

The Merit of English Section

Junior Division

Name of Winner : Chang Jing Lam

**Name of School : Kwok Tak Seng Catholic Secondary
School**

Book Title : *Life without Limits*

Author : Nick Vujicic

Publisher : DoubleDay

To me, a good book should not only have a catchy title and a glamorous cover, there is an old saying that goes, “Don’t judge a book by its cover”. The book I am about to introduce, does not have a really interesting cover, but it has the deepest, most meaningful content and story I have ever seen. You guessed it, it is an inspirational novel written by an extraordinary man, Nick Vujicic.

I am sure you have heard of this name, Nick was born without arms or legs, but he overcame his disability to live not just independently, but a rich, fulfilling life, becoming a model for anyone who seeks true happiness.

This book tells the story of his physical disabilities and the emotional battle he endured trying to deal with them as a child, a teen, and a young adult. He was not always this optimistic, in fact, he tried to commit suicide. At the age of ten, he tried to commit suicide with 6 inches of water in his bathtub. After struggling a few times, he finally decided to actually do it. However when he did, he suddenly thought of his family, and saw a vision of them crying at his grave, wishing they could have done something more, that they could have stopped him. And that is what changed his mind. "I realized there is a pain of having a disabled son with no limbs, but greater is the pain to have a son without limbs who commits suicide."

Eventually coming to terms with his disability, Nick decided to become vocal about living with disabilities and finding hope and meaning in life. He chose to follow in the footsteps of God, but again, it was not always this way. He used to be furious with God. “God, if you’re real and you love me, where is my miracle?” he doubted. He even doubted if He was real. At the age of 15, God clearly answered him through John Chapter 9 about the question of why. Jesus came across a man who was born blind and Jesus said he was born that way so that the works of God would be revealed through him. And that was when he saw a glimmer of light and faith.

Now, Nick is an internationally successful motivational speaker, he has visited more than 57 countries and given over three thousand talks, some of which have attracted audiences as large as 110,000 people. His central message is that the most important goal for anyone is to find their life’s purpose, despite whatever difficulties or seemingly impossible odds that

may stand in their way.

What I love about this book, is the positive energy it gives me and flows through my body. I have known about this incredible man since I was 6, and his story still inspires me today. In life, we always struggle with our purpose. Perhaps the answer is not easy to see, but that does not mean that we should give up, because everyone is created by Him for a reason. I used to think that I do not have a purpose in life either, that He probably created me by mistake, that I do not belong here, but Nick reminded me that there is always someone around who loves me, and they would be devastated if I did something foolish.

This book has also reminded me of how lucky I am. I am healthy, I have a family, I have three meals every day, I have a roof over my head. We always complain about how our lives are horrible, and we compare ourselves to others. However, have we ever thought about those who

do not even have warm clothes on them? What about those who are not able to see their loved ones everyday? Nick was born without limbs. He used to be miserable, but even he found the light and is now spreading positivity and happiness to others, inspiring them to find their happiness in life too. We may not be as extreme as he is, but we can start by being grateful with what we have, cherishing the things in life, and spreading this joyful feeling to the people around us.

“I encourage you to accept that you may not be able to see a path right now, but that doesn't mean it's not there.” This is my favorite quote from the book, and I also encourage you to read this book that is filled with wisdom and greatness. Finally, I hope everyone can find their meaning in life, and be brave enough to begin their journey, because life truly has no limits!