

# The Firefly



32th  
JUNE  
2021



# Contents

- 3 A Simple Guide to Virtual YouTubers
- 5 Media Literacy
- 7 Cyberbullying
- 9 Adolescence: Messy Yet Beautiful
- 11 I GREW, NOT BECAUSE I WON, BUT BECAUSE I LEARNED
- 12 How would you finish the sentence, "Imagine if..."
- 14 I Want To Be An Alien
- 16 The Journey of Teen Diplomatic Envoys
- 18 Taiwan Model
- 20 Human Rights Diplomacy
- 22 What Do I Feel Proud Of About Taiwan?
- 23 A Tourist Attraction in Taiwan That I Would Least Recommend
- 24 My Reading Journal: Aladdin
- 26 Pictures Guided Writing
- 27 Korean Superstar

## A Simple Guide to Virtual YouTubers

2020 was a year full of depression and hopelessness with horrible events happening in the world almost every month. Among all the terrible events, the most severe event was, undoubtedly, the coronavirus pandemic. To prevent the deadly virus from spreading, many countries in the world have gone into lockdown, and people are forced to stay at home and have experienced great boredom. As a result, a new form of entertainment has recently gone viral: virtual YouTubers, also known as VTubers.

“What’s the difference between VTubers and normal YouTubers?” You might ask? Just like other YouTubers, they do gaming, singing, or chatting streams on YouTube. However, instead of doing the things mentioned above as a real person, he or she does so as an avatar. One is given an avatar along with characteristics and a personality and asked to do specific activities acting as that avatar. Thanks to the development of modern technology, they’re even able to do live streaming as an avatar. Having a live human play the avatar can be realized by capturing their facial expression and gesture precisely with advanced motion-capturing devices in real time. Essentially, VTubers can be thought of as a combination of a YouTuber and a drama.



圖片來源：來自 Youtube 截圖

I played video games in my spare time in the past, but now I spend most of my leisure time watching VTubers. There are two main reasons why this is so appealing to me. My first reason is the fact that they are both a real person and a virtual avatar really fascinates me. Since they are, in essence, live humans, we can totally relate to every single moment in their streams, such as when they share the incidents they encounter in real life or their genuine reactions while gaming, which is very intriguing to watch. However, they still need to behave under the settings previously mentioned at the same time, which makes it more interesting to watch. Since it’s not easy to follow the settings all the time, they are sure to accidentally violate them



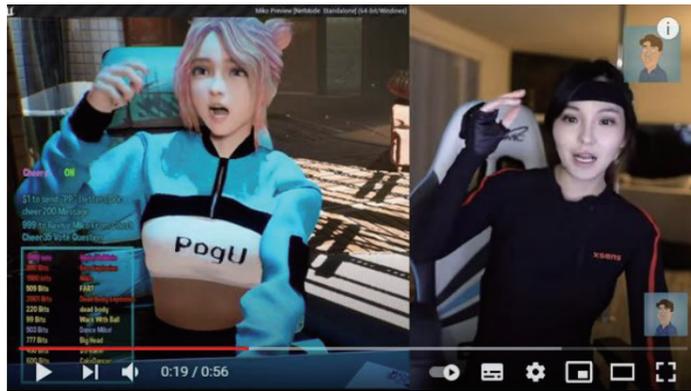
## Media Literacy

The world is becoming a global village with information easier to access. Modern people can absorb a massive amount of information every day, but in this vast sea of data, which is true, and which is false? Some information may be deliberately exaggerated and important facts may be concealed. These are obstacles blocking us from obtaining the correct information. When reading the news and watching TV, how can the audience judge whether the information is correct? When can people live in a society with accurate information? What can we do to avoid, or perhaps reduce the rampant spread of fake information?

The ability to identify information is “media literacy”. Media literacy puts an emphasis on the presence of independent critical thinking when the individuals are accessing information. Media literacy is a crucial skill for all citizens. What is more dangerous is not the falsehood itself, but people without media literacy, since they may believe the false information. They might even lend a hand in spreading it unconsciously.

A key word in media literacy is “fake news”. A research paper entitled *Varieties of Democracy, An Approach to Conceptualizing and Measuring Democracy Worldwide*, indicated that Taiwan ranked at the top in disseminating and receiving fake news, which could have great influence on domestic politics. It’s a warning signal that fake news often appears in Taiwan.

As an example of fake news, one titled "A massive COVID-19 outbreak among Vietnamese in Taipei City?" was circulating on the Internet, claiming that Taiwan is imposing an emergency lockdown after 250 Vietnamese in Taiwan were infected with COVID-19. The Central Epidemic Command Center pointed out that it was fake news and urged citizens not to spread, forward or repost any epidemic-related information from an unknown source unless it was verified. After numerous



圖片來源：來自 Youtube 截圖

sometimes, which can be pretty hilarious. Second, ridiculous though the content they make is, they are all extremely gifted people which will definitely astonish you whenever they demonstrate their talent. For example, Hoshimachi Suisei, who is extremely talented at singing, held a concert on YouTube in celebration of her 3rd anniversary. When she was singing on the stage, I couldn’t help marveling at her extraordinary voice, so simultaneously angelic and powerful it felt as if it could penetrate my heart, lift up my spirits as well as soothe my soul; it was unquestionably an absolute feast for the ears. Though being funny and slightly psychotic in her streams, at that exact moment, she shone so brightly as if she were a beam of light piercing through darkness, a star twinkling at midnight, a sparkling comet straddling the night sky. Without a doubt, it was truly the most precious and fabulous concert I have ever “attended”.

Pleasure is not the only thing that I gained from watching VTubers. It can actually provide you with many benefits. For one thing, because almost all of them are much older than me, VTubers have accumulated lots of life experience from which I can always learn things that enrich my knowledge and broaden my horizons. For another thing, watching VTubers has dramatically improved my English and Japanese listening, since there are no such thing as subtitles in streams, and the only thing you can do is to listen carefully if you’re trying to understand what they’re talking about.

In conclusion, VTubers can serve as an antidote to my busy real life and be beneficial to me as well. Though it may seem that I’ve written a lot about them, I just barely scratched the surface. So even if you are a little bit interested and want to know more about it, why not give it a try? You will certainly not regret doing so!



圖片來源：來自 Youtube 截圖

By 20829 郭士棠



times of being forwarded and disseminated, fake news may disturb people's thoughts or even lead to the public's distrust of the government. It impacts not only individuals but also the entire society. Media literacy is not just a personal capability; it has the power to influence the whole nation.

So how does the government combat disinformation? In Taiwan, the 3Fs principle, which stands for "fast, fair, and fun", is held to deal with such phenomena. As the

implementation of the three core ideas, the authorities concerned publish statements and images with simple messages in order to capture people's attention, and in turn explain the facts. It turns out to be more efficient to clarify fake news. On the other hand, the media literacy lesson plans were developed to enhance our ability to detect fake news. The National Communications Commission subsidizes media literacy education and workshops, and the Ministry of Education has also planned a series of courses to include media literacy in the curriculum. Besides, websites are set up to provide online courses and teaching materials for the public in the hope of cultivating students' ability to understand and analyze the current state of national defensive development and read information with media literacy. What's more, Taiwan Media Watch, an organization that values media literacy, raises funds to carry out various research related to media supervision.

To be specific in realizing media literacy, confirm the origin of news, do comprehensive reading, and check the author's background and the exact publishing date of the information or data. When accessing information, be a person with an objective view. Temporarily giving up religious beliefs and support to political parties enables us to have a better understanding of the article, and be a smart audience.

To sum up, in the fast-changing era of informatization, everyone should cultivate the ability of critical thinking and take every single piece of news rationally instead of being easily convinced of everything by the media. Only in this way can we all become a smarter audience possessing media literacy, and make Taiwan a better environment for freedom of speech.



By 20521 蔣詠涵 20710 溫上儀 20727 徐華倫 20832 陳宏易

## Cyberbullying

Cyberbullying—something that has become increasingly common among teenagers, as the digital sphere has expanded and technology has advanced; something that I never expected would happen to me, but somehow still happened; something that has been ongoing constantly, in every unknown corner online.

As common and inevitable as it is, cyberbullying may be traumatizing for any adolescent. Cyberbullying is basically making fun of someone

on the Internet, except it happens in front of hundreds of mutual friends or even strangers, and most importantly, it cannot be undone. Everything ever commented or posted online leaves a trace—scars that remain on the victims forever.

Given the experience of being cyberbullied and witnessing several cases of cyberbullying, I am fully aware of how painful it is to become a victim of irresponsible remarks on the Internet. While some people might just laugh it off without giving it too much thought, those unfriendly comments attacking me or my friends have haunted me every night. When I was at my worst, I would imagine everyone speaking ill of me behind my back, which often left me breaking down in tears at the thought of it. Cyberbullying is devastating. Had it not been for the love and support of my friends in real life, I wouldn't have weathered the storm.

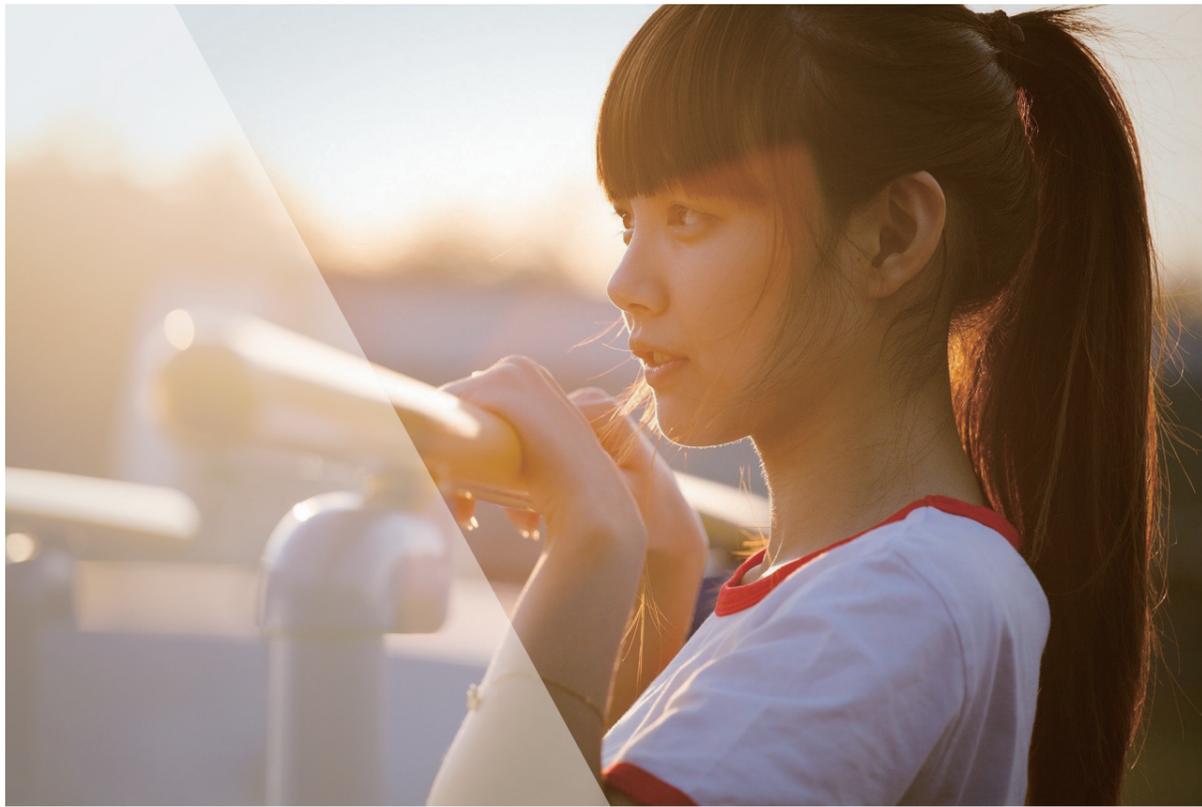
Ironically, despite the detrimental effect it can cause to one's mental health, people don't like to talk about cyberbullying or even admit that it exists. In fact, most people choose to ignore or even laugh at the victim—since they are the minority and can't speak for themselves in some cases. What's worse, people tend to forget the fact that words without malicious intention can also suggest offense.

However, cyberbullying isn't unsolvable. Only if everyone thinks before typing anything can we stop this before the damage is done. An important thing to remember is "Do unto others as you would have others do unto you" As long as we keep that in mind, we can put a halt to cyberbullying.



By 20702 江晴

## Adolescence: Messy Yet Beautiful



As a sixteen-year-old teenage girl, I believe that adolescence is best described as messy yet beautiful. Caught in the gray area between childhood and maturity, we often feel a sense of perplexity and trepidation when looking into the unknown future. Meanwhile, we are enjoying the most essential, influential, and precious periods of our entire lives. Adolescence is complicated, and that's exactly what makes it so poetic.

During this chaotic phase of life, we become aware of a lot of things that we used to neglect, such as responsibilities, relationships with our families and friends, and so forth. We have no alternative but to pluck up the courage to cope with these challenges as we encounter them. As we overcome the obstacles standing in our way, we gradually grow and learn. Though the naïve child deep inside still gasps whenever I trip over and fall hard, I have confidence that I am able to get up off the ground on my own, for I'm no longer the vulnerable girl wailing and waiting for rescue. Some of us also get emotional from time to time, sometimes for no apparent reason. Without a warning sign, the feelings flood in all of a sudden like a tsunami, drowning us in its absence of mercy. All these indispensable emotions, and the shambles in which they leave us, constitute our complex journey from youth into adulthood.

However, it is this same period of time that illuminates our lives, making each one of them unique. We are young, wild, and free; we are reckless and invincible. We endeavor to seize every second of adolescence in our hands since the proverb runs well, "Time and tide wait for no man." Beauty lies in the laughter coming from our classrooms after school; in the scene of a group of friends jumping puddles after pouring rain; in the warm daylight glowing on a stranger's face; in the tears shed during graduation ceremony. Happiness can be simple as we cherish the little moments of joy that will be remembered for decades. We youngsters enjoy every single moment without the slightest hesitation, because it cannot be denied that wasting away one's youth is an intolerable act. We never compromise or submit to fate, and this fearlessness makes us unimaginably strong and powerful. A world of limitless possibilities contributes to the charm of adolescence as well. There's no absolute right or wrong, and everyone can be who they want to be. We can laugh as hard as possible and can also sob defenselessly, and I think that's why adolescence is incredibly beautiful.

All in all, no one can turn back time, so it is necessary that we treasure our youth. After all, our time is limited, yet our potential isn't, and I firmly believe that we are capable of finding meaning in the world, and even creating our own. Try your best to make good use of every valuable moment, and most importantly of all, live in the present, because, to quote my favorite line in the movie *Peaceful Warrior*, "Where are you? Here. What time is it? Now. What are you? This moment."



By 20806 張韶庭

# I GREW, NOT BECAUSE I WON, BUT BECAUSE I LEARNED

Does winning really matter? Is the trophy or the medal the only purpose for participating in the game? I can tell you for sure that the answer is definitely negative. There is a huge quantity of things you can learn through the process of partaking in a contest.

As luck would have it, and thanks to teachers as well as those that place their trust in me, I was selected to be the representative of the English speech contest of Yanping. The moment I was offered the opportunity, I was overwhelmed with ecstasy! I swore to myself that I would bring the kudos and glory back to the Petri dish which has fostered me and sculptured me into who I am now. In hope of being able to be remembered for all my merits and achievements, I gave full measure of my effort to complete this arduous task; however, the expected outcome did not happen.

Of course, I burnt the midnight oil and utilized every minute possible to forge my masterpiece; of course, I wanted to win so badly that I even dreamt about that! But in reality, life never turns out exactly the way you planned. I forfeited the chance of entering the doorway to triumph. “How can that be?” I was totally disorientated. “Is it because of my arrogance that blocked my vision, leading me to the wrong path? Is it because my eerie means of speaking is so intolerable, or because my accent is way too irksome?” I may never seize the reason; nonetheless, just when I was



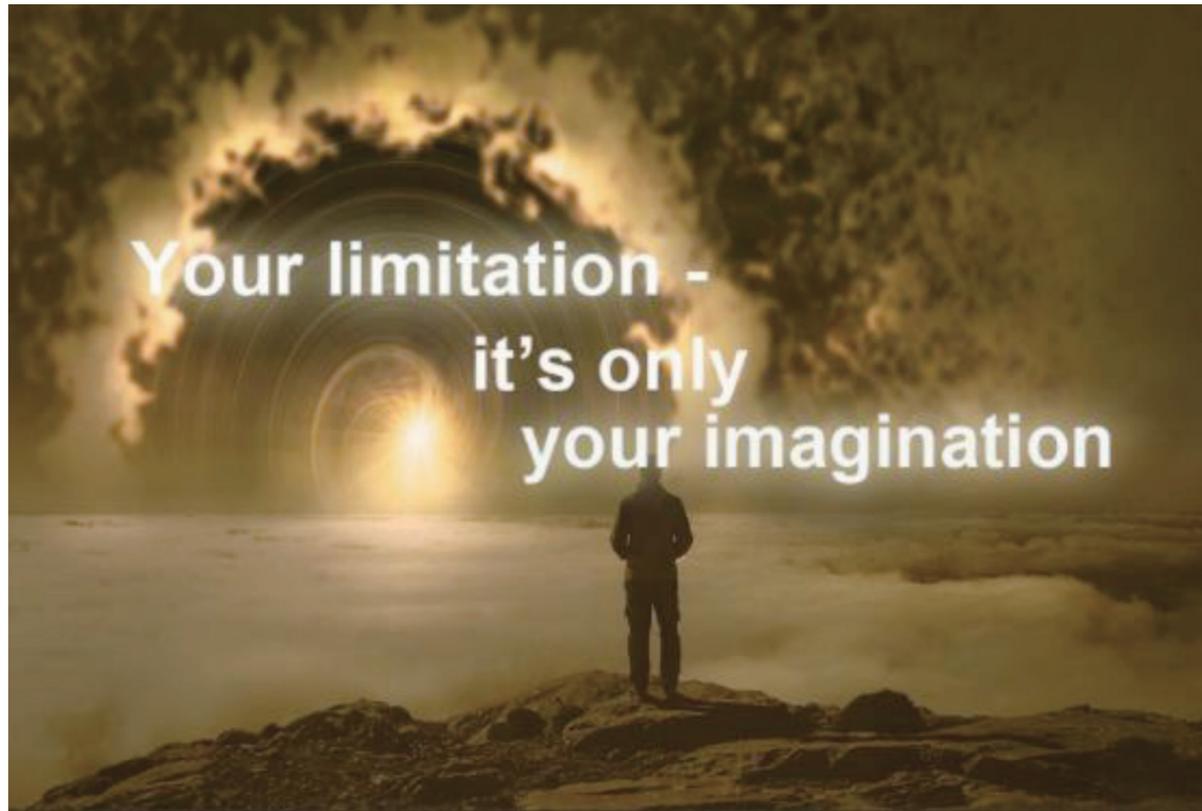
submerged in anguish and affliction, a thought struck me so hard that it knocked me out of despondency. Perhaps I lost the game, so what? I acquired something more valuable: experience.

I know that this may sound too corny, but this is an undeniable fact. Had it not been for the sui generis chance, I may never have gotten to ponder over the topic of this contest -- How to be the Master of Your Own Emotions and How to Promote a Friendly Interaction between Educators and Pupils. As a student, I encounter these kinds of plights as well. On that account, the process of reflecting on the predicaments helped me to live through my everyday life. “Life is not a fairy tale. There might not be happy endings in our life, but I hope as long as we become the master of our own emotions, we can turn the once miserable world into our ideal fantasy land.” On top of that, my handy recommendation can be found on YouTube (where our speech is graded); ergo, those in need can always check out the film anytime.

A wise man once said, “Life is an endless series of train wrecks with only brief, commercial-like breaks of happiness.” That being said, it doesn’t mean we should always live in melancholy. Whether to lead a contented or a sorrowful life always depends on the state of our minds. By virtue of changing perspective, I finally understand my efforts did pay off in this fierce contest; I lived up to the true meaning of being the master of MY OWN emotions! What’s more, your accomplishments aren’t defined by the results, and your value isn’t defined by others’ opinions. Even though other people disdain the fabulous deeds you have performed, we just need to disregard them, and keep going on. “Even if everyone is telling you that something wrong is something right. Even if the whole world is telling you to move, it is your duty to plant yourself like a tree, look them in the eye, and say ‘No, you move’ ”. The outcome never justifies the means, as long as you have a clear conscience, and you made assiduous efforts, then that’s enough.



# How would you finish the sentence, “Imagine if...”



Imagination is the faculty which enables people to explore the infinite world by themselves. Imagination is the capability to bring things into your mind, which are not present as well as realistic. Imagination is the initial ability we have since childhood. With imagination, we can travel to the future, review the past, and venture the impossible.

Nonetheless, with the passage of time, we gradually lose our imagination. Heavy schoolwork and enormous strain sometimes stresses us out. In these circumstances, our imagination, which we originally have, disappears into thin air. That is, we stop thinking with imagination. Instead, we just accept the thought in existence, refusing to exercise our imagination and probe into the unknown world.

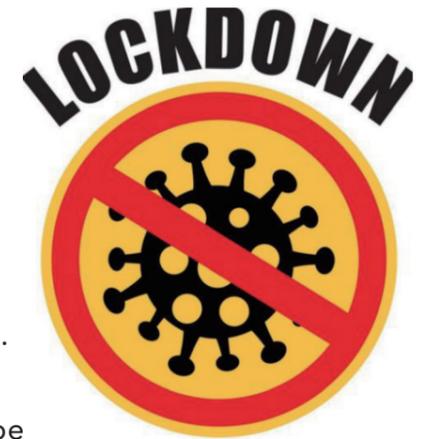
Then, there is this question: How would you finish the sentence, “Imagine if...”

If the question was answered by a young kid, it would only take a few minutes for them to answer it. Childlike answers such as

becoming an astronaut, a scientist, or a chef, among others. However, when adolescents and adults were asked they often remain silent. So, ignite your imagination and creativity. Think about some novelty things.

Imagine if the world had no warfare throughout history, there would be no one to perish in brutal wars. There would be no more famine, and families would not be split apart. There would be no national division. People around the world would have a peaceful and blessed life instead of being confronted with a catastrophe or a calamity. Nevertheless, it is nothing more than an illusion.

Imagine if the coronavirus (Covid-19) had not been rearing its ugly head, the whole world would not be panicking. Countries would not be in lockdowns. People in the severely affected areas would not have to be confined to their houses, feeling quite stressful and anxious. The economy would not be on the decline, for many industries and stores were forced to shut down. Nevertheless, it is nothing more than an illusion.



Imagine if there was no regret in our life, maybe there would be less failure. Success consists of effort, industry, and perseverance. Though we all realize the concept, it seems that we always regret not putting more effort into our goals, which renders our defeat. You would wonder if you could persist at that time, you would succeed without any doubts. Nevertheless, it is nothing more than an illusion.

Imagine if I were an adult, I would no longer have to confront the countless examinations. I would no longer have to bear the immense tension under all sorts of presentations. I would no longer have to be up against the predicaments and adversities which I encounter every day. I could engage in more appealing things and entertainment. Nevertheless, it is nothing more than an illusion.

So, imagination serves as a tentative shelter for us to escape from our tough daily lives. Nevertheless, it is nothing more than an illusion. All we have



to do is endeavor and try to find a little happiness in life. Also, exercise your imagination in proper situations. It might give you prompt assistance when there are some difficulties or obstacles. In a nutshell, it is always better to cultivate an ability that may come into hand someday!

By 20525 薛予柔



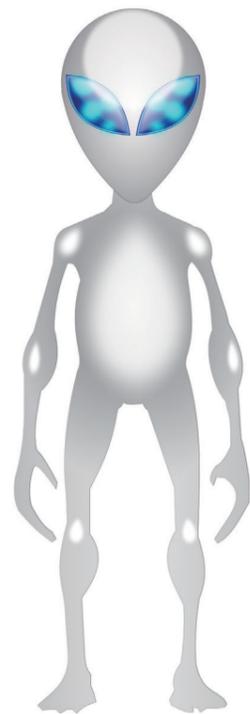
## I Want To Be An Alien

Recently I have seen a very famous South Korean TV series called “My Love from the Star” . It is a romantic fantasy story about an alien who landed on Earth and 400 years later, fell in love with a top actress in the modern era.

The story is very interesting and I really like this rich, handsome, long-lived alien with super power. However, it was a pity that the alien did not do anything at all within these 400 years, but only helped the actress before leaving the earth.

If I were the alien who stayed on the earth for 400 years, I would definitely take the following actions to love the earth as well as human beings.

First of all, I would get married and raise as many children as I could in order to pass my handsome DNA to the next generation. Then I would set up a medical research team with the purpose to extend human beings’ lives – not only my wife but also other human beings – to fight against diseases in order for human beings to live longer.



In addition, after realizing endangered species, like polar bears, are disappearing soon and the world environment is facing severe natural diseases due to the greenhouse effect, I would utilize my super intelligence and capability to be the whole world leader, to lead every human being to protect the environment against further air pollution causing the greenhouse effect.

Finally, if I really had to leave the earth as the actor did in the story, I would make all the human beings understand that we only have one Earth and everyone is responsible for taking care of it. Instead of pursuing his or her own interest to fight with each other, I would teach all the human beings to love each other. For example, I would remind the North Korean leader Mr. Kim Jong-un of how dangerous nuclear weapons are, and not to be a trouble maker of the world.



圖片來源：Want To Be An Alien(【來自星星的你】劇照)(今周刊)

By 70235 陳諺泓

# The Journey of Teen Diplomatic Envoys

Three thirty-five p.m., December 12th, 2020, the final stage of Teen Diplomatic Envoys, the puzzle quiz, ended, as dribs and drabs of the past year flashed through our minds.

It was a rainy winter day when we received the ticket to this marvelous journey. "Consent for Teen Diplomatic Envoys and English Debate Training Course" handed in on December 31st last year, "Protecto", the first script we read through in the interview at the beginning of the second semester, a series of debate and drama workshops..., they are all the vivid memory pieces we kept in our hearts and often think back upon. In a blink of an eye, time flew to June, the moment four of us were selected as the contestants of Teen Diplomatic Envoys Seed Team Selection.

Looking at the released topic, "Taiwan's talented youth fostering friendship southbound", we knew that it couldn't be done simply with wild imagination and precise drama skills. Starting from scratch, inquiring about the background information of the New Southbound Policy, we gradually figured out our way. Every word, every sentence, and every scene in our drama script had undergone countless revisions, while we had been overwhelmed with panic, tension, and anxiety as the days left to the preliminary round.

The preliminary round in mid-November was a harsh challenge. We had to admit that we were a bit nervous when we stepped on the stage, facing the professors as judges, and the rest of forty-one teams. It seemed to be an impossible mission to stand

out among the competitors, and obtain the qualification of the final stage. However, we kept in mind that it was a one-shot, which means we had only one chance, the fear was thrown away during our performance, and we did go all out in that five minute. There was no regret.

"Number thirty-one, Taipei Private Yanping High School!" When the name of our school was called by the chair at the tense moment of announcing the promoted teams, we couldn't suppress our excitement and realized that what we carried was not only the personal identity of teen diplomatic envoys, but the reputation of our school.

A stern midterm exam took place in our preparation, in other words, although the topics

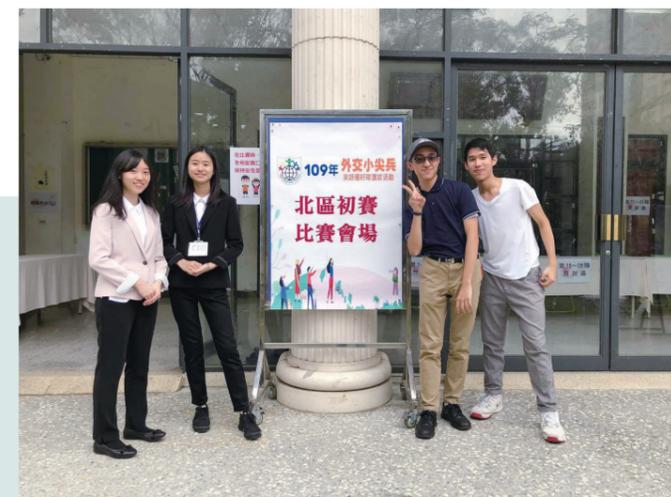
were released one week before the test, we had a hard time struggling between "tasks" and "tests". Tracing back, it seemed to be a pity that we didn't start to prepare for the final stage earlier.

Our exhausted bodies had suffered sleep deprivation for about a week before the day of our destiny. We burnt the midnight oil preparing for the puzzle quiz and impromptu speech. The question in the puzzle quiz ranges from international organizations and bills, capitals and presidents around the world, all of which were the basic knowledge for the contest. It's no doubt a great burden since we seldom paid attention to current international news due to the rugged schoolwork. To prepare for the contest, we all had to act like little diplomats, sparing no effort to get to know everything related to international affairs.

As for the other part of the contest, impromptu speech, it required comprehensive searching and organizing skill, writing ability, memorization, and stress resistance. The topics of this year were Taiwan Model, Media Literacy, and Human Rights Diplomacy. Though it was an "impromptu" speech, we had to finish the composition in advance, and it was not until the rehearsal day did we complete this challenging task!

We gathered early at the Public Television Building in nervousness on the day of the final stage. As we saw the representatives from all-around the country, sweats were streaming down our neck. Stepping into the competition venue, we were separated from our teachers and asked to stay in a lounge to wait for our turn. Scarcely had we been informed of the topic picked randomly by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs – Human Rights Diplomacy – when we all let out a sigh of relief. During the twenty-minutes preparation span, we practiced again and again to ensure every line to be fluent, inclusive of the volumes, gestures and eye contacts on the camera. Everything was prepared, we walked in confidently, and did our best.

It was such a unique experience to stand in a film studio, face the monstrous cameras, deliver our speech to professionals, and represent Yanping. We were under great pressure pursuing the same goal, as our friendship will last for eternity. The endeavor we made will never go down the drain, and we believe the journey accompanied by each other would be in our memory for good. We hope that the next four teen diplomatic envoys could retrieve the honor, and obtain great reward to travel abroad, not only representing Yanping, but Taiwan!



By 20521 蔣詠涵 20710 溫上儀 20727 徐華倫 20832 陳宏易

## Taiwan Model

Taiwan, the safest country around the globe in 2020. As the only country to host “Phantom of the Opera” recently, Taiwan has maintained a safe society during the pandemic! Pavel Fischer, a diplomat from the Czech Republic, stated that it is risky to exclude Taiwan from active participation in the WHO. That is definitely something worthy of celebration, since the importance of Taiwan has been unveiled to the whole world, but how could we receive such praise during the pandemic? What is the secret that enables Taiwan to survive through this chaos? How can Taiwan lend a helping hand while at the same time preventing large numbers of infections?

Both the government and the public learned an essential lesson from the 2003 SARS epidemic. Thus, this time, at an early stage of the spread of the virus, the government immediately founded the four principles: prudent action, rapid response, advanced deployment, and openness and transparency. Taiwan’s Centers for Disease Control instantly released information about the Wuhan epidemic on its official website while the Central Epidemic Command Center was established, and press conferences have been held every day since then. The press conferences provide clear and comprehensive information about the number of cases, new policies and free lectures on health

education. Taking the steps mentioned above requires experienced professionals in the medical field, which is especially crucial during this severe pandemic. As Taiwanese citizens and residents, we feel really fortunate to have these professionals and realize that it is essential to have a responsible government.

Meanwhile, Taiwan has joined hands with

international partners to help contain the outbreak. For example, the Ministry Of Foreign Affairs and the American Institute in Taiwan issued the Taiwan-US Joint Statement on a Partnership against Coronavirus with the goal of using their combined expertise to help tackle the pandemic, including comprehensive research and into rapid test kits, medicines, and vaccines. Other than that, from the onset of the COVID-19 outbreak, Taiwan has notified the WHO of new confirmed cases, as well as anti-pandemic efforts



圖片來源：Getty Image

including border control and quarantine measures. With the perfect combination of modern technology and medicine, a joint effort by medical professionals, the government, private sectors and ordinary members of society, we have successfully controlled the spread of the virus in the battle against COVID-19 and also convey "Taiwan can help, and Taiwan is helping!" to the world.

In addition to our outstanding performance in epidemic prevention, where else can Taiwan’s influence be seen? Democracy must be mentioned! It took 40 years for Taiwan to transit from autocracy to democracy. As a newly emerging democratic country, Taiwan’s democratization can be a model for other countries. The unique reason why Taiwan can stand out and be recognized worldwide is not only in our political philosophy, but also the ethnic identity that was forged through democratization. People are desperate for a brighter future, in which they can decide their own path. Taiwan’s democratic transition fully encompasses our desire for freedom and our own national identity. Mike Pence, the former vice president of the United States, once said in his public speech, “America will always believe that Taiwan’s embrace of democracy shows a better path for all the Chinese people.”

Taiwan has demonstrated its soft power to the world. Taiwan is a member of the global village, and we are willing to share the Taiwan model and bring benefits to the world through bilateral and multilateral frameworks. The Taiwan model was not born overnight; instead, we learned from past experiences and introspection, and a consistent willingness to change. On the basis of the Taiwan model, we can show the world that Taiwan is able to shine on the international stage for distinct achievements aside from epidemic prevention and democracy.



圖片來源：Getty Image



## Human Rights Diplomacy

"Human rights" has become a popular keyword on the Internet. Since the Taiwanese government declared the lifting of martial laws in 1987, Taiwan has passed a considerable amount of policies and acts to create a "human rights-friendly" society. The annual report, "Country Reports on Human Rights Practices," submitted from Freedom House and the United States Department of State has approved the progress Taiwan made in human rights. Taiwan has since become a champion of human rights.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs first mentioned the concept of Human Rights Diplomacy under former president Chen. To promote human rights, the government made new laws and set up institutions to supervise and evaluate the execution of the plans and the results as well. The following were steps we adopted: First, the government set up associations for human rights, and then legislated the International Bill of Human Rights, making it a domestic law, which is the so-called Enforcement Act of The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. By doing so, we could make up for the deficiency of the Constitution of the Republic of China, ensuring human rights for everyone in Taiwan.

Human Rights Diplomacy refers to integrating human rights issues with bilateral relationships such as economic and trade partnerships. It isn't merely a policy. It is a strategy to form values for pursuing freedom and democracy. Human Rights Diplomacy was first practiced officially by the Carter government.

Back in the late 1970s, the U.S. gained support from around the world to contend with totalitarian regimes. Since then, Human Rights Diplomacy has been an essential way to consolidate the values of democracy.

As the importance of human rights is being emphasized, persecution of human rights is receiving more and more attention as well. Take Hong Kong's Anti-Extradition Movement, which began in 2019, for example. During the protests, constant conflicts between the police and the citizens were seen day by day with more than 10,000 people arrested. Seeing such acts of suppressing human rights and democracy, the US President Donald Trump signed the Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act on November 27th, 2019, imposing property and visa-blocking sanctions on the officials held responsible for human rights violations. As for Taiwan, the government has run an asylum mechanism for Hong Kong protestors, and has since received asylum applications

from at least 200 Hong Kongers offering them counseling for employment, school attendance and help settling in to life in Taiwan. By standing together against the suppression of human rights and embracing democratic values, we have established a democratic front line in Asia, and we will proceed to consolidate the values for human rights.



Since there are no boundaries in promoting human rights, the concerning diplomatic policies were also carried out in Europe. For instance, over the past few months, Taiwan has respectively signed conventions with Poland, Denmark, and the like, which includes comprehensive content such as cooperation in criminal justice. Just like our

president said, "Democracy is in our DNA. It is what makes us Taiwanese." Democratic countries holding the same belief around the world should cooperate more closely to implement that spirit, whereas human rights are the most pivotal part in democracy.

It can't be denied that human rights benefit all mankind. Not only the people in our country, but also people from other nations, those that have been persecuted for such a long period. Although being excluded from international organizations, we regard human rights as our most divine principle and do our utmost to safeguard it! We put human rights diplomacy into practice and speak up for the persecuted and the disadvantaged. Taiwan will persevere in having them sheltered and helping them out! Today, we stand together and we fight against the violation of human rights!

**TAIWAN CAN HELP, AND TAIWAN IS HELPING!**

By 20521 蔣詠涵 20710 溫上儀 20727 徐華倫 20832 陳宏易



圖片來源：Getty Image

## What Do I Feel Proud Of About Taiwan?

While the recent pandemic is wreaking havoc on human civilization worldwide and claiming millions of lives, Taiwan is relatively unharmed with most people carrying out their daily routines as usual. In fact, Taiwan has done so well that she's the first country that springs to foreigners' minds when it comes to pandemic prevention. To begin with, people in Taiwan have a keen awareness toward the gravity of the pandemic, which in turn, prompts us to wear masks and keep social distancing in public places as required. And if unfortunately, anyone gets infected, instead of being shunned away like the plague, he will receive proper treatment, both physically and mentally. On top of that, our sound quarantine requirement and strict enforcement will make sure that no one around the victim is at any risk of being infected. As a Taiwanese, the above mentioned is what I pride myself upon Taiwan most: the sound medical system, medical resources readily available, dedicated medical staffs and citizens ready to cooperate.

Despite the good job Taiwan has done so far in the field of public health, she is still not recognized as a member of WHO. Yet, I am convinced that there's still some more we can work on to promote ourselves, not merely for global recognition but for the responsibility as a global member. For example, with so many medical resources available and so many medical experts to consult, Taiwan is more than happy to share what she has with the world, especially in such dark times. We can do so through holding global meetings, making donations, or even having our citizens visit the countries where desperate needs are to be met. In this way, the promoted Taiwan, a global citizen doing her share, will be the next one I take pride in.

By 10819 吳沛勳

## A Tourist Attraction in Taiwan that I Would Least Recommend

Imagine lying on a white sand beach with fruit-bearing coconut trees swaying in the wind. Relaxing, right? But, wait; keep imagining. As you stand up, what greets you is a swarm of people rushing past you, blocking your way here and there, and as you are on your way to the hotel, you cannot help but wrinkle your nose for the repellent smell of trash littered on the ground. Yes, the tourist attraction that I would least recommend in Taiwan is Kenting. It used to be a tourist spot boasting its soft beaches and lush tress; yet, what comes with the most welcome tourists is the least welcome pollution, seriously ruining the once cherished natural environment.

Worse still, not only the environment but also the conscience of the vendors is spoiled. The local snacks are sold at a high price not equal to their quality. And the news that visitors felt being ripped off after being treated to meals not plentiful enough is also quite common. It is advisable that one eats at the convenience store where the safety of food items is ensured, and the price, affordable.

In conclusion, to our disappointment, Kenting is not a sightseeing spot worth visiting anymore. If you are planning to visit Taiwan, there are still lots of good places which will leave you an unforgettable memory, such as Hualien or Taitung where you can expose yourself to the unspoiled, splendid nature and purchase some souvenirs and eat local cuisines to your heart's content at a reasonable price.



圖片來源：屏東觀光旅遊網

By 10811 翁愉嵐



## My Reading Journal: Aladdin

### Plot of A Play:

Rub the lamp, and make three wishes.....

In an ancient city in the center of the desert, there were mysterious legends. As long as you could get a magic lamp with magic, the magical genie will realize your three wishes. Although the witty poor boy, Aladdin, was a thief, he was kind-hearted and lived with the monkey, Abu. One day, he met the princess, Jasmine, who sneaked out of the palace, and they liked each other after interacting.

The minister of Agrabah, Jiafang, tried every means to usurp the throne of the sultan and snatched the magic lamp from Aladdin. Agrabah quickly fell into chaos and darkness. The brave and independent princess, Jasmine, the witty and clever boy, Aladdin, the agile and smart monkey, Abu, with the humorous and mischievous magic Genie, joined forces to fight the evil wizard, Jia Fang, and prevent him from plotting to rebel and seize the king's throne. And, a romantic love story is composed.

### My Thinking:

Greed and desire often corrupt a person's conscience, and Aladdin is no exception. After he turned into a prince, he refused to face himself honestly. Aladdin

wanted to continue to have money, power and love. Then, he lost himself. Even though Genie tried to persuade Aladdin again and again, Aladdin did not listen to Genie. Just as the Genie said, "The more you have, the more you want. ".

Fortunately, Aladdin's heart is like an uncut diamond, with eternal value. He can accept the fear of being trapped in his heart and retreat from the precipice. When the sultan, princess and Genie encountered disasters, he used his wit to help everyone out.

Aladdin, Princess Jasmine, Genie, King Sultan and even Monkey Abu, cared about their relatives, friends, and lovers. And this is the key to happiness for each other, too.

### Inspirational Sentence:

1. The wishes just change people's appearance, and most people who want to gain power and money through their desires end up unhappy. People who are constrained by power and wealth are like imprisoned souls. Only when their inner self awakens can they regain the true meaning of happiness.
2. Magic comes from the love in the heart, creating a new chapter in their lives.
3. Infinite desire is the vagueness of reality to taste; while inner conscience is the practicality of turning dreams into the present.
4. The more you get by deception, the less you get.
5. The magic of the elves is only superficial skills; the true character will still be revealed.
6. "Wish" is usually inseparable from money and ability, but neither money nor ability in the world can satisfy you.



圖片來源：Dircksey



圖片來源：POPBEE

By 70722 李恩維

## Pictures Guided Writing

提示：根據下列連環圖畫的內容，將圖中女子、小狗與大猩猩 (gorilla) 之間所發生的事件作一合理的敘述。



Sitting in the neat and spacious kitchen, I have gazed upon the enticing delicacies for a few minutes. My ears perk up as the chopped pork sizzles in the pan, and my mouth waters as the inviting smell of its drifts in the air. As my patience is running out, Mom finally swirls back with the dish ready in her hand and a big beam on her face. As usual, I run toward her, asking for a bite. However, the deafening crashes of the plate stop me. The plate just slides off Mom's hands, falling to the ground and broken into pieces. Despite the startle, I yield to my hunger and is about to feast on whatever is now scattered on the floor. Meanwhile, from the corner of my eyes, I spot a huge animal with heavy footsteps coming toward my mom, who is now practically out of herself, screaming.

Before I bark at him as a loyal dog should do, the gorilla pulls off its mask. Much to our relief, it's Dad in disguise. In a round of laughter, Dad gives Mom a bunch of flowers in full bloom. Poor Mom, she must have a strong heart to survive such a twist—one moment before being scared to death and one moment later being on cloud nine. Anyway, thanks to Dad, Mom has a bunch of flowers to melt her heart and I have a plate of dish to fill my stomach.

By 10717 蘇筠絮



圖片來源：拾光影劇評論工作室

## Korean Superstar

The other day my mom said to me: “How can you look so much like this superstar from the Korean drama?” This man has a single eyelid, white skin and a handsome face. So my mom checked a lot of his photos to compare with mine and shared them with her friends and relatives. Everyone agreed that I really look like him. Even my mom's iPhone cannot tell the difference between his pictures and mine. My mom made a joke that he seems to be my Korean daddy. Oh, NO! Why is this superstar with foxy eyes my Korean daddy?

However, my mom told me that it is a great thing that I have such a handsome face like he does, but the most important thing is to learn about his hard-working attitude. I then decided to do some research about his life and find out how great this man is.

When he was in high school, he had the dream to become a performing artist. In order to make his dream come true, he left his hometown and went to Seoul alone. For a couple of years he took part time jobs while he was studying. Then he got accepted and graduated from the Seoul Institute of the Arts.

Although he failed more than 200 castings, he did not give up. He knew failure is the mother of success. Instead of complaining, he kept trying his best to improve his modeling, singing and acting skills.

All his efforts finally paid off in 2005 when he got the part amongst 1000 candidates in the movie called “The Clown and the king.” After that, his career took off like a rocket. In 2017, he is recognized as one of the most famous superstars in Asia.

The Korean government even included his story in The Towering Road that contained the top 35 superstars inspirational biographies in Korea.

I really admire his perseverance and persistence. His words have inspired me: “When any chance comes, be ready at any time to take it!” and “the more you challenge yourself, the more you will have success!” For me, these words mean that I need to work hard to become the best that I can be to be ready to seize the opportunity when it'll appear.

In conclusion, this famous Korean superstar's name is Lee Joon Gi. When I will have fulfill my dreams I may become as handsome as him.



圖片來源：Wikimedia

By 70235 陳諺泓

**Publisher**  
張漢鏞

**Chief Editor**  
蕭行恕  
黃靖驊

**Advisor**  
Daniel  
Tyler  
Paul  
Emily  
Steve