

Date: 17 April 2017

Book Club's Annual Book - A most enjoyable book sharing day with Sister Mary

The Book Club's Annual Book Talk this year was held in the afternoon of 18 Mar, Saturday at the St Joseph's Hall, Good Hope School secondary section.

We were very honoured to have Sister Mary Olga Lam MIC to host a book talk on one of her favourite books, *The Little Prince* by Antoine De Saint-Exupery, in a warm, cozy afternoon of spring with a group of past students and interested guests.

Sister Mary walked the audience through the journeys that the Little Prince took. Along the way, she prompted us with interesting reflections. Here are some of those pleasant moments:

Jesus Christ spent 40 days in the desert to reflect. Here the writer also landed in the desert. **Food for thought:** *In the desert, there is no distraction and one could dig deep into our own experiences and open up the senses.*

The boa constrictor curls itself around its prey to swallow it whole without chewing. **Food for thought:** *When things in life constrict you, hold one into tunnel vision; would you take time to decipher the meaning behind or just take it as it is without understanding (i.e. chewing)?"*

Before the prince leaves his planet, he waters his rose and sweeps his planet. **Food for thought:** *When you go an expedition / journey, do you take the time to tidy up issues in your life first?*

The talk was enriched with animated pictures on the big screen. One depicted the Prince bending down with closed eyes, smelling his rose - The Prince really takes time to take care of the rose. It is special to him because of that. **Food for thought:** *Do you know the smell of your loved ones? Do you take time to understand them? Split the word into "under" and "stand". Humble yourself to go under the one you seek to know and grasp the reality from inside.*



After Sister Mary's sharing, guests took photos using photo frames specially made for the occasion and exchanged books at the Book-crossing corner. They also helped themselves to a vast array of *homemade snacks*: butterfly cookies, quinoa salad, chicken wings, bean curd rolls; and chocolates and cakes.

After the break, there was an interactive sharing through group discussion on chosen topics from the book, such as "*Growing up is not the problem, forgetting is*" and "*And now here is my secret, a very simple secret: it is only with the heart that one can see rightly, what is essential is invisible to the eyes.*" The fruitful afternoon concluded with jolly and palatable memories.

All the registration fees generated from this activity will be donated to the school in appreciation of the complimentary facilities and venue provided to the Book Club to hold the meetings and events. All the administration costs are absorbed by the members of the Book Club. Special thanks to those who prepared the food and sponsored the photo-frames.

By Connie Lee
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