

Merit of English Section

Junior Division

Name of Winner: Yeung Lok Hei

Name of School : Sha Tin Government Secondary

School

Book Title : Red Thread Sisters

Author : Carol Antoinette Peacock

Publisher : Viking

What do cute sweaters, two best friends who are like sisters and an orphanage have in common? Definitely nothing! Except you are reading *The Red Thread Sisters*.

Red Thread Sisters is a book about two great friends, both from an orphanage in China. One is a girl with deformity named Shu Ling and the other is named Zhang Wen. They're both abandoned by their parents when they were young, Wen was abandoned

because of the one child policy in China and Shu Ling was abandoned after she was born because of her misshapen feet. Soon Wen was adopted by an American family, the McGuires who adopted a 7 years old Chinese girl named Emily years ago. The McGuires are really nice people who treats Wen like their own. At first Wen has some boundaries with them as she really missed Shu Ling, her true sister who grows up with her despite not being bound by blood. The story follows Wen in America as she tries her best to act as obedient as possible, so that she can wait for the best timing to ask her new parents to adopt Shu Ling. A lot of times when Wen is having fun with her new friends in America, she will imagine Shu Ling by her side, having the same fun with her. Although having a happy and new life, Wen still feels empty and alone, because Shu Ling isn't by her side.

Later on, Wen discovers that Shu Ling will be turning 14, which is the age limit for adoption in China. With time running out and Wen's parents' bankruptcy, there's no way the McGuire family can adopt Shu Ling now.

Wen thought of every possible way of finding a family for Shu Ling, checking the adoption website everyday for countless sleepless nights. The ending is very heartwarming and delicate.

Red Thread Sisters is truly an amazing and delicate novel. I was first introduced to this book in primary school and loved it ever since. This book taught me to cherish everything I have and everyone I've met in my life. Fate and destiny which is represented as a Chinese mythology, the red thread that links people together, "the thread may stretch or tangle, but it will never break". To those who are destined to be together will be together, to those who aren't, which cannot be forced nor can it be forged.

Aside from Wen, the protagonist, my favorite character in this book is Auntie Lan Lan. She is a caretaker and nanny of the orphanage where Wen and Shu Ling lived. Auntie Lan Lan is a parental figure to Shu Ling and Wen, and most significantly to Wen as shown in the novel. Despite Auntie Lan Lan being a minor character in the book, her words of wisdom inspired me and everything she said is very touching as Wen realizes what Auntie Lan Lan said are true. Auntie Lan Lan's care and hospitality to everyone at the orphanage really makes me feel like home.

The idea of everyone actually cares about you and adores you really dawned on me. As portrayed in the novel, everyone cares for Wen and at that moment Wen realizes she was never alone, all of her family and friends cared for her well-being her actions done when deeply desire Shu Ling to get a family is truly worrying, as if she reached the extremes, ignoring her health and

mentality just for the pure goal to get her sister a home. Seeing this really makes my heart break into a million pieces.

To conclude what this book taught me, I understand that we should always be positive, as every cloud has a silver lining. Not until the last moment, we should never give up on our goals, eventually everything will turn out bright and gleaming.