

Morning sharing by Tommy Poon Chun Ting from 4E (26)

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Good morning everyone. My name is Tommy Poon and I'm in form 4. I believe that reading should be a very important part of learning English and of our lives.

Reading good literature gives us understanding, patience and a keen intelligence. It's a well known fact that girls read more than boys, and educational experts tell us that this is the reason why girls are doing better than boys in every subject at school and university.

So why not start reading now? Better late than never. Let's catch up with those smart girls.

Today I would like to share a very exciting book with you. It is called 'Tomorrow When The War Began' by John Marsden. It's about teenagers like you and me, only in this story they have to become killers, to fight an invading army and to hunt for their food. Life is very difficult for them, and some of the teenagers die, but even so, some find romance.

The author is Australia's most popular teenage writer. In Australia, John Marsden is like a pop star. Wherever he goes, he is mobbed by teenage fans who love reading his books. This book is so popular that he has now written a series of 9 books about the same characters and intends to write more.

The setting is in Australia, in the near future, with Australia having been invaded by a foreign power. We never learn who this invading country is, but it really doesn't matter. What matters is how these teenagers fight to win back their families and their country.

The story begins when 8 teenagers, 4 boys and 4 girls, have just finished their A level exams, and decide to go camping in the bush west of Sydney for 2 weeks. When they return home, they find that Australia has been invaded by a foreign power. Their families are all missing. Their animals are dead, and there is little food left to eat.

Together, they have to become adults very quickly, because they have to learn to make bomb and to kill.

The leader is a 17-year-old girl, Ellie. She is a quick thinker, very resourceful and has the respect of her peers. She is the one who guides the others through all their difficulties.

The main theme of the novel is about survival, how to live without family, how to deal with the death of someone close to you, how to deal with fear, how to cooperate with others, how to steel yourself to kill. Other theme in the novel deal with friendship and romance and about how we change through our lives.

In my opinion, the novel is a winner for all teenagers. It has everything that a teenager would enjoy - courage, romance, friendship, excitement and combat. I'm sure all of you would find one of the characters to identify with and learn from. Finally, I believe that this novel is a lesson for us all. We don't really appreciate just how lucky we are to have our family and friends around us, people who love us and care for us. These teenagers have to face the world alone. It's a pretty frightening experience but well worth the read.