

Winning Entries



HONG KONG YOUNG WRITER OF THE YEAR

Fiction – Group 2 WINNER

The Journal of A Banyan Tree

Chinese International School, Zhou, Hanyi – 10

1856 Sha Tau Kok, Bao An County

When Tian Xiang went to war, I knew that there was no way he could bring me and my brother. I knew that this day would come. People holding long pipes smoking something called “opium” had been talking about a war coming.

As I stood there, watching Tian Xiang fade into the distance, I felt a lump in my throat. I remembered Tian Xiang as a little boy planting me and my brother, side by side. I remembered how thrilled Tian Xiang was when we first emerged from the dirt as green shoots. Tian Xiang watched us every day as we grew into saplings, our branches stretching out, our leaves turning fresh and green. He always sat next to us and listened to his father telling stories about this land called Sha Tau Kok.

Tian Xiang had left. I felt like a part of me was gone, with Tian Xiang on the battlefield. Day and night, I heard gunfire and explosions, sometimes so loud that I felt that I would topple any minute. I cowered in fear, but I remembered that Tian Xiang was still out there. I had to wait for him to come back.

1898 Sha Tau Kok Village, New Territories

Tian Xiang came back, and China had surrendered. I saw groups of people in uniforms come in. They created a line through the village. And the worst part was, the line ran through my brother and me. Whenever Tian Xiang came to the line, he would just stand there and watch me sorrowfully, without touching me.

“You can’t cross the boundary stones,” his father always reminded him, as he pointed at the ugly gray stone between my brother and me. “No Chinese can cross the line.” Tian Xiang didn’t say a word, but I could see his teeth gritted and his fists clenched.

Before long, Tian Xiang’s hair turned grey, and his walking became more and more arduous. I knew that soon, the time would come. One cold winter night, Tian Xiang walked shakily towards us. He put his hand gently on my brother. Then, to my amazement, he slowly turned to me, hobbled across the line, and rested his hand on my rough bark. I trembled with

excitement, with the familiar touch that I had yearned for years. He took one more look at me and slowly turned around. That was the last time I ever saw Tian Xiang.

1997 Sha Tau Kok Village, New Territories

Ninety-nine years felt like an eternity, but flew by in the blink of an eye. The once barren village of Sha Tau Kok had turned into a bustling street of shops. They call it Chung Ying Street. Every day, I watched shop owners and street vendors chatting and hustling. One thing that had not changed were the gray stones that split the street in half. And people on either side of the street never crossed those stones. I remembered Tian Xiang's father calling them "border stones". I had been standing on one side of the street and my brother on the other. Every day, I would strain to grow a bit taller, a bit wider, a bit closer to my brother. It took time, but I was sure that one day, we would touch.

One bright Tuesday morning, I woke up to a gentle breeze fluttering my leaves. I saw a red flag with five white bauhinia petals waving in the blue sky. People cheered joyfully. Children shouted jubilantly. Two soldiers that I had seen every day on my side of the line solemnly removed a silver badge from their caps and carefully replaced them with a colorful one, with a flower identical to the one on the flag. They put the cap back on and smiled at the soldiers on my brother's side. Although I wasn't sure what was going on, I felt a warm burst of happiness.

Just then, I felt a tingling in my top branches. I glanced up, and for the first time, my branches had touched my brother's. My heart filled with pride.

"Look! We have grown so big that our branches are touching."

My brother replied with a gentle stretch of his branches to intertwine with mine.

2036 Sha Tau Kok City, Greater Bay Area

As the warmth of the sunlight wrapped around me, I took a deep breath of the fresh air. The green grass in the park shimmered in the sunlight. At the gates of the park, a shiny bronze sign bore the words "Greater Bay Area Central Park". Birds tweeted in the distance. Children ran about, giggling as the sun shone on their faces. Adults sat on benches, sipping their coffee and watching their children laugh and play.

"Mommy! Look!" a boy cried excitedly as he pointed in my direction. "These two trees are perfect for a hammock!" he said to his mother.

Soon, a hammock was tied on us. The child plunged into the hammock and lay comfortably under the breezy shade of our crisp, green leaves. My brother and I smiled at each other as we felt the tug from the boy tossing and turning in the hammock. As he lay there, he put his hand gently on my bark. He reminded me of Tian Xiang, how Tian Xiang touched me for the last time.

"I love these trees!" the boy said softly. His mother looked at him lovingly.

"They are called banyan trees. Did you know that your great-great-great-grandfather planted two banyan trees before?" The boy's eyes widened.

"Really? Do you think he planted these?" He pointed towards us.

His mother laughed, "I don't know. Maybe."

Suddenly, I felt a tickle in my roots. To my surprise, my roots had spanned and connected with my brother's. I smiled at my brother and he smiled back at me. We knew that this land, where we are deeply rooted, will be embarking on new adventures.

Fiction – Group 1

WINNER

Future Adventures of the Greater Bay Area

Kingston International School, Fung, Derek – 7

It is the year 2123. I am Derek Fung, a seven-year-old boy living in the Greater Bay Area. I want to be a scientist when I grow up. In the Greater Bay Area, everyone's dreams come true.

I have already designed and built my own environmentally friendly treehouse and robot horse. I was just finishing a third saddle for the robot horse when I decided to ride it around the Greater Bay Area.

I packed some food for my cat and dog in one saddlebag and a tent in the other. I put three saddles onto the robot horse, magnetically attached the saddlebags and then placed my pets on the saddles at the back. I jumped on the front saddle and buckled everyone up. I took out a map of the Greater Bay Area and marked my first destination... Macau.

The robot horse suddenly galloped towards the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge. We went along the bridge and saw modern vehicles, including a motorcycle with one wheel and an electric hoverboard in the shape of a lily pad.

Once we arrived in Macau, we bought delicious Portuguese egg tarts and visited the Casino Museum. We learned about poker and blackjack, and how gambling addiction is a serious problem. Then we rode the roller coasters zooming around the Eiffel Tower replica. We put up our tent next to the tower and recharged the robot horse. We finally went into the tent to sleep.

The next morning, I took out the map again and marked the next destination... Zhuhai. We packed our things and continued on the bridge. When we arrived, we went straight to Chimelong Ocean Kingdom. We fed penguins, rode dolphins, trained beluga whales and went in a submarine. I asked the staff to let us sleep next to the aquarium and they agreed! We sat next to the tent, watching the whale sharks and great whites swimming around. The staff brought food and we ate until we were full. Finally, we fell asleep.

When we woke up, I marked the last destination... Shenzhen. We packed our things and continued our journey. In Shenzhen, we saw a building called "The Robot Factory". "Giddy-up!" I shouted.

The horse suddenly leaped in through a window.

Inside the factory, I saw a "Firefighter Elephant" robot that can spray water from its trunk to put out fires and a "Doctor Lemur" robot that can perform surgery with its six fingers. Then I saw factory workers putting metal into a machine labelled "Teacher Owl".

A cloud of smoke appeared and an owl robot swooped out of the machine and into a tube, where artificial skin and feathers attached to it. A spring pushed it out of the tube and it landed flat on the floor.

At midnight, we took the Vibrant Express back to Hong Kong. By the time I finished my carton of chocolate milk, the train had arrived. I got back to my treehouse and said, “We’re home at last!”

Fiction – Group 3

WINNER

Teach a Boy to Fish

Carmel School – Elsa High School, Golovsky, Milly – 13

The breaking of dawn is upon us. The air feels fragile, so light, yet heavy with the aspirations of the day ahead. Water dribbles from the early morning dew down the sides of the bamboo houses. Sun looms from the valleys below and as it rises so do the people. They embark from their village on a fleet of humble sampans with woven straw hats placed upon their heads, fishing rods safely tucked away. The sun as their guide, the sky as their map. Li-Wei leading, the bow of his boat piercing through the water, creating ripples as it goes.

His boat is now full with his catches of the day; wading through the maze of houses Li-Wei returns home. Tying up his boat, the floor above rattles with footsteps, but he only smiles, the wrinkles around his eyes smiling too. He climbs a ladder and is instantly greeted with a hug from his son, Li-Jie. He picks him up and carries him to their armchair. Hastily lighting the fire, they both sit thawing their hands, savouring the warmth.

After comfortably settling in, Li-Wei asks, “how was your day?”

Li-Jie excitedly replies, “we learned about the Greater Bay Area.”

“The Greater Bay Area?” asks Li-Wei with a curious frown. “The Greater Bay Area,” he repeats slowly, as he comes to the realisation. This was just as he had feared.

This was the project tearing down their fishing village. Curious but not wanting to worry his son, Li-Wei declares, “at sunrise, we will depart and explore this Greater Bay Area. We will see more of Huizhou, visit Shenzhen, Hong Kong, Macau, Dongguan, Guangzhou, Zhongshan, Zhuhai and Jiangmen.”

Li-Jie, recently having learned how to count, follows along with his fingers. Confused at why his father has stopped speaking Li-Jie holds up his fingers for Li-Wei to see.

“Father, you only said nine, aren’t there eleven places in the Greater Bay Area,” Li-Jie insists.

“Ah, my son, I thought you would ask. We will only be visiting the coastal places.”

Sitting, he whispers, “the other two, those are for our next adventure.”

Before the sun had barely risen Li-Jie, full of excitement, was ready to go: bed made, bag packed, hat on. They quietly rowed out in their boat before anyone else had woken. Just as it was about to be out of sight Li-Wei turned, taking in the serenity of his village, his home, one last time.

For a moment, Li-Wei stopped and craned his neck over to his son.

“Li-Jie, I think it is time you learn how to fish.” Gaining the attention of his son Li-Wei searched through the boat until he found what he was looking for: his finest fishing rod. With

rhythmic familiarity, he attached some bait and plunged the hook into the sea. “And now we wait,” he added. It wasn’t long before he felt a tugging on the end of the rod. Swiftly he reeled it in and tightly hooked around the end he found a fish. He found a crimson fish.

Crimson

“This fish,” Li-Wei started, “shares it’s colour with the lantern that used to hang outside my grandparent’s house. We would celebrate every holiday together and would devour a flavourful feast,” he said chuckling, thinking back to the aroma of ornate spices that floated through the air. “My grandfather would always share stories and recount traditions that have been passed down.”

After Li-Wei finished speaking, Li-Jie asked, “Father, can I have a turn fishing now.”

“No, not yet,” Li-Wei replied, “but one day you will be ready.”

A few days had passed; now in Shenzhen, it was time for another fish. Li-Wei prepared the rod and dropped the hook into the sea, the float gently bobbing until he felt a tug.

Azure

“Look up Li-Jie. Now look down, and what do you see?” Confused by his father’s vague question Li-Jie timidly replied, “T-The sky and the sea.”

“Exactly,” exclaimed Li-Wei, “the colour of this fish is all around us. Above us, below us,” indicating with his hands, “we depend on them as they guide us through our journey. Li-Jie,” he whispered, now solely focusing on his son, “you must find people who you can depend on.”

Venturing south, they continued until they reached Hong Kong. Even with their eyes full from the splendour of the city, their stomachs, however, were not. Once again, Li-Wei prepared his rod and cast it into the harbour.

Jade

“Li-Jie, do you see those trees,” asked Li-Wei pointing inland, “and those mountains over there. This fish belongs to them, to nature. Everything works together in harmony. You too son, must find a way of balance.”

Their journey lead them onwards, clouds were setting over the city of Dongguan. They streamed down the coast, factory after factory in the distance, the fishing line to catch tonight’s dinner trailing behind them.

Ebony

Mirrored by the industrial background, Li-Wei grazes the ebony scales of the fish he caught. “Sometimes you will feel like you are being consumed by darkness. You may fall behind and struggle, but you have to remember that your struggles just like these clouds will pass.” With that Li-Wei threw the ebony fish back in, a reminder for leaving your troubles behind.

The clouds began to part as they continued their journey. Eventually, they stopped near Longxue Island, Guangzhou, for their next catch. Li-Wei prepared the bait, whilst Li-Jie looked on full of anticipation. Standing up excitedly, “Father, am I ready to fish myself now?”

“No my son.” Disappointed but not surprised, Li-Jie sat back down and watched as his father caught yet another fish.

Amber

“Every morning the sun guides me,” reflected Li-Wei, “my own lantern, floating up in the sky. Wherever you go the sun will always be with you.”

“But Father, what happens when it’s night?”

“Well Li-Jie, even when the sun is at rest the sky isn’t empty. It is filled with many stars, each shining down brightly upon you. If ever you are lost, always remember to look up above.”

Following the stars, they travelled through the night, their path leading them south to Zhongshan. Ravenous after a long night of travel, Li-Wei cast his rod hoping for a quick catch.

Amethyst

“This fish here,” utters Li-Wei, “reminds me of the bike I received from my sister. I would ride it everywhere. I can still see the look on my father’s face as he attempted to teach me how to ride it.”

“Did your father ever teach you how to fish?” inquired Li-Jie. Seeing his father nod Li-Jie then asked, “then may I have a turn now?”

Shaking his head now Li-Wei simply replied, “no Li-Jie, not today.”

Off in the distance, radiant flares illuminated the sky. Drawn to the colours, Li-Wei and Li-Jie traveled onwards. Once in Macau, they saw the lights reflecting in the sea and wondered if they could catch a fish as magnificent as the sights.

Gold

Li-Wei grinned as he hauled the glistening fish aboard. After catching his breath he began, “this fish represents success. It was no easy path to reach,” he said thinking back to a few moments ago where he was fighting with the fish, “but it was worth it in the end.”

Leaving the stunning lights behind them, they set off to Zhuhai.

White

“Ahh,” sighed Li-Wei, “this fish is just like you. Pure and innocent,” he said as he rubbed Li-Jie’s head. “I can still recall when you were a baby, a blank canvas waiting for the world to make its impression. But now, through adventures and experiences, you will grow, and leave your mark.”

Arriving in Jiangmen, their final destination, they are surrounded by modern buildings of steel and glass. Suddenly their fishing village where they started out on their journey, seemed so distant.

Li-Wei looked over to his son, peering over the side of the boat. Nudging him with his shoulder he passes over the fishing rod. Li-Jie knows he is ready. Like his father, he casts the rod into the ocean. It isn’t long before he feels tugging. Using all his strength he manages to heave into the boat a silver fish.

Silver

“This fish,” Li-Jie begins before his father can say anything, “represents the buildings and machines we have seen on this journey of the Greater Bay Area. This fish represents our future.”

Lost for words Li-Wei embraced his son beaming with pride. They huddled together on their humble sampan, watching as the glowing sun descended, drawing the last of the light in. It was then they felt the boat rock. Looking over they were joined by fish of all the colours they had seen on their journey. The iridescent bellies flashing in and out of sight, swirling and shimmering together in a pool of wonders. They didn’t know what the future would hold for them or the village, but they knew to cherish what was in front of them.

Fiction – Group 4 WINNER

Building of a Home

Sha Tin College, Chow, Vania – 15

My back was pressed stiffly against the grumble and gentle hum of the train. I badly needed to move. It sounds unfathomable, but I did not dare to leave my seat, to raise myself so much as an inch from the scratched plastic of a seat, for Mother had told me not to. She told me that the city was full of beasts: of scoundrels who would ship me off to lands I've never heard of, of pickpockets who could leave me with just the clothes on my bare back, of little old ladies with forks for tongues who could convince me into purchasing anything.

I stared out the window in a futile attempt to distract myself, ravenously gulping in the bewitching scenery: yellow speckled greens of never ending pastures, long winding streams that weaved in and out like children running wild, the cloudless blue sky that has forever shielded me from the dangers of humanity. These little gems of beauty had already been stolen from the city by soulness monsters that pump grey smoke from their tops and by behemoths that see nothing but money- or so that's what the village elders said.

I closed my eyes, imagining the familiar stroke of the Xinjiang wind touselling through my hair, ruffling it like a playful father as I ran. The muddy paths thudded beneath my feet as I ran, arms pumping, legs pushing, chasing after the backsides of my friends. Xi Li would holler at me from behind some distant tree, laughing at me, his sister, for not catching up. I would surprise him from behind when I finally arrived, jumping and wrapping my hands before his eyes, pretending I was the great grizzly bear of the elders' tales. Sometimes he would turn and tickle me until we both fell laughing onto the soft embrace of the earth; sometimes he would pretend to be scared and run from the great bear; everytime I played this little game with Xi Li, it would go a little differently, and that, his vast creativity, was my favourite part of it. It was like asking for the mystery candy at the local candy store: you never know what you get, but everything you do get tasted like heaven.

When I awoke, the countryside had left. The ferns that had glimmered ever so slightly like the waving fingers of a leaving friend had alas made their departure. In their place, now stood forbidding inky green trees that towered over the speeding train, casting ominous shadows. It was like playing a game of tag with sunshine as it flashed in and out and from behind its oppressor, winking at us tauntingly when it made its flashy appearance. I had fallen asleep on the train- a danger which Mother compared to leaving the front door wide open at night. The city people were slick and slippery, falling asleep on the train was like waving a sign begging people to come rob you of your every penny. Nervously, I patted down my pockets, rifled through every one of my ten compartments where I had hidden pennies, even dug my hand into the depths of my backpack to feel for the reassurance of my favourite scarf. It was only when each and every item was accounted for did I look around and feel a little safer.

The train eventually pulled into a stop at a station. Clad in iron armour, the train station resembled a prison more than a place of transit. Everyone around me stood up: the young businessman in his spotless suit twisted at this wristwatch officiously before he and his briefcase stepped out the door, the mother and her child that had wailed dreadfully through the tunnels too stepped out the door, even the hobbling elderly who had struggled to open her bottle of water mid-journey left. Before I knew it, I was the only one left.

I finally worked up the courage to leave the train, heart-pounding a little with anticipation and fear, I set foot in 'The Pearl of the Orient'- that's what the elders called Hong Kong. A flurry of people, some Chinese, some Western, some from places of my wildest dreams pushed past me, fighting and clamouring their way to the lift. Hastily, I followed them, squeezing myself into the moving box just as the doors slid to a close.

Despite the waves of travellers that flooded in with each train, immigration was but a breeze. The officers were like robots: hands moving at the speed of light with pristine accuracy; voice a clear monotone, simple and precise; yet face a mask of stoic boredom. Most of my friends back home would hate it, the lack of the communal feeling of individual care and attention. They would complain that this city dehumanized them, diminishing them into nothing but a number on a flashing screen. Normally I would have agreed with them, but today, today I was a little thankful to be overlooked. Was I to nod at the man behind the counter? Or smile? Or simply wait like an obedient little lamb for his instruction? In this land where everyday clothes resembled my celebration gowns, where language became music, where train station bathrooms were cleaner than my dining room, I had no idea what to do, who to be, and how to behave- absolutely no idea.

Eventually, I did manage to find my way to the little box of an apartment that my Uncle offered to lend my Mother and I. It was by tradition for the 'Scholar' of the village, the student who achieved the highest scores at the end of the year, to leave the village and face the terrors of the city outside. It was our responsibility, or so that's what they glorified it to be, to learn the mechanisms of society beyond the village walls and bring back knowledge and revenue- the latter being more important. So here I was, peering out the dusty uncleaned window of my new home into the gaping jaws of society beneath. It was too late to turn back, I had spent every last penny on my train ticket.

I was reluctant to come in the beginning. I convinced myself it was the filial piety made me despise leaving my widowed elderly mother at home alone in the irresponsible hands of my brother, but in truth, I was scared. I feared that my stuttery Cantonese that I spent hours upon hours trying to perfect wouldn't be sufficient, I feared that my work would be sub par and unappreciated at the firm, I feared that I would not belong in the Greater Bay Area. Macau had its rich culture and booming tourism industry; Guangdong had its prosperous technology firms and manufacturing; Hong Kong had one of the world's greatest economic markets; while, my little humble home of Hemu, what did it have? Hemu was famous for making milk tea.

A burst of sudden laughter shot out from behind me, as chitter and chatter bubbled from the mouths of my colleagues. Aside from not wanting to face the wrath of my elders, this job was the only reason I agreed to come. Ever since I was able to walk, I had always dreamt of being an architect. I yearned to see my rough sketches on paper materialise into a three-dimensional work of art, to see people walking in and out of my models turned real, to know that something, something beautiful yet practical, was a product of my hands. Perhaps I was over-optimistic, but the buildings were what I came for, not the wave of loneliness that suddenly overwhelmed me as I stood in the crowded office.

Lunch was the worse time. The architects and the designers, the managers and even the building practitioners, all flooded out of their cubicles, separating into little cliques as they jabbered away so quickly that their words sounded like nothing but the chirps of birds. I stood there meekly, the anthem of apprehension pounding away in my chest, I didn't know what to do. Suddenly I had lost all my words. I raked my brains of the simplest Cantonese phrases that I practiced in the mirror like a lunatic in the months prior, but nothing came. My sweaty fingers tugged at my favorite cardigan which looked like a child's pinafore next to my fellow architect's immaculate suits. I clenched my jaw in an act of desperation, trying to mask my nervous fear with a cloud of strength and confidence. I stepped forward, a single word slipped from my mouth.

"Can—" Everyone turned. Their piercing brown eyes seemed to see right through my shaky facade; they seemed to laugh silently at me, chortling at my plea to fit in; even little Jeanine -who reached no higher than my shoulder- seemed to smirk ever so slightly at her partner from across the room. "Bathroom?" I continued, my words choking in my throat as though someone had cinched a noose around it. It was the only phrase I remembered. The balding manager with round glasses that perched atop his head smiled a little condescendingly, like the way one would coo at a young baby, and point me down the hall.

Away they turned, and once again I was left alone in the steely office.

I missed the taste of home. The boiling Xinjiang spices that made your eyes water and your nose run, but filled your heart with the warmest embrace. They say the Greater Bay Area was the national centre of opportunity, with newly started up industries, not only were employment prospects bright for fresh graduates, it also promised space and support for entrepreneurship and innovation. It was going to be the best living environment: clean, hi-tech, a one hour commute zone from everywhere you could possibly want to be. Though these fantasies may be true for people with bubbling personalities and aspirations as high as the sky, like Jeanine, it was not what I wanted. Right now, standing in the office, squinting at the unfamiliar Traditional Chinese characters on the wall, I just wanted to be home. Even though we were from the same country, we spoke a similar language, shared the same history, the people of the Greater Bay Area felt alien.

I powered through the weeks to come, mindlessly burying myself in heaps and heaps of architectural paperwork. I had learned to ignore the chuckles that would fill the office throughout the day, the playful banter that the men in the two cubicles adjacent yelled over me, the gnawing loneliness that consumed my joy. Until one day, one fateful day, Jeanine and I were sent on a business trip to Guangzhou together. Alone, just the two of us. Simon wasn't there to fill the awkward silences with his mundane anecdotes about his breakfast; Lisa wasn't there either to suck out all the fun and scare us into focusing; even the stray cat that lingered outside the office door every morning wasn't there as a source of small talk. It was just me -exasperated, tired, awkward- me, with the brightest 'it-girl' of the firm.

"Grab some food before we go?" Jeanine, pristine as usual, popped in from behind. I looked down at myself: a plain knitted sweatshirt that fit like the ones my Nanna made and a pair of straight-legged pants that hung a little too long. She handed me a cup of coffee, the one with my name and cute little heart drawn next to it. "It's homemade: gluten-free, dairy-free, nearly all fat-free." Jeanine laughed casually, sliding into the booth opposite me. Not knowing what to say, I smiled forcefully, took a large gulp out of the cup; the singe of the coffee as it burnt down my throat didn't make it any better. As if reading my mind, Jeanine handed me a bottle of unopened water out of thin air, "here." Once again, Superwoman saved the poor country girl.

On our final night in Guangzhou, my brother called. My family never called, for landlines in the village were expensive and patchy; besides, writing letters was always a good way to keep yourself sharp, at least that's what Mother said. Half relieved to know that I still remembered my local dialect, half apprehensive for the sudden urgency, I picked up the phone.

My mother was in an accident- not fatal, but definitely not easy for a woman of her age.

I found myself on the couch, tears running down my face ceaselessly like the winding streams back home. I saw my Mother in the hospital, strapped down with tubes coming out of her wrinkled arms. She had always hated these places, said they resembled prisons more than places of recovery, said they made her feel weak and old with age. My brother and I always told her that she was young and vibrant and still had many fulfilling years before her, but now, I don't know if I would be able to deliver these lines with the same careless conviction. Mother was old.

I forgot I was in Guangzhou momentarily; lost in my sea of reminiscent memories, I even forgot that I was a thousand miles away from home. It was only when an unfamiliar hand, soft with the lingering scent of expensive perfume, squeezed my chappy calloused ones that reality reappeared. The unfamiliar hand wrapped me in a warm embrace, running its nails up and down my back in the gentle scratch that my Nanna used to do. I buried myself in the stranger's hair- pillowly, luscious like my young Mother's. The hands on my back were firm with belief, holding me as if I could never fade away in the world, it was as if I was home again with Father.

When I reluctantly disentangled myself at last, I was surprised to find Jeanine across me: makeup a little smudged, hands still caressing my own.

"I... we're late aren't we." I mumbled softly, staring down at my woolly sweater. It was already bad enough that I was overlooked at the office, on top of all my problems, I really didn't need to be the infamous weakling that couldn't stop bawling. Jeanine chuckled softly, her face so close to mine that I could hear the gentle breath of air from her nose.

"Things back home?" Her voice enveloped me like rays of the warm winter sun. The words spilled and frothed from my mouth like an overflowing washbasin- absolutely unstoppable. I talked about Hemu, digressed onto my family, shared my fears of relocation; before I knew it, I had blurted out my whole life story.

Jeanine's voice clipped in her throat.

"I-" she started. Her eyes were squeezed shut in perhaps an attempt to hide the tears, but nevertheless, a single one escaped and shattered the immaculate facade of perfectionality. "I can't afford my sister's hospital bills anymore, next month..." Her shield of composure come crumbling down to her feet, inside the square-neck top, I saw a girl. I saw a girl not too dissimilar to myself, overwhelmed by the demands of society, accustomed to feigning equanimity. I hugged her, wrapping my arms around her shivering body; this time I was to be her home, her rock, her source of comfort. That evening, before the incessant crackling of the fire in the hotel lounge, Jeanine and I became friends. We became friends for a long, long time. We grew to become the friends who would go to yoga glasses together on a Saturday morning, the type of friends who could swap stories about the worst first dates, the type of friend that made you feel at home in a foreign land.

My Mother was right, the Greater Bay Area was full of monsters. Monsters who were aggressive and ambitious, monsters who wanted the lead the best lives, but also monsters who were empathetic, loving, and no more than people inside a scary costume.

In the months to come, I gave myself the ultimate Greater Bay Area welcome package. I stuffed myself with all the greatest delicacies until I could no longer bear to eat a single

more bite; I tried the newest technology -Artificial Intelligence, Virtual Reality, automated driving; I even found myself a lunch group in the office. Turns out, Simon too -lanky, quick-thinking, witty Simon- was a foreigner from the winding villages of Xian.

Today, as I stand in the train station again, I relived the rollercoaster of my journey: the ups, the downs, and everything in between. My brother would love it here, the encouragement for creativity, innovation, and development; partnered with the unimaginable technology, his dreams could literally be translated into reality. My mother would love it here, the warming sense of community, of going on a morning walk with the other retired ladies in the park. Of course, the hospitals and medicinal development here would most definitely be better for her recovery too. But perhaps most importantly, I loved it here too. I loved the office, Jeanine, Simon, even little Leanne who couldn't pronounce my name; I loved the optimism of the city, how it focused on the positive forwardness of the future and didn't linger behind; I loved the inclusivity of the region, how everyone, regardless of background, age, culture, aspirations, eventually could find a little community to fit in with; I loved that I was able to call the Greater Bay Area my home now- the best home I could ever dream of.

The train rolled into the station. Like excited children exploring a world of fantasy, my dear dear Brother and my Mother, who hadn't aged a single second, rushed off the train into my tightening embrace. A surge of pride filled my heart, not only would I never ever be alone again, but I could show them the transcending beauty of my new home- no letters, no phone calls.

Fiction – Group 5

WINNER

Marketplace

Canadian International School of Hong Kong, Chou, Renee – 16

Silicon Valley of the East. The next economic powerhouse of Asia; a concentration of talent, business, and technological development. That was the dream.

“Do you have any preferences in what language I use?”

“English would be nice. We’ve been living abroad and I’m afraid Mei Mei here wouldn’t be able to understand.” My dad clapped his hands on my back.

“Understood, follow me.”

Ng Tze Ying, Holly Ng. Our tour guide introduced herself. *Holly is fine.* She was professionally dressed, pin striped suit with rounded black heels, and spoke diplomatically but impassively.

She led us down a marble-tiled hallway. Panels of tinted glass gazed over the southern city of the new region. From the ground sprouted towering pillars of architectural marvels, each one more impressive than the previous. The concrete jungle spread across every inch of the flat land, spilling onto the ocean when there was no more land to build upon. Rows upon rows of light flickered to life across the landscape, and the bright orange of the dusk sun bled into the boat-filled sea ports.

“This building is known to have the best views in Hong Kong,” Holly said. “Right in front of us we have our Victoria Harbour, right across is Kowloon, and right behind is Admiralty.”

We passed the underside of what seemed to be an elevated railway, the glass tunnel weaved under the rumbles of the tram above. “That will become this region’s newest tram program. It has routes in the city but also routes across the sea to the mainland and Macau.” Holly said. The program would encourage cross-district travelling within the Greater Bay Area, she explained to us.

“If I may ask, what will become of that?” My mother pointed to crescent-shaped land. The sandy ground flattened by road rollers, lazily rolling across.

“Ah, that would become our newest shipping port. We’ve reclaimed land to accommodate for the predicted growth of import and export rates in the next ten years.”

“*Mei Mei*, do you know that *Ba Ba*’s shipping line is considering to switch to operating solely on this port after it opens?” My father said, “*Ba Ba* will treat you with a nice present when that happens. Something nice, like a necklace or a watch. How does Tiffany sound?”

“Dad!”

“Okay, okay, *Ba Ba* will stay quiet,” he said with a chuckle, “and what about the new residential areas promised, I heard they were building a new public park?”

“Yes, that would platformed between the peak and mid-level, the high-levels. The park would be exclusive to the high-levels residents.” Holly said.

When we reached the end of the glass tunnel, the pair of bronze door slid open, revealing the dusk landscape.

“This way please.” Holly said, and we stepped into the glass-paned elevator.

The descent was slow, and we noiselessly slid down fifty floors.

Then, they surged upwards, tumbling across roofs and attaching itself onto buildings for a few moments, before being swept away again. The paper was thin and the ink was still wet. Cheap paper and cheap ink. In the brief moment it decided to rest its surface, it left half a letter of Chinese inscription stained on the glass.

“What’s that?” I asked.

“Merely blown up trash,” Holly said.

“Today is a rather windy day,” my mother comments.

“Yes, but what did it say?”

“Please don’t trouble yourself with it. We are currently still working with the cleaning companies to deal with the recent growth in excess trash; you will not see anything in three months’ time.” Holly said.

“But-”

“Don’t be rude.” My mother said, so I didn’t respond. The elevator lapsed into the previous quiet.

On floor two the door slid open. In front of us were three walkways to three gigantic glass-roofed elevated trams.

“The tram isn’t open for the public use yet, but would you like to give it a ride?” Holly offered.

“Of course,” my father said, “may I request to sit on this route?” He pointed to the tram in the centre. *Kowloon*.

“That might not be the best option; Kowloon is still being reworked.” Holly said.

“Yes, but can we?”

“I suppose so.”

Holly led us into the tram. With a rumble, the train gurgled to life before propelling itself across the tracks, and soon, across the open sea. We skimmed near the sea level, rose to arch over a passing cargo ship, and slid back to the railways on land. We shot across Kowloon and I stared as the tall sleek towers of Hong Kong Island recedes into the old concrete buildings of Kowloon.

The train slowed to a stop; any recoil was undetectable. *You have arrived at the final destination. Doors will open on the left. Please mind the gap and stand back from the doors.*

“The reconstruction just began three months ago. This is to be a new business centre.” Holly said and instructed us to follow her.

Below, excavators clawed down concrete infrastructure, bulldozers shovelled the collapsed remnants, and dump trucks drove the excess materials away. Buildings upon buildings were being torn down and methodically cleaned up. Grey, the landscape was grey. It was lacking in the iridescence that accompanied the landscape in Southern districts of Hong Kong. Industrialised smoke arose from underneath our platform, and each building looked dull under the afternoon rays.

Red.

In the distance came a distinctly red piece of paper. It swerved around in loops and gilded towards me. I reached out to grasp it, and my index barely brushed the tip of it before a strong breeze swept it the left of me. Sliding my hands across the banister, I ran down the stairs and snatched the evasive paper.

“*Mei Mei!*” My mother shouted, “come back this instant!”

“I’m coming!” I scrambled back up, but I was greeted with only the long empty platform and the tram. The three figures who were previously standing across me mere seconds ago were now replaced with negative space.

“Mom?” *No reply.* “Dad?” *No reply.* “Holly?” *No reply.*

Not a voice was heard, not an item was left behind, not even a skid mark made by the shoe. Nothing.

“What?” I glanced at the little snippet of colour I acquired.

In my hands were a thin piece of paper, the red had smeared itself onto my palms and the Chinese inscriptions were barely legible. Cheap paper and cheap ink. Though, I couldn’t read Chinese to begin with.

Suddenly, instead of the growling of trucks and machinery, the construction was replaced with rackets of congestion and bartering. Over the banister laid a market. Gone were the excavators and bulldozers, gone were the destroyed buildings, gone were the monochromatic grey that slathered itself all over the district.

A myriad of colour splashed itself onto the streets. Between two old buildings were rows upon rows of makeshift shops, each covered with products in every inch of available space. Large signs with square words hung over the murmuring crowd below. The people went from one stall to another picking up a product to inspect it, before putting it down and carefully inspecting another. Surreal, it was almost as if it would disappear if I looked hard enough; almost as if, upon squinting, colour would erode and reveal the grey skeleton of the construction site.

Curiosity drove me down the stairs, and I sought to confirm it for myself.

Proximity, somehow, lent more credibility beyond visual verification. I needed the affirmation of all five senses to accept that it was not my mind playing tricks on my eyes. But the images did not waver, the voices did not fade, and the smell, a mixture of wetness and cardboard, hit me.

It was curiosity, again, that compelled me to enter.

To my left were stalls with iron sheet roofs stacked next to each other jaggedly. In each stall was a vendor, some enthusiastically attracting customers, some others merely eyed the crowd. *Win Chi Stationary; Chow Ting Flower Shop; Liang’s Goods.* On my right were nameless vendors, with goods in tag-less glass jars and red plastic boxes. They scooped treats from containers and measured them on weathered weights. Dried plum; assortment of nuts; medicinal herbs.

Older ladies with flower-patterned shirts wore equally decorated tote bag on their shoulders. They expertly examined each fruit, weighing each one and with their hands, inspected the colours of the skin, before putting it down and sifting through the rest of the contenders. Unsatisfied, they continued their search for a fruit that was not too young, but not too ripe.

At the end of the street around the bend sat another market, a wet market. A pungent smell invaded my nose. Meat. Laid bare, skinned and gutted, raw red exposed on the chopping block at the mercy of the knife. Butchers with glossy aprons raised their cleavers, and carved up flesh with experienced hands. To the more stubborn tendons, they dug the blades into the thickness of the muscle and hacked at it until the meat has become thoroughly severed.

“*62 dollars for so little? This is too expensive!*” Across, a lady pointed to the mackerel, still breathing and twitching on the ice. Each spasm flicked droplets onto the ground, their eyes round and wide.

"I'm sorry, the fishermen have been selling them more expensively. There's nothing I can do." The fishmonger said.

"Can't you give old customers like me a discount?"

He shook his head and insisted upon his pricing, while the fish struggled next to foam board naming its price. The fishmonger kept his eyes on the assortment of live seafood, sifting his hands through the shallow-watered tank of the clams and oysters, and occasionally splashing water to hydrate the displayed fish.

My legs took me forward, deciding for me where to go. I had no direction in mind, so I wandered towards the nearest exit out of this market.

"Careful!" She said, regarding me with a 'tsk' in her voice. In my absent-mindedness, I collided into an old lady.

"I'm sorry, I can't speak Cantonese!" I tried to explain myself, but she was already walking away. Her small stature hunched over her metal trolley with layers upon layers of cardboard fastened on. Her tiny, anxious steps propelled it forward slowly. It was larger than her body, heavier than her weight; she shouldn't be doing this, not at this age.

I could not understand why this old lady was labouring away in her old age. Did she not have children who could support her? Retirement savings? Government pensions?

I followed her onto a third street. Old buildings, no taller than twenty floors, lined either side of me. Below, the ground floor rented itself to shops and restaurants. I saw more of these cardboard picking grannies, squatting on the pavement and folding cardboard that once held fruits, daily appliances, and products.

They scavenged for cardboard by rummaging through orange trash cans, examining it and throwing it back what they deemed it unusable. Crouching over the fruits of their labour, these grannies stacked more cardboard onto their stockpile, their contorted backs stiffened beyond ever straightening again.

The buildings behind them each had identical blue notices plastered over the metal gates. *Announcement: Illegal and unsafe infrastructure, residents of this building have three months to leave. The area will be designated for reconstruction.* It wrote, in both Chinese and English, with the government insignia branded at the corner of the page.

Above, an old man stared down at me from his window on the third floor in said illegal infrastructure, his skeleton-thin fingers wrapped around the mesh wires that lined the open window. Behind the windows above, many more old men stared down, the lines of age that marred these faces remained immobile.

Framed windows had clothing draped over the bars fixed under it. The units of air conditioners, all leaving brown trails of leakage, were attached to the corner of the window panes. Almost all buildings suffered from discolouration, and had streaks of rust coloured lines running across their peeling surface of the exterior. The more senior of the aged buildings were boxed by bamboo pole scaffolding, but had no workmen climbing on them. It was an unsightly, messy contrast to the tall glass-paned towers across the harbour.

In three months, these people would be forcibly evicted from their homes; their houses would be mowed down in favour for towers as tall and as sleek as the ones south of this district.

"Mei Mei! What are you doing?" My mother's voice rang out from behind me. My hands were grabbed, and I was jerked towards my disapproving parents.

"I couldn't find you guys, so I decided to explore the market." I tried to explain.

"What are you talking about Mei Mei?" My mother demanded, before yanking the paper out of my hands and reprimanding me. "Didn't I teach you not to pick up trash? Look at your hands now, you've gotten red all over it."

“The market, mum, right there.” I said.

But as I turn to point at the market, it simply disappeared. As if it suddenly ceased to exist, and what just occurred was merely the creation of an overly imaginative mind. The machineries resumed its demolition of the grey town, and the buildings laid in shambles on the ground.

“But-”

“You have such an active imagination *Mei Mei*. You’re making *Ba Ba* feel old.” My dad joked, slapping my back.

“I’m sure *Mei Mei* can visit after we cleaned out all this unpleasant mess. Shall we return?” Holly said.

With that, I was led back onto the tram and sent back into the tall towers and clean streets south of the city. I was to be satisfied with that response, and expected not question. I watched behind glass panes as the grey district receded into the distance, squinting in hopes of catching a glimpse of the market again if I looked hard enough. The landscape remained unchanged.

The dusk had faded into a dull navy, and despite all the colourful lights and beautiful skyline of the city, I could no longer enjoy it.

Fiction – Group 6 WINNER

The Witch and the Hong Kong People

Korean International Springboard, Lowther, Jessica – 13

One Saturday morning at Prince Edward flower market in Hong Kong some people were taking pictures of the beautiful flowers. As they did they enjoyed the vibrant smell and splendor of each flower around. All of a sudden from a puff of smoke there was a witch who froze the people. The flower vendors got angry, so the witch froze them also. She then stole all the flowers, captured the people with her big black net and brought them back to her house.

When they arrived the witch put them in a cage and unfroze them. She did this because she wanted to put the people in soup and eat them. She put up all the flowers she stole around her house and got ready to make the soup with all her ingredients. Then the witch gathered some wood and made a fire for her humongous pot. The witch boiled some water in the pot and when the fire was almost out, and only a few ashes were left she slowly added the ingredients for the magic soup and mixed it with her broom stick. When she was about to take the people out of the cage to add to her recipe, a magic fairy came to save the people inside the cage and assist them one by one to get out of the witch house. As they walked out of the house the witch shouted and tried to freeze them all again. The fairy used her wand to safely save everyone.

They were whisked away on the wind over the Greater Bay Area and back to the flower stall in Prince Edward. The witch was never seen again.

Fiction – Group 7

WINNER

Macau

Korean International Springboard, Mak, Arthur – 18

I travelled to Macau in a shortcut. How did I get to Macau? I simply got there by a bridge which led me there. Why did I want to travel to Macau? I went to see my old childhood friend, Rune, who left Hong Kong to study and live in Macau. Even though we both separated, we didn't forget each other. I told Rune how much I missed him. We were both happy to see each other and talked about how well we are getting on in our studies.

We went to look around Macau. It is smaller than Hong Kong but there are many tall buildings. Rune looked up at the sky longingly and said he wished he could travel around the world because Macau is so small. And then he was shocked that I had been so quiet. It was because I didn't want to interrupt his mood. But I told him that I knew how he felt because Hong Kong is also full of tall buildings, busy traffic, crowded places.

The Greater Bay Area will have several world class airports and they will need a lot of pilots to fly all the planes. I told him if he really wanted to fly, then he should train as a pilot. That way he would be able to fly every day and also earn a salary that will give him a good and secure life. Rune thought this was a great idea. "That makes me free already!" he exclaimed. "What do you plan to do with your life?" "I am going to continue studying art because it is my passion." I told him. "Ok, how can the Greater Bay Area help artists?" he asked, doubtfully.

"The Greater Bay Area will need artists to help promote the area. There are many publishing houses and magazines that I can work for. They are always hiring people." "This is how I will earn my living." I told him. In fact, because Hong Kong, Macau and Guangdong which make up the Greater Bay Area are so busy there will be plenty of opportunities for everyone who is lucky enough to live here." "Sounds great!" said Rune. "Thanks for explaining how the Greater Bay Area will help us." "You're welcome!" I told him. As I sailed back to Hong Kong that night, I got a Whatsapp from Rune. It was a picture of a jet plane and a clear blue sky.

Non-Fiction – Group 1 WINNER

The Greater Bay Area

Regents Primary School of Shenzhen, Su, Curran – 8

The Greater Bay Area locates in the south of China. It is the fourth largest bay area in the world after the New York Bay Area, San Francisco Bay Area and Tokyo Bay Area. It includes Hong Kong, Macau, Shenzhen, Dongguan, Huizhou, Guangzhou, Foshan, Zhaoqing, Zhuhai, Zhongshan and Jiangmen. The four central cities of this area are Hong Kong, Macau, Shenzhen and Guangzhou. Hong Kong will reinforce and enhance the center as an international financial, shipping, trade and aviation hub. Macau will build a world tourism and leisure center. Guangzhou and Shenzhen will play an important role of national central city and comprehensive gateway city. With the development of the central cities, Dongguan, Huizhou, Foshan, Zhaoqing Zhuhai, Zhongshan and Jiangmen will form idiomatic and multi-functional cities.

The government has issued a series of policies to support business environment in the GBA. For example, the enterprise income tax rate reduced to 13 percents from April 2019. Many young top talents choose to work in this big city group under the government's policy. The government also issued protection policy of the ecological environment to keep sustainable development.

The Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge was officially opened in October 2018. People can drive from Hong Kong to Zhuhai in about 45 minutes. Many railways and bridges are under construction. The convenient transportation will drive more diversified business and other economic activities into the GBA in the near future.

More and more technology invented and applied in the China markets. With the growing demand for mobile data, the fifth generation mobile network is developing fast in the world. It will provide more services to customers, for example ultra HD television and smart home, while WeChat pay can be widely used in our daily lives.

There are kinds of distinctive food in Hong Kong, Macau, Guangzhou and Foshan. The delicious snacks and drinks in Hong Kong are pudding cake, egg tart, mango pancake, curry fish ball, Hong Kong-Style milk tea and so on. People can taste cantonese cuisine, such as roast goose, crab porridge and the soft-boiled chicken. As the birthplace of tea culture, people like to drink tea with many snacks from the Tang dynasty. People celebrate the traditional festivals with many folk-custom, such as Dancing Lion, Cantonese Opera and Chinese Kung Fu.

People are polite, friendly and hard-working in this area and their languages are Hakka Chinese, Cantonese, Teochewese and Mandarin. They can also speak international English. Guangdong is the earliest birthplace of the Maritime Silk Road. Cantonese businessmen are talents in merchandise. Most of them are very smart and clever.

People will have better work and living environment with their corporation and hard-working in future. Will you join this adventure?

Non-Fiction – Group 2 WINNER

Future Facts of the Greater-Bay-Area

Ying Wa Primary School, Lee, Ching Ho Jadon – 11

The Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area or simply Greater Bay Area (GBA) is a megalopolis, which is the Chinese Government's master plan for Hong Kong, Macau and nine more cities in Guangdong Province, with an aim to build a business and technology hub.

The GBA consists of Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Zhuhai, Foshan, Dongguan, Zhongshan, Jiangmen, Huizhou, as well as Hong Kong and Macau. These eleven cities will establish themselves as key hubs for different sectors: Hong Kong will be the international finance navigation and trade centre as well as a transport hub; Macau will be an international tourism city and a platform for trades with Portuguese speaking countries like Brazil; Guangzhou will take a leading role as an administrative hub while Shenzhen will expand its leading role as a special economic zone and tech hub; Dongguan is transforming itself from the world's factory into more of a high-tech manufacturing base. Other cities in the region will also be involved, with the government already spending billions on massive infrastructure projects.

With a total population of 67.65 million residing across a total area of 56,500, this region is one of the most developed and vibrant areas in China. Featuring three of the world's top ten ports in Shenzhen (3rd), HK(5th) and Guangzhou(7th), the GBA represented approximately 12.5% of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2016. The development of the GBA initiative is designed to strengthen infrastructure linkages among the cities involved. In fact, the existing GBA already possesses notable economic strength and is comparable to the other leading bay areas around the world.

Apparently, the GBA scheme brought quite an excitement to many start-ups in Hong Kong as they look forward to the benefits of being a part of a vast market of 70 million people. Recently, the Hong Kong Economic Journal (HKEJ) sat down with ISTOP founder, Tyler Mok, who shared his views about the opportunities in the GBA. Mok thinks that the GBA is a once-in-a-century opportunity for start-ups in Hong Kong. Although the mainland start-ups possess certain advantages in terms of human resources, the strength of Hong Kong start-ups lies in their ability to innovate and their global vision for business. For start-ups that have the ambition to enter the GBA, they should approach by seeking projects and products that are scarce in the domestic market there. Take health food, medicines and care products, in these categories, products from Hong Kong brands can give mainland consumers greater confidence.

Creating the GBA of the future means both addressing the opportunities and challenges that the region faces. There are three main expectations that the GBA would like to achieve at around 2050. First, the GBA expects its cities to foster further economic reform and openings in the future. The GBA is supposed to be an experimental zone for further economic reform and opening in China as a whole. Second, the GBA also would like to

enhance their business promotion in the region. Better connectivity and greater cooperation around the GBA will foster opportunities for new or renewed joint promotion opportunities. These include opportunities in investment promotion, research and development, education, medicine and healthcare, tourism, major events and promotion in specific industries. Third, another expectation from the GBA in the future is they would like to create regional development initiatives. New connectivity and cooperation inside and outside the GBA should allow for regional development initiatives that might have been impractical until now.

At GBA, the future of transportation is very important. They understand that their clients are no longer just looking for wider roads to accommodate more traffic. They are looking for solutions that take technology and data to the next level to provide safety, efficiency and cost savings. Resulting in safer roads and bridges, a more efficient trip to the grocery store or hauling goods from one state to another. The GBA's team of experts handle jobs on every level including municipal, county, Department of Transportation, small mill-and-overlays to highly complex interchanges and bridge design. The expansion of destinations served by the high-speed rail from West Kowloon is likely to make the Hung Hom Station redundant as a border crossing point. Allowing for potential opportunities for re-zoning and re-development. China has fast-tracked further expansion of the CRH system, the network, which extends to 30 of the country's 33 provincial-level administrative divisions and runs for 29,000 km, is set to reach 38,000 km by 2025. Estimated at around 10 years later, the High Speed Rail will be expanding to all eleven cities of the GBA and more mainland cities.

With improved connections between Mainland cities and the rest of the world, the 'front shop, back factory' model of division of labour between Hong Kong and other GBA cities may no longer be fully applicable, and a new mode of collaboration should be sought. We must bear in mind that the development of the GBA is not at all a zero-sum relationship for the cities involved. Rather, cities within the GBA should utilize their respective comparative advantages in producing certain goods or services to supplement each other. For instance, some people asserted that with close ties with global cities like Hong Kong, Foshan secured linkages to the rest of the world. As a result, the latter could focus on the development of skills and capacity in specialized sectors, such as lighting and furniture manufacturing. Should this recommendation be adopted the eleven GBA cities can strengthen their industrial upgrading and integration through the utilization of complementary resources and connections. By achieving this goal, the development of the GBA will enhance the overall competitiveness of the region, which in turn will contribute to the national economic growth.

Being part of the GBA and through the collaboration process, Hong Kong may find a new direction for its economy to develop as well.

Non-Fiction – Group 3 WINNER

Hopeful Future of the Greater Bay Area

GT (Ellen Yeung) College, Lo, Yuet Hei Forrest – 13

China has been an advancing country with stunning economic growth, and for the Greater Bay Area (GBA), there's no exception. What does the future GBA look like, and under what circumstances, can it achieve high standards as an international centre?

Before we delve into the imaginations of its future, let us acknowledge some information of the GBA. Firstly, according to a South China Morning Post article, '*Greater Bay Area: 10 facts to put in perspective*', the GBA accounts for 12% of China's GDP, but only with 1% of its land, with Hong Kong, Shenzhen and Guangzhou each delivering \$300 billion annually. A huge factor is Hong Kong and Macau being western colonies, had world-leading advancements during the period, and later on, local governments mimicked the region, transforming the southern area to have a diverse economy. These include tourism, entertainment in Macau, and cargo-passenger hubs in Guangzhou, leading the area as a global trade complex.

Secondly, each of the 11 cities has special focuses, according to their designations. Utilizing the existing 4 downtowns as the core propulsion of development and growth, and the others will assist. The tall skylines will be each an aviation hub and professional servicing, world-class entertainment complex and tourism centre, national innovative economic core, and an integrated transport node and industrial centre, respectively as Hong Kong, Macau, Shenzhen, and Guangzhou. The other will be getting a foothold of ecological development and technology industries, backing up the defining metropolises in the region.

Thirdly, this vision is already initiated by infrastructure constructions throughout the region. For example, the Express Rail Link from Hong Kong to Guangzhou, massively shortened the commute, from 2 hours to 45 minutes only, enhancing intercity connections since September of 2018. The Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge is another prominent example, bringing the three cities within 45 minutes of drive just a month later. Other projects are well underway, such as a road link over the estuary, namely the Shenzhen-Zhongshan Link, expected to divert traffic from 2024.

After talking about the current projects and status of the GBA, let's take a peek through the fabric of spacetime, and talk about the spectacular achievements that the area will have.

In the heart of Shenzhen, there will be archologies topping up in the world's most advanced cluster of megapolises, technologically overwhelming due to the yearly increasing budget on researching, starting at 4% as for now, but now skyrocketing with expediential numbers of startup companies. Machines and automation would have taken place, empowering the nation's basic economy. Drones haze the sky with their automatic deliveries, roaming every

corner that people will go. Citizens are recognized with their intelligent glasses, commanding them with their gestures. Rapid reclamation permits immense urbanization and economic growth, while modular infrastructures allow for construction to reverse with minimal cost and time, shifting their servicing areas conveniently without causing hassle.

Hong Kong will be packed with doctorates and PHDs to facilitate professional institutions and mega-tall skyscrapers, hired for legislative and medical careers. Hills and cliffs will no longer pose as an obstacle for uprising development, but a stepping-stone towards a leading servicing focal point. New development won't be careened over monuments and markets, to preserve Hong Kong's irreplaceable character. Neon signs will be still slanting on old buildings, and the Peak Tram will be still servicing. The colossal aviation hub will be transformed into landing sites, to service reusable rockets that will revolutionize commutes between nations.

Macau and Zhuhai will be distinguished as international resorts, with substantial and regular influx of vacationists and entertainers, publicity of the GBA will be heard throughout the globe. Casinos and non-alcoholic bars will fill up the town centre, whilst the luxurious hotels will monopolise the rest. Recreational green areas and artificial sanctuaries will be the icing on the cake for the visitors, and holographic servants are projected to existence to further enhance the luxurious experience. As for the earnings from clubs and casinos, they are donated to an extensive network of charities and fundraisers, so the profit is spent on a better cause.

Foshan, Huizhou, Dongguan and Zhongshan will be scattered with futuristic factories and production facilities, with low-carbon designs integrated, such as transparent solar cells for energy and natural lighting, green walls introducing breaths of fresh oxygen, centralized waste management facilities delivered via pipelines of domestic and industrial waste, lush and communal pedestrian paths stretching far into the fusion energy nexus... All of which are friendly towards nature. Wood is the main construction material here because it's renewable, also with strong integrity to support the weight of the building itself.

Shifting to Guangzhou, railways will continue to act as the backbones of transportation, delivering people and cargo to hundreds of destinations. Highways are well hidden inside the reinforced Earth's crust, crossing-over subways and hyperloops where millions of commuters ride on each morning. An emblematic giga-structure is established right in the core, where every form of transport flows into the enormous spire. This commercial-transportation complex pumps out coaches, ferries and dragonfly shuttles like a heart circulating blood, 24/7. Frequent tanky cargo shuttles truck out immense loads of goods, to support extreme demand in other urban sprawls. Jiangmen will serve as a complementary hub to Guangzhou, as it will form an aviation triangle along with Hong Kong.

Zhaoqing won't be packed with zooming shuttles or rows of vehicles but designated as a conservation site for wild organisms. As there aren't much mountains or waterfalls left behind the rapid development in GBA, this will be very attractive towards eco-tourists. Known as a historical and cultural city, Zhaoqing has a lot of geographical features preserved, such as Seven Stars Cave and Panlongxia. This can provide zoological and geological data for research and further understanding of animal behaviour.

It will at least take about a century to transform the landscape of the GBA to this future that I proposed, but what will encourage the vast growth of the GBA? And what will hinder the development of these ambitious projects?

The most crucial factor is to balance development with conservation. Businesses will certainly crave for more grade A offices to expand into, but environmentalists would fight for their pristine terrain and climate. The most difficult is to balance these extreme views. To earn the sweeter fruit of exponential economic amplification, the government can set

measures to limit carbon-footprints of newly designed architectures, construct zoological amusement parks to protect endangered species and enhance their living environments. Or recognize areas with complex biodiversity, to avoid reclamation near the region. Implementing miniature forests inside parks can also create homes to native species. They will not only offer a precious recreational space but improve one's well-being and mental health. Urban renewal can also offer highly competitive and valuable commercial land, increasing development density by folds. Farmlands can be released and converted to skyscrapers, as there's already infrastructures built around.

Another determining factor is the nation's take and policies on free markets and immigration, especially free trade. Free and convenient visas is a pulling factor for businesses, too. Multi-national corporations always focus on their expansion and market share in different countries, and construct branch offices to enhance their revenue. If China collaborates with other regions on seamless, tax-free cargo transport, China will earn a hefty boost on it's growing sum of capital. More and more companies will nurture their businesses in Shenzhen, which contribute to the GBA's GDP. Free immigration and departure policies will result in a more cohesive city-cluster of the GBA, operating it in the most effective manner.

Last but definitely not the least, it depends on China if democracy and clear judicial systems are granted to the public. These values have enormous impacts on corporations that originate from countries with justice. They will take additional considerations if China is holding onto being an oligarch government. Dictatorship isn't always worse than elections because it's highly efficient in processing issues, unlike democratic regions, which have more upkeep in terms of the government. For example, Singapore is a mature financial hub with numerous unique headquarters amongst South-East Asia, but I bet you don't know Singapore's government is dictatorial! Imperialistic nations may even surpass others, if only the leaders care about social issues, and don't be a maniac in manufacturing nuclear devices like Kim-Jong-Un. If anything, I would say authoritarian empires are the 'high risk, high reward'. Fair judging systems are also essential to a prosperous GBA, as assets and properties are insured by the law. The overseas investors will be more than willing to participate in finances, sustaining GBA's steady growth and innovation in the long run.

The GBA is a vast vision and opportunity for everyone, does China ever take a grasp on it, only depends on the nation's actions on revising its strategies on balancing development and conservation, how its' will to open up its borders to the globe, and how does it improve on legal systems. The plans are the foundations of prosperous, utopian heaven.

Non-Fiction – Group 4 WINNER

A Glimpse into the Future

Diocesan Boys' School, Cheng, Justin Kudret – 15

Historically, Guangdong has always been a kaleidoscope of evolution. From a mere outpost of imperial China, to becoming an indispensable trading post connecting the Middle Kingdom to Asia and beyond, through its time as a warzone plagued by colonial struggles, it has always been a site of breath taking change. And as China awakens from its slumber, after being ravaged by civil and international warfare, it has garnered recognition slowly but surely. This is most emblematic in a cluster of Guangdong cities collectively named the Greater Bay Area, where it has undergone yet another transformation in the span of a few decades. Briskly, the southern province has reinvented itself into a place the world has never seen. While Hong Kong's tale of metamorphosis from a backwater fishing village to a cosmopolitan city is one that is often lauded, it is integral to note that this success story has been emulated just a few miles up north, in the metropolis of Shenzhen. When the sleepy village of 30,000 was designated as one of four special economic zones, giving it access to more foreign investment and special taxation laws, it underwent an economic boom — its GDP per capita grew a jaw-dropping 24,569 percent between 1978 and 2014. Now, the story of the city liberalizing acts as a beacon of light for the region: as it continues to urbanize at stunning rates, it is paramount that one stops to investigate how life would be like for ordinary citizens in the region, as well as what it has to offer in the future, especially in our increasingly interconnected world.

Before delving into the specifics of what the Area could offer, it is of prime importance to take its regional context into account. Situated on the southern coast of China, the Greater Bay Area is composed of nine cities — Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Zhuhai, Foshan, Dongguan, Zhongshan, Jiangmen, Huizhou, and Zhaoqing, as well as the Special Administrative Regions of Hong Kong and Macau. To date, it is already one of the preeminent financial centres of the world: despite taking up less than 1 percent of the country's landmass, it accounts for 12 per cent of the national GDP. Its close proximity to the South China Sea, one of the busiest waterways in the world has also helped catapult the Area into a major transportation hub: according to the Hong Kong Trade and Development Council, the volume of air freight traffic was greater than the combined volumes of Tokyo, New York and San Francisco.

First and foremost, as the international image of the Greater Bay Area is further enhanced, this will trickle down to the average citizen in many aspects. Starting with education, often an integral part of every developed society, many members of the Area are actively seeking to improve their educational infrastructure. Indeed, with a population of twice that of Canada, the human capital that is being utilized could not be fully explored if education were subpar. This is already changing in many ways. In Hong Kong alone, three

universities are ranked in the world's top 50 in the Quacquarelli Symonds World University Rankings 2020, namely the University of Hong Kong, the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology and the Chinese University of Hong Kong. The research findings and the intellectual capital will then be cross-pollinated to other cities in the region: CUHK (Shenzhen) was established as a joint venture by the Chinese University of Hong Kong and Shenzhen University in 2014, and HKUST is eagerly preparing for its new Guangzhou campus' inauguration.

Such a process is also exemplified in other veins of the education sector, which have seen massive development in the past few decades. For instance, most cities in the Bay Area have allowed Hong Kong children to apply to public schools as other citizens would. On a larger scale, the Sister School Scheme has also engendered cooperation between many institutions; since 2004, the Guangdong–Hong Kong Sister School Scheme has led to many alliances being forged to the point where, by some accounts, 70% of schools participating in the Scheme. As more lives are altered by this exposure to this refreshing system, students from primary school pupils trying to understand the fundamentals of life to university undergraduates attempting to delve into their fields of interest would all have stimulating education that is of the highest calibre. Thus, it may not be a surprise to see schools in the Area, spurred on by this virtuous cycle of educational exchange, join the ranks of the best institutions across the globe. Soon, student life would be highly diversified with students from every country in the world listening to lectures and sharing classrooms with local cohorts. These young people will not only be observing the world's fastest emerging superpower up-close, they can also serve as seedlings in an ever-growing greenhouse of ideas, a sphere containing blossoming intellectual exchange that will fertilise China's next generation of big ideas.

However, all of that intellectual discourse would not be as valuable if it did not materialize in different areas of society. To meet the burgeoning demand for dissemination of information, many state-of-the-art lecture halls and libraries would have to be built, which could be a steady stream of modern facilities being erected, such as the futuristic Shenzhen Library which boasts more than 2 million books and 1 million online reading materials. Sharing a complex with the neighbouring Shenzhen Concert Hall, its sheer size and proximity to residential areas makes it a bustling cultural hub. In addition, in order to showcase their ideas to the public, more exhibition centres will be constructed in the future. A prominent example of this is the Guangzhou International Convention & Exhibition Center, which provides world-class exhibition infrastructure for a myriad of activities, including technology exhibits and artificial intelligence summits. Another area where expertise shines is in robotics: Shenzhen hosts a Robomaster competition annually, a tournament which attracts talent from across the globe to compete in a variety of engaging battles, with job opportunities at DJI — the sponsor of the championship, and the largest drone manufacturer in the world — as the top prize. Not only does this provide learning opportunities for many youngsters, the enhanced level of public awareness forms yet another virtuous cycle of discourse when more people are cognizant of the latest breakthroughs in different walks of life.

To fully utilize the advantageous geography of the Area and to add on to its growing human capital, cutting-edge infrastructure would be necessary to act as a catalyst for economic growth. The poster boy of China's economic boom, the Chinese high-speed rail system, is already at the forefront of the world: China now owns more high-speed rail than any other country, and with the opening of the Hong Kong Express Rail Link, which pledges trips from the West Kowloon station to the Shenzhen Futian station in less than fifteen

minutes, the creation of a “one-hour sphere of living” is already approaching reality. When a scale model of a train capable of travelling at 1000 km/h was unveiled at the National Mass Innovation and Entrepreneurship Week turned heads, it is no longer ludicrous to imagine a world where due to higher levels of education, the perception of convenience could be redefined. On a shorter time frame, as the Shenzhen-Zhongnan Bridge edges closer to completion in 2024, the two cities will be connected by trips less than 30 minutes, a stark departure from now which requires around three hours to cross the bay. This is accompanied by the recent culmination of the Shenzhen Bao’an International Airport: often compared to the venerable Hong Kong International Airport and Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport, the hub offers ferry trips to its Hong Kong counterpart where passengers do not need to pass through immigration, alongside a fourth terminal that could meet demand up to 2045. Although greater caution should be exercised before construction — the Guangzhou Baiyun expansion of a new runway is seen to be in direct competition with the Foshan airport — competition will still inevitably provide users with better facilities, better hospitality and better quality as a whole.

Secondly, business and technology will also thrive in the foreseeable future. Combined with the rising education levels and the proliferation of infrastructure, other factors will also contribute to the region’s rise. The most documented one would certainly be Hong Kong, with its *laissez-faire* economic market which is consistently one of the most open in the world. As one of the most highly regarded financial centres in the world, Hong Kong could strengthen its status as an offshore Renminbi business hub, or provide trading services for mainland conglomerates such as Tencent due to its independent financial system and its high credibility. In addition, Hong Kong’s medical system is also heralded as one of the leaders in the industry, and the expertise is already being cross-pollinated to other cities: from 2012 to 2017, a University of Hong Kong-backed hospital in Shenzhen has assisted more than 4 million patients, introducing sophisticated technology such as cutting-edge anaesthesia that enables liver transplants along the way.

This progress is in direct refutation to the criticism that some opponents might bring up: they believe that further integration would be detrimental to the Region’s autonomy, which is stipulated in the city’s mini-constitution, the Basic Law. It is critical to note that Hong Kong’s success as an entrepot and a free trading port is premised upon the principles of transparency and openness, and to claim that these values would be eroded is unfounded at best. However, Hong Kong’s technological sector has seen limited fanfare as opposed to the symphony of inventions across the border: a major example was when DJI CEO Frank Wang, a student at the HKUST founded his company in Shenzhen after not being able to get financial backing in Hong Kong, due to sky-high costs and a lack of government support. Despite these constraints, however, Hong Kong Science Park has still nurtured quite a few innovative companies, and SenseTime’s success is a testament to this when it was founded in 2014. In a mere five years, the company has defied expectations and now is the world’s most valuable A.I. start-up at \$4.5 billion, with joint research programs with acclaimed universities such as Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK), Tsinghua University, and Peking University. Learning from examples like these, the governments of both cities have agreed to commence construction of the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Park, a vanguard for technological exploration located on the border.

Moving northwards, Hong Kong’s younger counterpart shines enthusiastically as a metropolis ready for change. Often referred to as “China’s Silicon Valley” and home to titans such as Tencent, Huawei and Alibaba, Shenzhen’s attention to investment in research and

development is almost unparalleled: its use of 4% of its GDP in 2018 is rivalled only by the innovative economies of Israel and South Korea. For instance, Tencent's brainchild Wechat is the most popular social media network in the world, connecting around a billion users. However, to suggest that it is a social media application would be a vast understatement: it offers a multitude of features, ranging from online payments to video calls to options for advertising. In reality, it means that one can pay for groceries, book an appointment to the doctor, and send anyone a voice message while catching up with your friends' latest adventures, not to mention to pay for utilities in case you've forgotten, all without leaving the app. It is then no surprise that Tencent is one of the miracles of the past decade: its Hong Kong-listed stock price increased up to 12,200 percent since its inception in 2014. In addition, the smartphones that are used for accessing this expanding network could take a radically different form: Huawei, another tech giant headquartered in the vibrant city of Shenzhen, which stretches from the smartphone industry — in which it is neck and neck with the global leader, Samsung — to the nascent 5G sector, a subject that has attracted global attention. It is then easy to foresee a future where you can call a taxi and pay the driver in advance, when you tap on your Huawei that boasts a smorgasbord of features, including a top-class semiconductor chip that could be manufactured by Alibaba, which recently released the Hanguang 800 chip that the firm claims to be the fastest in the world. Although the artificial intelligence chip right now is being used internally for product search and advertising, it is not impossible to envision a future where the two titans join forces and create a chip that could be used both for supporting smartphones and digital infrastructure.

These electronics could be assembled just a few miles up north in the city of Dongguan, which is suffering from its overreliance on migrant workers: some 75% of its 8.3 million population are migrants who leave the city deserted during festivals such as during Chinese New Year. Instead, it has repositioned itself as a production base, as more enterprises are attracted to its allure. It is already home to about 9,000 enterprises according to the Hong Kong Trade and Development Council, and it is readjusting to meet the demand of neighbouring cities. Spanning an area of 60 square km, the emerging district of Binhaiwan will be a hotspot for innovative industries, including university startups which have seen increased engagement in the technological sphere. One in five smartphones in the world are made in Dongguan due to its large workforce and abundant supply of materials, and this is set to accelerate as semiconductors are in the spotlight of the city's development. A major reason for this is the "Made in China 2025" plan: China aims to produce 40% of the semiconductors it uses by 2020 and 70% by 2025. Self-sufficiency is significant as the global economy is still volatile in the wake of the US-China trade war, and Dongguan is a prime actor in realising that goal in the years to come.

Hop on a state-of-the-art high-speed rail and you could be minutes away from Guangzhou, the provincial capital of Guangdong and the region's most populous city. Apart from the spectacular transportation network that solidifies its position as a gateway city, its culture which had been shaped by decades of change is also worthy of attention. The Wuxian Guan, a Taoist temple engraved with sculptures of five sheep, is a prominent example of the city's heritage: it is believed that five celestial rams arrived in Chuting (Guangzhou during the Zhou Dynasty) and blessed the city with good harvests, bringing an end to an era of sustained famine. Go into the city centre and you would be stunned by the ancient architecture in Old Xiguan, which was home to elaborate Cantonese mansions owned by the most affluent personalities a few centuries ago. All sharing the traditional Lingnan characteristics, they are immaculately designed with timber-masonry structures and have withstood the test of time: the Xiguan houses are currently

open for visits. Combined with deep black bricks and an elaborate architectural style, the district is a hotspot for tourists and academics alike. A few minutes' walk would bring you to a row of restaurants with authentic Cantonese cuisine, each of them selling their specialities which often are passed on for generations. The sight of woks humming, people salivating and dishes ranging from steamed oysters, fried chicken or *char siu* is definitely a delight to the eyes, and will not vanish in the near future when the Area modernizes into one the world stops to observe. Thus, life for residents in this aspect will not change as dramatically as in other realms, however with the aid of technology pioneered by companies such as Tencent, one could expect lengthy waiting times for food delivery to be lost in the past. With the advent of the recent infrastructural boom, the prospect of ordering bona fide *daliang double milk* from Guangzhou to a world-class hotel in Macau could no longer be fiction.

The distinct Cantonese culture forms a direct contrast with Macanese culture, a gambling hub which retains a few shreds of its Portuguese occupation. The remnants of St Paul's Church, and historically known as the 'Vatican of the Far East', the site is a magnificent culmination of a grandiose staircase leading up to a seamless granite facade. A 10-minute walk northeast would lead you to the ancient St Lazarus Church, a pristine white facility surrounded by some of Macau's most picturesque streets that cannot be found anywhere in the world. INdeed, as new casinos are constructed and as new resorts are built to meet the skyrocketing demand, some local bazaars might be forgotten. However, this is not emblematic of Macanese culture as a whole; regardless of whatever trials and tribulations the city might go through, the revenue gained from tourism is already enough to ensure they will not become remnants of the past.

All of this breathtaking change will definitely present cities of the Greater Bay Area in a refreshingly new light, as centerpieces of innovation and prosperity. This is in direct juxtaposition to the perception some may hold decades ago; with every soaring skyscraper being erected, with every university being constructed, with every station being established, the image that the region is no more than a rural backwater has already been deemed obsolete. This image will be even more irrelevant as the GBA progresses and flourishes; time and trust will only bolster the Area's international image as an interconnected and highly intellectual hub. And as Hong Kong remains embroiled in a political conflict full of acrimony, one can only hope for the city that we call home can find a way past the strife and forge a path back to prosperity. With this golden opportunity on our doorstep, we have the opportunity to regain what we have lost in the midst of this chaos, but also to reach new heights with cooperation and innovation.

Non-Fiction – Group 5 WINNER

Future Adventures of The Greater Bay Area: A Fusion of All That is Great

St Margaret's Co-Educational English Secondary and Primary School, Bajaj, Sasha – 16

Have you ever wondered what a place would look like that fuses diversity in education, culture, and finance? Well you don't need to wonder, the Greater Bay Area (henceforth referred to as the GBA) will foster its cities' strengths to encourage future success in the area.

Hong Kong is a regional education hub that possesses a leading position in global rankings of students' strengths, while China strives to develop itself as a world-class research center. Out of 1400 universities across 92 countries, the top 2 universities of Hong Kong ranked 35th and 47th, while the top universities in China ranked 23rd and 24th. Hong Kong's innovation and technology sector, tallied with that of Shenzhen – the Shenzhen-Hong Kong technology cluster – ranked the world's second largest (based on the Global Innovation Index 2019). Of the top 100 science and technology clusters, China has racked up 18, second only to the United States. The success of the GBA depends on whether the area's strong cluster of top universities can demonstrate leading and path-breaking research, innovation, and technological advancements. This will help develop the Greater Bay Area as an international education base as well as open up collaborative innovation opportunities for students in Hong Kong and Guangdong. Educational cooperation between Hong Kong and the Mainland will be able to reach a new pedestal, achieving good progress in areas such as variety of educational programmes, student exchange, scientific research collaboration, and professional training. To further foster creativity and innovation within the region, people studying in the area could stay after their graduation to seek economic, creative, or employment opportunities in nearby cities. Thus, the present-day problem of fluctuating social mobility in the cities of the GBA can be alleviated. Moreover, joining the GBA initiative would bring the SARs and also the Guangdong province new technology, knowledge, and an influx of new talents. For example, Shenzhen is known as a forefront technology hub. Hong Kong may experience exchanges in the technology sector, such as submitting technological issues across the border and receiving unparalleled advice from certified professionals within the GBA. By providing resources which bolster productivity, learning, growth, and aiding collaboration with leading industry professionals from Shenzhen (which will definitely help to improve the technological level of local products) both Hong Kong and Macau will see the benefits of these type of exchanges. There are considerable perks of building an open community of innovation and technology throughout the GBA. For example, it will form alliance across diverse crucial sectors such as entrepreneurship, financial technology, and commercial applications. Further, it would also

support Macau as a training base for talented entrepreneurs who are fluent in both Chinese and Portuguese, hence turning the area into an education and training base.

The initiative is an economic enticement for Hong Kong and Macau to start building stronger ties with the mainland. It will also greatly benefit Hong Kong's economy as the plan brings about the movement of capital and goods. With this, local companies may attract more investment, attain a better yield in the stock market, as well as providing Hong Kong businesses with a more substantial stake market in the mainland. Developing the GBA into an international financial hub would make it an important component of the One Belt, One Road initiative, thus it would encourage the development of Macau into a Sino-Portuguese stage for financial services. This would support the development of specialised financial products in the city as the overseas experience of Hong Kong businesses would help GBA companies in their efforts to "go global", which would be an important factor in the city's future success. On one hand, Hong Kong's status as an international connector should naturally enable the city to promote the GBA initiative overseas and attract more capital and talents therein for further development.

Hong Kong could benefit from integration with Guangdong by gaining greater access to the Chinese market in the financial and professional services sector. Hong Kong only exports 7.5% of all its financial services to China - about a third of what it exports to the United Kingdom. This exportation of financial expertise is significantly lower than it perhaps should be considering Hong Kong's close relationship and geographical location in relation to the mainland. By transferring financial expertise from city to city within the GBA, each city or major city of the area would enjoy benefits in the finance industry by directly increasing GDP growth through promoting domestic investment and growth through capital imports and reducing consumption volatility. Transferring financial expertise leads to healthy competition among the GBA cities as well as internationally, thus making a more effective financial system. Also, it provides information on the vital areas of investment, like property in Hong Kong, and can hence lead to effective capital allocation, subsequently increasing GDP growth. More importantly, it promotes the integration of the economy and facilitates the easy flow of capital. The free transfer of funds and expertise would eventually result in more equality among the cities that are a part of that same financial system.

Originally a sparsely populated collection of coastal islands, Macau has become the top destination for gambling tourism and a major resort city in Asia. The territory is the ninth-highest recipient of tourism revenue and its gambling industry is seven times larger than that of Las Vegas, earning its nickname the "Las Vegas of Asia". The city has a severe income inequality despite having one of the highest per capita incomes in the world at 96,570 Macanese pataca dollars in 2016 (according to the World Bank). In addition, Macau's GDP per capita by purchasing power parity (PPP) is one of the highest in the world and higher than any other country in 2017 (World Bank), thus showing the need for the other cities' financial expertise to promote the capital growth of Macau itself. Over the years, Macau has prioritised gambling, tourism, and resort development which has created a narrow economic base. The GBA however, could diversify its economy away from its reliance on gambling to focus on tourism, financial services, entertainment, cultural events, as well as boost its role as a 'knowledge centre'. For instance, Macau may focus more on its openness abroad, namely by becoming a reference point in China for cultural and academic relations not only with Portuguese-speaking countries but also with Spanish-speaking countries - especially given the ease of connecting Portugal and Brazil with the Iberian world, thus boosting its role as a 'knowledge centre'

Macau plays a vital role in the Greater Bay Area's progress towards further success, particularly in utilising its strengths to link the mainland with Portuguese-speaking countries, the EU, and the ASEAN. These credentials firmly establish Macau as a platform for international exchange. In recent years, Macau has strategized accelerating the growth of its convention and exhibition industry, cultural and creative offerings, as well as adopting a role as a service provider for business cooperation between the region and Portuguese speaking countries. It has called for casino operators to focus on gaming elements such as hosting conferences and cultural events in their casino and hotel establishments. This realignment of Macau's focus necessitates cooperation between and advancement of research, the cultivation of talent, and the widespread application of new technology: all of which would be offered and enhanced through expertise exchange with Hong Kong and Shenzhen.

In addition, Macau, as a tourism and leisure hub, will establish the Greater Bay Area as a world-class travel destination. Due to Macau already having outstanding tourist facilities, it is now developing as a tourism training and education base for the entire region. Building on its reputation as a city where East meets West, Macau is ideally placed to promote cultural and language exchange between China and the rest of the world. Macau will facilitate cultural development with countries that are part of the One Belt, One Road trade route – particularly those that speak Portuguese.

In spite of these advancements, Macau would still benefit greatly through development of the GBA and the initiative presents Macau with several opportunities to further its growth. Macau is small, crowded, and has limited space, which restricts further development and economic diversification. Fortunately, however, one such option for progressive development is the development of straying away from economic dependency on its gambling industry. In other words, Macau could capitalize on the infrastructure of several bases built in Guangdong, such as the traditional Chinese Medicine, Science, and Technology Industrial Park in Hengqin. Macau could utilise these resources and branching into the Guangdong region would also provide new spaces for the transformation of Macau's industry, along with new areas for the Macanese people to work and live in. By providing additional residential space, the GBA would provide a plethora of new opportunities for Macanese. As such, Macanese residents currently working and living in Guangdong could enjoy the same benefits as those in mainland China, such as education, medical care, housing, and elderly care. These facets will be further improved by improving border clearance facilities and the linkage of several public services, make it easier to travel within the area as it makes it easier to cope more effectively with immigration and security concerns at the border, and allow bay area citizens to enjoy equal services respectively.

ICBC, the largest locally registered bank in Macau, is actively participating in the strategy to develop the Greater Bay Area by promoting the development of Macau's specialised finance system. In March 2018, Macau's government and the ICBC Group signed a memorandum of cooperation to this effect. With the support of the Macau government and the ICBC Group, ICBC Macau successfully launched an asset platform for Portuguese-speaking countries in the second quarter of 2018. ICBC will remain focused on Macau's strategic position in the Greater Bay Area and comply with the development of specialised, Silk Road, green, and marine financial products and services. Further, the bank will also assist Macau by playing a leading role in the One Belt, One Road initiative and will contribute to creating a vibrant and internationally competitive city cluster. In no time, the Greater Bay Area will grow to become a globally renowned hub for tourism, business and culture – with Macau playing an integral role in this. Hong Kong's role as a platform for foreign exchange and investment

would also help Macau economically due to Hong Kong's experience, thus providing its expertise to further develop Macau's economy effectively.

The Greater Bay Area provides a much larger stage for Hong Kong's development. With greater connectivity between the regions, Hong Kong can better interact with the surrounding cities and utilize its strengths in sectors such as finance and scientific innovation. Further, according to the Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA), with the development of financial services playing an integral role, the development plan supports centralizing Hong Kong's status as an international financial center, a global offshore Renminbi business hub, an international service management center, and a risk management center, which would subsequently further boost Hong Kong's economy. In particular, its finance and innovation sectors would reap huge rewards as more talents from neighbouring cities in the GBA would be brought in to further development.

The initiative, along with the two recently-launched projects to benefit transportation (the Hong Kong section of Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link and Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge) will further interlink cities and areas within the Greater Bay Area and bring more tourists from the region to Hong Kong. Thus, this will raise revenue in the tourism sector. For instance, with Macau's expertise in tourism, the flow of people and trade is facilitated with the use of the 42km bridge connecting the 3 major regions of the PDR, which could turn Lantau Island into a tourism and business hub with potential to create jobs for residents of Tung Chung. The development of Hong Kong as an international innovation and technology hub is one of the initiative's priorities, and the Greater Bay Area will provide a favourable environment for Hong Kong's scientific and innovative industries to further develop. The knowledge exchange within the region, particularly with cities like Shenzhen, would propel Hong Kong to the next level of scientific development. Shenzhen is home to some of the biggest tech companies worldwide, for example telecommunications firm Huawei and smartphone maker ZTE, and companies like these would only see positives from the GBA.

The GBA provides an extraordinary opportunity in which cities in the area can be interdependent and would form a complete and integrated industrial chain for technological advancement. Hong Kong, strong in both basic scientific research and finance, can play an integral role in the successful development of the Bay Area which would strengthen its influence within the region.

In conclusion, with the continuous improvement of connectivity between cities in the Greater Bay Area, opportunities to expand businesses by leveraging the complementary strengths of different cities in the area will arise. For example, Hong Kong as an international finance center and offshore RMB hub leaves it well placed to be at the centre of investment, financing, and deal and venture capital activity. Our vibrant city can be at the leading edge of the development of the GBA into a technology and innovation hub by helping to create the ecosystem that is essential to fostering innovation and entrepreneurship along with greater business-to-business cooperation. The future is bright for the GBA.

Non-Fiction – Group 6 WINNER

Our New Home

King George V (DLA), Pek, Maxx – 11

Today HK
Tomorrow Macau
The day after... Southern China
The Greater Bay Area, soon to be... Ummmm let me see.

Hong Kong has Disneyland
Hong Kong has skyscrapers
When I go Attractions with my friends, I take lots of exciting rides. Hong Kong Disneyland is a good place.

Me and my family like to go shopping in Ocean Terminal
We plan what to eat for dinner, our favourite is a Japanese restaurant
We then work it off with a hike to Lion Rock

*Hong Kong is a great place
My home*

I will take you on an adventure in Macau
I love Macau because I like visiting hotels and eating yummy food
I can be a tourist in Macau and take photos to keep in for memories
Like Hong Kong, we can go to the beach and swim in the sea
And at the end of the trip we always go shopping to buy souvenirs.

*Macau is a great place
Maybe one day my home*

Sometimes we go to Southern China, I love Southern China because it's a beautiful place
But we don't go very often
My family and I like visiting the famous old building and seeing the view but sometimes the sky is grey
We visit the temples to pay respect and pray to buddha
We also like relaxing in the hot springs because it's warm and nice
We then chill out in the hotel and watch TV

*Southern China is a great place
Maybe one day my home*

The GBA idea is exciting because it has so many similarities and so many differences.
Drinks, Food, Language, Nature, Festivals, Culture, Weather.

*If we get this new place as our home
I think I will like it.*

Non-Fiction – Group 7 WINNER

It Would be an Adventure Hong Kong, Macau, China...OH MY!

King George V (DLA), Kwok, Jonathan – 16

The Greater Bay Area??...WOW. Imagine such a big place.
Hong Kong, Macau and Southern China together...OH MY!

It would be an adventure

Hong Kong is my home
A big place with many famous people, great culture, restaurants, buildings schools and hospitals

It would be an adventure

It would be a road trip with different foods and hiking
It would be new and exciting
It would be fun and fabulous

It would be an adventure

It would make our tiny Hong Kong bigger...but maybe that might be fun?
It would be fun to go camping
It would be fun to eat different foods for lunch and dinner...I hope I can learn to cook
I just hope this new place keeps all of the good parts about Hong Kong

It would be an adventure

Let's try and imagine what it might be like.

I think, It would be an adventure

Poetry – Group 1 WINNER

Around the Greater Bay Area

Shanghai Singapore International School, Susanto, Stella Marcheline – 8

Monkey King takes me
Flying by Jindou Cloud
To eat dimsum in bustling Guangzhou
Lunch would be fishball in quaint Fuzhou

Next get a train
Go to Shenzhen
Wouldn't it be wonderful
To see a city
So full of technology?

The dazzling Hong Kong is just close
So I'm going to Disneyland
And say hi to Mulan

Mulan would say
Let's cross the bridge
From Hong Kong to Macau
Then gamble in the casino

Later Captain Hook would pick me up
To sail to warm Sanya
And enjoy sandy beaches

Then
I begin to feel tired
Home is calling me
Say goodbye
See you around my neighborhood
In the Greater Bay Area

Poetry – Group 2 WINNER

A New World

ELCHK LUTHERAN ACADEMY, Ho, Yan Kiu – 11

Before the dawn of Christmas Eve,
The Greater Bay Area was unleashed;
Consolidating 11 cities into one,
Which commenced all the fun;

Foshan, a historical and cultural hometown throughout the dynasties,
With its ceramic arts, martial arts and pottery arts
Bruce Lee, Ip Man and Wong Fei Hung
Like philosophers of combat with ferocious panthers' hearts.

Guangzhou, a bustling city famous for foreign trading,
Well-known for the Cantonese cuisine they make;
An exhilarating paradise for all types of shopping,
The new rising star till the morning break.

Hong Kong, known as the Pearl of the Orient,
The successful hybrid of East and West,
With vibrant nightlife and expensive rent,
The city that never rests.

Macau, a place best for steamed pork buns,
In which Hong Kong had none;
Religious folklore show that they are smart,
They also make plenty of Portuguese tarts!

Shenzhen, a garden city with contemporary skyscrapers,
Offering Window of the World with talented teenagers;
Famous for its new innovation and cultural diversity,
With its advanced technology skills like the complicated biodiversity;

Zhuhai, an enchanted forest with legendary tales,
Echo of soul unto grateful gales.
Stunning coastline, tranquil islands and countryside,
Where she proudly holds her charm and pride.

Our anonymous future is like the leaning tower of Pisa
With all the captivating colours the cities have to offer;
Would our lives be like the smile of Mona Lisa?
Or would it be a massive change from a small detail that differs?

Uncertainty, anxiety, bewilderment,
Or soaring with rays of hope and excitement,
It's like students receiving their assignments,
The mixed feelings in the learning environments.

With a prospect of the intriguing new lifestyle
Will you take it as a hidden blessing?
Or will you think of it as depressing?
No matter what, I think it will be worthwhile.

Life gives you many ways to choose
Give it a try and you might be amused;
I tend to dream my future bliss
Awake me to a new world like this?

We glide through life on weightless wings,
Like a newborn Jesus waking up in spring,
From big to small, from short to tall,
Maybe combining us is a better idea after all.

Poetry – Group 3

WINNER

Pronoia

Harrow International School Hong Kong, Yau, Alicia – 13

Pronoia: (n.) The belief that the universe is conspiring in your favour

A petal of jasmine floats in tea.
Tendrils of smoke rise over the porcelain,
From the drink as green
as the harbour sea.

A successful man with places to be
Visiting his grandmother,
Whom he clears his arduous
schedule to see.

Requested of him is a tale
Of deeply ingrained impression,
That occurred long before lines beside his eyes grew prominent
and his grandmother grew frail.

There once was a younger boy:
Lost in the world, unnoticed, unlearned in the industry his father had navigated with ease-
Struggling through life
Shortly before his rags-to-riches story began.

For you see the nature of this business is ever-changing,
The fortune to be made enticed all who chose to pursue it,
However, rolling the wrong dice in this capricious, captivating game
Does tend to be a cause for complaining.

A seller in the Mong Fok was where it all started.
By chance, or so it would seem
He was drawn to a butterfly charm with a luminant, iridescent sheen
Safe in his pocket, as he paid and they parted.

It's body was set in exquisite silver sterling,
Wings illuminated in shades of

turquoise, cerulean, seafoam green.
Atop it's head, two antennae were curling.

Far too intricate to be the price it was sold
Or rather, given.
Far too well made to belong in a cramped, unrefined street market,
dropped carelessly on the streets of old.

An almost enchanting quality about it-
Entrancingly beautiful in an innate, mystical way,
For it was almost like around it, the fundamental rules of the universe, space and time

Distorted.

Shifted.

Stopped.

Timelessness is a strange notion:
The feeling of staying awake until the sun rises. Long plane journeys. Confinement.
But it doesn't really exist outside of your perception,
It takes no time for its passage to be put back in motion.

In an instant
It resumed,
Correcting itself.
The universe always strives to be interminably consistent.

Something peculiar happened in those brief moments of hesitation,
The world around him fell away, no, it moved forward.
The boy gazed at the charm in his palm in wonder,
And he wondered that in this case, did correlation truly mean causation?

He marvelled at how the city had grown
Into a jungle of skyscrapers,
With patches in the canopy revealing the unchanging blue sky
Into the future, where trees have sprouted from seeds that were sown.

Reality pulls him back from reflection,
Reminding him of the peculiar circumstances.
He calls to a woman passing by,
Asking her for the year, the location, and some simple directions.

Curiosity is evident on the woman's expression.
She inquires of his name, his occupation, and a potential head injury
They converse for a while,
His unconventional introduction mostly forgotten.

They envision the future, and what it may hold
 Would it bring wealth or happiness?
 He divulged that he was merely a struggling business man-
 In the future he sees, there lay no mountain of gold.

She tells him not to be discouraged,
 Bringing up a distinctly familiar name - his own.
 Another businessman, who started in the very same place,
 But soon found his fortune, and quickly flourished.

He bid her a confounded farewell
 In favour of seeking out himself,
 Coming across the extravagant mansion he would one day call home,
 Holding his breath, he rang the doorbell.

The person who answered was like a mirror image, only weathered by the years.
 Soon he was being led through a house,
 The interior as lavish as the outside - draped in fine silk, chiselled out of marble,
 Lit with numerous crystal chandeliers.

To discuss this extraordinary event
 They took lunch in a spacious sitting room,
 Debating if circumstances can be changed with direction
 And if so, to what extent?

The older version of the boy proposes an agreement-
 To teach his younger self the ways of their trade,
 Instructing him in life, informing him of the future,
 Promising that before long, his business will see definite achievement.

With this deal struck,
 The boy returned to his time, armed with knowledge of required actions
 Unable to believe
 His inconceivable luck.

Investments were made,
 Every stock was bought and sold
 At the perfect opportunity, and at first no one suspected
 Any kind of external aid.

The boy's standing in society rose
 People took notice.
 Before long,
 Talk quickly arose.

It must be a hoax
 They cried.

Magic. Meddling. Alas, the true telling,
from him they'll never coax.

This concludes the account
Said the man to his grandmother,
Hopefully it inspired a few to realise that there's no such thing,
As something you can't surmount.

With that said and done,
I have a few pressing errands to run.
Thank you for your time, I wish good health upon you
With that said he was gone.

He got back to his estate to greet his visitor who had just travelled through the years,
Leading him through his house,
The interior as lavish as the outside – draped in fine silk, chiselled out of marble,
Lit with numerous crystal chandeliers.

To discuss this extraordinary event
They took lunch in a spacious sitting room,
Debating if circumstances can be changed with direction
And if so,

to what extent?

Poetry – Group 4 WINNER

Future Adventures of the Greater Bay Area – eavesdropping on / a conversation with the elders

Island School, Lam, Ady – 15

don't you miss
the trees? the lush
greenery which provided shade
underneath for you to lie in the
welcoming green grass, the short
blades tickling your chin as you
laughed, holding the hand of the
person you truly
loved?

or the birds in the trees, nature's alarm
clock, ranging from delicate chirps from
the largest of the feathered to piercing blasts
from pin-sized chicks. they greeted you as
you woke, as you walked, as you went to
work in another dreary office building, alike
to the gray one on the left of it and the gray
one on the right of it and the gray ones
beside those two and beside those two and
beside those two... doing something that
seemed to have meaning but now, when you
look back, really served no purpose
at all

i had a dream last night, about the
time when I was eight and we visited
the beach. Oh what a long, tranquil,
undisturbed strip of sand it was then.
the periwinkle, wait no cerulean, or was
it azure? pardon my confusion but it's

been eons since i've been to a clean
beach. but the waves, whichever shade
of blue they were, as they gently
washed up against your feet, offered
peace and solitude, offered an escape
from the hounds we collectively
defined as our problems: stress,
deprssion, anxiety... the beasts may
be somewhat subdued now but the
beaches too were euthanized

and the simplest of things - the
sky, what a beauty to take in. from left to
right all one saw was bright blue, no
boundaries, no limitations. the clouds
seemed like a hindrance but really, just big
packs of marshmallows so high up always
moving this way, that way, never staying
still
except for when they had to pee
of course

laughter

the rain was an inconvenience at
times, an unstoppable army against my dry
socks and shoes, but it always cleared the
bad things away. it was always sunnier
and clearer after it rained.the flowers
smiled wider, the snails and slugs
withdrew from their hidey-holes into the
brave unknown

...

i miss the
good old
days

...

agreed

...

agreed

but grandpa joseph
 grandpa joseph what do you mean
 we don't have trees
 we have trees
 why they're right outside our window
 if you didn't have such bad eyesight
 maybe you could see them!
 here let me help you
 polish your glasses lens
 what do you mean by we don't have trees
 when there's BARK-1, CEDAR-2, YEW-3...
 there's even a rare subspecies BAOBAB-8-4-7
 right next to school!

ha!
 have you ever climbed
 those trees? caressed them with
 tenderness and felt its heart beat?
 those trees are inklings of what real
 trees were: big, strong, mighty...
 baobabs are native to
 botswana, dear child, they don't
 belong here anymore than the
 himalayan cedars or
 the english yew
 why has society yearned
 for globalisation so intensely that
 we've exchanged even our trees!
 only the very lungs of this planet
 that combat all the pollutants we
 pump into this fragile, failing
 ecosystem. look closely, my love,
 and you'll see these trees are dying.
 they're dying because they weren't
 made to be thousands of kilometres
 away from their birthplace. they're
 dying because we're killing them
 and ourselves along with them.

what do you mean!
 we live in the greater bay area
 life has never been greater

oh honey
 but you see that thin veil of grey,
 shielding the sun from what would
 otherwise be a brilliant hot glare that

what about it grandma eve
it's been there forever

but then what did you mean about the beach?
what did grandma mary mean about the birds?
what did grandpa adam mean about the sky?
we have beaches
we have birds
we have a sky

would hurt your eyes, instead of only
irritating them?

no dear
it wasn't
certainly not when we were
young and sprightly just like you
pollution wasn't so bad back
then. every now and then it got
smoggy but never permanently
now it's like a cloud that's never
left us
a presence always looking
over our shoulder
like we did something wrong.

a beach without waves and waves
of plastic bottles washing up on shore,
again and again, tomorrow and
tomorrow and tomorrow?

birds without those little plastic
contraptions attached to their rear ends, to
ensure no faeces dare splatter on a human,
perverting nature's humour?

a sky without perpetual
grey?

they don't have unclean beaches
in fiji you know

they also don't have grey skies
in fiji

lord, they don't have these plastic pieces
of junk anywhere!

so is there nothing
nothing at all
that you like
about this megalopolis?

well i suppose... the people

what, you mean the
broken relationships and strained
marriages which come from
overworking and huge stress loads?
just look at the child's parents, for
goodness' sake! last time they all
spent a day together was christmas
two years ago!

although that can be true, i
meant how it sometimes feels like
you're just going for a stroll in the park
and instead you come out of it with a
new friend. the ease of forging lifelong
relationships and finding those who
you truly love and care about is
unbelievable. never in such a large
place have people felt more connected.

decades ago, i would never have
fathomed that one of the ten highest GDPs
in the world belonged not even to a country,
but rather a cluster of powerful cities that
have pushed Silicon Valley out of business.
all we ever say now is "buy, buy, buy!", and
it's acting as steroids for our inhumanely
strong economy. family businesses are
cropping up everyday and the question
facing budding entrepreneurs is no longer
"should I?", more so "when?"

the places and their history, so
intangible and rich in culture...
portuguese, british and chinese influences
all under one flag. the colonists may have
left but their delectable food and complex
traditions remain always.

the opportunities are
endless - long were the days when
unemployment was rife and we

lived our days hoping for a better
tomorrow. why bother, when we
now know tomorrow will just be
the same as today: perfect?

perfect?

no, not quite perfect. i guess we're
content with our lives now, but...

life is beautiful, certainly much
more so than in other countries, and we
really should treasure how far our country
has come, but...

it's a utopia of sorts: high wages, high
savings interest rates, high
life expectancy...

and?

it's a grey, concrete utopia in
which everything that matters the least
is valued the most.

then what does this mean?
what does this mean for us
for everyone living here
for me?

...

be true to yourself. listen to your
heart and not other people's voices.
choose kindness.

work hard, but not for the money. find
your passion and we'll support you in it, be
it animal husbandry or conspiracy theorist.

value those who love you.
treasure moments and do what makes
you happy. care for the environment
and others. try make this region a
better one than it already is.

but
this doesn't apply to the greater bay area specifically

and so it doesn't. doesn't that
make it all the more important?

because when we strip away the
borders we're left with people. when we
build up borders we're left with people.
the only constant is us.

a lot of the time we create
problems. but a lot of the time we create
solutions.

the answers to our
difficulties lie in the limitless
minds of our innovative
youngsters; those whose ideas have
yet to be distorted by the
mainstream, those whose thinking
is entirely theirs

the greater bay area may have its
faults, but you
can solve them.

we believe in you.

Poetry – Group 5 WINNER

The Midnight Train

St. Paul's Convent School, Choi, Lok Yin – 16

Two headlights
ablaze
as the train pulls into the station.
Solitary, I board, stow my luggage,
settle down for the ride. Two hours. Behind me
the platform ebbs in reverse.
The shadows of skyscrapers too streak backwards
while the tethered flow of time races
parallel
outside the window.
Only the rumble of wheels and neon bursts
drown the drowsy silence
and the two cities before the sea
slumber
with open, lucent eyes.

I awake to horizons blackened by
silhouettes of figures blurred through hazy vision.
No stars in sight.
Just the hum of static as the train,
an impulse in itself,
speeds along the tracks spidering like neurones and synapses
through the expanse,
kindling limelight and embers of red and yellow and fluorescent white
with its passage until an ocean of distant firefly simulations flicker in reply
akin to the northern beacons of old.
Mere juvenile nebulae,
yet my view clears as the clusters of dust compress
to emit radiance, piercing the sky to reveal the outlines
of steel and concrete intertwined,
mirroring the pewter clouds lined with pristine silver.

Two headlights
dimming

as the train pulls into the station.

The dazzle of overhead lamps douses all;
the platform hurries forth in greeting.

As the crowd rushes in to displace those alighting
the flashes and buzz promise me of home away from home,
for this, this world before me, this unfamiliar familiarity
is simply home
extended.

Two hundred kilometres out
in the early morning hours
I see cities, scintillating,
as I draw near the heart
of a realm yet unnamed, but faintly glowing.

Poetry – Group 6 WINNER

Greater Bay Area

Korean International Springboard, Chor, Damien – 12

The Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay
Is a good place to visit for a day.
With all the transport you can see many places,
Ocean Park, Disneyland or even the races.
Take a ferry to Macau
See the casinos and go wow!
Take a train to Shenzhen
Have a massage or buy a pen.
If you fly to Guangzhou
You can relax and watch a show.
Wherever you choose to be
There are lots of things to see!

Poetry – Group 7 WINNER

The Greater Bay Area

Korean International Springboard, Lin, Adrian – 14

Here we go, from Hong Kong to
Macao for marvelous concerts,
Shenzhen for shopping,
Guangzhou for the great Chimelong theme parks!

Hong Kong, a shopping paradise
Home for me, Disneyland and Ocean Park
Hub for financial services
Heart of the Greater Bay Area!

Disneyland, park of my dreams
Toy Story land with terrific rides
Buzz Lightyear ride is a blast
Mystic Manor is not to be missed!

Ocean Park offers so much!
Cable car connects you to the thrill rides,
The Dragon and Arctic Blast are thrilling
The Rapids feels like being in the rain!
Hong Kong, my Home
Has many wonderful places to visit
Home to many different nationalities,
Here, in my heart forever!