the moment I figured out my dad was only 160cm tall, I immediately understood that attaining my ideal height was only wishful thinking.

Actually being short is very frustrating. For example, we tend to have a narrower career path - to take up jobs such as flight attendants, supermodels and even police officers, candidates have to reach a specific height. During concerts, short people can never see anything as their view is always blocked by the giants in front of us. So more or less we are just wasting our money and effort going. Another thing is I don't know why people think short people equate to young children. Every time I see my parents'

friends, they always ask stupid questions about whether I'm in primary six or not, how old I am, what secondary school I want to study at next year or telling me to drink more milk while my mum thinks drinking milk will make me fat. I'm sure I will still be asked similar questions till the day of my secondary school graduation. Lastly, taller people love pinching my chubby face or patting my head, telling me that I'm super cute and treating me like a baby.

So here's the thing, I understand that I will remain short for the rest of my life. SO right now I'm trying my best to think of some good things about being short.

I guess short people look younger and that's what all women want. Also, during group photos, short people are always in front and our face will not be blocked by anyone. When we're holding up an umbrella to shelter two people, the tall person is always responsible for holding the umbrella - a task that can never be so my

hands will always be free. As we are smaller, we feel like we have more space in the bed and in our rooms. When we are sitting, we will always have enough leg room.

I notice that many people often look down on short people and we have relatively fewer opportunities. During the selection process in various sporting teams, coaches would prefer choosing tall people rather than short people. We are not respected by others either. I'm always being laughed at because of my height. Therefore, I hope people can stop judging others based on their height. Short people can also be smart, good at sports and we can also take up various important duties such as being a captain or a leader of a group. Although I can never reach my ideal height, I hope I can live confidently and treated equally for the rest of my life.

Thank you.

MORE THAN BIRDS AND BINOCULARS

Rudaba Rubaiyath 1E

Bird watching.....Different people have different opinions about it. Some of you might find it fascinating, while others might think, what's so great about bird watching? It's just birds!

Well, let me give you a brief idea of this activity. Yes, it's just birds and watching them with binoculars. And I can't blame you because when I heard of this, even I thought it was kind of weird. Who would like bird watching? You will ask me. Or who would like star gazing? The answers to both questions are closely related to nature. People find it relaxing to appreciate nature in a busy city life. And that's exactly how I became attached to this special hobby.

Just several months ago, in mid Primary 6, when I was drowning in study and homework, I thought, "That's enough, I can't take it anymore!" I needed some fresh air. Therefore, I picked up the phone and called my uncle who is the manager of the Hong Kong Wetland Park and asked whether I could visit him over the weekend. He agreed and additionally offered me a tour of the Park. That's how I was introduced to bird watching.

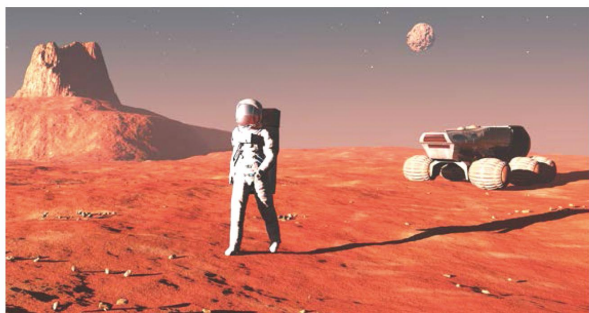
My uncle put a zoomed-in binocular in front of my eyes and suddenly I could see yellow eyes and dark feathers. For some reason, I fell in love with it and kept coming back to see birds with binoculars. At one point, I visited so frequently that it became my hobby.

Now I have become an expert on birds. If anyone asks me, "Hey Rudaba, what's that white-feathered creature with blue eyes?" I can tell you my friend, that's a blue-eyed cockatoo. I have become so obsessed with bird watching, that I'm probably starting to act like a bird myself.

There is only one challenge I might be facing in keeping up this hobby, and that problem is the bird-hunters. I have something to say to all the bird-hunters in the world: STOP HUNTING BIRDS! If you keep killing them, they'll become extinct, then we'll have nothing to watch other than ducks and can only hear their quack quack.

I don't know if I'll continue this hobby when I'm old, but I am certain that I'm thoroughly enjoying this now. Who knows, maybe one day because of this, I might discover a new bird species.





A Mission to Mars

Sophie Chan 6D

"Woah...woah...woah" so that's the feeling of weightlessness, the feeling of freedom, the feeling one possesses when you FLOAT. Before I commenced this expedition to this marvelous planet, I had done some research. Figures have shown that Mars possesses only 37% of the gravity on Earth, making you as light as a feather, as a speck of dust suspended in the vast universe, or as a light princess without gravity—I had thought of bringing a pair of lead

shoes with me in the first place, of course, but soon discarded the idea as it would not be feasible anyway. Balancing in the air does call for skills though. Spreading my arms out like wings, I moved on.

Looking down from a hovering position, Mars was a bumpy planet. Its surface was filled with solar debris and I could observe channels created by trickling liquid, possibly water. At least that would be something I could survive on. I drifted on, trying to seek actual life forms. Just then, an anchorage-like mark in the middle of a crater caught my eye. To me it seemed to be a cipher left behind by outsiders who had travelled in space. Perhaps the rumours about aliens living in space are valid. Perhaps aliens did pay a fortuitous visit to Mars not long ago, I thought, considering the fact that the mark was somehow not fully embedded into the soil. My blood ran cold for a second: what if they

decided to make a detour back to Mars? What if...they had never left?

I was casually drifting when a wave of caramel scent hit me. Not far away from where I was, I caught a glimpse of a caramel fountain, a waterfall of caramel came pouring downwards, hitting the rocks at the very bottom. If that was not a mind-boggling sight, I do not even know what is. I was awestruck by the view. Suddenly, an awesome idea crossed my mind — maybe I could manufacture actual Mars bars, from Mars! Hold on, but where could I obtain the chocolate for the coating? Hmm, I reckoned I could in some way, grow some on Mars...I mean, while I provided the carbon dioxide to this environment, it in turn could return me oxygen. But who should I sell my Mars bars to anyway, considering that this is a one-way trip... So many other problems emerged as well.

With the gas compressor attached to my back, I was given enough oxygen to support my life for three months and three months only. Afterwards, who knows what will happen to me, or the others?

A gust of strong wind swept by all of a sudden and the dust on Mars surface stirred up, slightly grazing my mask. 'Woah!' I dove down to avoid being smashed by a piece of space debris. Trust me when I say that was a close call. My mind dallied with the concept that I could return to Earth flying on the debris...but at that moment, my mission was to first enjoy the stone-hard pizzas that we had brought along. I suppose you should never complain when you are one of the few who first landed on Mars!

Excuse me, Butterflies!



Jamie Chung 2C

Have you ever caught a butterfly? For those nature lovers out there, my advice is: Don't even go near one.

I don't consider myself an adventurous person, nor a nature lover. However, somehow, I ended up visiting the Kuala Lumpur Butterfly Park and had a once-in-a-lifetime experience. It is famous for the beautiful natural scenery and the rare, vibrant butterflies. I thought the visit was going to be tedious, but I was so wrong.

The moment I stepped inside the massive house of butterflies, I was stunned by the splendid view. The house was so impressive that it was like a painting, a masterpiece, brought to life right in front of me. The professional guide was telling us some facts that fascinated every one of us. I, however, stole the spotlight at the speed of light. I felt something crawling on my shoulder, so I had a glimpse at what was happening. Guess what? There were two butterflies on my shoulder! I felt them moving and rubbing against each other hysterically. Their movement was so strange that it was getting ridiculous. The guide told me that they were in fact mak-

ing out on my shirt! I should never have worn perfume, as I smelled like flowers to them. What a mess! They didn't have the power to control themselves, did they? Poor me, standing there like a tree... Once I got out of that nasty house, I turned my gaze to my shirt. I intended to fix it. It was a colour between brown and green. It must have been the butterflies who gave me such memorable surprise. My friends found it hilarious to see me speechless because of two little butterflies. Some of them even envied me. For those who feel the same, believe me, you don't ever want to get in touch with a butterfly, wait till you find out.

After this special incident, I promised myself that I would never, ever go near a butterfly again. NEVER. If you're a kind of person like me, let's just stick to learning about nature from our television screen. Hurry for technology and say bye to outdoor visits!

Unravelling the significance of the Inspector in Priestly's mysterious play

Gigi Chan 4E

The inspector is a very important character in the play which is clear from the title, 'An INSPECTOR Calls'. The inspector is a main character who dominates nearly the whole play from his first arrival at the Birlings until the end. He is the character who brings up conflicts and moves the plot forward. His presence has a significant effect on the changes of the characters' feelings.

The flow of the whole play is mainly controlled by the inspector as he keeps demanding answers from the Birlings. The character of the inspector tells the audience what is happening. For instance, he

brings up the suicide of Eva Smith which is a major event and stirs up conflicts in the play. His demanding tone and habit of looking hard at the person he addresses create an impression of seriousness and gravity. Through his conversation with Arthur Birling, the inspector shows that he is professional and he will not back down or give in even though Arthur Birling is cocky, arrogant and threatening.

The presence of the inspector affects the plot and the changes in characters' thoughts. Before his arrival, the atmosphere in the Birlings' home is quite harmonious and joyful as Gerald Croft and

Sheila Birling announce their engagement. However, the atmosphere becomes tense and rather unpleasant as conflicts arise after the inspector breaks the news about Eva's untimely death. The Birlings have different thoughts and feelings toward the suicide of Eva Smith. The inspector is trying to find out the cause of her death and points out some past relationships between the Birlings and Eva Smith. Each of the Birlings may have indirectly caused the death of Eva Smith, according to the inspector. He accuses the Birlings of being her 'indirect murderers'. The older Birling couple seem to be all affected by the inspector's demanding tone but are

moved to anger by his accusations. On the other hand, the inspector successfully brings Gerald, Sheila and Eric to the realization of their guilt and responsibility in this death. The inspector also 'indirectly' forces Gerald and Eric to reveal their affair with Daisy Renton or Eva Smith which destroys the engagement of Gerald and Sheila in the end.

After the departure of the inspector at the end of the story, the atmosphere of the Birlings' home is not as cordial as it is at the beginning which shows a contrast in the atmosphere in the beginning and the end of the play.

The inspector dominates the whole play and controls the flow of the plot. His presence causes the changes in the feelings of other characters and the atmosphere of the Birling family. His character proves to be a significant place in the whole play. His name Goole which sounds like the word, 'ghoul', is also dramatically significant. Like the ghost of Eva, he has come to haunt the people who have a hand in her death. It is not surprising that the police say there is no such officer on the force because he represents the voice of moral conscience.



Which text (Lord of the Flies, Life of Pi and The Taming of the Shrew) makes the harshest comment on human nature?

Regina Yip 5D

Amongst the three texts, Lord of the Flies makes the harshest comment on human nature. Whilst Golding's novel sheds light on man's inherent evil and inevitable fall, the film 'Life of Pi' and the play The Taming of the Shrew emphasize the coexistence of good and evil in humanity.

Redemption is found only in 'Life of Pi' and The Taming of the Shrew but not Lord of the Flies. Pi redeems himself by creating the story of Richard Parker and acknowledges the evil that man is capable of. He comes to terms with his alter ego, which has kept his sanity and learns to control his unbridled instincts. In the end, he also returns to civilization with more insight on humanity. Redemption in 'Life of Pi' is created through fiction as Pi has accepted his other self. In Shakespeare's play, redemption is achieved as Katherine regains acceptance from a norm-governed society. Katherine's metamorphosis from a belligerent shrew to a modest maid signifies the success of Petruchio's taming. Her redemption is illustrated by her last speech, when she finally acknowledges women's duties in a patriarchal society. In Lord of the Flies, however, the boys experience no redemption because of their pursuit of 'fun and games'. Rescue is meant to be their redemption but their bloodlust and desire to hunt have driven them to give up on the signal fire. This sheds light on the theme of man's inevitable fall, as the boys' democratic government is doomed in face of their overwhelming desire to kill. The absence of redemption is proof of the writer's pessimism towards humanity.

Triumph of evil over human goodness is depicted in Lord of the Flies but not

in the other two texts. In the novel, the death of Simon, who embodies human goodness, symbolises their fall. As Jack's cult grows in power, the boys gradually and unknowingly become the beast they abhor. This paves the way for the collapse of Ralph's government and Piggy's death, which demonstrates that human civilization is bound to fall in man's race to recognize their inherent darkness. 'Life of Pi' and The Taming of the Shrew, on the contrary, lay emphasis on the coexistence of good and evil that lie within humanity. In 'Life of Pi', while Pi is compelled to accept the evil in human nature, his compassion, developed from his childhood, for his companion Richard Parker never wanes and he even tames his alter ego successfully. In The Taming of the Shrew, the 'evil' that prevails is the prejudice towards women in a mercantile, misogynist society headed by patriarchy. For instance, taming a woman is a misogynist act. Nonetheless, human goodness notwithstanding fatherly love, such as that manifesting by Vincentio for Lucentio, has never disappeared throughout the play. Therefore, Lord of the Flies makes the harshest comment on humanity by deliberately illustrating the loss of innocence and human goodness among the boys.

Although transformation of characters are involved in all three texts, the boys' regression in Lord of the Flies is due to the choice they make while the spiritual growth of Pi and Katherine's metamorphosis are shaped by external factors. In Lord of the Flies, the boys' preference of Jack's tyranny over Ralph's sensible governance implies their inevitable degeneration. Their transformation from civilized English schoolboys to primitive savages is the heinous fruit of their choice as well as their desire to hunt. In 'Life of Pi', however, Pi is forced to unleash and follow his instincts in order to survive. He would

not have survived the extreme and harsh physical conditions without the presence of his alter ego. For instance, he would have starved to death if he never finds the courage to kill the fish. That Pi follows his instincts is not his choice but shaped by extreme circumstances. In The Taming of the Shrew, Katherine's capitulation to Petruchio's authority is involuntary, but it leads her to regain acceptance by others instead of being isolated and discriminated against. The writer's harsh comment on man's nature can be seen in the boys' voluntary regression. The choice they make leads them to their fall whereas the protagonists in the other texts adapt to their situations and as a result, achieve personal growth.

The idea of companionship has also proved that Lord of the Flies makes the harshest comments on human nature. The alliance of Ralph and Piggy, symbolising common sense and reason, is defeated by Jack's cult which pursues 'fun and games' instead of law and order. In the end, Ralph weeps for his lost friend Piggy. In 'Life of Pi', the success of Pi and Richard Parker's alliance has enabled Pi to survive his ordeal in the Pacific Ocean. Although Pi is overwhelmed by Richard Parker at first, he slowly learns to tame him and he has even developed sentiments for him. When Richard Parker leaves him so unceremoniously in the end, he feels disheartened, which reinforces the idea that the coexistence of good and evil does not always end with man's fall. In the last scene of The Taming of the Shrew, Petruchio and Katherine can finally consummate their marriage. Petruchio's line "Come, Kate, we'll to bed" shows sign of intimacy between the two protagonists and reveals their companionship. The idea of love suggests the commendable side of humanity.

Elements of love and sentiments between family members can only be found in 'Life of Pi' and The Taming of the Shrew but not Lord of the Flies. In the film, the motherly love form Pi's mother and pure love he experiences with Anandi contribute to Pi's understanding towards human goodness. His exposure to different religions also fosters his belief in love. This explains his belief in man's fundamental goodness as a child before the shipwreck. In The Taming of the Shrew, the fatherly love of Baptista and Vincentio reveals the positive side of humanity. Despite Baptista's favouritism towards Bianca, he actually fulfils his responsibility as a father to find a husband who can ensure Katherine's financial security. Vincentio's love towards Lucentio can be seen in Act 5 when he approves of his son's marriage. Elements of love can therefore be found in both works. Lord of the Flies, however, lacks female characters to present the warm and feminine side of human nature. The only female figure, the sow, which is a symbol of maternity and motherly love, is even murdered by the boys who relish the hunt. Therefore, the lack of love and female characters in the novel makes the harshest comment on human nature, as it emphasises the crudeness of masculine power over feminine nurturing love.

In conclusion, Lord of the Flies makes the harshest comment on humanity with its emphasis on the corrupt nature and inevitable fall of man. That said, human nature depicted in all three texts are not culturally specific. Just as what Golding says in 'Table', "it could happen anywhere". But while the other two texts offer glimpses of goodness, Lord of the Flies ends with the cautionary note that man tend to be blind to their own diseased nature.

HONG KONG IN THE 70S: A DAY IN THE LIFE OF AN ICE CREAM VENDOR

Lau Wing Tung Koni 3A

The warm sunlight passed through the window and crawled onto my face. The light was soft and weak but still, it woke me up. I put on my T-shirt and got ready for work.

I walked along the street with my motor bike with a freezer attached to it. It was dawn but there were already a lot of my friends getting ready to work along the street. "Good morning, John. Don't you want to have a nice haircut? Your hair looks messy," said Peter my friend, who was a street barber. I smiled at him and went away. I woke up late today so I had to walk faster.

I arrived at the street next to Ying Wa Girls' School, where I worked, at 7:30 a.m. I looked up at the sky. The blue of the sky was beautiful and I could see the sun peering behind the soft clouds. "It'll probably be a good day," I thought.

I set things up and sat on the motor bike to wait for the first child to come. "Mom! Mom! There's an ice-cream vendor!" a child used his fat finger to point at me. I smiled at him and stood up to get ready to take an ice-cream from the

freezer. The child's mother thought for a while and took out 30 cents to buy an ice-cream for the chubby little child. The child then jumped away with his freezing ice-cream.

It was getting hotter and hotter in the afternoon. It was scorching. I could feel that my shirt was all wet as I was sweating like a pig. "Ring! Ring!" the bell of the school nearby rang. The students were jostling out of the school afterwards. I stood up and tried to smile to conceal the tiredness on my wrinkled face and to attract the children.

Meanwhile, children queued in front of my freezer. "Good afternoon, Uncle John! May I have a chocolate ice-cream, please?" they asked politely. I could see how they were hoping to have something freezing cold in this hot summer day.

A little girl came last. She had two nicely tied pigtails on her head. She gave me 30 cents and asked, "May I have one, please, Uncle John? I would like to give it to a point I respect." "Of course," I said, using the shirt to clean the sweat on my face and gave her an ice-cream. She took it and

then gave it back to me. I looked at her, puzzled, and asked, "What's the matter?" "Uncle John, this ice-cream is for you! You work every day under the sun so here's your ice-cream," said the little girl. I took the ice-cream from her little hand, feeling a bit strange. She then grinned at me and hopped away.

I looked at the girl jumping away and then the melting ice-cream. I felt that my heart was melting with the ice-cream and it was as sweet as the ice-cream, too. Something came out of my eyes and when a breeze swept past my face, I could feel the coldness of it. I was quite sure that it was not my sweat.

At 7 pm at night, I went back home happily. It was quite an unusual feeling as I used to be tired after a day's work. When I walked by a letter writer on the street, I told him to write a letter for my son, who was studying in a foreign country. I told the letter writer to write: "I've told you that I wanted to stop working as I'm too tired of working as an ice-cream vendor for the whole of my life. Well, I have changed my mind..."

