

A student
publication
for Outramians,
by Outramians

THE OUTRAM TIMES

HIGHLIGHTS

- 'Write for Kindness' 2018 Competition
- National Schools Literature Festival 2018
- Poem: Flee!
- Students' Creative Writing
 - * Molly
 - * Cookie
 - * Distinctively Outram
 - * The Outram Pool



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OUTRAM SECONDARY SCHOOL

THE OUTRAM TIMES FOREWORD

By Ms Eunice Lee
Head of Department
English Language & Literature

The Outram Times was conceptualised in 2015 to provide the lower secondary students with a platform to showcase their creativity and hone their writing skills.

The ability to write, and to communicate clearly using the written word is a complex process, and the various pieces of writing that you see in The Outram

Times is an extension of our students and their unique view of the world.

This issue of The Outram Times shines a spotlight on competitions in 2018 that our students have done well in, a reflection of the hard work and effort that they have put in.

Likewise, the writing that appears in this newsletter has been looked over repeatedly, and refined multiple times before being published. Much of this was done in sessions that took place after school, so kudos to this dedicated group of students who gave of their time to participate in this programme.

I hope you enjoy reading the various pieces, and gain some insights into secondary school life and all that it has to offer.



Beginning with the End in Mind

By Vonshae Koh,
Secondary 2/2

'Write for Kindness' 2018 Competition

In July 2018, nine students from the N(A) and Express streams took part in 'Write for Kindness', a national competition organised by the National Kindness Movement to promote kindness and graciousness among Singaporeans. The competition comprised two categories – poetry-writing and story-writing, with the requirement that the participants create original material and illustrations that would be suitable for a young audience aged 4–8 years old.

Competition was intense, with entries from more than 150 schools, which also included the junior colleges and international schools. It is therefore a huge achievement that Outram achieved sterling results at the competition – being shortlisted for the story-writing category, and being crowned champion, as well as 2nd runner-up in the poetry-writing category!

On the next two pages, we present the winning entries for 'Write for Kindness'.

The Power of Kindness

Timmy–Tim fell on the **GROUND**,
But I just looked at him and walked **AROUND**.

Ronny–Ron had lost his **ONLY PEN**,
It had rolled *far, far away*, to no man's **LAND**.

I made a few attempts at finding the **PEN**,
But really only every now and **THEN**.

Grandma always said to lend a helping **HAND**.
We should always try to care and **UNDERSTAND**.

So I had a think about **IT**,
And a **spark** inside me was **LIT**.

I offered the two boys whatever help I **COULD**,
To try and lighten the *depressing* **MOOD**.

Timmy–Tim and Ronny–Ron gave me **Big SMILES**,
And I felt it was all **WORTHWHILE**.

So this is what **KINDNESS DOES**.
It helps to bring that **happy BUZZ**.



First prize winners, Nur Aleeyah and Imran Westerhout Hasan of Secondary 2/4 presenting their work to Mr. Tan Chuan-Jin, Speaker of Parliament and Dr. William Wan, the General Secretary of the Singapore Kindness Movement at the Kindness Awards Ceremony in November 2018.



At the Playground

Swinging and playing at the playground one day
A mean bully called **Jackie** said I was in his way

He pushed me to the ground and I fell with a **thud**
He walked away with a laugh and left me with a **broken heart**

But then my two buddies took me by the hand
And told me I was part of their **happy band**

I learnt that there were others who liked me
And the world will be happier if we were **bias-free**

*If we can all learn to play together
Our lives will be so much better!*



The 2nd runner-up in the 'Write for Kindness' Poetry Competition — Nguyen Ngoc Khanh Chi (Jenny) & Sabryne Zaragoza of Secondary 2/3 with their work.

Finalist in the 'Write for Kindness' Story-writing Competition
'A Good Friend's Kindness'



Written by: Andrea Seng (Secondary 2/3)
Adriana Batrisyia (Secondary 2/5)
Diana Hue (Secondary 2/5)
Tan Swee Ling (Secondary 2/5)

Illustrated by: Cheyanna Briones (Secondary 2/5)

THE NATIONAL SCHOOLS' LITERATURE FESTIVAL 2018

The National Schools Literature Festival (NSLF) is an annual literary festival for secondary school students aimed at promoting and cultivating a love for the subject. This year, the Secondary 2 team, comprising students from Secondary 2/5, got into the shoes of characters from their Literature text, *The Boy in Striped Pyjamas*, and presented projects completed by the Secondary 2E students to a

My heart was thumping loudly and my palms had turned sweaty. I bit my lip as I caught sight of the shiny trophies on display, which were to be given out to the deserving winners. I gripped the sides of my floral dress and waited nervously for our school to possibly be called up to the stage. To me, failure wasn't an option since I had invested a lot of time trying to piece together everything with a few of my classmates.

Being selected to be part of the Book Parade for the NSLF was not easy as there were many things I had to prepare for as part of the competition and also things I had to forego, such as CCA sessions and weekends, which to me were very precious. Portraying characters from a book I was familiar with, 'The Boy in Striped Pyjamas', my team needed to not only prepare items we were putting on display, but also to figure out how we were going to present them. After several rounds of discussion with my team mates, we finally agreed to showcase the differences between the Nazi concentration camp and the Commander's house.



We also needed to get our costumes - dresses that were typical of that era and a pair of striped pyjamas. I was playing the role of Mother while another one of my classmates portrayed Gretel. The two boys in the team portrayed Bruno and Shmuel. We met up with all our materials and started putting everything together. Some in the team were not cooperative and that was a challenge. We were often distracted and struggled to stay on task at times. That was only one of the many problems we faced as a team. At one point, our Literature teacher was considering taking our work out as it did not look like we would finish in time and that disappointed us, but we decided to persevere instead of giving up. I found myself taking on the role of team leader and telling them to be more serious. This really taught me to take action when problems arise instead of simply giving up.

As the NSLF neared, we tried our best to piece everything together and fortunately, we finished in time and we were all satisfied with what we had done. I still remember how nervous I was as I entered the Paya Lebar Methodist Girls' School compound for the competition. While on the bus there, we faced a few minor mishaps, with some features of the boards falling apart but we were able to make everything work when we were setting up our display. Thankfully, we received many compliments on our booth set-up, and that boosted my confidence in securing a prize. However, when I looked around, I realised that the standards for the competition were high, and several booths were just as good as ours. So in the end, it all boiled down to the judges' decision.

Before we knew it, the prize presentation ceremony was upon us. At that moment, things happened in slow motion. My team mates and I had our gaze fixated on the trophies. There was silence before the emcee announced the 1st runner-up.

“Outram Secondary School!”

I looked at my friends in shock. We all rushed up to the stage and as I held the trophy, I felt a strong sense of accomplishment. Although we did not clinch first place, I still felt like I have done my school proud. Overall, I was extremely grateful to be given this exciting opportunity and this experience showed me that maybe stepping out of your comfort zone isn't a bad thing after all.

By Tan Swee Ling, Secondary 2/5

Fresh from their win at the 'Write for Kindness' Competition (see pages 2 & 3), Imran Westerhout Hasan (Secondary 2/4) and Jenny, Nguyen Ngoc Khanh Chi (Secondary 2/3) collaborate on a brand-new poem.

FLEE!

Run, run, run.

Over the hill he comes.

With a face of **RAGE**,
And with **no one** to my aid,

I *run, run, run.*

Crawl, crawl, crawl.
He's coming for me for a
BRAWL.

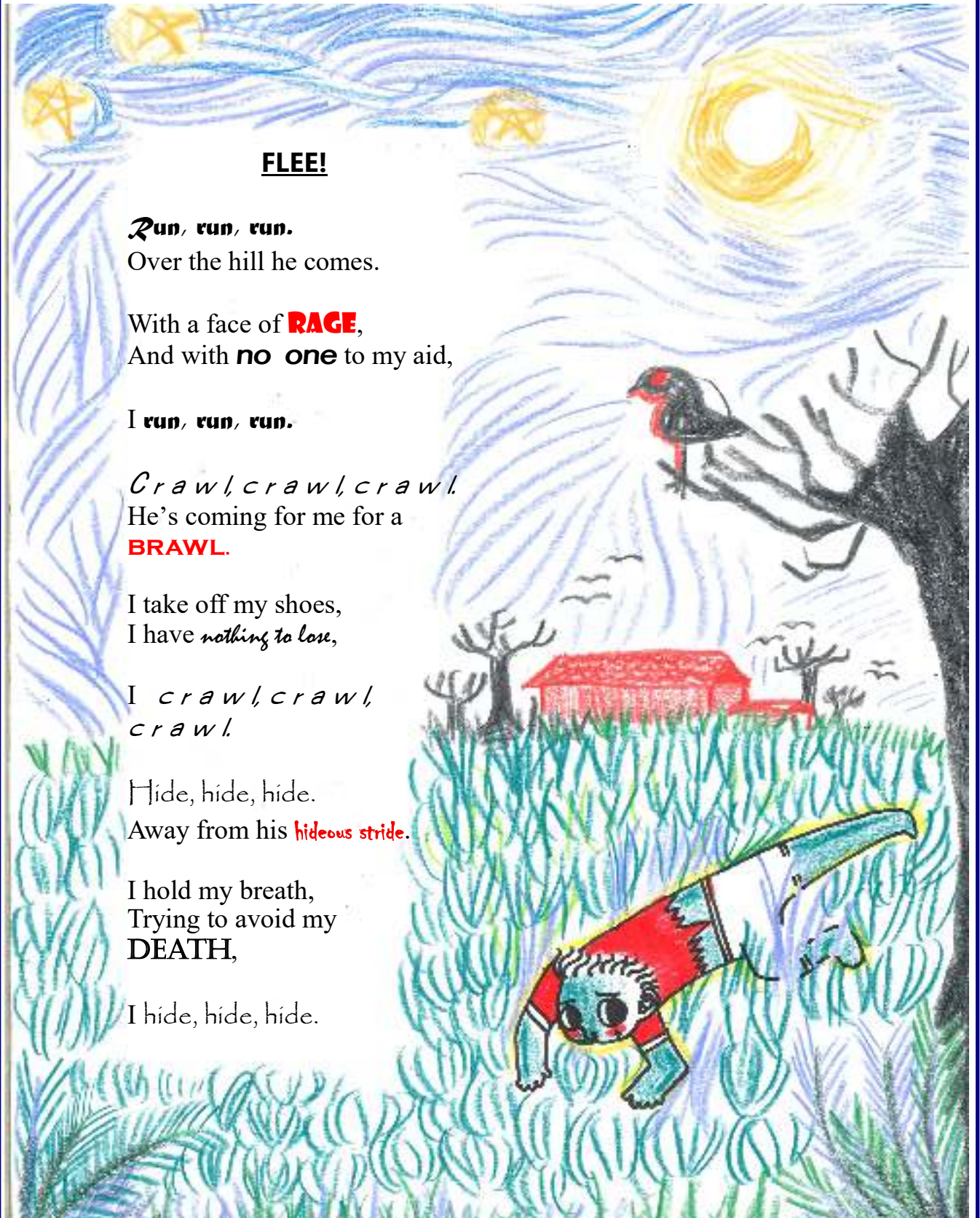
I take off my shoes,
I have *nothing to lose*,

I *crawl, crawl,*
crawl.

Hide, hide, hide.
Away from his **hideous stride**.

I hold my breath,
Trying to avoid my
DEATH,

I hide, hide, hide.



LETTING OUR CREATIVE JUICES FLOW

What happens when you let students write (stories or poetry) to entertain? The following have been written by a group of Secondary 2 Express students who are attempting to do just that.

MOLLY



I have a soft spot for Molly, I can relate to her to a quite a significant extent, especially in situations when people get left out, and sometimes, get bullied.

Molly was my favourite among the others, and it was not hard to understand why. She had beautiful soft skin and the most soulful eyes, eyes that would make you do anything for her, once she turned that gaze on you. She was slightly older than the rest, but that was fine with me. She was bullied at mealtime by her peers, so we shared a common situation. We often ended up eating lunch together at the pasture, and she always listened when I poured my woes out to her. I liked that Molly listened without judgment, and I felt comforted that she was one that I could confide in.

I spent many happy years with Molly, but our parting was inevitable. I received news that I had been accepted into a college far from home, which meant that I would have to leave home. I tried to delay breaking the news to Molly. Bringing her along with me was out of the question, so on the day that I had to leave, I did so with a heavy heart, promising as I gazed into her big brown eyes that I would come home to visit her often.

Alas, this was one promise that I could not keep. Burdened with school work and a part-time job that I took on to put myself through school, there were many weekends that I did not make it home. Every time I failed to go home for the weekend, I consoled myself that there would always be another weekend, and that Molly would forgive me for my absence.

One particularly busy day, I received a call from Mum. "Molly is sick. You better come home to see her." I knew that things must be bad for Mum to call. I rushed back home, and with my heart pounding, headed for the pasture. I found Molly at our favourite spot, and my heart broke at seeing her there in her weakened state. It was as if she had never left. I spent the rest of the day by her side, just speaking to her, and telling her over and over again about how sorry I was for leaving her. As usual, Molly said nothing, but her gaze seemed to be telling me that it was all right and that she had forgiven me.

At nightfall, Molly drew her last breath, and I choked back my sobs as life seeped out of this beloved friend who had accepted me without any reservations. I will never forget Molly, and how she helped me through the lowest point in my life.

**Goodbye, Molly.
You will be dearly missed.**

By Ethan Quah, Secondary 2/5



COOKIE

The year that I turned 10, I was diagnosed with leukaemia. My parents were devastated at the news. Thinking back, I still remember that the day before I was officially diagnosed, my family and I had attended my cousin's 12th birthday party, which was a lavish affair. I recalled telling my parents that I wanted a similar celebration when it came to my 12th birthday. However, these dreams vanished almost immediately with the awful news delivered by Dr. Tony. The prognosis was grim - there was a high chance that I wouldn't even make it to next birthday, much less my 12th.

Being young, I did not have a full idea of what lay ahead. All I knew was that I had to stop school so my treatment could begin immediately. My oncologist, Dr Tony, who was also a family friend, was extremely supportive of me and the family during this trying period. He used his own funds to get me a golden retriever puppy which I named Cookie. I had never had a pet before and it was a good distraction from all the pain and trauma that I was going through.

I knew when I first saw Cookie that she was special in her own unique way, and I hoped I could become friends with her before my time on earth was up. At first, Cookie was shy and timid. She only came out of her own kennel during mealtimes. She was a nervy little creature and would always run away when someone wanted to pet her, and she was especially terrified of my father. Being an only child, I was desperate to become friends with her. After all, I had 'lost' all my friends and playmates when I stopped school. Apart from my cousins and my neighbours, I had little contact with anyone else.

With the passing of time, Cookie warmed up to the family, and was soon a joy to have in the home, making us laugh with her antics. Even though she was a mere pup, Cookie always seemed to know when I needed comforting and would do that by thrusting her head onto my lap, giving me that much needed comfort.

Days become weeks, and the weeks turned into months, and that became a year. I made it to my 11th birthday, which was a muted affair as I wasn't out of the woods yet. It was a strange place to be in. I had spent almost every day of the past year expecting to go any minute, and I often wondered how that would happen, but it didn't. My chemotherapy sessions had ended, and I was glad, as I suffered terribly from the chemotherapy. Dr. Tony's words to my parents were "Let's wait and see. We have done all that we can. Let's see if Joel can fight this. Pray."



The date of my review came. Dr Tony took a CT scan, which miraculously showed I was getting better. I didn't fully comprehend what my father and Dr Tony were talking about. All I heard were the words 'miracle' and 'possible remission'. That was the first sign that the situation was taking a turn for the better. My parents were exhilarated at the news. I was too, because Dr. Tony had given me the all-clear to resume normal activities after another three months of rest. I rushed home and threw myself at Cookie, smothering her with kisses in gratitude for all the comfort that she had brought to me. Apart from my parents, it was Cookie that had brought and supported me through this ordeal, and through all the chemotherapy sessions. Even though she couldn't talk, she gave me a reason not to give up in the most dire of situations. I am, and will be always thankful that Cookie came into my life.

I swore to myself that I would take care of Cookie forever, no matter what happened in the future. And I made sure to keep that promise when she got sick in her later years. It was then my turn to bring her to the veterinarian for injections and treatment. Losing Cookie was even worse than enduring my sickness. But every single day, I thank God that I was blessed with Cookie and that she helped me through my illness. This the story of how my best friend helped me to beat cancer.

By Philbert Lam, Secondary 2/4



Maria Reyes and Sharon Ong (both from Secondary 2/2) from the iStretch Programme turn reporters for one afternoon and go about seeking answers about what makes an Outram student (also known as an Outramian) so special.

DISTINCTIVELY OUTRAM



We were very curious to find out from our school mates about what it means to be an Outramian. So on a sunny, yet breezy Monday afternoon in August, the both of us went on an adventure around our school armed with notepads and pens, to get to the heart of the matter, and to find out what Outramians really think of their school. Here is what we found out.

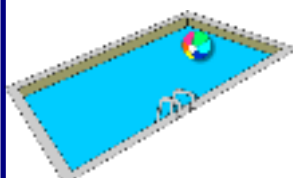
We surveyed students with the following questions:

1. Why did you choose to come to Outram Secondary School?
2. Now that you are in the school, what are your impressions of the school?
3. What do you think makes Outram an attractive school?
4. What have you learnt from your time in Outram?



To begin, some of our interviewees responded by stating that they live near the school, so it was a matter of convenience. However, there were many others who decided on Outram based on positive comments that they had heard about the school. Being loyal Outramians ourselves, we were extremely heartened to receive responses from some students who said that Outram was, and still is, their dream school! 😊

Other reasons given for making Outram a school of their choice is because of the interesting CCAs (rock-climbing, water polo, squash) and also the business-related subjects that the school offers. Yet others mentioned that Outram offers a good learning environment, and is a fun place to be at. Lastly, many said that they had heard stories about how the Outram teachers were very caring towards their students.



Our fellow school mates think Outram is a sporty, interesting and unique school, and the top reasons are because of the special school facilities that Outram offers — the swimming pool, rock climbing walls and squash courts are just to name a few. To top it off, the school is located on top of a hill. They thought that these characteristics of Outram made the school unique and different from the rest. After all, how many government schools have their own swimming pool?

Co-Curricular Activities (CCAs) in Outram are a strong selling point, and a very common reason why many students are attracted to the school. In Outram, besides the engaging and fun-filled CCAs and training sessions, interestingly, it was what students heard or read about Outram's achievements and successes that persuaded them to put Outram down as a school of choice. Our respondents mentioned that they liked what they heard about the school from Outram students and teachers who have represented the school in activities, events, programmes and competitions.



Lastly, Outram has taught their students to be persevering, respectful and be kind. The school motto *Labor Omnia Vincit* (Labor Conquers All) encourages everyone to keep striving and never rest till we achieve our best. The students we spoke to responded that they put in extra effort to work harder, be more attentive, and to participate both in classroom lessons, as well as in after-school activities.

To sum up, it is not one single factor, but a multitude of factors that make Outram Secondary School special to all who enter its gates. We are glad that we managed to meet many like-minded students in our midst, and hope that with every batch of students that comes in, they will embrace all that the school has to offer, and leave as a better version of themselves.

Members of the Outram Swimming Club, Diana Hue (Secondary 2/5) and Nur Aleeyah (Secondary 2/4) write about a place in Outram which is very close to their hearts.



Between 12 — 2 p.m. on weekday afternoons, the swimming pool is usually empty of students and silence reigns. There is a serenity during that period of time, with the only sounds coming from the resident crickets in the greenery nearby. The pool's blueish waters glisten under the rays of the sun and on a hot day, look particularly inviting, beckoning one to experience its cool depths. This is usually the scene before the Outram pool comes alive with activity in the later part of the afternoon. With the bell signalling school dismissal, the quiet calm and lull are no more.

Heading up to the swimming pool from the Parade Square, the sounds of activity can be heard before the pool comes into view. There is the sound of water thrashing as the water polo boys practise and train. The thumps heard when the Outram swimmers plunge into its cool depths during CCA sessions. Then there are also the occasional shouts from the swim coach and the hollering of instructions from the water polo coach. In the stands, shoes and textbooks are strewn over the once-empty benches. School bags lie open, revealing contents such as files and dog-eared textbooks before they are packed up in the evening when training is over.

The Outram pool has been, and is the site of many significant events for Outram students. Apart from termly swimming lessons during PE, it is also where the annual Swimming Carnival is held, an important event on the Outram calendar. In recent years, a highlight has been the inter-class raft race which takes place after the swimming carnival. In that event, teachers and students representing the Secondary Two classes will attempt to get across the pool on rafts made of plastic bottles. It is a sight to behold, as the student spectators in the stands will be screaming their lungs out in support of their teacher representative and their class.

As swimmers, we spend much of our CCA time in the pool, treading water, building our stamina and honing our skills in the four or five years that we are with the school. It is in these waters that friendships are formed, and the bonds between the Swim Team are forged. It is also where we celebrate successes, and experience failure and defeat. The Outram swimming pool will always be a very special part of our secondary school life, and a place that we will remember fondly, when our memories of other things may fade.

OUR WORK

So what do secondary school students do in English Language and Literature classes? As the following pages will show, there is a lot of room for creativity. Besides trying our hand at writing poetry in Secondary One, there was also the opportunity to be a film critic and review short movie clips at the Secondary Two level.

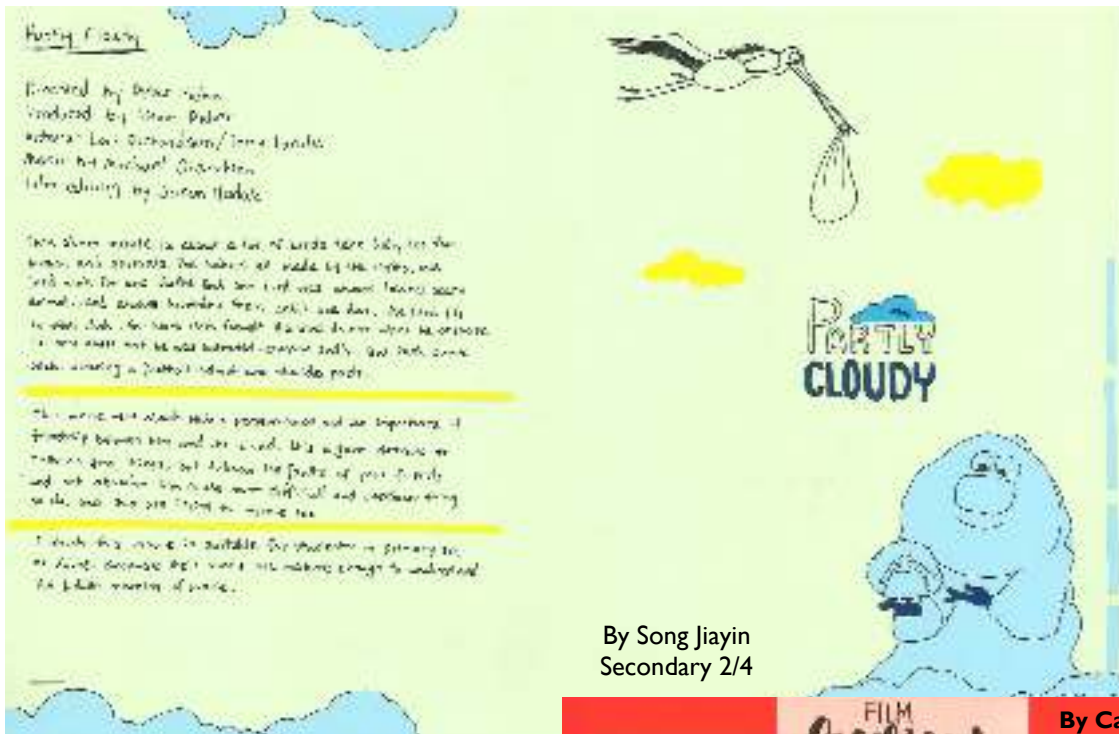
Hurry Cloudy

Directed by Simon Madadi
Produced by Simon Madadi
Written by Simon Madadi / Simon Madadi
Music by Simon Madadi
Edited by Simon Madadi

Two days would be enough to see a lot of words here today for the
words and phrases. The subject of words is the focus, and
the words are used to tell the story of what is going on. Some
words are used to describe the scene, and some are used to
describe the characters. The words are used to create a picture
of the scene and to tell the story of what is going on.

The words are used to create a picture of the scene and to tell
the story of what is going on. The words are used to create a
picture of the scene and to tell the story of what is going on.

I think the movie is suitable for students in primary two
or three because they will be able to understand the
basic meaning of words.



By Song Jiayin
Secondary 2/4

FRENCH ROAST

By Nur Aleeyah
Secondary 2/4

● Title: French Roast
● Director: Simon Madadi
● Lead Actor: —
● Company: British Academy
● Running Time: 11:30



● French Roast is a documentary which focuses on a single character who
explains the story of being a child with autism. It is a story of a child
who is struggling to understand the world around him. He is still
learning to read and write, and he is still learning to understand the
world around him. The film is a beautiful and touching story of a
child who is struggling to understand the world around him.

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Film Review

By Carrie Law
Secondary 2/4

TITLE: ZERO (2010)
GENRE: DRAMA/Short film
DIRECTOR: CHRISTOPHER KEELING
PRODUCTION DESIGNER: BRIAN BURTON
SCREENPLAY: CHRISTOPHER KEELING
PRODUCER: CHRISTINE KEELING

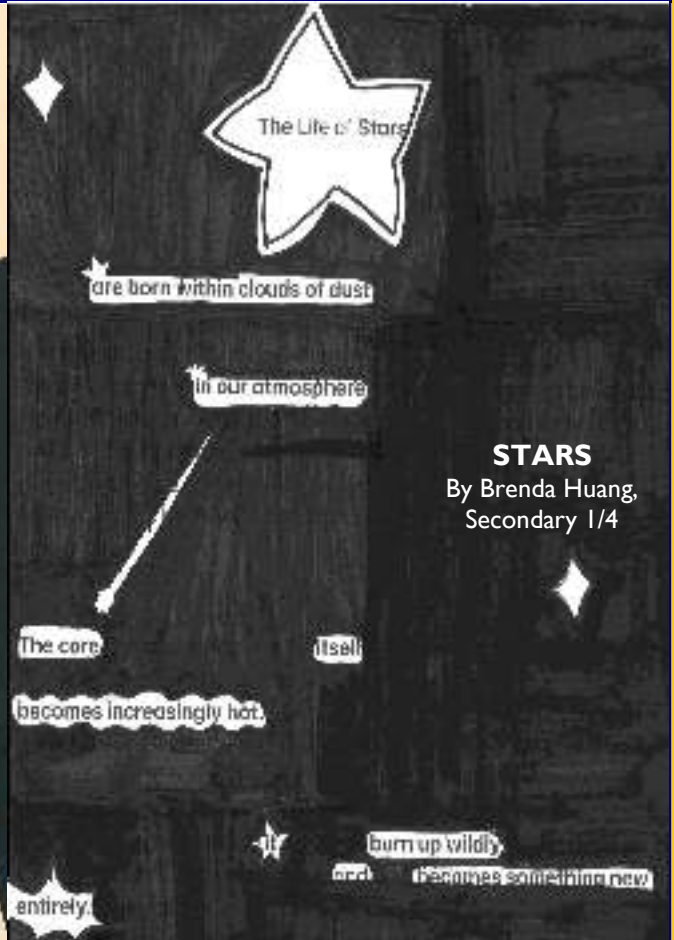
SUMMARY:
"Zero" is about the number zero and how it is a number which has
zero value. It is about how the number zero is used in many
different ways. The film is a beautiful and touching story of a
child who is struggling to understand the world around him.

OPINION:
"Zero" shows the value of having an opinion that people can disagree
on. It is a beautiful and touching story of a child who is struggling
to understand the world around him. The film is a beautiful and
touching story of a child who is struggling to understand the world
around him.

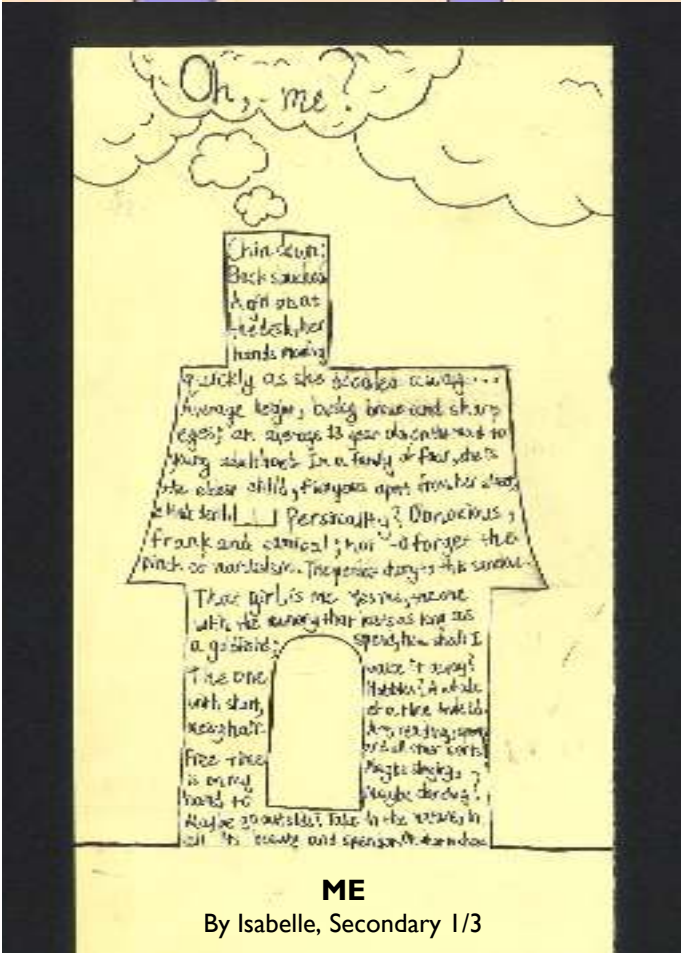
WHO SHOULD WATCH AND WHY:
I would highly recommend this short film to everyone who
watches it. It shows us that we should not judge other people
just because they seem different from us, and that
being is better than.



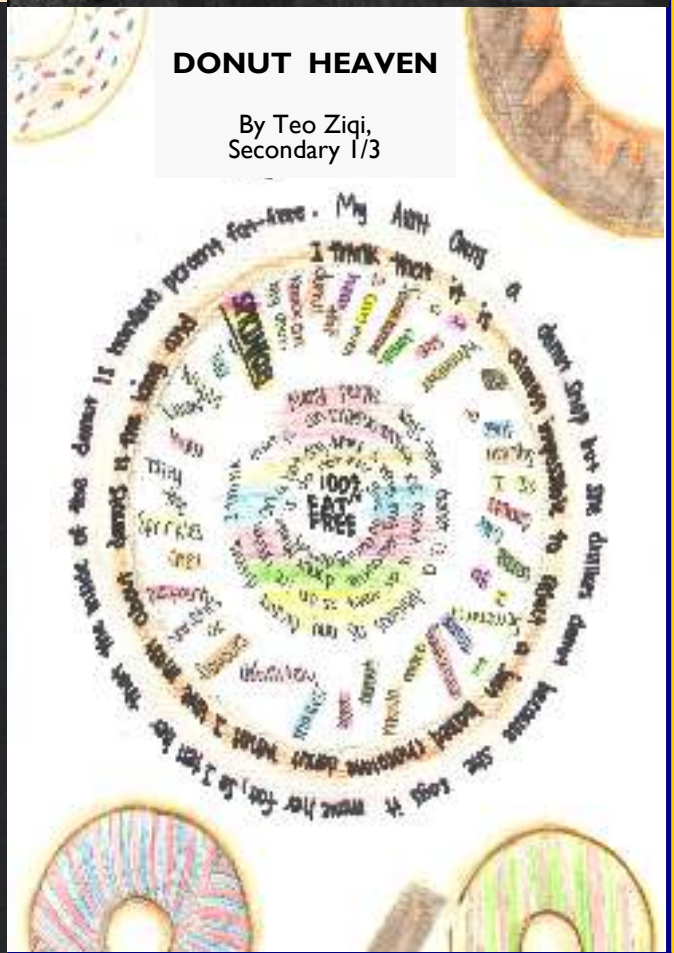
MY IDENTITY
By Pauline, Caoile, Secondary 1/4



STARS
By Brenda Huang, Secondary 1/4



ME
By Isabelle, Secondary 1/3



DONUT HEAVEN
By Teo Ziqi, Secondary 1/3

