

ACE

English Enhancement Edition 2017



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2016-2017 P.6 English Enhancement Class

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Foreword

The second time I made this anthology for my P.6 English Enhancement Class. These pieces do not only represent the hard work and creative endeavours of Ying Wa Primary School's students, they also record part of the colourful literary journey I had been through with my fellow course participants. I am particularly delighted knowing these kids actually enjoyed and valued the learning they had in the year-long enhancement class and found the poetry elements fascinating.

I hope that this humble journal is merely a start for these budding writers' limitless creative journeys in their own directions. While I cannot demand everybody to appreciate language arts to this extent, especially that this is not often within the so-called assessment scope, I think these pieces tell you loud and clear what these children's imagination can reach – be it light-hearted or serious, first person or third, rhythmic or free, verse or essay...these heart pieces never fail to touch me every time when I revisit them.

I sincerely thank the parents of these authors for their trust of the school, and certainly I must thank these boys for giving me the motivation to once again put together this anthology for the course, and importantly, as a souvenir for the children involved. It is an indication of some form of harvest and accomplishment.

The anthology is humble, but our literary ambition should always be bold.

Dr Ho Cheung LEE

July 2017

P.S. The cover art does represent something...Do speak to one of the authors if you're confused by the funny faces!

[haiku]

Joshua Lam 6E

morning
black and lonely
as night

the world
magnificent and marvelous
without sound

I see clearly
I hear precisely and write correctly
I write



[haiku]

Max Chu 6E

tick-tack on the roof
silver pearls reach the ground
mushrooms

breaking the darkness
a golden dragon appears
cracking everything

drumming in the sky
frightening all the creatures
rain approaches



Creatures of Nature

Mike Wong 6E

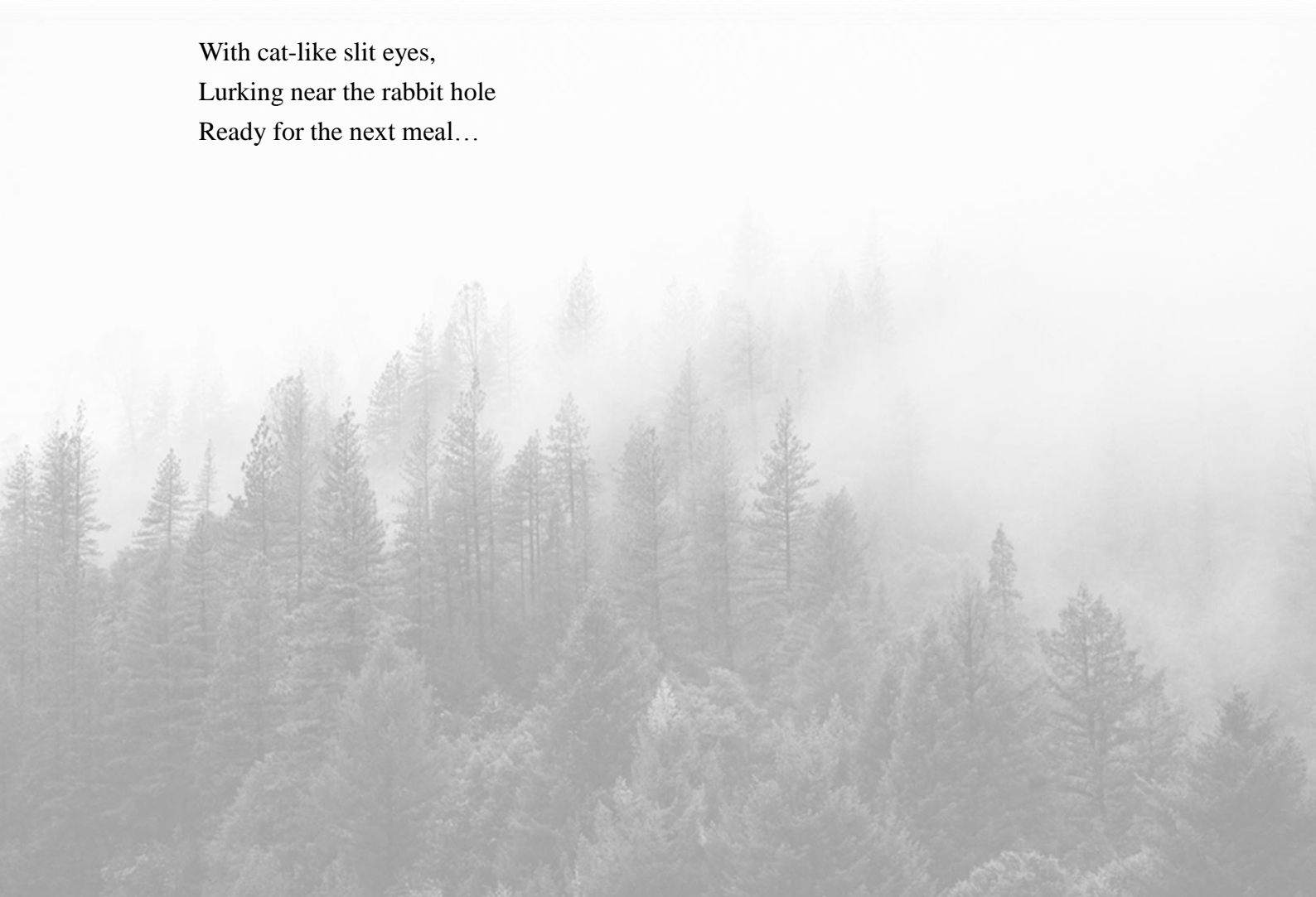
Underground army,
Working for their supreme queen
Marching like soldiers.

Moon shine bright at night,
Long howls declare “we are here!”
All preys quickly hide.

Pillow of feathers,
Keen-eyed bump of tundra snow
Bolts when lemming dives.

Salt water splashing,
Underwater troublemakers
Playing hide and seek.

With cat-like slit eyes,
Lurking near the rabbit hole
Ready for the next meal...



Hooray for Ice Cream!

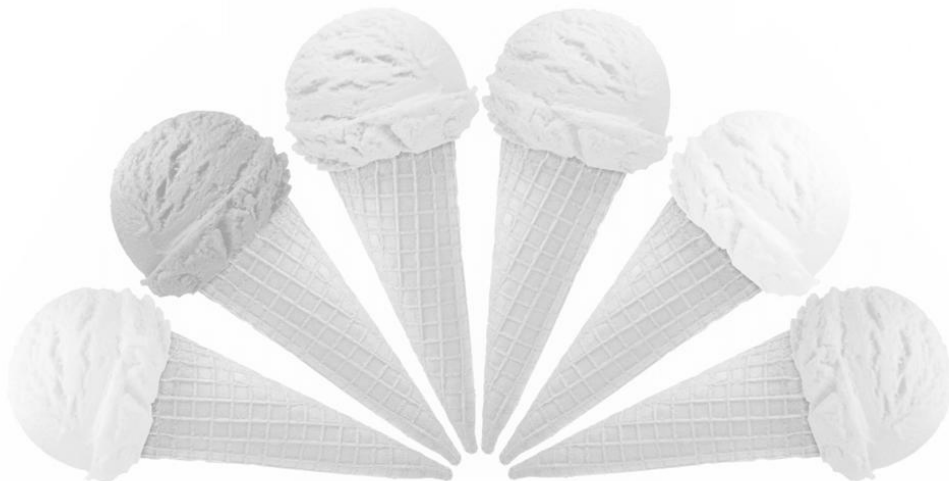
Matthew Chan 6E

Who doesn't adore ice-cream cones
They make everyone beam
I love them in an assortment of flavours
Which are not as simple as it seems

A scoopful of spicy chocolate
Is a great way of dessert
And salmon gelato
Will absolutely not hurt

I am a fan of the lobster flavour
What a perfect taste of seafood
Ah, and the wacky combo of soup and cheese
Will keep me away from disquietude

A unique mingle of frozen greatness
Catches up my appetite
Do you like it? It doesn't matter
As long as no one steals my bite



The Best Present Ever!

Jonathan Chan 6E

I want to tell a secret
That none of you should know
I own a homework helper
That's super great – let's go!

It's quite a joke to say so
But I won't tell a bluff
It really is so clever
So I do not need to huff

It gobbles up your homework
And gulps it to the guts
It comes out just next second
Mistake-free from its butt

You must not leak this secret
But keep it very well
Or else I'd be in trouble
And may be thrown to hell!



Me

Moses Mui 6B

My heart is full of magnets,
I have a fridge inside.
My heart is full of metals,
I use my stuff with pride.

My bones are full of liquid,
I have my joints as stone.
My bones are different objects,
I drive my cells alone.

My brain is not for thinking.
My brain is like a pig.
A pig is dull so I will
Put on a crazy wig.

My body's quite abnormal.
It's not the stupid kind.
A day, you'll find me useful,
You may make up your mind.



In Pets' Point of View

James Tam 6E

I am a lazy fluffy cat
lying on my comfy mat,
wearing a funny hat,
getting ready to rest.

I am a faithful fuzzy dog
barking fiercely to strangers.
Being friends of human,
helpful as a watchdog.

I am the most elegant goldfish in the world.
I submerge under water all day,
practising medley swimming relay,
Dreaming to get an Olympic medal one day.

I am a fat chunky hamster.
I go around the hamster wheel on the floor
until my feet gone sore.
Now I couldn't move anymore!



The Soup

Pereira Martins Lucas Constantino 6B

At this amazing party,
we serve this boiling pot
with clams and fish and scallops,
and water which is hot.

With mimes and limes and slimes there,
and they will stir the soup.
With joyful monkeys inside,
and playing hoola hoop!

A stone, a clock, a jacket,
I think they are essential.
For this delicious stone soup,
its recipe is crucial.

Did you enjoy the party,
with coal and mole and bowls?
I think you actually don't,
'cuz this is cooked for crows!



Frowny Mikey

Jonathan Chan 6E

There was a boy called Mikey
He's short and had a frown
Being gloomy was his best thing
Even when he saw a clown

A man wants him to laugh out
So one day, at free time
He strolls to Mikey's classroom
And acted like a mime

Mikey remained his sad look
The man felt so upset
The man thought of a new trick
Yep, that's the best trick yet!

The man kidnapped poor Mikey
Even though he had a guard
The man tickled sad Mikey
Which made Mike laugh so hard

The man was glad and happy
Like he ate candy canes
But his smile's gone too early
As Mike was sad again



A Dark Lane

Pereira Martins Lucas Constantino 6B

A dark lane. The wind silently whistled into my heart as the scars of the walls slowly expanded. The colourless sky brightly shone at my very eyes. I sat on the rivering mud, with my beloved people. A moving figure slowly got closer, and closer, and closer; and as the clings of metal fell to the ground, I just felt like I found light in darkness, hope in despair.

walls bleeding
waiting while listening
to the hums of hope



Behind the President

Moses Mui 6B

The one with the golden hair and fashion
regretting
that he participated in the election
which he won unexpectedly.
Now, he must face his supporters
and the public with fake dignity
some proudly cheered
while others booed.
The public
is where the president
is being behind iron bars.

The U.S.A.'s fate depends on him,
now it's for him to decide.
The power is in his hands.
Only one thing.
He is trapped inside the White House
for four long years of torture.
And his true excuse is?

Hillary Diane Rodham Clinton.



A Pearl from the Book

Preston Wong 6B

A lot of children have happy childhoods, but 10-year-old Dave never had that. His parents died years ago, and he was left alone in the dirty back alleys of Downtown Chicago.

A wisp of light zoomed through the alley. The light soon disappeared and from the sky dropped a book. The curious child opened it and out rolled a pearl. It glistened and sparkled in the moonlight. He felt extremely happy, as if he never felt this before.

Every day he looked at it in wonder, in the morning it was his alarm clock, when he bumped into it, he felt comfortable and woke up in his deep sleep. At noon, they would play together and play chase and wait for bread crumbs to drop into the empty garbage bin. At night, it would shine and take him into the sky on a journey to reach the moon.

It was his only companion, his only laughter in sadness, hope in darkness. Until one day, he decided to play chase with it on the busy sidewalk during lunch hour. They were zooming side by side and didn't notice a man.

"Stop! Youngster, what do you think you're doing, running with a tennis ball!" yelled the man. The boy didn't really know language that much, so he didn't respond.

"Where are your parents?" asked the man. Suddenly, the pearl shone as bright as the sun, the boy quickly made his escape while nobody saw him, and he was never seen on the streets ever again. That's a perfect time to let Dave adventure on with the pearl.



The Golden Beast

Edwin Chan 6B

The golden beast roared and sprinted after the herd, their black and white stripes shimmering confusingly in the late afternoon. The great cat was an experienced and seasoned hunter, and his eyes locked his target – a juvenile. It wasn't fast enough to keep up with the herd, and the hunter could easily hunt him down. But he needed to be careful. If one of its legs hit the predator's head, he would suffer a severe injury. When he got within striking distance, he pounced. His claws sank into the horse's neck and he dropped to the ground. He would never move again.



Burgers Attack

Scott Wong 6B

Yesterday, it was a special experience for me.

My family and I were walking down the street while scavenging for the newest mobile phone, the “O-phone 7”. We searched for the nearest retail store on Google map. As we were walking past an aisle of stores, twice a dozen of hamburgers shot out of McDonald’s windows.

“Why are there so many hamburgers?” asked my little brother.

“It is because –” I said.

“Run! ASAP!” cried my mum.

I was not sure why but the hamburgers began sprouting eyes, arms and legs and a moustache. Then they cried out “hamburgers” and began splitting like germs and chasing us.

Suddenly, the fire department rushed towards us and I thought, there were so many burgers now, how could they chop them with their axes? In a flash, water began spraying everywhere. The hamburgers withered in a gong as they were soaked.

We thanked the firemen and kept looking for the phone.



A Review on BALLOONS Lit. Journal (Issue 4)

Edwin Chan 6B

This is the fourth issue of the online literary journal, BALLOONS Lit. Journal. Besides having short stories and poems, this journal also contains some drawing and photography. Under each piece of literature or art, there is a short biography about the author or artist. Some pieces are about time (such as Scott Merrow's "Time in a Box", Jacqueline Jules' "Waiting" and Gabrielle Horvath's "All in a Day's Work"). It talks about a kid's itch to grow up in "Waiting", and how scenery changes in the same spot as time passes by in "All in a Day's Work". Some of the pieces are about childhood too (such as Monika John's "Carnival" and Aubrey Bjork's "The Treehouse Monster"). Carnival talks about an adult's memory of carnivals he went to when he was small, while The Treehouse Monster is about a child's wild imagination of a monster which was about to eat her up. With different themes and interesting stories, this journal makes a very good read.

I like this issue very much. Like the previous issues, it has lots of beautiful paintings and photography. The first collection of drawings is also used for the cover and the back cover design. I think that these abstract drawings represent the freedom of architecture, since our school's theme is about architecture this year. The other set of drawings by Allen Forrest captures in drawings people's normal lifestyle in Chinatown. The set of photographs taken by Ashley Carlon shows the everyday life of the photographer's children, only to be captured in black and white.

Besides artwork, there are also seven short stories. Each story has its own unique feature, but most of the pieces have one thing in common – they have a twist in the end and you often don't know what the story is trying to tell you until the end, such as "Hot Lava" by Nicholas Froumis and "The Accident" by Rebecca Linam. In "Hot Lava", I initially thought that the main character Madeline really was a famous nature photographer. It was until the end of the story when I finally found out Madeline was actually a little girl, not a celebrated nature photographer. In "The Accident", I was puzzled because Erin ignored Cecily as though Erin couldn't see her. In the end, I learnt that Cecily was actually dead, and nobody could see her or hear her.

Of all the interesting stories and poems, my favorite one is "Please Do Not Read This Poem" by Daniel Galef. I like it the most because it is easily the most hilarious piece in

this journal. This poem has catchy rhyming and in its last line, words gradually faded away!

Overall, this journal is very good, filled with excellent stories, poems and artwork.



Comparing “Balloons” by Jay Lee and “Fishbowl” by Savannah Tabor (BALLOONS Lit. Journal Issue 5)

Joshua Lam 6E

I’ve read the “Balloons” by Jay Lee and “Fishbowl” by Savannah Tabor and I find them really amazing. “Balloons” and “Fishbowl” are both amazing fictions but in completely different style, title and overall impression, and now, let me comment and compare them.

Impression

For “Balloons”, I think it hides the fact that Beatrice, the main character of the fiction is an orphan and she lives in an orphanage. It confused me as there are lots of Beatrice’s memories flashing in the story while she is just sitting by the window and looking out of it. I asked a question, “What happened?” There must be something the writer was hiding from me (or other readers). The story gave me a “click” that Beatrice goes out to the corridor and I knew the whole thing.

For “Fishbowl”, I think that the narrator is simply insane, she talks to a fish! What’s more she takes her fish to the vet only because she thinks her fish is as lonely as she was. But then, I felt sorry for the narrator that she was very lonely and that causes her insanity (that’s my thought). I’m more curious about what happened to the fish than what happened to the lonely narrator.

Title

“Balloons” is a title that is more personal about Beatrice than “Fishbowl” is about the narrator, yet “Fishbowl” has another meaning that if you want to explore the world and meet some friends, you must not be trapped by the “fishbowl” and you should leave your comfort-zone and try.

Style

Comparing “Balloons” to “Fishbowl”, “Fishbowl” has a narrator while “Balloons” doesn’t have. “Balloons” creates huge curiosity in me as I really wanted to know what has happened to Beatrice and it made me wanted to read

as fast as possible and reach the end. On the other hand, “Fishbowl” makes me feel sorry for the narrator that her lonely experience hurts her and changes her very much. Contrastingly, somehow I don’t want to continue to read “Fishbowl” because I don’t want to see something bad happens to the narrator and make her life worse. Fortunately, the narrator is fine. While there are some many differences between “Fishbowl” and “Balloons”, there is one similarity, which is that Beatrice and the fish owner feel real and let me create emotions.

Although there are many differences between “Fishbowl” and “Balloons”, they are really good fictions that fascinate me. Therefore, sincerely, I recommended to you both pieces: “Fishbowl” by Savannah Tabor and “Balloons” by Jay Lee.



Comparison Between “The Best Poem You’ll Ever Read” and “In a Blue Hotel” (BALLOONS Lit. Journal Issue 5)

Matthew Chan 6E

“The Best Poem You’ll Ever Read” and “In a Blue Hotel” are both super interesting poems placed in Dr Lee’s BALLOONS Lit. Journal, they have a lot in common, however the content is dissimilar. In the following, I will make a comparison between these poems on their use of vocabulary, style and my impression on them.

The vocabulary of the two poems is a must-say. You can almost see the poets playing with diction, and swapping different words and adjectives to make the lines very mismatching. The diction of “In a Blue Hotel” is so carefully picked that it’s rich, but at the same time the mismatching and the randomized effect are bravo. For “The Best Poem You’ll Ever Read”, the range of vocabulary is not as wide but the compound adjectives are definitely the icing on the cake. They change the feeling from just using one adjective. I think I’ll have to tie this as the techniques used in the diction are both extremely high regarding these two pieces.

To continue with the comparison, I will compare the style of these two poems. Both poems are written in a humorous way that will dazzle the readers. Adjectives are used commonly to express the situations. I am satisfied with how the poet described the Blue Hotel in a fun style, super enjoyable and entertaining. I am also feeling great about how “The Best Poem You’ll Ever Read” is casually written and soothes the readers. I think I’ll have to really make this a tie again, as I have no idea which poem gets a slight upper hand in terms of style, and I’m really enjoying the style of both poems.

It’s two ties, and let’s see if my overall impression can determine which poem is better. I love poems which are very light, and interact with the readers. That’s why I had to go for “The Best Poem You’ll Ever Read”. I think the compound adjectives really made the poem stand out, and it’s really achieving a fun effect. “The Best Poem You’ll Ever Read” is better to me in my overall impression.

I had fun with these two poems while reading them. They are nicely crafted and have nice use of diction. “The Best Poem You’ll Ever Read” is very unique to me and I felt that the narrator was talking to me while I was reading, that’s why I think that it’s

better. Well chosen pieces for the journal. These two poems have made me see poetry very differently!



Analysis for “In a blue hotel” and “The best poem you’ll ever read” (BALLOONS Lit. Journal Issue 5)

Ambrose Lau 6B

“In A Blue Hotel” and “The Best Poem you’ll ever read” are both fun pieces to read. Here are some interesting comparisons between them:

“The Best Poem You’ll Ever Read” is an interactive poem, which means it encourages the reader to think and makes the reader a part of the story. “In a Blue Hotel” is a narrative poem and has mentioned the setting (A blue hotel’s happenings at night) in the poem.

Both of the poems’ vocabulary is mismatching, for example, in “In a Blue Hotel”, there was a moonstruck mouse, a crooning chimp on the bellboy’s head, mopey mines, and things you don’t normally see walking down the street. “The Best Poem You’ll Ever Read” goes for a different approach, but still mismatching. Like “Do-or-Die” and “Hello-and-Goodbye”, they are adjectives being put together. The adjectives also rhyme with each other, which is a new rhyming style.

“In a Blue Hotel” used a lot of “show-not-tell” skills to tell the readers how crazy and ballistic the hotel is. There are weird people with weird clothing in weird places. “The Best Poem You’ll Ever Read” is actually talking about how the narrator can’t make up his mind for what kind of poem he likes. But, at last, he does, and tells us to write it down.

To conclude, I personally think they are both interesting poems as the vocabulary is absurd. The words themselves are okay, but when they go with other words, they wouldn’t be normal. That’s why I like them all.

About the Authors

MIKE WONG, a twelve-year-old human being based in Hong Kong, is famous for being the shortest of all (and for being ‘kidnapped’ by the enhancement class teacher). He is a Youtuber, videographer, photographer, writer and student all at the same time; and expertise in eating expensive food (but never really gain weight by eating, somehow), watching YouTube, pranking his sister and begging his parents to get him unreasonably expensive toys. Currently, he is trying to make a video about proving Illuminati but has failed multiple times due to lack of props, evidence and space in his hard drive.

MAX CHU, a twelve-year-old boy, is one of the members of 2016-2017 English Enhancement Class in his school. He likes the nature and history for which he has achieved a lot of prizes in competitions. So he always relates history stories to his poems or expository writings. He is a collector of postcards. He uses the beautiful scenes on postcards to write wonderful poems.

JOSHUA LAM, a 12 years old boy who is currently a P.6 student in Ying Wa Primary School, came to the world on the Boxing Day of 2004 as a present from God for his parents. He is one of the twelve members of the English Enhancement Class. The Ying Wa boy adores neither being a victim nor a pranker in a prank but loves watching people prank others. He is also a study guru and knows everything about study skills. But in fact, his results are not so brilliant. Joshua is a passionate bullet journalist who truly believes bullet journal is the best invention, best organiser and best planner in the world. He is currently doing a lot of projects including promoting bullet journal, writing a Chinese novel, inventing the best productive app in the world, planning the trip to Japan, creating a Hai (Haiku, Haiga, Haibun) journal etc. He enjoys life!

MOSES MUI is an about-to-be-twelve book collector with an exaggerating facial expression. He lives in a small flat between factories in West Kowloon. He adores dogs, for which he has a sheltie named Marble (approx. 3.0301369863 years old) and is planning to have a second one. He loves relaxation and hopes to immigrate to Europe. When he leaves home, he would bring a wooden wand bought in Diagon Alley (London) and a cyan lightsaber just in case Voldemort or Darth Vader sneaks on him.

MATTHEW CHAN is a good-looking guy in the Ying Wa P.6 English Enhancement Class. His passion for writing earned him a Commendation in the 2016/2017 Hong Kong Budding Poets (English) Award. He also won the Champion in his school's Creative Writing Competition in 2016. Upon his amazing writing adventure, he is also a fan of Lego and has a few huge Lego sets in his home. Do not disturb him living in his small apartment in Hong Kong as he will either be busy doing homework or playing with his iPhone. His best works include "Totally Christmas-ty", "Different Emotions", and there will be more to come.

JAMES TAM, 11 years old, is a full-time student of Ying Wa Primary School and a member of the English Enhancement Class and Debating Team. He enjoys reading, writing and speaking a lot and won verse speaking prizes in the Hong Kong Schools Speech Festival. He is a movie lover so don't feel surprised if you see him in the cinema one day. Movie plots give him new creative ideas to write stories.

JONATHAN CHAN, a great video-game player and also a handsome and charming reader and writer, is in the Ying Wa Primary School P.6 English Enhancement Class. He got a second place and third place in the 68th Hong Kong Schools Speech Festival. He has great passion in writing poems and essays. Eyes often glued to either books or the little iPhone screen of his, he is a real bookworm and a fan of Clash Royale. His writings published in this anthology include "The Best Present Ever" and "Frowny Mikey". Two funny and creative poems which will definitely make you laugh out loud. Have fun!

EDWIN CHAN is an eleven-year-old human (who is actually a cow in disguise to his friends) and a member of the English Enhancement Class. He loves to write creative stories, and likes folding paper even more. One of his stories was published in the Hong Kong Young Writers Award 2017 anthology. If you want to meet him, don't bring scissors.

AMBROSE LAU lives in Tai Koo and is a full time student in Ying Wa Primary School and is currently an 11-year-old who is still recovering from ailurophobia (fear of cats) (Once, a cat tried to scratch his face). He is a total science-fiction fan and it would've been better for him if he hadn't seen that Star Wars holiday special a few years ago. If you want his attention, bring him a lightsaber.

PEREIRA MARTINS LUCAS CONSTANTINO apparently is known to be having the longest English name in Hong Kong and he often spells it wrongly. He enjoys writing poems (especially haiku) in a fantastic green book named “Enhancement Class Journal”. Just remember if you somehow decide to be his friend, buy more chairs, because he has a super ability – whenever he sits on a chair, it breaks.

SCOTT WONG, a student who attends an enhancement class with 11 other students taught by Dr. Lee, is a crazy boy who has crazy dreams. His writing “My Dream Car” got a Merit in the school’s Creative Writing Competition. He is very generous as he “donated” five packs of his abs to food and did a “plastic surgery” to make his only pack bigger. He is now working on his rap called “Cow Attack” which will make you grow a moo-stache (moustache made out of cow fur).

PRESTON WONG is a full time student at Ying Wa Primary School. He likes writing a lot more than speaking (apparently) and he composes a lot of his writings in his “Enhancement Class Journal”. He is also a student of the awesomely amazing Dr. Lee! He is still in search of the entrance into Area 51.

Ying Wa Primary School

