

My Favourite Fiction

Good morning, Principal, Vice-Principals, teachers and fellow schoolmates.

Today, I would like to share with you a biography of an idol that I look up to, *Paul McCartney* written by Alan Clayson.

Let me share McCartney's background. He is a most renowned singer-songwriter, instrumentalist and composer. He is best-known for the partnership with John Lennon, George Harrison and Ringo Starr, with whom he formed the Beatles – one of the most influential bands of all time.

The main reason that prompts me to share this book is that it focuses on the lesser-known sides of this great musician so that, as a fan of his, I could learn much more about him. Let me give you an example during his early life as a Beatle, Paul McCartney was not as well-off as we think. During a tour in Hamburg, Germany, he and the other three lads lived in three tiny rooms adjoining the lavatory that appeared to be unacceptably squalid. Could you imagine that – the Beatles? Such a successful and profitable band had lived in such places before. I was impressed by their tenacity and that they had not complained of the living quarters being unreasonably dirty.

Speaking of tenacity, I think, Paul's late mother, Mrs Mary McCartney, passed on a wonderfully pragmatic element to the family. She once said that hard work and tenacity are the principal keys to achievement. If we look back to what this legend has done, for example, writing plenty of euphonious songs over the past six decades and enduring the terrible accommodation in Hamburg, he deserves my admiration.

So, for those who also admire Paul McCartney or the Beatles, this is a book you must read.

God bless you all. Thank you.