



NewsWeb Crawler

Art & History Issue

Spiderweb Learning
by Missy Missy



CONTEXTUALISING ART

Karina Tang (P4, St. Paul's Co-educational College Primary School)
Lulette Ng (P4, St. Paul's Convent School)

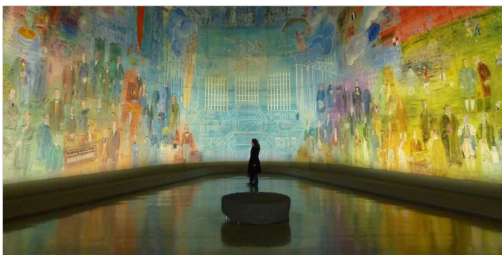
Art is invaluable not just because of its aesthetic value, but also because of its ability to reflect the society that it comes from and the feelings experienced by the artist. In time, contemporary art will become important artefacts one day.

To encourage students to look deeper into paintings, the editorial team and MissyMissy were asked to submit a short piece of writing on their favourite painting. Among the paintings chosen by the team are *Flowers* by Takashi Murakami, *Starry Night* by Vincent Van Gough, *The Son of Man* by René Magritte, *The Persistence of Memory* by Salvador Dali and *Irene Cahen d'Anvers* by Renoir.

During the subsequent Zoom meeting, students talked about what they could learn from these paintings: what kind of society the artists lived in at the time,

how the artists perceived the world and what they had gone through. All these are reflected in the paintings. *Starry Night* by Vincent Van Gough, for example, was painted a year before Van Gough's suicide. His emotional turmoil was reflected in the swirls in the sky. *The Son of Man* by René Magritte is on the other hand rich with biblical reference.

In order to study how art reflects the society it comes from, members of the editorial team and MissyMissy each wrote a short prompt to describe the current world. These prompts were then used on NightCafe, once with the name of a chosen artist, once without. The results are eye-opening.

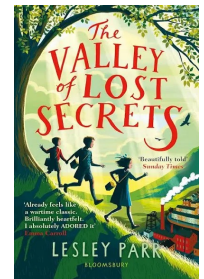


To be continued on p. 2...

Bayeux Tapestry Session with the Reading Museum p. 3



Meet the Author Session with Lesley Parr p. 4



Meet the Author Session with 貓奴 p. 5





AUTHOR VISITS

HOW STUDENTS SEE THEM

A quick look at the AI art created with the prompts will review how the artist's style is seen as reflecting their society by AI.



A girl stands in the balcony, looking down at a crowded contemporary polluted city at dusk. A feeling of despair and acceptance. **In the style of Renoir.**



A girl stands in the balcony, looking down at a crowded contemporary polluted city at dusk. A feeling of despair and acceptance.



A surrealist painting depicting a monochrome world with a cloudy sky. Time hides all the defects and evilness in the space. **In the style of René Magritte.**



A surrealist painting depicting a monochrome world with a cloudy sky. Time hides all the defects and evilness in the space.



A surrealist painting depicting a world at war in places, but peace in other places. Evil souls roam the world, overshadowing the goodness in people. **In the style of Salvador Dali.**



A surrealist painting depicting a world at war in places, but peace in other places. Evil souls roam the world, overshadowing the goodness in people.



A dark blue world representing tears, tainted with gold and yellow representing joy. Mixed together to represent emotional confusion. **In the style of Takashi Murakami.**



A dark blue world representing tears, tainted with gold and yellow representing joy. Mixed together to represent emotional confusion.



A painting depicting our world in black and yellow, with mythical dark creatures wandering around and watching us with their glowing red eyes. Some emerald green strokes scattered around to represent mystery. **In the style of Vincent van Gogh.**



A painting depicting our world in black and yellow, with mythical dark creatures wandering around and watching us with their glowing red eyes. Some emerald green strokes scattered around to represent mystery.

Which ones do you think represent our current world more accurately?



The Bayeux Tapestry

Art & History Interwoven In A Tapestry

Josie Chan (G5, Christian Alliance International School)

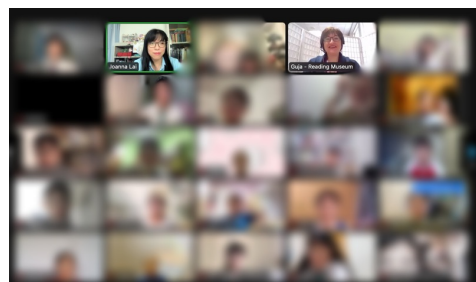
This semester, Spiderweb Learning introduced two new courses for Secondary School students. One of them is the Wider Curriculum series, developed by Hodder Education in the UK. The series covers various subjects and topics. To launch the series, "In Days of Old" is the first theme offered to students. This theme covers British medieval history. To support students' learning, Spiderweb Learning invited the Reading Museum to host a special Zoom session on the Bayeux Tapestry for Wider Curriculum series students.

The Battle of Hastings is arguably the most important battle in medieval British history. The Bayeux Tapestry depicts both the events leading to and the course of this Battle. The original Tapestry is in France but in the 19th century, a group of British embroiders decided to replicate this tapestry, and this replica is on display at the Reading Museum, UK. So, who better to host a session on the Bayeux Tapestry for students than the Reading Museum?

During the session, students learned about how the Bayeux Tapestry, with its 70 meter length, serves as a visual timeline narrating the Norman Conquest from the Norman perspective. It depicts historical events in great details including the gory death of soldiers in the battle. Students are asked to identify different historical events depicted on the tapestry including the crowning of Harold Godwinson, the Norman preparation for conquest and

then finally the death of Harold at the Battle of Hastings.

The session sparked students' interest in history as well as showing them how art and history are often interwoven.





The Secrets To Great Writing With Lesley Parr

Aimee Lam (P4, God Hope Primary School)

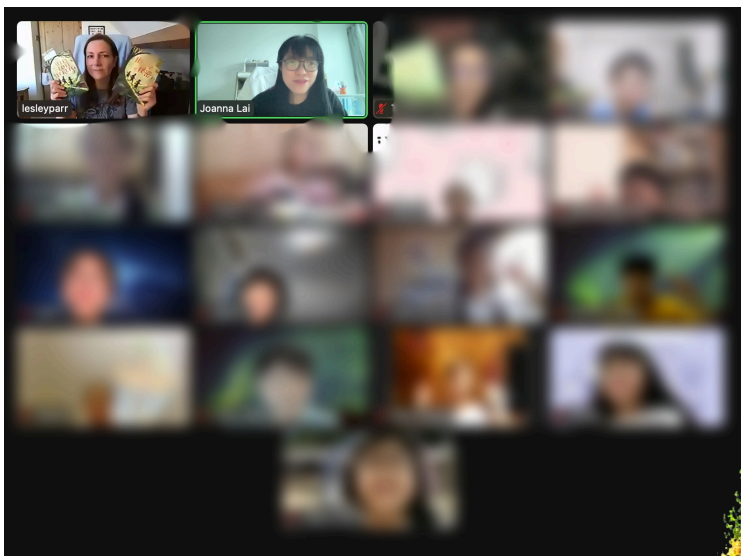
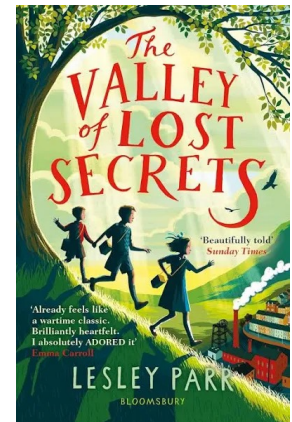
Lesley Parr is a Welsh author, best known for her historical novels for children. This semester, Level 3 students of Spiderweb Learning got the chance to meet Lesley online.

Lesley Parr has written three different bestselling children's books set in different historical periods. One of them, "The Valley of Lost Secrets", is also published in Chinese. The story is set in Wales during World War II.

During the session, she talked about her writing process. To the students' surprise, she does not plan the whole story ahead of writing. Instead, she simply lets her characters develop and take the story further.

Before becoming a full time author, Lesley taught at a primary school. So, she has always felt a deep connection with children. The main characters in "The Valley of Lost Secrets" are children too. Her past work with children enabled her to write in a language that is both representative and relevant to children. As the story is written in the first person, such language register gives the story an authentic and credible voice.

It was an eye-opening session for the students as they learned the importance of language register and the many different ways to create a story.





My Moggies, My Love

Skyler Ham (Y7, German Swiss International School)

This semester, Spiderweb Learning hosted a workshop with a local author and illustrator for the first time. 貓奴 is a popular local author and illustrator, best known for his adorable comics featuring his cats.

The workshop began with a brief introduction on 貓奴's publication journey.

貓奴 uses the popular "Procreate" application to draw his comics. All his drawings begin with rough line drawings before being refined into the version that we see online. Students were shown how to draw cats and humans on the application. Many of them may already have access to Procreate and can start capturing cute moments of their pets after the workshop.

He is a talented comic artist who creates eye-catching comics that capture the delightful moments of his daily life with his cats. Attendees were enthralled by the cuteness of his work.

During the workshop, 貓奴 also shared various funny anecdotal episodes in his life with his fluffy felines were shared. Apart from learning about the funny side of life with cats, students also got to hear about his commitment to looking after his cats. It was this commitment that made him quit

his full time job and become a freelance illustrator.

It was an educational workshop which taught students much more than just illustration skills; it enlightened students on the commitment and sacrifice sometimes one has to make to take care of their loved ones, be they human or feline.

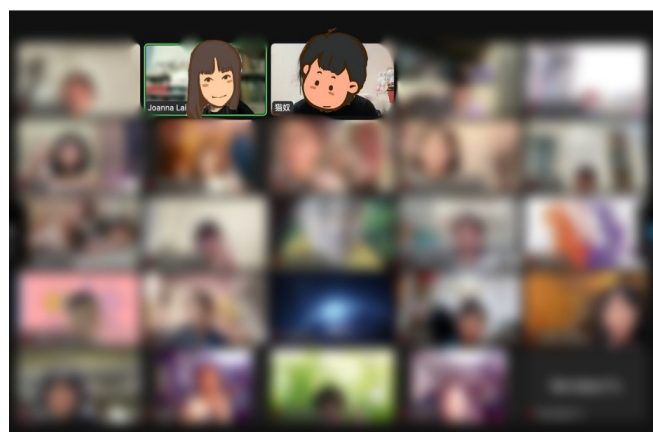
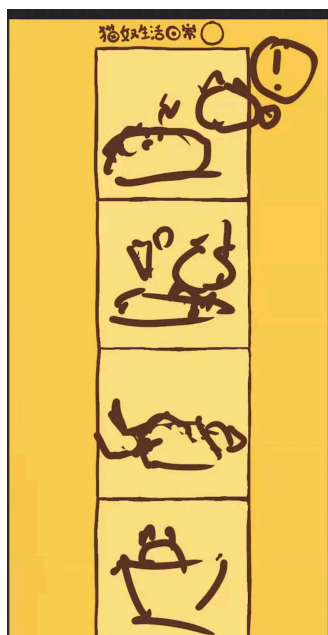




PHOTO JOURNALS

To help students understand how art and history are connected, students are asked to submit simple photo journals that record interesting discoveries in our times. This one is an example done by MissyMissy.

Cats are cute and lots of people buy things with drawings of cats printed on them. But is it getting too commercialised? I am a cat-lover, but even I think that some are just blatant attempts to charge people an extortionate price for a tiny picture of a cat.



A collection of cat illustrations from around the world. The book is published in Hong Kong.



A dress with cat motifs printed on it.



Bottled water with cats printed on and in the bottle. Gosh, 37 bucks for a bottle.

Life can be bus. We just have to relax and look at the beautiful nature around us. Nature can help us see our lives and world in a different light. Appreciating nature does not cost us a penny. So, let's pause for a while and appreciate the beauty of nature around us.

Alice Lai, P.4, St. Paul's Convent School



Look at the trees in fall. Changes can be beautiful.



See the wonder through a child's eyes. Simple pleasures are everywhere.



Even in a busy city, there is a calm and peaceful park. It is like a reminder telling us to find moments of peace in our lives.

A Message from MissyMissy



The current semester has been one with various new opportunities for both my students and me.

Spiderweb Learning has long been organising author visits for students. This semester, for the first time, we organised a Zoom author session with a local author. It proved to be a huge hit among both children and their parents (who were sadly not allowed to join). Then, there was also our first Zoom session hosted by the Reading Museum in the UK. Feedback from students was overwhelmingly positive. Broadening the spectrum of Zoom sessions for children is now proven to be the way forward for us.

This semester also saw a complete overhaul of our KS3 curriculum with the introduction of two new series offered by Hodder Education in the UK. We are thrilled to hear from our survey that our students found all our new KS3 courses interesting. There was not even one negative feedback regarding the new courses. As an educator, I am both impressed and heartened to hear that children embrace the requirement of such a broad and different curriculum with such joy and confidence.

Our newsletter will take a break over the summer holiday and will be back in the new academic year. In the meantime, happy learning.

Meet The Editorial Team

Editorial Board

Editor.....Joanna Lai

Editorial Committee:

Aimee Lam (P4, God Hope Primary School)

Josie Chan (G5, Christian Alliance International School)

Karina Tang (P4, St. Paul's Co-educational College Primary School)

Lulette Ng (P4, St. Paul's Convent School)

Skyler Ham (Y7, German Swiss International School)