



Non-Fiction

Group 1

The Flaming Mountain

Regents Primary School of Shenzhen, Chen, Jundao - 9

The Flaming Mountain is the most famous scenic spot in Turpan, in northwestern part of China. The mountain is more than 100 kilometers long. The widest point is 10 kilometers and it is 500 meters above sea level. The main peak is 831.7 meters above sea level. Every summer, with the red sun in the sky, the Auburn Mountain under the sun shines. The sand-stones become flashy, the hot air rises, like a burning flame. So everyone in China knows the famed Flame Mountain .

Referring to the Flaming Mountain, I believe that most people know it through the novel “Journey to the West”. The story is that Sun Wukong (Monkey King) made havoc in the sky, kicked over the furnace of taishanglaojun (an elder heavenly statesman), which fell from the sky, and formed the Flaming Mountain in Turpan. When the Tang priest group had to go through the mountain, Sun Wukong went to borrow the plantain fan before overcoming many hardships, and the blazing fire was extinguished three times.

About the Flaming Mountain, there is another version of the Uighur folklore. Legend of the Tianshan Mountain says there is a dragon which preyed on boys and girls. There was an Uighur warrior for the people, and he fought the evil dragon for three days and three nights. Finally, he killed the dragon. The evil dragon became the flaming Mountain after its death, with its blood painting the mountains red in colour. Uighurs called the mountain “ Kezi “, meaning red hill. Further, the story goes that the eight sword marks on the dragon become the valley of the eight roads, including Grape Valley, Spit Valley and so on.

According to another legend, the real cause of the formation of the Flaming Mountain is the crustal movement. A friend from Xinjiang said that it is impossible to stay near the Flaming Mountain for a long time in the Summer. I hope I can travel to the Flaming Mountain. I believe to stand there, and then read the novel “Journey to the West”, should be an enticing and unforgettable experience!

Journey to the West

Regents Primary School of Shenzhen, Xia, Yuanming - 7

“Journey to the West” is a classic Chinese mythological novel. It was based on traditional folklore. With it there are 100 chapters, this fantasy relates to the adventures of a Tang Dynasty priest Xuanzang and his three disciples, Sun Wukong (the Monkey King), Zhu Wuneng (Pigsy) and Sha Wujing (a water buffalo), as they travelled west in search of Buddhist Sutra.

The first seven chapters recount the birth of the Monkey King and his rebellion against Heaven. Then in chapters eight to twelve, we learn how Xuanzang was born and why he was setting off the arduous journey to search for Buddhist Sutra. The rest of the story describes how they fought against demons and monsters, tramped over the Fiery Mountain, crossed the Milky Way. After overcoming many dangers, they finally arrived at their destination --- the Thunder Monastery in the Western Heaven --- and found the Sutra. For many Westerners, “Journey to the West” was their first encounter with Chinese culture. It binds together the nation’s popular culture in a similar way as Star Trek does for the West.

With a dragon-prince in the form of a white horse as his steed, Xuanzang was accompanied on his quest by three disciples, Sun Wukong, Zhu Wuneng and Sha Wujing.

Among all the characters, the Monkey King is my idol. Born from a stone, the Monkey King had many magical powers. Incredibly loyal, strong and fast. He was a magician capable of taking on 72 different forms. He was a great fighter and each of his hairs could be transformed into objects like weapons and animals. He could also travel vast distances in a single somersault. The monkey, nimble and quick-witted, used these skills to defeat all but the most powerful of demons on the journey.

However, the Monkey King’s behavior could be checked by a metal band placed around his head by Guanyin, which could not be removed by the Monkey King himself until the journey ended. Xuanzang could tighten this band by chanting the “Ring Tightening Mantra” whenever he needed to chastise him. Therefore, in this aspect, the Monkey King was under control and he knew very well what he could do.

Besides, The Monkey King’s childlike playfulness was a huge contrast to his cunning mind. This, coupled with his great power, made him a cult hero.

In short, the Monkey King was loyal, brave, smart, unyielding and optimistic. “Journey to the West” is always inspiring. As the actor, Zhang Jinlai, who acted as the Monkey King in the TV series said, “If you understand the Monkey King, you understand China. This little monkey has the potential to take the world by storm.” Bold as that statement may be, with roots in Buddhism, folklore, mythology and Taoism, “Journey to the West” is the standard-bearer of Chinese culture.



Non-Fiction

Group 2

New Journeys to the West

Kingston International School, Ho, Shu Lin - 9

One boring Wednesday, my mother dug out an old album and shared her journey from twenty years ago across the Silk Road....

From Xi'an, my mother travelled to Kashgar by train and bus. She stayed in a friendly local family. The first meal was funny. Two strong men carried a whole roasted lamb on a low table. Everyone sat on the floor and around the table. One little boy brought a big plate of Naan bread, another boy carried a basket of grapes. Water was in short supply and sheep's milk was a common drink. She suddenly noticed that she was not sitting on the floor. Instead, she was sitting on a smooth and warm surface. It was a piece of woollen Xinjiang carpet weaved in wonderful patterns.

The next day, under freezing cold conditions, my mother went on a tasting adventure in a local market. Xinjiang Lamb Skewers had a shocking taste because of the spice. Xinjiang people had their special recipe to mix cumin and chili to form the Xinjiang spice. Cumin comes from the aromatic seeds of the plant that grows from the Mediterranean to the Central Asia. This spice is fantastic on grilled lamb and other meats. The Xinjiang spice became famous and was traded worldwide.

In the market, something glossy in bright colours caught my mother's eye. It was a silk rug. She loved the smooth and soft feel. She said that the special pattern and colour combination reflected the happiness of the people. My mother showed me the rug that she bought twenty years ago and it still looked new.

"Silk Road, how did it get its name?" asked my mother while flipping the album. The sceneries of Crescent Spring and Tianchi were stunning but I was distracted while I was more curious to search the history of silk.

In the past, the Kingdom Of Khotan, now called Hotan, existed from 56 to 1006 C.E. It was built on an oasis where the place provided the right environment for silk cultivation. The king of Khotan was clever and he knew the three crucial components of silk. They were silkworm eggs, mulberry seeds and Chinese knowhow. Everytime interesting visitors like Xuanzang passed, they would exchange silk for food and necessities. In this way, Khotan became the first place outside China to start cultivating silk.

The king understood that silkworms are fed with mulberry leaves and they spit out silk to wrap around and over their bodies. The silkworm will turn into a cocoon. It is just like the lifecycle of a butterfly. However, in order to separate the silk from the cocoon, workers use boiling water to remove silk and the silkworm will die.

Silk is amazing and funny. It takes around two thousand five hundred silkworms to produce only a pound of raw silk! A single cocoon has around a thousand yards of silk filaments, that's a lot! Silk filament is very light but very strong. In the olden days, silk was therefore very expensive. Its lustre and fine texture showed off the standard of royalty.

The Silk Road opened in the second century B.C., missionaries and pilgrims began to travel between China, Central Asia and India. It kept on extending and was about 6400 km long which was the longest road on earth in 200 A.D. People walked through the route where trading of commodities began to appear. With the special characteristics of silk, the Silk Road gained the name in the 19th century.

Many people misunderstood silk production started in China and ended in India. In fact, silk went on and on its journey to the west, to Europe and to America. Silk was even produced in Brazil, and it was one of the top five countries in silk manufacturing.

My mother was surprised about what I had found, then showed me another picture. In the picture, she is wide awake with her hair blown up by the wind. The background has some gullies of red sandstones. My mother exclaimed, "It's the most challenging stop along this trip. The temperature could reach up to seventy degrees Celsius! It's Flaming Mountains at Turpan." Flaming Mountains, that led me to think of the Chinese novel "Xiyouji". The author imagined a huge leaf fan for Sun Wukong to put out the heat. Why was Xuanzang so tough to walk through the Silk Road? I have much interest to search for more information about Xuanzang.

Xuanzang was a buddhist monk who was born in 602 C.E. He was only twenty seven when he started his journey to the west. It took him over sixteen years to go to India and back to China. He strongly believed that he had a mission to go there. He was often starving and freezing. It was really hard to survive, so he exchanged things he brought from Chang'an for shelter, clothes and food. He would not give up his mission no matter how hard the journey was. With his determination, he had arrived at Nalanda of India. There he studied hard, discussed openly with other monks and visited some sites associated with the life of the Indian God "Hanuman". The drawing of Hanuman was with a monkey head on a body similar to a human body. Maybe the character of the Monkey King "Sun Wukong" was created because of Hanuman.

Xuanzang had brought back five hundred and twenty cases of Buddhist scriptures, and together with other monks, they had translated the religious text into Chinese.

Although I still do not understand the religion of Buddhism, I really admire the courage Xuanzang had in facing all difficulties and his strong belief in himself to complete the mission. Our lives are for finding the unknown. We need to concentrate on what we want to do, follow our dreams.

To add new pages to my mother's album, I would like to continue the journey to the west which is not limited to one direction.

Journey to the West

Regents Primary School of Shenzhen, Wang, Xuanyue -10

After reading “Journey to the West”, I was deeply moved. I was particularly impressed by the unbelievable experiences of the Tang priest, and his three apprentices.

“Journey to the West”, written by ChengEn Wu, is one of the four greatest and most famous classical Chinese novels. Through a way of unconstrained style, the book shows the four individuals encounter various difficulties and obstacles, and finally overcome all of these. What’s more, in front of them, no matter what happens, they will never give up and make every effort to achieve their goals.

At the beginning of the book, there was a mountain named Hua Guo Shan. One fine day, a large rock of this mountain exploded and a monkey jumped out. Once born, he had the confidence to be the king of monkeys. Eventually, he made it. He found a comfortable place, which was so perfect for monkey that all the monkeys let the rock monkey be their king. As far as I am concerned, I admire him. With a willing heart, he will fight for his dream and never give up. Indeed, every student should have a goal, and go out of their way to realise it.

From “Journey to the West”, I have a better understanding of tolerance. In chapter 12, one noon, Xuanzang felt hungry and asked Wukong to find some food while the rest of them rested there. When Wukong was absent, a girl walked to Xuanzang, saying, “ my husband is working in the field. I am taking lunch to him. Since you look very pleasant you can have some.” A pig is a pig. Bajie reached for the food. Wukong watched on from a cloud that the girl was actually a devil. He immediately jumped down and killed her. Due to naivety, Xuanzang blamed Wukong. Wukong showed him the pot containing toads and stones instead of food. However, Xuanzang was still in doubt!

After three times like that, Xuanzang drove Wukong out, nevertheless, when the rest of three encountered further troubles, Wukong, regardless of the past, still lent a helping hand. By knowing this story, I think that we student should also learn to forgive, which will broaden our horizon.

Moreover, the story Wukong borrowed a fan from Princess Iron Fan impresses me the most and makes me feel intelligence is essential. In the story, it was already late Autumn but it got hotter and hotter as they walked on. Puzzled, they decided to turn to the locals and found out the reason. An old man said, “Thirty kilometers ahead there is a Flaming Mountain. Literally, it is covered with flames so it is hot all year round here. To go to the West you must cross it. About 1500 meter to the southwest, there was a Ba Jiao Dong, literally Plantain Cave, on Cui Yun Shan, literally Green Cloud Mountain. In the cave lived an Iron-fan Goddess. She was in possession of a plantain fan with which one could put out the fire, bring wind and rain.”

In no time Wukong jumped onto a cloud and disappeared in the distance. However, she was Bull Demon King’s wife and also Red Boy’s mother who had been taken away by Guanyin, the Goddess of Peace. So Red Boy’s parents hated Son Wokong because of this. So it was impossible for the Princess to lend the fan to Wokong. Anyway, Wukong decided to try his luck. When reported that Wukong wanted to use her fan she went red in the face and said, “ Evil Monkey! How can he ask for a favor after what he has done to my son? I will make him pay his price! “ As she was talking she went out, sword in hand, and waved at

Wukong but the monkey managed to dodge away. Wukong then came up with many ideas, such as stealing the fan, pretending to be Bull Demon King, and shrinking his body to go into her tummy. As a result, his trick came off and he succeeded. Wukong went to Flaming Mountain with the fan and waved it three times. As expected the flames went out. From my mind, I can say nothing but admiration. So clever does Wukong that he will find many ways to deal with problems. When we come across any trouble, we should find some different ways to overcome it.

Even though the Tang priest had experienced all kinds of tribulations, they did not hold back. They were extremely persistent, fearless and determined which touch me very much. In the past, although I had the lofty ideal of being a scientist, I could not endure hardship and hard work. I often procrastinated and gave up easily. I just wanted to enjoy myself. In the years to come, I must get rid of these silly and childish habits, and strenuously develop the habit of tenacity. Persevering with an enterprising spirit, I will do every thing, and work hard towards my goals!

Non-Fiction

Group 3



The Road to the world

Immaculate Heart of Mary College, Cheung, Ching Po - 13

A journey to the west was probably only a dream of many Chinese people before the development of the Silk Road. The Silk Road, once, an important path to another world, is still revealing its historical values to us nowadays. A trip to exploring this valuable place is not easy, but I was one of the lucky persons who could spend a few days there with my Grandpa when I was small.

As a kid, it was a big place for me. I was astounded to see the beautiful scenery, and I was proud of having a small and colourful purse given by my Grandpa as a souvenir which he bought for me there. Studying about the Chinese's journey to the west at the Silk Roads is, of course, more fascinating than reading the novel *Journey to the West*, though I still remember the three main characters: Tang Sanzang, Sun Wukong and Zhu Bajie, and their adventures are indeed my favourite bedtime story. Now, on the Silk Road, no more myths or legendary, vivid and friendly characters but the traces of horses galloping and camels walking for trading can still be found.

The Silk Road is famous for transporting silk in the ancient world which is also the prime time for road trading development in the past. Silk, a piece of fine, light and luxurious cloth, was a symbol of wealth, political and social power. Silk was rather popular among nomads for its lightness as lining for bedding and clothing. Thus, silk was used for gifts for nomads who were strong and ready to attack China with their power, and it was part of diplomatic policies and strategies of the emperors of China to use silk for getting a more stable situation.

Travelling for trading was never easy in the past. The Silk Road was definitely a dangerous place. The caravans were often attacked by small Central Asian tribes. It caused loss of property or even life. However, the bad weather even made things even worse.

Zhang Qian, was a Chinese explorer during the Han dynasty and he was sent by the Han dynasty to the West as the emperor wanted to form an alliance to fight against their enemy, the Huns. However, during his trips, he and his caravans were captured by the Huns but they managed to escape successfully at last.

Later, Zhang Qian reached his destination eventually, Da Yuezhi who had strong armies but they did not want to make an alliance at all, so his main mission failed after encountering all sorts of troubles and constraints. However, he was successful to help China connect with other countries and brought back China with new knowledge of religion, art, philosophies and numerous new things like spices and other products which were new to Chinese. Thanks to Zhang Qian's effort, the economic and cultural connections with the foreign countries in the Central Asia of China was established which helped to widen the horizon of Chinese, as they did not have the chance to see the outside world before that.

Zhang Qian successfully reached the West. It was then more common for people to have their trading on the Silk Road. Major products traded were silk cloth, tea, salt, sugar, porcelain, spices and expensive luxury goods. Merchants travelled for a long trip in large caravans that helped in defending from bandits. However, people who travelled would still have to risk their properties and lives with unknown threats.

Merchants and tradesmen generated trade and commerce between different foreign countries in the Central Asia. It was considered as a way of exchanging ideas, culture,

inventions and also the exchange or fusion of cultures between the western world.

While trading was booming, some people were interested in visiting other places like the origin of Buddhism. With much courage of Xuanzang, Buddhism was first brought back from the Silk Road. In 602, Xuanzang was born in Tang Dynasty. In 629, he decided to visit India and study Buddhism at its source. However, he did not go to the India with any official permissions, so he tried to avoid being arrested by the officers in Western Gansu. Luckily, Turpan's king eventually provided money and passports for safe passage through other kingdoms. Xuanzang spent fifteen years in India visiting holy sites, studying about Buddhism. In 644, Xuanzang bought a vast collection of Buddhist statues, relics and knowledge of texts that wrote on bamboo and wooden tablets about Buddhism via Kashgar. During Xuanzang's late life, he translated part of his collection of Buddhist texts.

Later in the 16th century during the Ming dynasty, *Journey to the West*, the Chinese novel was published. It is one of the Four Great Classical Novels of Chinese literatures also it is translated and spread to the English-speaking countries now known as *Monkey*, Arthur Waley. *Journey to the West* is an extend account of Xuanzang's who travelled to the Western regions. It strongly reflected the spread of Buddhism affairs and the elements of tales. *Journey to the West* is some kind of reflective of Chinese attitudes today.

Silk Road is not only a trade route that only concerned exchange and firms. It is the cultural, political and religion revival. A place that raised up the Chinese with sentiment and kindness. From the Han to the Tang Dynasty, Chinese had a positive relation with the west. It established the cultural, knowledge, firms, religion and military exchange now. So China had quickly developed and the education of people was also upgraded with a better knowledge of the outside world.

With the rise of trading between Asian countries and Romans in the second century, the rise of Hans dynasty in China and their first journey to the west and the trading between Chinese and Russians and British in the 18th and 19th century, China was changed from a closed economy to a welcoming place which the merchants and ambassadors could find themselves were very much welcomed.

Now, China is developed into an international trading country with a vast diplomatic network, linking the economic and cultural affairs with the world.

No one is indeed not overwhelmed by the courage and intelligence of our ancestors who did lay down a peaceful connection with outsiders and the pillars of trading with other countries as well. The modern China now has become even more international, and its huge market is one of the biggest ones in the world, which attracts various companies to invest and to produce their products here. We should therefore learn from the perseverance of our ancestors and the visions they had in mind to develop our Motherland, China in the way that trading with others with mutual benefits and peace.

New Journeys To The West

St Paul's Convent School, Lam, Lai Ting Lydia - 14

There are a lot of interpretations about the Journey to the West. Some of these interpretations may illustrate the book as a promotion to the well-known Buddha Dharma, and some may think that it is an adventure story with some sickening monsters flashing in and out of the exciting story. However, I have a different interpretation. In the Journey to the West, various characters play a divergent and significant role which brings out the theme of dystopia, a socially undesirable and politically frightening society.

The implications of the characters' action

Firstly, in many people's eyes, Xuanzang is a kind monk. He devoutly promotes sutra and loves. However, his kindness and piety are too obsessed that he cannot distinguish right or wrong and always put himself in dangerous and fatal situations. For example, when Xuanzang, the Monkey King, the Talking Pig and the Friar Sand settle down in the mountain, Xuanzang orders the Monkey King to find some food to eat. When the Monkey King leaves, they spot a girl with a bowl of rice. Later, the Monkey King kills the girl and tells them she is disguised by the White-bone Demon. However, Xuanzang does not believe what the Monkey King says and gives it the incantation of the golden hoop. Even when Xuanzang is shown to know truth, he only believes in himself and ignore others. Hence, this character actually satirizes people who are narcissist, self-centred and being very naive even though they are in the lion's mouth.

Secondly, the Monkey King gives us an impression of a frisky and kittenish hero. In the story, the Monkey King often causes havoc at the heavenly palace and challenges the Jade Emperor and Buddha. Also, he disagrees to every judgement made by them too. These undoubtedly make the baronages and the Jade Emperor overwhelmed by the mess. Yet, the Monkey King has leadership ability. As the Monkey King is a reincarnation of gallantry, it kills all the bogeys in their journey. Besides, he is the leader of all resourceful decisions. For example, when Xuanzang, the monkey king, the talking pig and the friar come across the monsters, the Monkey King is the one who comes up with the solutions and leads the team to follow suit all the time.

As a whole, Xuanzang manifests the brutal and absolute king while the Monkey King metaphorizes the rebellion against the oppression and cataclysm.

The worship of the beasts

In the Journey to the West, all the beasts want to eat children in order to own a forever lasting life. Have you ever wondered how they know that work? The answer is pretty shocking: from the gods and goddesses. Immortals devour ginseng fruit which helps them grow like children and their purposes are exactly the same as the beasts. Therefore, the beasts and the immortals are definitely equivalent. However, Xuanzang praises and worships the gods and goddesses. Then, what is the difference between revering the beasts and worshipping the gods or the goddesses?

In conclusion, Xuanzang does not only worship the better looking and grow no more or

less like human beings gods and goddesses but also praise and uphold those Satans and fiends. Therefore, it seems no noble creatures are found in the novel.

The hypocrisy of Xuanzang

When Xuanzang, the Monkey King, the Talking Pig and the Friar Sand make themselves to the Ladies Kingdom, they drink the water from the Mother River. However, the water is not wanted, a feral will be given when being drunk. Therefore, they are so anxious and ask for the abortion agents. In the sutra, not even slaughter is permitted, then how comes Xuanzang, a monk, is asking for the pills for the murder of the foetuses? Aren't the lives of the foetuses are so precious too? Thus, Xuanzang is a hypocrite that his actions do not match with his words.

In a nutshell, these characters embody the dark and the unfairness of the world where the characters live in. The actions of the characters also bring out the theme of dystopia vividly. Therefore, the Journey to the West is a book that shows the social undesirability and political despair.



Non-Fiction

Group 4

New Journeys To The West

Korean International School, Catacutan, Kayle - 15

It is finally summer break and I have decided to take a trip to distress all the pressure and tension from school. It took me a few days to choose where to go because I would love to go to Italy to try some Italian cuisine and maybe go swim with sharks in Cat Island, Bahamas. But instead I have decided to go to the Western part of Europe; Paris, France.

It's 5 am and my flight is at 9 am. So I need to get ready and pack up and leave. I grab my clothes, camera, wallet, phone, ID and passport. And take a quick shower. After I shower I go downstairs to the dining room to eat breakfast. I grab a piece of bread and toss it in the toaster then topped it off with strawberry jam and some avocado spread.

It's already 7:16 am and it will approximately take an hour to arrive in the airport depending on traffic. I'll be travelling to the airport by car. My dad is going to drive me there with my mom. I place my suitcase in the car's trunk and I go in the sit inside the car with my dad while we wait for my mom to get ready. After at least 10 minutes she comes out and we start the engine and drive to the Hong Kong International airport.

We arrive there in about one and a half hours. I bid good-bye to my parents and gave them hugs, and then I go through security and the immigration. I book my chair and check in my suitcase. I decided to go buy some caramel macchiato to get an energy boost because I woke up too early and I'm still partly dead.

At 8:49 my plane number was called, I quickly get up and queue for my plane. I get in and settle down. It was already 8:59 and I was so thrilled to go but then the speaker announced that we will be having a 20 minute delay. But it was ok, the delay got shortened and we took off. I plug in my headsets and listen to music looking out the window.

I am currently 39,000 feet above the ground. As the sun is started to set the sky slowly became a purple orange colour, leaving a heavenly sunset view. The seatbelt sign was off and the stewardess started to serve us dinner. Giving us the choice of 3 meals; Fish fillet fried rice, a fruit salad or a ham and egg sandwich. I ordered the fish fillet fried rice with water. I turn to look outside and see the moon and stars illuminated the night sky.

It is the next morning and I have just arrived in the France International Airport. I have collected my luggage and went through all the immigration. As soon as I stepped out of the airport doors. I was hit with a strong breeze; it felt like all my stress went away. I called a cab and took off. I arrived the hotel checked in, unpacked my bags then quickly grabbed my purse and my camera and went out to explore.

I arrive my first place, the Eiffel Tower. I place my camera down and set the timer on and started to take photographs. After a few shots, I walk around the place and this rich, mouth-watering aroma pulls me. I follow it and it leads me to a bakery. My stomach grumbles loudly, I am quite hungry I haven't eaten anything since I got off the plane. I go in and ask for their most recommended treat and they offer an almond scone and a strawberry jam filled croissant. I purchase them both and walk back to my hotel.

I have taken a shower and I on the bed, watching television scanning through the channels to find something interesting while eating my pastries. After a few minutes I realize that the sun has set and it's getting late. I slip into my pyjamas and get ready to go to bed. I lay down peacefully as my eyes started to get heavy and my mind slowly drifted off.

I wake up bright and early. Today I felt like doing something fun; I decided to go to the mall and go window-shopping. I do my morning routine and go out calling a cab taking me to the nearest mall. My cab driver takes me to a mall called “Beaugrenelle Paris”. I walk around, checking stuff out. I was walking but then a something caught my eyes. It was a knitted sweater with a cat outline on it. I just went and bought it without hesitation. And happily strolled around and got hungry. I see a France cuisine restaurant. I get in and sat down. They gave me menu and I look through the pages. After a few minutes of choosing I order the beef burgundy with the side of a lobster bisque.

It didn't taste good in the beginning because I'm not used to France cuisine but after a while everything started tasting delicious. After the meal I decided to order a slice of lemon meringue pie served with sparkling champagne. I call the waiter for the receipt and resume to walk around.

I was getting tired so I went to the park and just sat on the benches watching the ducks waddling in the pond. I sat there for a few minutes and decided to go back to my hotel.

If you thought I only bought a sweater you were wrong. There were so many distractions like cosmetics, clothes and souvenirs. By the end of the day I was carrying 8 bags filled with things. I rested for a bit and went to the museum; outside I see the statue of “The Thinker” I take some pictures and go in. I walk around admiring different varieties of artworks, ranging from big clay statues to small portraits.

After about 4 hours in the museum I thought that I should buy some sweets to bring back home for my family so they can taste some. I go to the grocery store to pick some snacks. I chose this “carambar” which is a caramel bar and some bonbons. I purchase them and go back to my hotel room and started preparing my clothes for tomorrow.

I take a shower and wear my pyjamas and look out the window, seeing Paris with bright lights and the Eiffel Tower illuminating the city. I grab my camera and take a stunning picture of Paris nightlife. It looked like something out of a dream. I lay on my bed staring out the window and a few moments later I drifted off to sleep.

I wake up the next morning realizing that today was my flight back home. I get ready and check out and walk to the bakery and purchase 5 boxes of pastries to bring home and share. I call a cab and we drive to the airport. I arrive there and go through the usual process in the airport.

I am in the plane dreaming about my next holiday spot. Where should I go? Mexico, Brazil, London? Who knows but I am looking forward to it. I plug in my headsets and go to sleep.

Journey To the West

Shanghai Singapore International School, Parma, Dhyana - 15

The story starts in the year of 1592, when Sun Wun Kong had erased the names of the other monkeys and himself from the book of life and death. This meant that he had no chance of getting killed or getting harmed by any weapons. He starts to think that he had become really strong, so he starts to defeat the other warriors and starts to capture their territories, however in the end he gets caught. After few years Tan San Zang has an incident. His father gets killed and his mother is taken away by the thieves. His mother sends Tan San Zang away from that place by making him go the other side of the river. After few years Tan San Zang gets strong enough to bring his mother back from the thieves and takes revenge on his father's death. He successfully gets revenge.

As Tan San Zang had become more powerful, he successfully rescued Sun Wun Kong. Then, they went on a trip to India together where they also met Zhu Ba Jie and Sha Wu Jing. They became Sun Wun Kong's disciples. They faced many difficulties on their way to India. They had to fight many demons on the way. Most of the warriors tried to get Sun Wun Kong, although he was the strongest among the people. He still faced many difficulties on the way to India. They finally get to the Western Heavens and bring back the scriptures to China. In the end, Tan San Zang and his disciples attain Buddhism.

After that, time passes very well and every single monkey has the best time of his life. Suddenly, the life of the monkeys starts turning around and the population of the monkeys starts increasing. It increases so much that there is not enough space for all of the monkeys. There is also not enough food for all of the monkeys so they were starving and suffering. Sadly, none of them could get rid of their life because they couldn't erase the name of everyone from the life and death book. This meant that they could not die, but had to just suffer. This problem started increasing even more as the population of the monkeys increased. The monkeys started looking for a solution to solve the problem. Unfortunately, they could not find any solution for the great problem. They had to live this way for the rest of the lives and they couldn't even sacrifice their life. So, they had to suffer this way.

As the time passed, the monkeys start having a change in their bodies. They became less monkey and more human. They started walking on 2 legs and had less of a monkey body. After several different stages, they turned into a human structure. Even after this big problem, the birthrate didn't drop and the number of monkeys suffering kept increasing. The problems got worse and worse. One day Sun Wun Kong's great great grandson was born. This was the happiest moment for all the monkeys because they thought that this new born baby would grow up and find a solution for their problems. The baby was named Huang Sun Kong. The people thought he would bring new life for the others.

He was born really strong compared to the normal babies. He had a lot of strength when he was born. His parents gave him their finger to hold. He held it so tightly that when they tried to leave his finger they could not. He used to kick his legs. They were so strong that if he kicked you, you would have pain where he had kicked. Slowly he started growing up. He was given special training to make him capable of finding the solution for the problem for the others.

His father and grandfather were not that strong or capable of doing anything. They were

born disabled, but his great great grand grandfather Sun Wun Kong was the strongest among everyone. He took on the responsibility to train Huang. He started his training from a very small age, around 5 years old. He was taught to do everything by himself. There was a twist in the story. Huang was not told about the current situation of the others and that they were suffering. He was kept away from them so that he wouldn't find out about them and become less strong by looking at the pain that was suffered by the others.

He was told that he had to learn everything because he had to protect his people and to become the next emperor. Therefore, he needed to be capable. However, one day when he was hanging out with his friends he went into an area that he was not allowed in. It was the area where the people with the extreme pain lived. He went there and saw all the people and he received a major shock. He ran back home and asked Sun Wun Kong about what he had seen. Sun Wun Kong had no choice but to tell him the truth. Huang was so hurt by all this that he left his house and went somewhere for few days. Nobody could find him.

After few days he came back and the first thing he asked Sun Wun was for a solution to this problem. Sun Wun said that the only solution was to go back to the Western Heavens and find the book of life and death. Once he had the book, he needed to write the names of all the people back in it again so that the ones in pain could just leave their body and go to the heaven. Huang said that he was ready to go to Western Heavens, but Sun Wun said that it is not that easy. He told him that he needed to prepare more. Huang started his training really hard after that. He learned to climb mountains and all the survival things that would be needed on the trip.

The day finally arrived when Huang and few more people were chosen to go to the Western Heavens. They were all prepared with their weapons, food, and other things. However, there was a problem coming their way. The enemies of Sun Wun had found out about everything. Their warriors great great grandson had been prepared to leave at the same time as Huang. He wanted to stop him and prevent him from getting to the book of life and death.

It was said that Huang was even stronger and more powerful than Sun Wun Kong. The enemies were a bit scared that they would have a hard time capturing Sun Wun especially since Huang was even stronger than him. This would be a hard thing for them to do. However, on the otherhand Huang was so confident that he would get the book. He knew no one would stop him from doing this.

The enemies great great grandson Chuang and Huang both left at the same time to head towards the Western Heavens. They both ended up at the same place after a bit of traveling. They both faced each other and looked at each other as if they were going to slice the other person in half at any moment. They were so mad at each other. They both ended up having a serious fight with each other on a very dangerous cliff.

They both argued and blamed each others grand parents for what they did to each others families. The argument went on and on. They each told each other what their families really said and did. They realized that it was a misunderstanding between the two families and the whole cast.

After knowing that it was all a misunderstanding Chuang and Huang became friends. They both forgave each other. Chuang even decided to go with Huang to help him find the book of life and death. They both went to the Western Heavens and got the book after many adventures and difficulties. In the end, they succeeded in getting the book. They returned it to Huang's family. They both went back to Huang's family. After getting there, Huang and Chuang gave the book to Sun Wun Kong, who wrote back all the names of everyone so they

could become free of their pain.

Everybody was so happy that the hatred between these two families was finally over. However, there was a twist to come. Chuang's family and the whole cast had abandoned Chuang and kicked him out of the cast for supporting their enemies' family. Chuang tried to explain that this all was just a misunderstanding but no one was ready to listen to him. The first problem had been solved, but another problem had arisen. Everyone in Huang's family accepted Chuang as their own son and decided to let him stay with them until his own family agreed to have him back. They kept trying to convince the enemies that all the past things were a misunderstanding and that Chuang had not betrayed them. And, of course as always happens new problems arose and were solved throughout the rest of time.