

The Merit of English Section

Junior Division

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Name of School : Cheung Chuk Shan College

Book Title : *The School for Good and Evil*

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Fairytales are always stereotyped as fantasies and unrealistic dreams. Yet, the book '*The School for Good and Evil*' is closely related to our daily lives. It brings out society's major view, a correct attitude and human nature. The story begins with two young ladies who were both kidnapped to a mysterious school. Though they were best friends, they were completely different. Sophie was framed as a princess and Agatha a witch. Pretty and ugly. Good and evil. Surprisingly, they found out their fortunes were totally reversed, being switched to opposite schools.

Agatha stayed at the School of Good and Sophie in the School of Evil. With Agatha's faith faltering and Sophie's jealousy growing, their friendship started to fall apart.

Agatha is indeed a very interesting character. With an ugly appearance, she never thought she would be able to enter the School of Good. Getting despised by her appealing classmates, she began to lack self-confidence. I believe nothing can alter our appearance but we definitely have full control of our heart and actions. Owning a kind heart makes Agatha pretty from the inside. It boosts her self-confidence and brings her eternal beauty. She finally understood that external beauty is not long lasting, while internal beauty will always emerge and live forever. As cliché as the saying goes, 'A rich heart may be under a poor coat.' What lies within is of much greater importance than what lies outside. External beauty is fragile and will change over time while a good

heart will always stay the same. In fairytales, every princess possesses ethereal beauty but most importantly, their external beauty comes from their kind acts. All these traditional folks portray a kind princess with a pretty visage. This actually implies that a true kind heart nurtures beauty. That's the reason why Agatha can enter the School of Good. Her success already marked that owning a good heart triumphs over phoney beauty. Good must triumph over evil.

The main theme of the story would be greed. Having the born advantages and a delicate face, Sophie believed she would enter the School of Good. Unpredictably, she was taken to the School of Evil. Unable to reach her goal, she began to covet more and more. Beauty, love, a prince and power. Yet, she never succeeded and friendship, trust, kindness and conscience were fading away. At last, a ruthless monster was formed, wanting to prevail over Agatha and get back the things that once belonged to her.

Our thirst for luxurious items will never be quenched. However, everything comes with a cost. In history, Napoleon's ambition for power led to the exile of his own. King Louis XVI's desire for a luxurious life led to his death. In fairy tales, from the 'Honest Woodcutter', the greedy neighbour's lust for the golden axe led to the loss of the axe of his own. In Snow White, the Evil queen's craving for beauty led to the loss of her conscience. Greed is a famish monster, engulfing the last bit of our kindness. *The School for Good and Evil* tells us the same story. This book brings out that greed will only lead to failure, while trust, friendship and love bring us true satisfaction in life. Vanity is unrealistic and fragile. Even one step ahead will lead to ceaseless trouble.

The world we live in isn't fair. Someone was born rich and beautiful but someone was born in poverty and being ugly. Society's view towards rich and poor, pretty and ugly is even much more unfair. The growing

disparities will jeopardize social cohesion and enrage people. We should take action before the gap becomes too large. This book tells us that we should not judge a book by its cover. We should judge people by heart. The main character in the story once said, 'It's not who we are, it's what we do.' No matter which school Agatha and Sophie belong to, they can still be good. Even though Agatha isn't pretty, having a kind heart still attracts a Prince Charming. Luckily at last, Sophie turned over a new leaf and got back kindness, a good heart, as well as her lifelong friend. In the end, two best friends escaped from the School of Good and Evil. In my opinion, the School of Good and Evil resembles a test, testing how strong the two girl's friendship is as well as how hideous human nature is. Conscience is the key to possess kindness. We will all make mistakes and may be misguided to evil but possessing a kind heart will always bring us back to the right ending full of love and future.