“A Christmas Carol” – by Charles Dickens

Scrooge is the main character of this book; he is a stingy, mean old man. He only cares about money. He also thinks that Christmas is humbug and it is simply a day that wastes money. So all the people don’t like him. But on Christmas Eve’s, something happened to him and he began to change his attitude. At last he is a very different man indeed.

I love this book very much because it teaches us an important thing – sharing with others. At first Scrooge was stingy and rich but he was unhappy. After he learnt to share with others, he became very happy.

I have learned that money is not the most important thing in our life. What matters most is a readiness to share with others, like sharing happiness with others, giving the poor a hand. We should not be stingy or we will never be happy, caring only about ourselves or how much we make.

Tommy Lau (4D)

“Louis Braille” – by Margaret Davidson

The book is about Louis Braille’s whole life. Louis became blind at the age of three. At first, his life turned topsy-turvy. He was discriminated against. However, he wasn’t discouraged. Fortunately, he went to school and started to create the Braille Alphabet. However, no one accepted his alphabet system at first.

Despite the cold reception, he worked hard to improve his alphabet system. He eventually died of Tuberculosis but soon all the blind people started using the Braille Alphabet for reading.

Needless to say, Louis is brilliant. From him, I have learnt that I should not be discouraged and should grasp every golden opportunity. To cite an example, Louis always faced lots of difficulties. At first, no one accepted his alphabet. He felt very disappointed. However, he wasn’t discouraged and started improving his alphabet. If I were Louis, I would give up. He is a good model so everyone should learn from him. Moreover, his positive attitude is worth admiring. For example, even though he got Tuberculosis, he still taught his students and improved his alphabet. If I were in his situation, I would retire and eventually miss a golden opportunity. To sum up, I have learnt a lesson from him, that is not to be discouraged easily and grasp every golden opportunity when it comes. I hope everyone will read this book.

Chris Lam (4D)
A BOOK REPORT ON 'HAPPINESS NOW'

Happiness Now is a book by a famous author, Andrew Matthews. To me, his books are all excellent for secondary students. They give us advice on our relationships, career, prosperity and peace of our mind.

I like the pictures and the messages in this book. The funny cartoons help me to understand the passages, which help to look at things from a positive angle. More importantly, it can improve my English.

At the bottom of every passage in this book, there is a box titled 'In a Nutshell'. They are summaries of the messages. I love these lines. Let me share some of them with you:

'How you feel about you is in your hands.'
'The happiest people don't bother about whether life is fair. They just make the most of what they have. And is life “fair”? Probably not. But it doesn't matter why!'

There are a lot more inspiring messages in this book. Want to read more? Read the book yourselves.

by Frankie Chan
Superbird is an interesting book because of the way it is written. It is like a report of an interview. It is about an alien who traveled to Earth with her friends by a spaceship called Superbird.

While reading the beginning of this book, I thought the interviewer was talking to a human being about her experience in an alien world. But when I read more, I discovered that the interviewee was actually an ….

Want to know who she is? Want to know what happened next? Borrow the book and read it.

After reading this book, I thought and thought. There are so many people in this world who are kind and do not like wars and guns, just like the main character, Mary, in the story. Why then do others enjoy wars and using power to control other people’s lands? Do they feel happy when everybody in the world is cruel and brutal? Mary has said so many times in the book that she wants to be a friend with people on Earth. Why then do people keep using guns and kill our friends? Why?

by Tommy Cheung
'Happiness in a Nutshell' is written by a famous writer, Andrew Matthews. He has written dozens of lines in this book – one on each page. All of them are about how we can become happier.

I think this book should be in everybody’s hands. After buying it, I read it whenever I have free time. The sentences are not difficult for us teenagers to understand. This is why I would like to recommend it to you.

Of all the lines in this book, one is of special meaning to me:

Your mission in life is not to be without problems - your mission is to get excited.

Do you think this idea is really important to us? In our daily life, we always have problems. Can you say you never have problems in life? What should we do then? We must be brave and face the problems. Believe in ourselves and we will find the solutions soon.

On the newspapers, I really don't read about people killing themselves anymore.

by Tim Cheung
Martin’s Mice – By Dick King-Smith

Martin was a particular cat that thought mice were cute and kept them as pets. However, although the mice knew his good intention, they still escaped from his adoption because what they needed was freedom and so Martin was depressed. Soon the cat was sold to a dignified family and was treated very well. But he finally realized the plight of losing freedom. Using all sorts of ways, he eventually returned to the farm and lived with the mice harmoniously.

This is a book which contains dialogues more than narratives and so it makes the characters much more lively. Among all the characters, I like Martin most because he was full of childlike innocence that I have lost. While I find the plot arresting, I think if everyone was as conscientious as Martin, there would be no war and we would live in a peaceful place. Furthermore I like this book because of its meaningful theme. It tells us the importance of freedom and it’s what people around the world go after most nowadays.

Indeed, living without freedom is as harsh as the life of the handicapped cannot do things freely. Some of us keep a pet and treat it well for fun or entertainment but we haven’t thought whether it can really be happy from its point of view. To the pet, it may just be the same as living in prison. So we must also learn to look at things from different angles.

David Yau (4D)
Introduction:

The main character - Winston Smith lives in a world where everyone is watched every second of the day. The citizens there do not have any freedom. The government controls everything in the society. Winston decides to fight against such a world for his love of freedom. Can he succeed?

Reflection

I've learnt to be forgiving and indomitable. Winston Smith always forgave others, so in the end many people helped him not for any personal gain. Also he never gave up so he overthrew the government successfully and improved the living conditions of the citizens. I think we should emulate his behavior.

Yau Ka Chun (4D)
Louis was a hard-working man. He had positive thoughts. He had failure when he was studying his alphabet. Seeing him starting from zero, to get an idea of using raised dots and finally created his own alphabet, I was a little bit touched. He was working so hard and he never gave up. Though he sometimes failed to do something, he kept trying and trying till he succeeded. He did not know if his idea was right or if he was walking away from the right track. He just kept working. He believed that he would finally find the answer if he did not give up. His own story has proved this point.

Apart from that, Louis was a kind and friendly person. In Louis’ days, teachers were not supposed to be kind to students. Teachers scolded their students and made fun of the slow learners in class. But Louis knew that that was wrong. He believed that students should be taught with patient and love. Louis was kind and patient with his students and made friends with them so all his students loved him very much.

I think Louis is someone we should look up to. It might be tough, but it’s good for us.

Alexander Hsu (4D)
The story of Romeo and Juliet is an old one. Although it has been written for more than four hundred years, it is still very popular. The story is about the love between Romeo and Juliet. They came from two different families which hated each other. The two main characters fell in love at first sight. Although they knew there was no chance for them to stay together, they still tried their best to hold on to what they deemed important--- their love for each other.

Unfortunately, they died together due to the hatred between their families. Eventually, they could just stay in a tomb. It is a very sad and touching story. Perfect for those with a sentimental heart. What's more, it's actually a play, so we can act it out and really put on the shoes of Romeo and Juliet, experiencing their love.

Want to know more? Read the unearthly love story yourself and play in it. Then you will know what true love is.

Ivan Keung (4D)
Title: The Phone Goes Dead

Author: Anthony Horowitz

I’m quite sure you have already heard about some films related to death and phone calls. But have you ever imagined that you could get a phone that talks to ghosts?

The book I’m going to introduce is called “The Phone Goes Dead”. The story is about a teen called David. He got a mobile phone, after longing to get one to catch up with the trend. But then he received a phone call from a stranger followed by a request. However, it was really a shock after he figured out who the stranger was…. Who was the stranger and what would happen to David? Find it out by yourself by reading the book.

Besides, something from the book inspires me. It is the love of our parents. David’s parents were worried about his son all the time. Nevertheless, teens don’t respect this love very much. Instead, they find it bothering them a bit. So I hope you’ll really feel it when you are enjoying the book.

Ben Ng (4D)