

KYC Post

2014-2015



Laughter is the best medicine

Do you love to laugh? Do you have a good sense of humour? In this issue of the KYC Post, we explore the various types of humour and the benefits of laughter.

Laughter is a natural response for humans. Indeed, a baby learns to smile and giggle in the first few months of life. One of the sweetest sounds for parents is of their children laughing because it's a sign of happiness.

Psychologists believe that laughter is one of the best ways for people to cope with stress and adversity. Having a good sense of humour can see people through some of the most difficult times in life. Further, laughter has been shown to have physical benefits with our circulation, lungs and muscles. As the popular saying goes -- laughter is the best medicine.



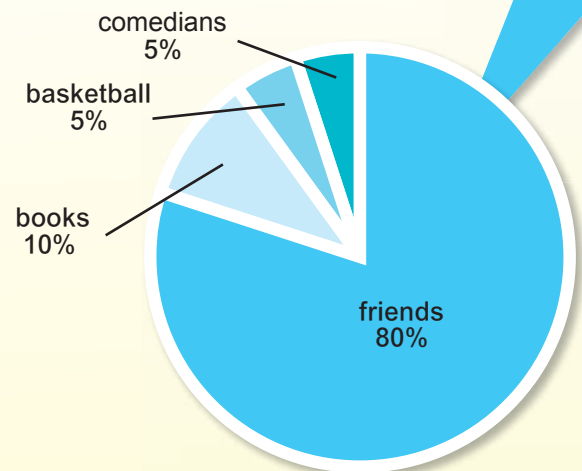
KYC Post Survey: What makes you laugh?

by Leung Shek Kwan and Cheung Sum Yu (4A)

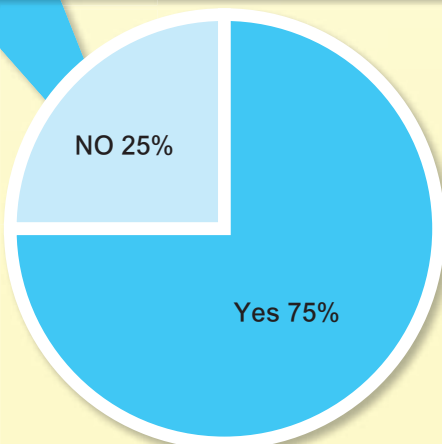
1) What makes you laugh a lot ?



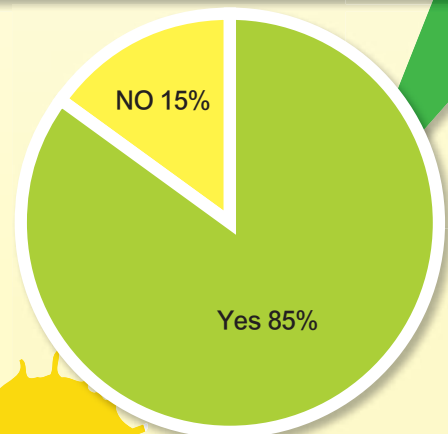
2) Who always makes you laugh?



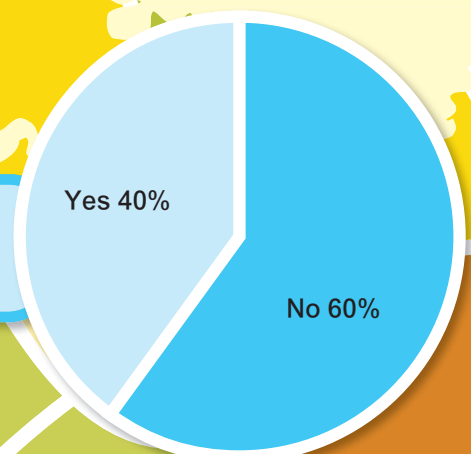
3) Do you think laughter is the best medicine ?



4) Have you experienced something unforgettable that made you laugh for a long time?



5) Would you like to become a comedian?



6) Why is laughter important to you?

- To minimize stress.

- It is joyful and fun.

- Laughing leads to happiness.

- We can share laughter with others.

- It's the way I like to relax during my study.



Students learn about parts of the body in a novel way.



Ms Lam with students in the cross-curricular English through Science Activity Day.



Students enjoy a game about safety equipment.

Types of laughter

by Mary Chan Wing Yee and Eunice Ho Chui Shan (4A)

Most commonly, laughter is an expression of a number of positive emotional states, such as joy, happiness, relief, etc. On some occasions, however, it may be caused by contrary emotional states such as embarrassment, like a nervous laugh. Laughter is sometimes seen as contagious, and the laughter of one person can itself provoke laughter from others.

Laughter according to intensity

softest laugh

loudest laugh

chuckle

giggle

chortle

cackle

belly laugh

guffaw

Chuckling

Chuckling is to laugh mildly or quietly.

Giggling

Giggling is to laugh with short, repetitive sounds.

Chortling

Chortling is to laugh gleefully, or to express satisfaction or triumph.

Cackling

Cackling is to laugh harshly or sharply.

Belly laugh

A belly laugh is to laugh in a deep, hearty manner, as if from the abdomen or in such a way that one's abdomen moves from the exertion.

Guffawing

Guffawing is to laugh boisterously or loudly. Another name for this is hee-hawing.



Other types of laughter

Cracking up

Cracking up is to laugh as if helplessly.

Crowing

Crowing is to laugh derisively or gloatingly.

Horse-laughing

Horse-laughing is to laugh in a way suggestive of or in imitation of a horse's neighing or whinnying.

Splitting (one's) sides(idiom)

Splitting (one's) sides is to laugh convulsively, as if continuing to do so will cause one's body to rupture.

Disrespectful laughter

Snickering

Snickering is to partially suppress a laugh; sometimes the laughter is disrespectful.

Sniggering

Sniggering is an alteration of snicker, with the additional connotation of mischief.

Jeering

Jeering is to laugh disrespectfully or mockingly.

Scoffing

Scoffing is to laugh derisively or dismissively.

Review: Wahbanana

by Dorothy Au Tsz Ki (2B)

Wahbanana is a channel on youtube made by a Singaporean group. It has a variety of movies. I think all of the movies are very funny, but I would like to tell you about one of them ---Fourteen types of waiters in Singapore. This movie is about the different types of waiters you can encounter in Singaporean restaurants. In the movie, there are fourteen clips, each showing a different type of waiter. Some examples of the different types of waiters include 'fast', 'slow' 'emotional', 'helpful', 'talented', and so on. The actors exaggerate the way the waiters behave, so that they are presented in a humorous way. There are no English subtitles, therefore you have to concentrate and listen to what they are saying. I think it's helpful for learning English in an amusing way.

What is stand-up comedy?

by Sam Sham Yue Kwok (5B)

Stand-up comedy is the kind of comedy where the comedian performs live in front of the audience and the audience provides instant feedback. We always think comedians perform stand-up comedy by only saying jokes, but they can also include music, magic tricks and more. Most of the time the jokes are related to local citizens, so they are relevant.

Stand-up comedy can also be part of the speech of an MC because it can produce a mood that relaxes everyone. The biggest difference compared to another type of comedy is that it usually provides a steady stream of laughs. Will Ferrell has described stand-up comedy as “Hard, lonely and vicious”, but it’s much more entertaining than another type of comedy.

In recent years, stand-up comedy has become a popular entertainment in Hong Kong. As we know, Hong Kong is a great city but there is also immense pressure. Through stand-up comedy, citizens can take a rest and leave their problems for a while and it can work on you too. This kind of entertainment can be a cube of sugar in the coffee of academic life. It’s always sweeter to take a rest and play after you have studied hard and comedy has the short-term effect of cheering you up.

Improvised Drama



Sekunder Zaheer (4A) presented with the ‘Speak Out- Act Up!’ Superstar Award - individual prize.



The English Improvisation Drama Team - Jess Li (3D), Charis Chan (3D), Stella Char (1B), Sekunder Zaheer (4A) & Ms Lane with the judges and organisers of the drama competition.

Profile of a Comedian: Rowan Atkinson

by Poon Ho Yi (4B)

Rowan Atkinson is an English actor and comedian. In 1979, he started his comedic life. He has participated in many theatrical productions, such as *The Nerd* and *The Sneeze*. He has also starred in some comedy films, for example, *Johnny English* in 2003 and *Johnny English Reborn* in 2011.

In 1990, he starred as the famous character 'Mr. Bean' in a sitcom by the same name. Mr. Bean is a hilarious character, created by Rowan Atkinson. The Mr. Bean sitcom is largely without speech, thus Atkinson's humour is mostly physical. This character led him to great success as a comedian and he became famous around the world.

In 1997, Atkinson participated in a feature film called *Bean*, the first movie based on the sitcom. In 2007, he followed the first film with a second, titled *Mr. Bean's Holiday*. Worried that he was becoming typecast, the comedic genius retired the Mr. Bean character in 2012 and went on to focus on theatre productions. While many fans were saddened by the news that there would be no more Mr. Bean, at least they can still enjoy the episodes on DVD.

Debating



Mr. Choi, Ben Lee (4A), Danny Ho (4A) and Ivan Lui (4A) with debaters from Sun Fong Chung College



Debate winners Mika Mang (5A), Yumi Chau (5A), Ben Lee (4A) & Mr. Choi with the adjudicator and opposition, HKMA K S Lo College.

Types of Humour

by Freda Chung Hoi Ching (4D) and Alice Yau Mei Fong (4A)

What is humour?

Humour is something that is funny, comical, or amusing. There are many types of humour, and what appears humorous to one person may not be humorous to another. Humour can be found in movies and books, in jokes, and in everyday situations of life.

Fun with puns

A pun is a play on words, in which a word of multiple meanings, or a word of similar sound but different meaning, is used to create the joke. It is probably the most common form of verbal humour.

**An old teacher never dies. They simply lose their class.
Without geometry, life is pointless.**

A joke

A joke is something said or done to evoke amusement or laughter. In verbal humour, the term often means an amusing story with a punch line - a humorous ending.

A mother mouse and a baby mouse were walking along, when all of a sudden, a cat attacked them. The mother mouse yelled, "BARK!" and the cat ran away. "See?" said the mother mouse to her baby. "Now do you understand why it's important to learn a foreign language?"

Slapstick humour

Physical comedy in which comedians pretend to harm another person. The three stooges were renowned for slapstick comedy.

Satirical humour

Satirical humour mocks human and societal weaknesses.

Deadpan/ Dry humour

Humour that is delivered with an expressionless presentation.

Irony

Where the intended meaning is opposite (or nearly opposite) to the literal meaning.

Self-deprecating humour

This is where the comedian mocks himself to make others laugh.

Dark/ Morbid humour

Depressing humour that deals with misfortune or death with a pessimistic outcome. The subjects in dark humour are often controversial.

7 Funny Idioms

by Nicki Lau Long Hei (5A)

1. A one track mind!

If you have a one track mind, your mind is limited to only one line of thought or action. You are always thinking about the same thing.

2. Bat wings

Bat wings refers to the sagging skin and fat that hangs down on the underside of the upper arms. The skin looks like 'bat wings'.

3. Ignorance is bliss

Ignorance is bliss means that not knowing something makes us happier than knowing it. Another way of saying the same thing would be 'what you do not know cannot hurt you'.

4. To be in the doghouse

You are in the doghouse when someone is angry with you for something that you have done. Typically, this phrase is used when men are in trouble with their wives.



5. When pigs fly

This idiom is used about something that will never happen, because pigs cannot fly.



6. Bob's your uncle

This idiom is a catch phrase used when 'everything is alright' and means that something will be done successfully. It's the British equivalent of 'there you go!'

7. Fall off the back of a lorry

This is the British humorous way of saying you acquired something that was probably stolen, or you are trying to sell something that's stolen or illegitimate. The American equivalent of the phrase is: off the back of a truck.

Unforgettable experience with Itoigawa students

by Mika Mang Kei Yan (5A)

As we all know, Hong Kong is an international city. There are many famous tourist attractions, such as Ocean Park, Times Square and Stanley. However, these are only part of the well-known places in Hong Kong. We visited the Hong Kong Geopark in August and I immediately regretted that I had not visited such beautiful places earlier.

On 7th August, we visited Lai Chi Wo and Kat O by a long boat tour.

Lai Chi Wo is a place of idyllic beauty! Not many villagers live there and they still keep their traditional rural lifestyle. Similar to Lai Chi Wo, the pace of life in Kat O is slow. It makes us feel really relaxed. Through detailed explanation by the guides, I have learnt a lot about these two villages including their history and some special plants.

On 22nd August, we visited High Island Geo Trail, Sai Kung Volcanic Discovery Centre and Geopark Visitor Centre. We also had a chance to meet Itoigawa students.

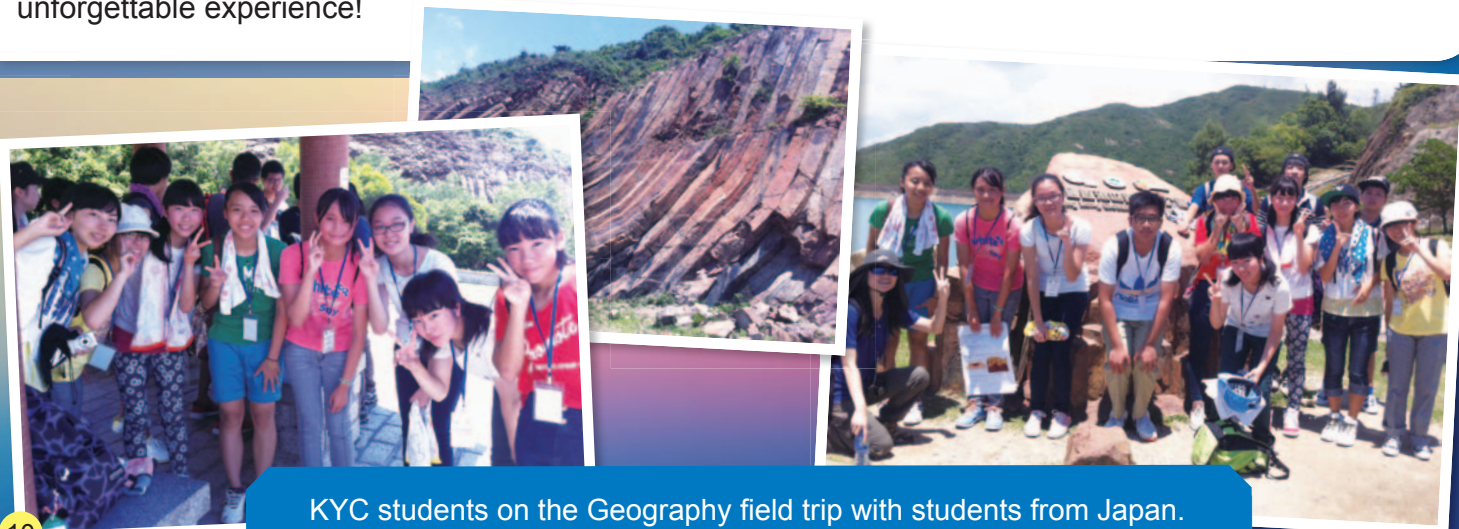
Firstly, the hexagonal columns formed by lava are magnificent. Columns are tall and thin and distorted into an S-shape. A black intrusive dyke is found in the middle of columns. It has become the symbol of Hong Kong Geopark. Moreover, in Sai Kung Volcanic Discovery Centre, the formation and different types of volcanoes are shown in interesting videos. There are also some specimens of volcanic rock for visitors to touch and observe. I really learnt a lot about different landform features from the site, not just from textbooks.

Like most Japanese, Itoigawa students are polite and quiet. At first, we introduced ourselves in a group. I could not memorize all their Japanese names.

Along High Island Geo Trail, we were required to complete a group task within half an hour. We tried our best to work out the answers. Some of the group members tried to solve the questions and some of us drew 3D diagrams of hexagonal columns. Although we were the last group to finish the task, we did not feel upset. We had a good morale striving to win in the next task.

During the sharing session in Geopark Visitor Centre, we talked about our school life and leisure activities. Itoigawa students also shared their after-school activities, such as judo, fencing and cookery. After that, we played a guessing game on Japanese cartoon characters. Perhaps we drew the characters very well, they got all answers correct. At last, we exchanged our Line account names. Since then, we have chatted about traditional food, sports, festivals in Japan and Hong Kong with two Itoigawa students.

I miss my Itoigawa friends and hope that we can meet again and visit Geopark in Hong Kong and even in Japan. I am so grateful to the organizer of the exchange programme for giving me such a meaningful and unforgettable experience!



KYC students on the Geography field trip with students from Japan.

Studying in local schools or schools overseas

by Jade Leung Man Yan (5A)

Do you have some friends or schoolmates who have left Hong Kong to study overseas? Today I will examine two reasons why many Hong Kong parents are sending their children to other countries to complete their schooling. Also, I will discuss the effect this has on local schools and on the children who leave to study overseas.

In my opinion, the first reason that leads to this phenomenon is that parents don't want their children to endure the pressure and torment of the HKDSE. It is without a doubt that this examination is a hardship for Hong Kong students. If you want to enter university, you need to put an enormous amount of time and effort into each subject because there are very few academic degree places at each university. Thus, many parents don't want to see their children being defeated by the pressure of the HKDSE; they want them to have a happier school life. This is why they send them overseas.

Studying in other countries can also broaden students' horizons. They can experience dorm life and different cultural values and traditions. Students studying abroad become more independent and gain confidence along with improved communication skills. Also, Hong Kong employers are always looking for highly skilled people with a good level of English. Parents see studying abroad as an investment in their child's future; they want their children to get a fabulous job so they send them to English-speaking countries such as the U.S. or the U.K.

Of course, this phenomenon has an effect on local schools and the children who leave to study overseas. With students leaving to study elsewhere, there are fewer students completing the HKDSE. This reduces the range of achievement in the exams and can impact on the reputation of the HKDSE.

Children who study overseas can do so in a relaxing atmosphere because other countries do not focus solely on academic results. Instead, students are required to enjoy a variety of activities benefiting their personal growth. Additionally, students completing school overseas have a much greater chance of entering an overseas university.

In conclusion, studying overseas is popular among Hong Kong families because parents believe that their children can develop their potential more effectively. They believe that in sending their children overseas, they are giving them a good foundation for their future.

A short story Back to the Beginning

by Sekunder Zaheer (4A)

In spite of my good exam results, I decided not to continue my studies. All I really wanted to do was travel the world.

I had just turned 18 years old and I decided not to go to school anymore; I wanted to travel, to explore this beautiful world. At first my parents really disagreed. But after months of begging, they finally realized that I am all grown up!

The teachers were really upset though. They thought that I would study all the way to university and achieve good marks representing our school. But, that's not my problem anymore.

I was thrilled about planning my trip, but then my dad came into my room and destroyed my dreams by saying he and mom wouldn't pay a penny for my travel. My biggest problem then was the money; how could I fund this dream?

To find enough money, I went back to search for full-time jobs, part-time jobs or something that even gave me a chance to win money (lottery). Finally, I found a job near my house, working in a convenience store.

The first day of my job went pretty well. The manager of the store was really good to me. He taught me all the things I needed to know and he was patient. But the second day started to get rough. As customers came in big waves, our manager started to unveil his real face behind the mask. He was really grumpy. He kept scolding us. I couldn't imagine that he was the same kind man I met on the first day!

After a month, I decided to quit my job. It was too exhausting and the manager was like Godzilla, really terrifying! But my salary wasn't even enough to get me to the beginning of my trip. I was really depressed and I didn't know what to do.

The next day, I went to a friend of mine, Peter, who also had left school years ago. I was hoping that he would give me some advice. He also wanted to travel the world once, but then he became a successful businessman. I went to his office and sat down.

He said to me, "Chris, I know you really want to go around the world now, but it ain't gonna happen. You're still young. I hope you'll take my advice and get yourself back to school."

I was really angry and disappointed. Although Peter was older than me by about 12 years, I still treated him like my best pal. What a waste of time!

Then I went home and went straight to bed. It was only 8:00 p.m. in the evening but I fell asleep. I was dreaming about what Peter had said to me, the words were like buzzers in my head.

'Back to school. Back to school...'

I woke up with sweat all over my back. Then I realized that all I had done since leaving school was waste time. I remembered the days when my friends and I were at school having great times together.

'How could I leave those beautiful memories behind?' I kept asking myself.

No matter how hard I resisted, I started to cry. I regretted leaving school. I should have listened to my parents. Why was I so stupid? I kept on abusing myself, wishing that it was all another nightmare, but the truth is I stuffed up! I disappointed everyone.

After a day for two, I stepped up to my parents and told them that I was sorry for not listening to them. I hadn't been to school for almost two months, but it seemed like I had left my second home for a year. I really missed school. I asked for help from my parents and my friend, Peter. I then found out a surprising thing. Peter and the Principal of my school were friends! Peter told me that I could go back to the same school with the same class. I felt relieved and I told myself that it was my second chance and I can't throw it away again.

Although I really wanted to travel the world, I think that I'll have to put that dream aside and enjoy my school life.

Essentially, I guess you could say I have gone back to the beginning!

A short story

You are never too old to live your dreams

by Cherry Lam Tuen Nga (5A)

I'm a thirty-two-year-old woman. I wanted to sing to everyone when I was a kid and the dream hasn't faded away. I used to think I would never have the chance to pursue my dream. But today, I want to tell all of you that you are never too old to live your dreams.

As a kid, sometimes my mum would take me to a restaurant for dinner. At one particular restaurant, there was always a beautiful lady standing on the stage, singing with a wonderful voice. Her voice made me feel peaceful and joyful. At that time, I thought about how great it would be if I could stand on a huge stage and sing, bringing happiness to others.

Unfortunately, this was not to be. My dad passed away when I was nine and my mum had to raise me by herself. It was a tough time for us, so my mum always told me to study hard so I could get a good job, then I would be able to move on from this tough life. I spent almost all of my time studying, doing homework and revision exercises. There was no time for me to practice singing. My dream was just a dream.

After I finished school, I went to university, got a nursing degree and became a nurse in a Hong Kong hospital. My mum was incredibly proud of me and what I had achieved. I also found personal happiness as I met my husband there and now we have two lovely children. But I always felt like there was something missing from my life, something I needed to do. I started to reflect and try to work out what was missing -- what did I need? Then it occurred to me, where was my dream?

I told my husband and my children about my dream of singing and entertaining people. It felt a little foolish to be thinking about it now, all these years later. I asked them what they thought about my dream; should I finish it? I was surprised with their resounding 'YES'!

With my family's encouragement and all the courage I had, I joined a singing competition and readied myself to take the stage. I was prepared for anything, including the worst; harsh criticism from the judges or the audience's cruel laughter. I was ready. I didn't care how they responded, as long as I gave my dream a shot. No regrets.

I couldn't believe the recognition that followed. The media reported the story of my life and my new found success. I began singing at celebrations and restaurants, much like the lady I admired when I was a child. Remember, you are never too old to live your dreams!

Poetry

Black

by Lee Shuk Wun, Lee Ka Wo,
Wong Yuet, Isaac Huo (4A)

Black is chocolate
Tasting bittersweet
Throughout life
Black is an ant
filling up with vitality
running on the ground
Black is the sky
overwhelming with darkness
the colour, the mystery

White

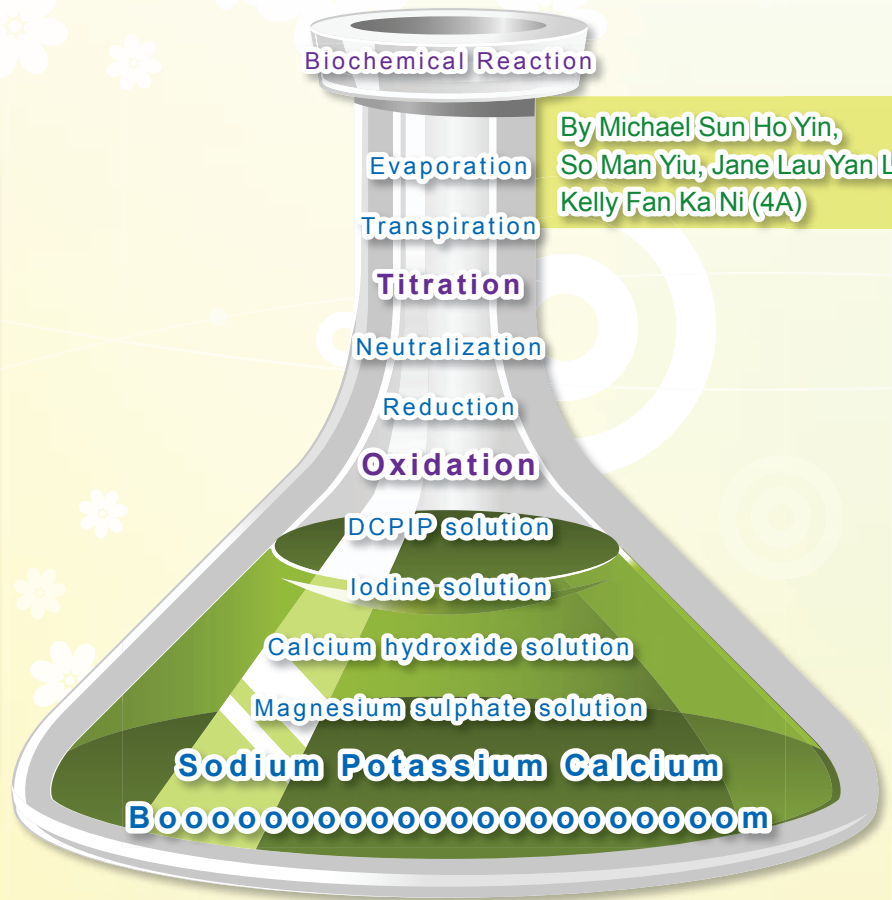
by So Man Yiu, So Ka Wai,
Leung Wing Ki, Cheung Sum Yu (4A)

White is the angel
that gives me
a blessing
White is the Lily
that is
innocence
White is the snow
falling on a Christmas tree
that is romantic
White is a bride
walking down the aisle
devoted to marriage

Red

by Rena Tam, Jane Lau Yan Lam, Hailey Tang Ho Yan,
Mavis Chau Po Lam (4A)

Red is the colour	Red is blood
painted on	that flows
a girl's face	when war comes
Red is an apple	Red is the celebration
that tastes	that brings us luck
sweet and sour	and blesses us
Red is the rose	Red is the fire
that means love	that burns
and is romantic	in the darkness



By Michael Sun Ho Yin,
So Man Yiu, Jane Lau Yan Lam,
Kelly Fan Ka Ni (4A)

Sunset

By Mary Chan Wing Yee (4A)

A scenic sunset
Which paints the vast sky red
Grants new hopes and dreams

First Snow

By Hailey Tang Ho Yan (4A)

Falling to my hand
White, cold, freezing, and numbing
Beautiful snowflakes

Women's rights

That is unfair.
No one seems to care.
Be it good or bad,
You always make me sad
What's in your eyes?
You always
Make me cry.
We cry all night
Trying to ease the plight
Everyone has their own point of view.
It, we don't need to conceal.
We have the right
To make it right.

By Lui Ho Wang, Wong Yuet
Leung Shek Kwan, Chan Ching Ka (4A)



Students from 2B and 1B respond the general knowledge questions.



Students from 2A and 1A win the competition.

Crossword

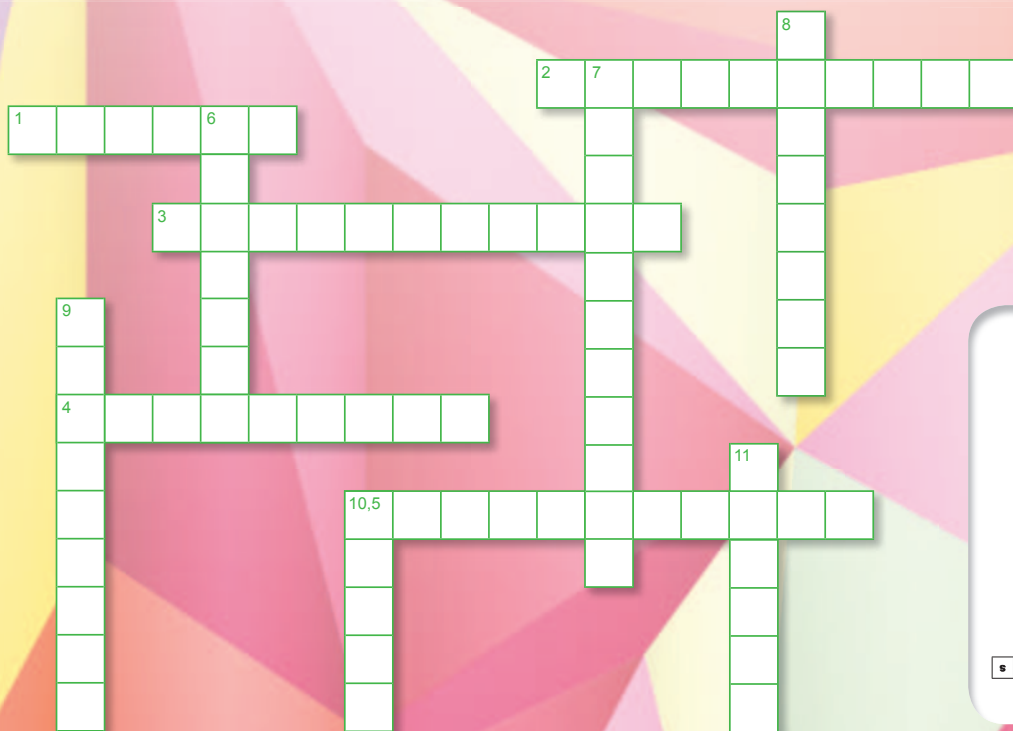
by Karena Szeto Ho Ying (4C) & Adonis Ho Tsz Long (4E)

Across:

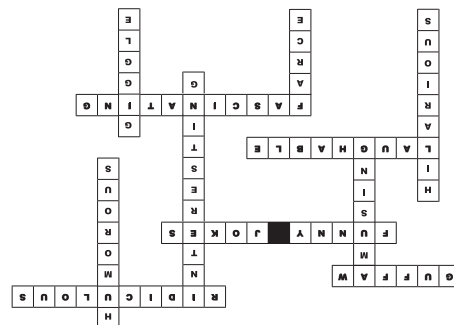
1. A loud, boisterous laugh.
2. He almost chortled at the _____ thought.
3. Dad always tells us some _____, but most of the time he is the only one laughing!
4. The story was so unreal that it was _____.
5. My dog can do many funny tricks. People say it's a _____ dog.

Down:

6. Everyone loves jokes, they are _____.
7. The speaker always has something _____ to share.
8. _____ stories are great. They're entertaining and relaxing.
9. Mr. Bean is _____. I can't stop laughing when I watch his movies.
10. A type of humour that is highly exaggerated and unrealistic.
11. A laugh with short, repetitive sounds.



Answers



Outstanding storytellers
Leung Yu Him (5C) &
Candy Wong (5F) with
Ms Lane.



5C students Sally Lok, Ron Yau,
Vivienne Lau & Leung Yu Him win
Best Overall Performance.



Phoebe Shum (5E)
telling a story.



Storytellers from 5C