

**The 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Book Report Competition For  
Secondary School Students**

**The 1<sup>st</sup> Runner Up of English Senior Section**

**Name of Winner** : **Chan Ryan**  
(St. Joseph's College)  
**Title of Book Read** : **Breaking Dawn**  
Author : Stephenie Meyer  
Publisher : Mepan Tinplay Books

**Background and description of the book:**

The Twilight saga consists of four books: Twilight, New Moon, Eclipse and Breaking Dawn. The whole story centers on Bella Swan, a teenage girl, who falls profoundly in love with Edward Cullen, a vampire who doesn't feed on human but animals. For the first book, the author Stephenie Meyer tells us how Bella and Edward meet and develops their love. The figures of vampires in Meyer's eyes are also clearly portrayed. In book two and three, a turning point appears as Jacob Black the werewolf, who is a natural enemy of vampires, intrudes into the relationship. Meyer has the tension in this crowded triangular relation shown through events happening between the three characters. Finally, it comes to volume four - Breaking Dawn. Unlike the previous three volumes, this book is divided into three parts. For the first and last part, the story is told by Bella like the previous books but the second part is written in Jacob's perspective. In this book, all the troubled relationships and unsolved mysteries in the previous three volumes are solved and explained. Bella at last marries Edward and the couple has a half-human-half-vampire daughter named Renesmee, who Jacob falls in love with eventually.

**Comments and review:**

Breaking Dawn is a book full of imaginations. I call the vampires and werewolves in the book "imaginations" instead of "fantasies" because they are more carefully moulded. In fantasies,

anything can happen even if it is beyond logic. However, the fantasies in this story are supported by real life history and everything is plotted logically so that non-human characters can become solid and convincing. The author cleverly prevents fantasy from taking over reality. This is one of the elements which makes the story luring.

Another point that I think Meyer has done a great job is her skills to express feelings and thought of characters. Inferior love stories often directly jot down how the characters feel and then the kissing begin. Slightly better ones might insert some gorgeous adjectives between words. However, most of Meyer's romance is silent and subtle. Inner worlds of the character's hearts are expressed through little changes of attitudes, actions and atmosphere. Love and feelings are not expressed directly and simply by languages, but actions. A little blush on the face, a deep eye contact, a second of frown on the forehead... etc, and then the message is transferred. Subtle in expressions of intangible feelings leaves a great space for readers to think and grasp the ideas of the author.

The idea of letting Jacob to have a chance to tell the story in his point of view also deserves praising. Since the second book, where Jacob squeezed himself into the love between and Bella and Edward, Jacob has been an intruder, an annoyance and a destroyer of the bond between Bella and Edward in the hearts of readers. In the forth book, Meyer let Jacob to defend himself by telling the story. Meyer gave opportunities to Jacob to show that, same as Edward, he wholeheartedly loves Bella and does everything for sake of her own good, including leaving Bella to Edward. Meyer doesn't re-construct Jacob's image solely for readers to accept her character, but also shows the generosity of love through Jacob.

Meyer has plotted everything, including the relations between people, very carefully and logically. However, the plot might be too logical in my opinion. For a real good plot, there should be places where unexpected things happen and have the readers caught off guard. Surely though that Meyer has been trying to add such elements into her story but the fact is that the events seems to have surprised her

own characters only but not the readers. When I was reading this book, I just seemed to have the same special ability as vampire Alice, a character in the book who can foresee things that are going to happen, as everything turned out like what I have anticipated, though there are still occasional little surprises. This makes the book less of a page turner than expected. The over-carefulness of the plot doesn't just disappoint the thirst of the readers; unfortunately, it gives readers an impression that the author might not be in the right mood during writing as well. It also gives readers an impression that the author is feeding the readers what they would have liked to read, the main lovable characters win and live a happy life and the story ends with a happy ending... etc, this is not a problem at all frankly but certainly it would be better if Stephenie Meyer could add more dramatic elements in the story.

And talking about the ideas brought out by this book, I have some hold backs for children reading it. In the story, Bella sacrificed everything, her college life, her family and even her life for loving and marrying Edward. Is this really the right mind, to be selfish and blinded from everything else in the world because of love? In the book, the triangular relation is solved by Jacob, stimulated by some werewolves' genes, suddenly falls in love with Bella's baby daughter. It seems that love is just somewhat of a trifle matter. And the Volturi, who are royal vampires, should be the one who rule other vampires with justice. Why can they just walk away like nothing has ever happened even after they are valid to have come to destroy Bella's daughter with their hearts soaked with evilness? I don't mean that every fiction in the world should be positive and pure; however, it seems that it is better to put things that might be contaminating out of children's reach.

Despite the negative sides of this book, the forth of the Twilight saga – Breaking Dawn, this is still a book recommendable for those who like romantic stories and fantasies.