

The Merit of English Division
Junior Division

Name of Winner: Li Wai Yiu

Name of School: The ELCHK Yuen Long

Lutheran Secondary School

**Book Title: Harry Potter and the Philosopher's
Stone**

Author: J. L. Rowling

Publisher: Bloomsbury Publishing

Have you ever wondered what would the world be if magic really exists? If so, I highly recommend this story book “Harry Potter and the Philosopher’s Stone” to you because you can step into this brand new magical world in this book.

I am certain that you are going to finish it in one sitting!

This enchanting story begins with the endless letters from Hogwarts. Harry Potter, who is a boy with lightning scar, then becomes a wizard at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. He meets his best friends, Hermione and Ron there. They accidentally discover the three-headed dogs, which guard the Philosopher's Stone. The Stone can let Voldemort, who kills Harry's parent and leaves a lightning scar on Harry's head, to get his power back. After seeing Voldemort in the Forbidden Forest, Harry is worried that Voldemort may steal the Stone. Therefore, they decide to go through the trapdoor and stop Professor Snape, whom they think he is going to help Voldemort steal the Stone. While they are looking for the Stone, they get through many challenges. For example, Devil's Snare, winged keys, chess, bottles of ice..... However, Snape is not the one who wants

to steal the Stone, Quirrell does! Eventually, after several fights, Harry successfully protects the Stone from Voldermort.

After reading this book, I learnt three life lessons. To begin with, don't judge a book by its cover. At first, all three of them hate Professor Snape and think He wants to steal the Stone. However, Harry finds out that Professor Snape just wants to protect him from Quirrell's attack instead of killing him. It inspired me that we have to be rational. We cannot judge only with our own perspective. Otherwise, we will mistake what's wrong or right.

Furthermore, standing up for yourselves. It may be tough, but rewarding. In the book, Neville Longbottom is intimidated by Malfoy. But with the encouragement of Ron and Harry, he stands up for himself even though he is scared. Because of his bravery, the headmaster Dumbledore rewards him 10 points so Gryffindor wins the House Cup. It shows that being afraid doesn't mean you are weak. On the contrary, standing up when you are scared is what makes you brave. I am sure most of you have heard the word 'bullying' before. Bullying is one of the most serious problems between teenagers. I think all of the teenagers should realise and understand the importance of standing up for themselves. When they are bullied, they have to be brave and not afraid of the bullies. And they may successfully stop the bullies, just like how Neville stops Malfoy's teasing.

Last but not least, don't be afraid to ask for help. Harry realises that he can't get very far in the wizarding world without help. For example, he nervously asks Mrs Weasley for help at King's Cross and he recovers the Stone with the help of Ron and Hermione. As a teenager, I understand we always faced a lot of difficulties, but we never asked for help. Perhaps it is because we are too timid to speak of our needs. However, this is fine to ask for help, just like Harry does.

The most impressive character for me is Harry Potter. Not only because he fights against the Lord Voldemort, but his humble personality. Although he is extremely well-known in wizarding world, he keeps being humble, which makes him different from Voldemort. For instance, Harry wants

friends while Voldemort only wants followers. Being humble is very important that if you are too confident about yourself, you may not work hard next time and you will have a worse result. Take me as an example, I was very confident in my Chinese exam since I had been the first place for two years in primary school. However, once I was not humble and started being too confident about myself, I didn't work as hard as before in my next exam. As a result, I got my worst results ever! That made me believe humble and hard work are the only paths to success.

This record-breaking, multi-award-winning Harry Potter series have a "magic" ----- you cannot put it down once you open them. "Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone" is a

masterpiece that you can enjoy the fascinating plot while having precious life lessons. Why not give it a shot?