

Swinburne Library

NEWSLETTER



GREETINGS !!

In conjunction with the Read, Write and Win Competition, the staff and library committees would like to congratulate all winners and to thank those who have participated. Do check out their winning write-ups on page 4-9. During the study and exams weeks, the library operating hours effective 20th November - 8th December 2006 will be from 8.30am till 9.30pm. Good luck to all the students sitting for their examination soon. As we reach towards the end of the academic year 2006, we would like to take this opportunity to thank those who have contributed their time and support, one way or the other. Wishing you all the best of luck, Happy Holiday and Merry Christmas in advance.



ROUTLEDGE STUDY GUIDES

Stress over examinations? Having problem studying? Check out a book in Swinburne Sarawak Library entitled “*STUDY! A guide to effective learning, revision and examination techniques*” by Robert Barrass which may have the answers to your problems (Call No. 378.170281 / BAR). A book that gives clear, straightforward advice that will help you to keep fit for study, use effective learning techniques, and communicate your thoughts in assessed course work, tests and examinations.



Wish to be on the road to Straight ‘A’s but doesn’t know where to start? A book that may help you to hone your study, exam skills and help those who aim for the top to reach it is “*Getting Straight ‘A’s : A students’ guide to success*” by Richard Palmer. (Call No. 371.30281 / PAL). This book is designed to help high-flyers who are both ambitious and aware of their talent.



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Swinburne Sarawak to hold Open Day on 16 December

Swinburne Sarawak's Open Day this year will be held on Saturday, 16 December from 9am to 4pm.

Themed "DAY ONE", it is focused around the concept of the first day of a student's career and that it all starts here at Swinburne Sarawak.

As such, a range of activities have been lined up for the day. This includes :

- ◇ Course counseling
- ◇ Career talks by industry professionals
- ◇ An overview of the courses by heads of schools
- ◇ Engineering and Multimedia displays
- ◇ Aptitude Tests
- ◇ Campus Tours
- ◇ And much more.

Head of schools and senior academics will be available to answer any queries on courses by prospective students and their parents.

Visitors will also have the opportunity to sample what they may learn in their chosen course through the various activities lined up; try out interactive games and win some cool prizes; experience some of the student clubs' activities; or simply take a tour of the campus and find out what Swinburne Sarawak has to offer.

If you know of anyone who may be considering further education, do tell them about the upcoming Open Day.

For the convenience of our visitors, a continuous shuttle service to and from Swinburne Sarawak's Kenyalang parking area shall run throughout the day.

The graphic features the text "day One" in a large, bold font, with "day" in black and "One" in yellow. Below it, the tagline "It all starts here." is written in a smaller, grey font. In the top right corner, there is a black box with the word "SWINBURNE" in white, and a yellow box below it with the text "SWINBURNE UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY SARAWAK CAMPUS". In the bottom left corner, the text "Swinburne Open Day" is displayed in black and yellow, followed by "Sat 16 Dec 2006" and "9am - 4pm" in black. The website address "www.swinburne.edu.my" is located in the bottom right corner in yellow.



Read, Write and Win Competition

The following winners of Read, Write and Win Competition have been announced on the 20th September 2006. The winners took home, book vouchers worth RM150, RM100 and RM50. Check out on page 4-10 the write-ups written by our winners.

1st Prize

Michael Sampar

“ **Rich Dad Poor Dad** ” by Robert Kiyosaki

2nd Prize

Andrea Chan Sook Yin

“ **Howl's Moving Castle** ” by Diana Wynne Jones

3rd Prize

Victor Gan

“ **The Phantom Tollbooth** ” by Norton Juster

Not forgetting the other who participated, well done and keep up the good work.

Yakub Sebastian

Dayang Nurul Asrina

Choulyin Tan

Michael Francis Villarin

Melissa Rura

Darren Sim Soon Beng

Evelyn Jong Wan Li

Chang Ngee Khiong

Kho Ik Ching

Michelle Sim Hui Syang

Maxbie Teo Tong Teng

Vincent Lau Hui Chek

Alda Percy

Don't despair, Read, Write and Win Competition will sure be back again next year !!

“ RICH DAD POOR DAD “ by Robert Kiyosaki
(1st Prize Winner - Michael Sampar)

Another sleepless night, I've been trying to sleep for the last 3 hours but all my attempts goes vain. It is moments like this that I would take out my favorite book and read a few chapters, and I just can't explain why this book seems so interesting to me. I am not a book type of person, I only read books that I have to read, such as reference books, but this book got me hooked up the moment I finished reading the preface. I do have to give credits to Kingston Billy for introducing the book, *'Rich Dad, Poor Dad' by Robert Kiyosaki.*

The book do not look interesting at all from the look of its' cover, as the saying goes, 'Never judge a book by it's cover', the only sparkle on the cover is the word 'Rich'. In fact, the book doesn't look interesting at all inside out, it's paperback and diagrams come in forms of boxes and circles and some arrows. The beauty if this book is actually the message Mr. Kiyosaki tries to tell all of us, to be financially free.

This book is written by Robert T. Kiyosaki, an American-Japanese from Hawaii. He is a famous motivator for those interested in business line, and he is placed as high as other motivational writer such as Anthony Robbins. In this book, Mr. Kiyosaki basically tells his theories on how to get rich, and he mixes his theories with his childhood experience along with his childhood friend, Mike. It is Mike's father he refers as 'Rich Dad' because he learned the basics of business through Mike's father. Mike's father later started a new business empire in Hawaii which was later expanded by his son, Mike, to the US. The person Mr. Kiyosaki refers as 'Poor Dad' is his own father. His father is not poor financially since his father held a high position in the local government office, but he refers 'poor' in terms of ideas and effort of trying to be a successful financially.

In this book, Mr. Kiyosaki tells how we actually make wrong interpretation of some concepts. For example, we always consider our home as our biggest asset, because that is what my dad says so too. Most of us do not know the difference between asset and liability. An asset is something that can generate profit for us while a liability does the opposite. In this case, our home is a huge liability since most of us will pay monthly installments until the age of 50-60! Plus, we will have to pay maintenance, bills and other expenses for our home. Now tell me how can our home be an asset?

Mr. Kiyosaki also tells a clear reality of life which sometimes makes me wonder why I bother study. Most of us try our best in school exams; try to get degree, masters, PHD and Doctorate. By doing so, we actually limit our field of experience and ability. For example, I am going to leave this university with a Diploma in Electronics Engineering. Naturally I will continue to get Degree, then Masters, PHD and Doctorate in Electronics Engineering (if there is such thing). It is an achievement since people will call me Prof Mike, but what if electronics is no longer an important field? What if electronics become obsolete? If such thing were to happen, I cannot work in other field since I am only an expert in electronics. The same goes for those trying to become specialist doctors, other engineering field, and human resource and so on. The better we are in a specific field, the less multitask we will be. The writer does not intend to tell readers not to study or not pay attention to academics value. Instead, he wants us to realize and be 100% sure of what line of education we really want to be in, rather than just follow what others think. He emphasize that we should learn more than just one field so that we can always take up another job in case the previous one is no longer needed.

Another reality the writer erect is the cycle which we go through everyday without noticing it, the cycle of money. Most of us try to get good results academically in order to get a good job in a high paying place. After we get the job, we work harder and harder everyday in order to get promotion and increase of salary. Increase in ranks requires better daily presentation; we start to buy bigger house, better cars, and better suites and so on. Our daily cost of living increases drastically, and to keep up, we just have to work harder to get more money. The first day we have an ambition is the first day we start working for money. Everyday we work harder, slave ourselves for money. It's been there all along, but we never realize it.

The book is not just all about why we can't get rich with what we are doing right now, but the writer also tells us how we can actually get rich by adjusting our definitions of certain terms. As mentioned earlier, we first and foremost must be able to differentiate assets and liabilities. To make money, we simply just have to take control more assets over liabilities. That is something we didn't realize although we actually have done it before. We never realize how we can turn our car from a liability to an asset, although we always do it before. With the current parking problem in Swinburne, it is in fact a great opportunity for those with private vehicle to earn extra money. Yes, carpool! Since oil price is up and its just so darn hard to get a place to park, just offer your friends a ride for just RM1 per trip, and you can make up to RM10 per day! It's not something new, just that we never bother ask for any payment.

To get rich is about taking advantage of the situation. Students can make extra money by renting out rooms of their rented house; you can make money by offering solutions for assignments and so on. Recession is scheduled to happen next year and for most, it is time to save money. Actually, recession is a very good time to take advantage. Most will feel the squeeze for the need of money that they will give away things they feel as a burden. Cars, houses, apartments, lands and other properties will experience price drop up to 50% and this is the best time to get properties for a cheaper price. After 3 to 5 years, recession will end and prices will come back to normal and it will be the perfect time to sell back the properties up to threefold of the original price.

Being able to control the cycle basically means be your own boss. Everyday we wake up early to go to work or school, always make sure that we come on time in order to avoid the wrath of our boss/lecturer. This will be our constant fear, fear of being ditched by someone above, fear that will forever ensure we are part of the cycle. The book explains step by step actions we must take in order to be the one on top, the one controlling the flow, the boss.

So far, I have written more than 1000 words about this book, and I can go on and on. So why should this book be part of our library? Well, I just have to tell based on my experience. When I first started reading this book, I was facing depression since I failed one subject and I was having financial problems since my study loan was frozen. Quitting from studies was one of my options and I was in need for advice. Counseling never crossed my mind since counselors don't usually face failures everyday, so I talked with a good friend, Mr. Kingston Billy, a legend to some students, since failures never really bother him. His advice, was to read this book, 'Rich Dad, Poor Dad' by Robert T. Kiyosaki. Of course books like 'Dare to fail' and 'Awakening the Giant' would be nice, but this book is more related to my ambitions. I've always wanted to be rich and successful, and I've wanted to take up business since Form 3. I come from a moderate family and my ambitions were squashed since I will never get any capital to start my own business. The only way I can achieve my ambition is to get a high paying job and save my salaries to start up a business of my own. But things didn't turn well in engineering since I am too smart to give up, but not smart enough to proceed. After reading the book, I realized that life is just too short to give up for and we can always achieve our dreams if we think outside the box.

The book also made me realize that everyone will always face difficulties and some people have better advantage from another, but regardless of who you are, everyone have one important thing in common, time. I am pretty sure I am not the only one in Swinburne facing dilemmas, thus I am quite sure that they can be helped after reading this book. For you, me and the rest, this book can provide advice and motivation in life...so, that's why I think Swinburne library should have at least a copy of this book.
Thank you.



“ HOWL’S MOVING CASTLE “ by Diana Wynne Jones
(2nd Prize Winner - Andrea Chan Sook Yin)

A castle that moves around on its own, seven league boots, invisibility cloaks, fire demons, witches and magicians. What else could one ask for from a fantasy story? The book “Howl’s Moving Castle” is a fantastical tale full of all these exciting elements and more. Even though one might dismiss the book as yet another Harry Potter wannabe, the truth is that Diana Wynne Jones wrote this book way back in 1986, before the advent of the Boy Who Lived.

Every story revolves around a hero or a heroine. “Howl’s Moving Castle” is no different in this case. The story starts with Sophie Hatter, the oldest daughter of a milliner in Ingary. Sophie believes, as per Ingary’s custom, that as the oldest, she will definitely fail first and the worst of all, especially since her parents aren’t even poor woodcutters. After Sophie’s father dies, her well-meaning stepmother Fanny, sends Sophie’s two younger sisters to be apprentices of different trades. Meanwhile, Sophie gets stuck in her father’s old shop where she seems to have developed a talent decorating hats. Even though the shop’s business is booming, Sophie still feels unhappy with her life. Upon learning the truth of Fanny’s intentions, Sophie becomes determined to seek her own fortune outside. As Sophie is packing, she is interrupted by a very grand-looking lady who ends up cursing Sophie to become an old lady and unable to reveal the cause of her misfortune.

Not wanting to face her family with her new look, Sophie sets off into the countryside to find a solution to her unsatisfying life. After some misadventures, it is nearing nightfall but she soon spots the infamous moving castle of the Wizard Howl. She manages to make her way inside and convinces Michael, the resident apprentice to let her stay the night. Though Sophie knows of Howl's reputation of eating young girls' hearts, she is comforted by the thought that Howl would have no interest in old ladies like her. Later, Sophie is startled to discover a fire demon named Calcifer, who takes advantage of the situation and makes a deal with Sophie. In return for breaking his contract with Howl, he would change Sophie back into her original state. When Howl returns, she finds him a handsome but rather slippery person as he neither agrees nor disagrees to let Sophie stay on as the new cleaning lady.

Over the next few months, Sophie uncovers many strange things while enjoying her new life of disorderly but intense cleaning. The castle's movement is powered by Calcifer and with the turn of a knob, the front door opens up to a different town, as the castle is amazingly located in 4 different parts of Ingary. When Howl isn't busy courting various girls, he works as a magician under various names in the different towns and Sophie somehow develops a reputation as a sort of witch herself. She slowly becomes friends with Michael and Calcifer but Howl seems to think of her as a meddling nag who always needs to be busy.

The odd foursome's lives begin to change once Howl is requested by the King to become the new Royal Wizard. Howl is upset by this as his predecessor was believed to have been killed by the Witch of the Waste in his search for the King's brother, Prince Justin. Sophie is scornful and disgusted with Howl's cowardly actions. Unable to explain why, Sophie becomes even more bad-tempered when she learns that it is because the Witch is trying to curse Howl for leaving her. Sophie's well-meaning but disastrous actions set the Witch's plans into action and the curse catches up with Howl. Thus begins a series of showdowns between the two. In the final battle, Sophie discovers that she is truly a witch who is able to talk things into life and together with Howl, manages to save the day. She frees Calcifer from his contract and Prince Justin is found and released from the Witch's control. Sophie and Howl finally admit their love for each other and in the fashion of fairy tales, everyone lived happily ever after.

The first thing that attracted me to this book was the title. It sounds so exciting and different from the other fantasy stories I've read before. From the title, you'd think that the story revolves around Howl but the main character is actually Sophie. It's very refreshing to find that the heroine is stronger than the hero and ends up saving everyone. Sophie is also unlike your average heroine, since for most of the story, she is a wrinkled old crone who bosses others around in her attempt to improve things. This makes her more realistic and likeable than those perfect and beautiful princesses of old. For once, younger readers will have a real female to look up to.

I think readers like us would also appreciate the various aspects of Howl's character. He seems to have a love-hate relationship with Sophie but the sparks between them are obvious. His methods of courting Sophie are subtle and incredibly different from when he's courting other girls. Though Sophie usually thinks of him as a lazy 'slitherer-outer', most people do look up to him. Howl is usually melodramatic and expresses his unhappiness with green slime, but he also has a compassionate side with the weak and the poor. Most of the time, Howl does seem cowardly but his unorthodox 'non-plans' tend to work out.

It's unique that elements of classical fairy tales are fused with unlikely ideas, such as the moving castle, cowardly heroes and ancient heroines. The moving castle is such an extraordinary element that it almost seems like a character itself. If being able to move around on the power of a fire demon isn't enough, it's also located in four different places! This feature is really appealing as I'm sure everyone has wished that they could be in two places at one time, at least once in their life. Everyone, especially busy students and lecturers like us would definitely be happy to have this feature installed at home as it'd save us time traveling to and fro.

"Howl's Moving Castle" is such a hit that it was an honour book for the Boston Globe-Horn Book Award. Even those who don't really like reading can enjoy it as acclaimed animation company Studio Ghibli adapted the story into an animated movie of the same title. The movie was nominated as Best Animated Feature Film for last year's Oscars. This book definitely would appeal to all types of readers, as it has a bit of everything for everyone. There are so many things about this book that makes it stand out and any reader would be hooked by the characters and storyline. It would be great if Swinburne's library had a copy so I could recommend more people to read the book. I'm sure they'll love it as much as I do, for we're never too old to read good fantasy stories.



“ THE PHANTOM TOLLBOOTH “ by Norton Juster
(3rd Prize Winner - Victor Gan)

The Phantom Tollbooth is a storybook. It was written by Norton Juster, who was a professional architect, and a professor in a college in the United States. The book was written when Juster was thinking about what to write for his thesis on urban planning. Published in 1961, the book was made into a movie in 1970.

The book tells the story of a boy named Milo. Milo, as described at the beginning of the book, thinks “that almost everything is a waste of time.” Never content with what he is doing at any given moment, he often “wished he were somewhere else, and when he got there he wondered why he’d bothered.” He is immensely bored with whatever he does. As a result, Milo starts to question the whole point of learning - what was the use of any of the things he learned in school? All this was about to change, starting with the mysterious appearance of a package in his room. The package, addressed to him, but sent anonymously, contained “One Genuine Turnpike Tollbooth”. From here, he is suddenly transported to the Lands Beyond, where he encounters numerous adventures with a talking dog-clock hybrid (the Watchdog) and a talking insect who likes to say “Bah!” (the Humbug). Far more important than the adventures, is the lesson he learns along the way: that there is a whole world waiting to be explored just in everyday life.

The Phantom Tollbooth is neither my favourite book, nor is it the best one I have ever read. But it contains an important lesson that many forget today. And that is why I wish to share it. I see many people, especially young people, who are ignorant about their surrounding environment. They simply don’t care about the world around them. This poses a problem similar to that faced by Milo. He could not care less about his surroundings, so everything was a bore. Even learning was boring and pointless.

I am reminded of this book every time someone tells me they are bored and have nothing to do. I am reminded of it whenever I see someone listening to music on their iPods or MP3 players. There are many books, milk powder formulas, and kindergartens which claim to be able to make kids smart. I do not know if they work, because I do not have children. However, I can tell you how to do the opposite. Just the other day I was at a coffee shop eating breakfast. It was a Saturday morning, and I saw a family out for breakfast as well. Pretty standard family: husband, wife, and three children. The eldest child, who was probably around ten to twelve years old, never took off his headphones throughout the entire meal. This child will grow up dumb. Alright, maybe that is a bit harsh. But the fact is that this fellow is wilfully disengaging from his surroundings. Worse still, he was doing it while listening to music, most of which today is rubbish. If you are not observing your surroundings, you will not appreciate the things around you. And if you don’t appreciate the things around you, why bother learning about them?

The Phantom Tollbooth is an excellent primer for understanding the goal of learning. The simple story line is filled with puns and witty word play. It makes for an easy read, but is effective in making its point. I first read it years ago, and re-read every now and then to remind myself, that the journey is just as important as the destination, and that the only limits are my imagination.

QUOTES

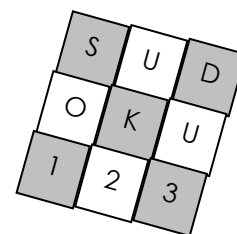
Education is the ability to listen to almost anything without losing your temper or your self-confidence. - *Robert Frost* -

Education: Being able to differentiate between what you do know and what you don't. It's knowing where to go to find out what you need to know; and it's knowing how to use the information once you get it. - *William Feather* -

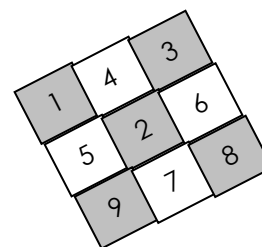
An educated man is one who can entertain a new idea, entertain another person and entertain himself. - *Sydney Wood* -

SUDOKU

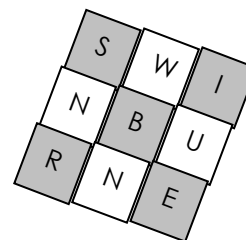
According to Pete Sinden (2005), "Sudoku is thought to have been invented by the great Swiss mathematician Leonhard Euler (1707-83). During the 1980s the games became something of a craze in Japan (hence its Japanese title, apparently from *su*, 'number' and *doku*, 'single'); in the United States it was published for many years under title 'Number Place'. In Britain in 2004, the first puzzle appeared in *The Times* newspaper, and the game is now gaining a worldwide following."



Enter digits from 1 to 9 into blank spaces. Every row must contain one of each digit; so must every column, as must every 3x3 square. Try out your skill.....



7		4					3	1
	1			5				
						7	4	
9		5			4	1		7
2	8						6	4
1		6	2			3		9
	7	1						
				4			7	
5	2					4		3



Staff Directory



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7	5	4	6	9	2	8	3	1
3	1	8	4	5	7	2	9	6
6	9	2	1	3	8	7	4	5
9	3	5	8	6	4	1	2	7
2	8	7	3	1	9	5	6	4
1	4	6	2	7	5	3	8	9
4	7	1	9	2	3	6	5	8
8	6	3	5	4	1	9	7	2
5	2	9	7	8	6	4	1	3

Answers for Sudoku Puzzle on Page 11