

The Merit of English Division
Junior Division

Name of Winner: Lam Yan Ngai, Kristy

Name of School: Heep Yunn School

Book Title: The Midnight Library

Author: Matt Haig

Publisher: Canongate Books

"The Midnight Library" by Matt Haig is a thought-provoking novel that follows Nora Seed's journey through a library that exists between life and death. Nora, burdened by regret, explores alternate versions of her life in the library's books. Through these experiences, she confronts her choices and the consequences they have had on her happiness. As Nora navigates different lives, she learns to let go of regrets and embrace the present moment.

The book raises profound questions about the nature of regret, the pursuit of happiness, and the power of self-reflection. "The Midnight Library" is a powerful exploration of life's possibilities and a reminder to live authentically and without regret.

I chose to read the book "The Midnight Library" by Matt Haig because it had received numerous positive reviews and recommendations from friends. The premise of the book intrigued me—a library that exists between life and death, where the protagonist, Nora Seed, can explore alternate versions of her life. The idea of a library that offers a chance to experience alternative paths seems fascinating to me, and I was curious to see how the protagonist, Nora Seed, would navigate this unique opportunity. Before reading the book, I

had high expectations due to the acclaim it had received and the intriguing nature of the story. "The Midnight Library" did surpass my expectations. The book explores themes of regret, second chances, and the importance of living a life true to oneself. It delves deep into the complexities of human emotions and the choices we make.

One aspect that truly stood out was the character development. Nora's struggles with depression and the feeling of being stuck in a life filled with regrets are portrayed authentically. This character is relatable to me as I am also struggling with depression these days. As she explores the different lives in the Midnight Library, she confronts her regrets and gains insights into what truly

matters in life. The emotional journey that Nora undertakes is both heart-wrenching and inspiring.

The book is filled with thought-provoking philosophical ideas with the exploration of themes of self-discovery and the pursuit of happiness. Each alternate life Nora experiences in the Midnight Library presents her with a different set of circumstances, highlighting the consequences of various life choices. It reminds the reader to reflect on their own choices and contemplate the paths not taken. The narrative raises profound questions about the nature of happiness and what it means to lead a fulfilling life. Also, it touches on the concept of infinite possibilities and the power of imagination. The Midnight Library serves as a metaphorical space where Nora can examine her life and

make peace with her regrets, ultimately finding a sense of acceptance and self-compassion.

Overall, "The Midnight Library" exceeded my expectations.

It is a beautifully written and thought-provoking book that resonates deeply with the readers. It explores universal themes of regret, choice, and the pursuit of happiness in a profound and empathetic manner. I also made bad decisions and I am regretful of making such bad choices, but when I found Nora in this book is also experiencing something similar to what I am going through, I feel like there is someone out there who understands me and this certainly gives me hope. Matt Haig's storytelling and the emotional depth of the characters make it a memorable and impactful read. As this book serves as a reminder to embrace the

present moment, make choices that align with our true selves, and find meaning and purpose in our lives, I was once reminded that people make mistakes and they regret, but it is also important to live in the moment and not be distracted by your past mistakes.