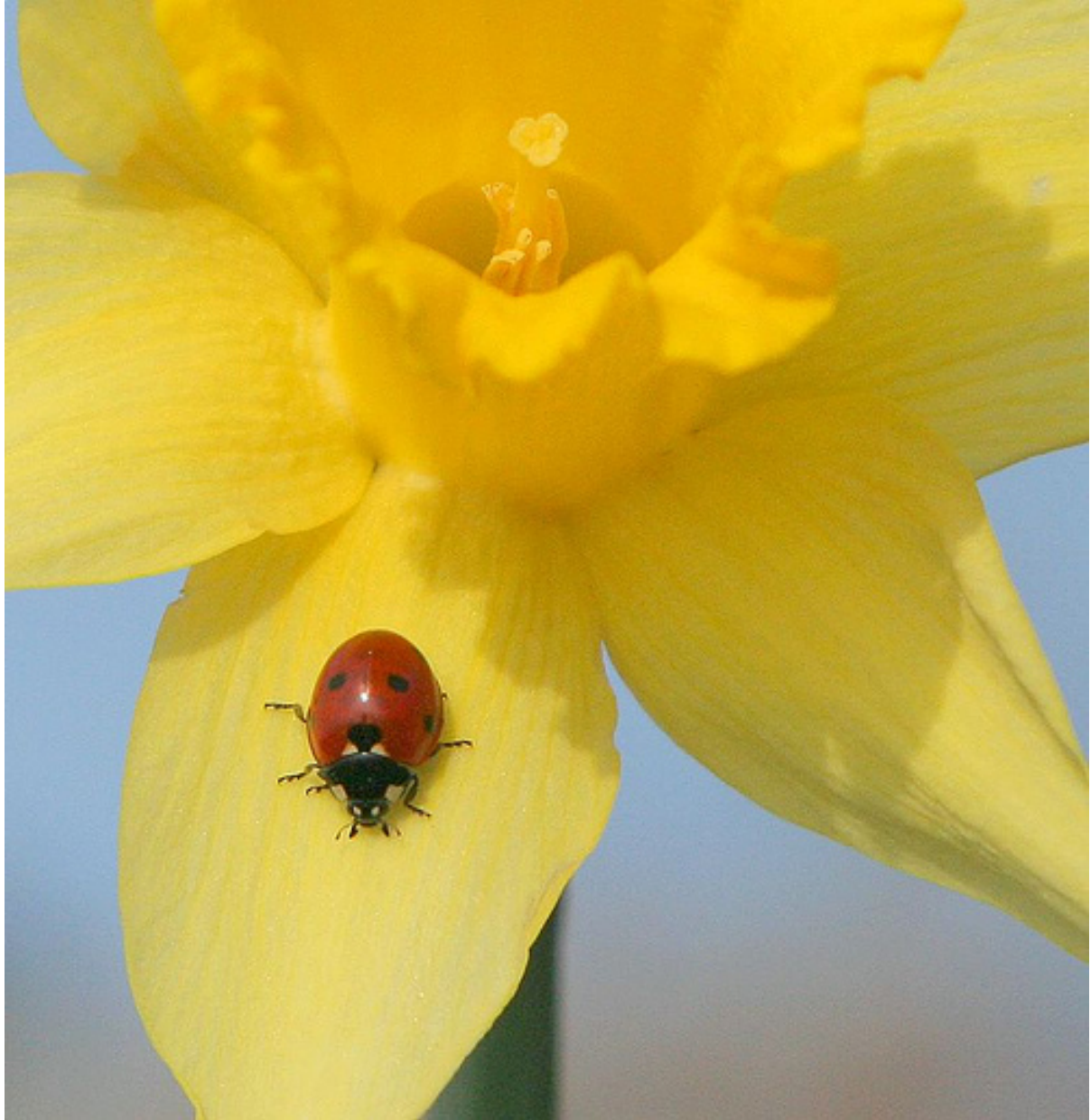


The DBL Times



March 09

Happy Spring!

Editor: Carla Kerr

Here are the winning St Patrick's Day Essay entries!

The Story of St Patrick by Sri D. Chunnoo

St Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland. It is said that he was born in Kilspatrick, in Scotland, in the year 387, and died at Saul, in Ireland, on 17th March 461. Saint Patrick had come to be revered as the patron saint of Ireland by the eighth century.

Critics say that in his sixteenth year, Patrick was carried off by Irish marauders and was sold as a slave to a chieftain named Milchu in the county of Antrim in Ireland. For a continuous six years, Patrick lived as a slave, herding and tending his master's sheep in the valley of the Braid and on the slopes of Slemish, near Ballymena. He was able to talk and understand the Irish language by this time. During his captivity, it is said that St Patrick was praying many times in a day, and could hear the voice of God.

Admonished by an angel, after six years, he fled from his cruel master and bent his steps towards the west by going to the coast. There he found some sailors who took him back to Britain, where he was reunited with his family. He came to have another dream in Britain, in which he could hear the people of Ireland calling out to him to come and save them and walk amongst them once again. After that dream, Patrick began his studies for priesthood, and later on, he was ordained a bishop and was sent to Ireland.

It is believed that St Patrick, using a stick, banished all the snakes from Ireland, and that he and his disciples preached and converted thousands of people, and he began to build churches all over the country. Even kings and their families, along with their entire kingdoms, converted to Christianity on hearing Patrick's message. Patrick changed Ireland to a religious and kind Ireland from a land of Druids and Pagans. He took around 40 years to convert the whole of Ireland. He worked many miracles and wrote his love for God in his confessions.

After years of living in poverty, travelling, and enduring much suffering, Patrick died on March 17th at Saul, where he had built the first church. Patrick was a humble, pious, gentle man whose love and total devotion to and trust in God should be a shining example to each and everybody. He feared nothing, not even death. He had complete trust in God and in the importance of his mission. St Patrick's Day, held on the 17th of March, is now celebrated in all of Ireland with great enthusiasm and it is also a public holiday.

Traditions in Ireland by Xin Wei

Hi, my name is Xin, and I come from China. I came to Ireland about 4 years ago. In my opinion Ireland is a very nice country. I am really enjoying my stay in Ireland. There are a lot of traditional places, food and entertainment that you can have in this country. I will tell you some places.

The first place and very traditional Irish town is Dublin, the capital city of Ireland. There are over 1 million people living in this city. You must go to Temple Bar. It has a great atmosphere, with shops, bars, cafes and small streets full of Irish traditional styles.

The second place is Trinity College library, because there are the oldest books in the world, and Trinity College is the oldest college in Ireland.

Then you must go to the local pub. I think this is a really traditional Irish thing. Everybody likes to go to the pubs to enjoy the live music there. You can talk to your friends, and it's a very good opportunity to meet Irish girls. I really like old Irish music. Love it!

The countryside is very beautiful too. There are green farms, rivers and mountains. It's beautiful!

The Cliffs of Moher are a very famous wonder of the world. It's 2000 metres from top to bottom. Unbelievable!

And finally, castles are really wonderful in Ireland. Dublin Castle was built between 1208 and 1220. It lies in the centre of the city, and it is surrounded by beautiful gardens. I think there are more traditional things in Ireland, but I can't say it now. There are too many things you should find out yourself!

St Patrick by Xiao Qiong Chen

My essay is about St Patrick. Patrick was born in Wales. He was a great man who faced many difficulties to save people and teach them about Christianity and the only God in the world.

He studied to become a priest when he was 22. He spent nearly 30 years on his work, and was very successful. He converted most of the Irish people to Christianity. He died in about the year 461, but people will remember him all the time.

In Ireland, people celebrate on the 17th of March. It is the biggest festival in Ireland. It is called St Patrick's Day. People everywhere dress up in green, white or gold colour clothes with shamrocks. They walk on the street with music. It takes 5 days.

A shamrock is a plant with 3 leaves. It was used by St Patrick to illustrate the Trinity (the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, like the Christian cross).

St Patrick spread the message of Christianity in Ireland about 1500 years ago. He didn't try to make the people forget their Pagan feasts, just changed these into Christian celebrations.

Patrick is the man who worked for God, who saved people from Hell.

St Patrick by Cristina Santana

St Patrick was an ordinary man who did extraordinary things in Ireland.

The Story of St Patrick

Born in Wales to wealthy parents at the end of the 4th century, at the age of 16, young Patrick was taken prisoner by a group of Irish raiders and whisked across the Irish Sea, where he spent the next six years in captivity, working as a lonely shepherd. His religion was his solace, and so he became a devout Christian.

After six years, Patrick heard God's voice telling him it was time to leave Ireland, so he escaped from his captors and made his way back home. Here, he had another vision from an angel, who told him he should go back to preach Christianity to the Irish. After 14 years of studying to be a priest, Patrick returned to Ireland, where he built churches and spread the Christian faith for the next 30 years until his death on March 17th, 460AD.

Did St Patrick really banish snakes from Ireland, how did he select the simple shamrock as his emblem, and why does the colour green symbolise Ireland and the Irish across the world? Behind the myths of St Patrick:

First, let's tackle the snakes. Apart from our modern-day zoos, it's true that there are no snakes slithering around the Green Isle. But this has little to do with St Patrick and probably more to do with the fact that there have never been any indigenous snakes in Ireland. Driving the snakes from Ireland was most likely symbolic of putting an end to Pagan practices, which disappeared from Ireland in the centuries after St Patrick introduced the seeds of Christianity.

Why do people wear green?

With 10 times the population of Ireland in the US claiming Irish ancestry, one in four Britons doing the same, and countless more in other countries around the world, it seems that people wishing to become "Irish for the day" have opted for the green of the Irish flag to express their Irishness. In fact, in the US, it's not uncommon to spot folks sporting hand-drawn shamrocks on their cheeks with streaks of green running through their hair. Some cities, like Chicago, go all out and dye the entire Chicago River green just to mark the big day!

What about the Shamrock?

St Patrick used the simple green herb to explain the concept of the Holy Trinity – the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit – and how they could all exist as separate elements of the same entity. His followers adopted the custom of wearing a shamrock on his feast day.

The Story of St Patrick by Carlos Alberta Lisboa Junior

St Patrick is the first and the main Irish saint. Although he was born in Wales around 385AD, he has a strong relationship with Ireland.

He came here for the first time at sixteen years old, when Irish pirates took him away from his family and sold him as a slave. After six years of slavery as a shepherd, he escaped to his native land and started his religious life.

Patrick became a priest and was ordained as a bishop in 432 AD with the objective to lead a mission to Ireland. So, he returned to the island from where he had escaped before to preach.

He could have started a fight with the local bosses and Druids, but he preferred to work in harmony with the sacred sites that already existed and with the established habits without destroying them, but changing their Pagan philosophy to Christian.

This subtle man became popular for using a shamrock to illustrate the Holy Trinity and for sending the snakes from the country. Actually, this kind of animal may never have existed in Ireland, but as in many Pagan religions, the symbol of a snake was usually worshipped. Driving off the snakes was probably the symbolism of putting an end to this Pagan practice.

St Patrick was not the first missionary to preach in Irish lands, but he definitely was the most successful. That's why he is the patron saint of Ireland, and he is well-known as the founder of the Catholic Church here.



Holiday Time!

Summer will be here soon, we hope - where do you want to go?

At Christmas, I went on holiday with my friend. We visited Paris and we stayed in a hotel near the Eiffel Tower. That's the most famous building in Paris. The first day, we went to Cannes. We saw Cannes Beach. It is a good holiday place. Cannes is a beautiful town. It's most famous for its film festival. I could see some famous actors. On the beach, I could see some beautiful girls. They were wearing swimming clothes. It was so hot! The second day, we came back to Paris. We visited some famous places and buildings, like the Louvre and the Champs Elysees. We ate some local food. I like the pizza, but I don't like pasta. It was a great holiday. I enjoyed it. XING

There are so many famous places in Paris. I like it there. If I have a chance to go to Paris, I want to go to the Eiffel Tower first, because the Eiffel Tower is very famous in the world. I want to go by "fast train". It can go over 300 kilometres an hour. Maybe that's a special feeling. Then I can take the "fast train" to Cannes. There are beautiful beaches there, and the town is famous for its film festival. I hope to go there. I can see famous stars and famous film-makers from all over the world. EDDIE

I don't want to go anywhere. I like Ireland. I want to go everywhere in Ireland, but I don't have enough time because I'm very busy with study and work. On my holiday, I'll meet some friends, have a party, sing and play cards. CHEN

If I go on holiday, I will go to France. Paris is a very famous city. There is the Eiffel Tower, the Louvre, Disney and a lot of shops. The beautiful church, Notre Dame, is over 650 years old. I want to see the Eiffel Tower. It is the most famous building in Paris. Six million people go up the tower every year. The Louvre is one of the most famous art galleries in the world. I can see the Mona Lisa there. JACKIE

If I have a holiday, I want to go to Paris because I like Paris. There are lots of shops. I can go to Disneyland and Notre Dame. It's over 650 years old. It's a beautiful church. The Louvre is a famous art gallery. I can see the Mona Lisa. The Eiffel Tower is the most famous building in the world. YANG

I am going on holiday to France by plane. I'm going to Paris first. There are very famous buildings and beautiful churches. The Louvre is very famous. Then I'll go from Paris to Cannes by train. There is one of the fastest trains in the world. It is a beautiful French town with a lot of beaches. There is a famous film festival there. DESHI



Embracing Change!

I knew a girl a few months ago. She told me she wanted to be my girl, so I decided to make a date with her. I changed my clothes and hairstyle for the first date. After the date, I changed my mind and stopped loving her, as the only thing she was concerned about was money. I think she's a good woman, but I changed the arrangement to date her again. XUE

Last week I decided to change my life. I cut my long hair short just to change my hairstyle. I had an arrangement with the hairdresser for the morning, but I changed the arrangement to the evening, because I woke up very late. My friends tried to talk to me to change my mind, but I knew how difficult it was to clean my long hair. One day later, I went to a shop to buy some new clothes in order to change my style, and I gave my change to a guy who was playing nice music on the street. I would do some more things, but I have changed my mind. EMERSON, IDU and LUCAS

On the first day of my holiday I decided to make some changes in my life. I went to the hairdresser and asked him to change my hairstyle, because I wanted to have something modern and different. Then I left the hairdresser, very happy with my new style, and went straight to the shops. I picked up lots of nice clothes, but when I went to the till, the cashier told me that she couldn't accept American Dollars, so I had to go to the bank and change my money. When I went back to the shop, I changed my mind and didn't take all the clothes which I had tried on. The following day, I made an arrangement with the doctor to see if everything was OK with me, but I had to change it to another day, because I had to go to the bank first to change my bank password, which was having some problems. ANDRE and JULIANA

I was planning to get up at 7am, but I had a change of heart, because I was very tired. I was supposed to go to work at 9am, but I hate my job, so I didn't go to work. That made a change. My boss just called me and told me I was fired. Then I was very happy. I'm planning to change my hairstyle and change some dollars to travel to New York. I'm changing my clothes because I've decided to go to New York tonight. Yes, it's time for a change! CHEN and DONG

Yesterday I was planning to go out with Carlos, but he was late because he changed his clothes many times. We were planning to go to the cinema. It was time for a change! First, we had to change some money. He still had dollars in his pocket. We couldn't find the bureau de change. Maybe it changed its address. So, we had a problem. We spent so much time looking for the bureau that we couldn't go to the cinema. We changed our plans and decided to go to a restaurant to have dinner. There, I said I'd had a change of heart and I broke up with him. I don't think it's a good day for Carlos. He wasn't angry, but surprised by the situation. Anyway, it wasn't easy for me either. ANAMARIA

Yesterday I was planning to go out with Anamaria, but we were late, because she changed her clothes a million times! While I waited for her, I decided to change some money, because I still had dollars in my pocket. It became another problem. I couldn't find the bureau de change! Maybe it changed its address... When Anamaria finally found the perfect dress, it was time for a change, because there wasn't enough time to take her to the cinema. So, we went to a restaurant to have dinner. There, she said that she'd had a change of heart and broke up with me. Can you believe that? Definitely it was not my lucky day! But I didn't become angry, just surprised. How can so many bad things happen in the same night? That's what I wondered. I hope it will be a nice change in my life. Yes, I won't be sad. CARLOS

Meet the Students

Tracy's Life in Ireland by IVY

5 years ago, Tracy came to Ireland to study English, because her friend told her it was a good way to learn English, so she is in Dublin now. Since 2008, Ireland's economy is getting low, worse than any other country. She thought a lot of people lost their jobs and have to work so hard. It makes her upset about her future. She feels contradictory about what is going on in herself. If she stays here, she has no job any more. If she goes back to China, she won't finish her studies.

My Friend Bruno by LUIS

My friend's name is Bruno. He is from Brazil. Brazil is a big country in South America. In Brazil, there are beautiful cities like Sao Paulo, Rio de Janeiro etc, which everybody knows. Bruno was living in a big region near to Sao Paulo, in the city of Juiz. He said it was a small city in Brazil, but a big city in Europe, if you compare. Bruno likes to play the piano, but he can't do this here in Dublin. He likes music in general, but he prefers hip-hop, hard rock, blues, trance music and black music. He also likes other kinds of music, except pop music because it's too sweet. I asked him what his favourite group was. He answered that Rage Against The Machine was his favourite group and he would like to go to a concert one day. Finally we talked about football. He likes to play football and watch matches on TV with his friends. I agree with this. Drinking beer with your friends while you are watching a match is always a special moment!

My Partner Devindra by SUN

Devindra is from Mauritius. He is a good man. He has four brothers and one sister. He loves Chinese food. He told me that Chinese food was the best in the world. Sometimes he drinks in his free time. Ten years ago, he had a bad experience. A case of coke fell from a building when he was walking on the road. He was fine, but the coke spilt on his clothes. He was a lucky guy!

My Partner Sun by DEVINDRA

My partner's name is Sun. He's from China. Sun likes swimming, but he can't swim. He came to DBL College to study English. His favourite hobby is playing chess. He drinks beer or Guinness once a month. He lives in Dublin 22. His English teacher is Bridin. He is working this evening. He didn't clean the house this morning. He didn't have a good time on Valentine's Day. He goes to the cinema once a week.

Luis by BRUNO

My friend Luis is from Spain. He was born in Madrid, a big Spanish city, and he came to Dublin last October. Luis likes sports and music. He plays soccer and tennis and goes cycling. He likes listening to rock and blues. Luis likes to travel and he has already been to England, Germany, Italy, France and Portugal. Luis is living in Ireland to study English. His flatmates are from Spain, Italy and France. In Dublin he likes to get out at weekends to go to pubs with his friends. Luis knows some things about Brazil. He knew that in Brazil the people speak Portuguese, and that the capital city of Brazil is Brasilia. He also knew that Brazil has a great soccer team and that the Amazon is in Brazil. He is a good, nice man.

My Partner Jorge by FELIPE

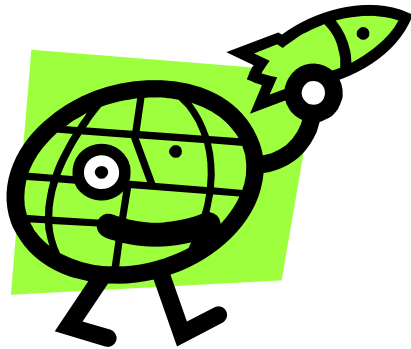
Jorge is a Spanish guy living in Dublin for 6 months to improve his English. He goes back to Spain next week, because he has finished his class. I think that he is able to speak English very well, because he has learned a lot. During his time here, he works in a restaurant as a waiter, but this job was just for one month. Here, he likes going to the gym to exercise. This is good for his health. I don't know too much about his life, but I think Jorge is a good person. I hope he is successful in Spain and is happy for the rest of his life.

Ivy by TRACEY

Ivy lives in Dublin 1. Blue is her favourite colour. She usually watches TV in her spare time. She sometimes misses home. Ivy usually goes to work by bus. Ivy likes to use a Samsung phone and she also likes to study. She thinks the economy in Ireland is so bad now. She told me it was difficult for her to find a job recently.

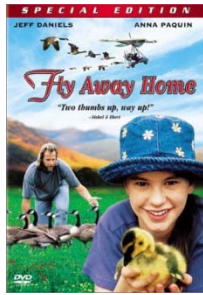
Felipe by JORGE

Felipe is from Brazil. He is 21 years old. He has one sister and one brother. He has a pet, it is a dog. He arrived 6 months ago, in September. He works in a restaurant near the airport. He would like to find another job, because he works when the restaurant is busy and it can be 5 days a week or 1 day a week. He arrived alone, but he would prefer to come with a friend. He would like to learn the Spanish language, and he hasn't been to Spain, but he knew a lot of places in Spain. He doesn't like paella. It is a typical dish from Valencia.



Book and Film Reviews

Fly Away Home



I like this film because it is happy. TOMMY

In this film, Amy and her mother live in New Zealand. Her mother died in a car accident. Her father is from Canada. Amy needs to go to Canada. In Canada, Amy finds goose eggs. After a few days, the eggs hatch 16 geese. They try to move the geese to the USA and they succeed. I like this film. It's very good. JACKIE

This film is about a family – Amy and her parents. Amy's mother and father don't live together. Amy lives with her mother in New Zealand. One day, her mother died in a car crash, so Amy needs to move to Canada to live with her father. She doesn't like her father. She thinks her father is crazy. The story is very interesting. Amy lives in Canada and finds many goose eggs. Later, she will be the geese's mother. She helps the geese to migrate to the USA. She is on the TV. Everybody knows her. Everybody likes her. I like the story. It's very interesting. FENG

Amy's mother died. She moved to her father in Canada, but she didn't like it there. It was messy, and she thought her father was really crazy. One day, she found 16 goose eggs in the marsh. She took them into the garage and made a warm place for the eggs. A few days later, the baby geese were born. They followed Amy every day. They thought she was their mother. They had a problem. The Canada winters are very cold. They must migrate to the USA, but they couldn't fly. Amy's father and Barry built a small aeroplane for Amy to teach the geese to fly. Amy took the geese to the USA and down to the water of the marsh. She thought they would come back to Canada. I like this DVD. XING

The Secret Garden



Little Mary is from an English family in India. Her parents died because of a disease, so she was sent to England and lives with her uncle, Mr Craven, an Englishman. As Mary is from an official family, she's selfish and bad-tempered. Things are dramatically changed when she enters Mr Craven's 10-year-old locked garden. She begins to get on well with others, especially when she finds ill Colin, her cousin, who is living in sadness. She tries to get him out of that and encourages him to face up to life.

As a result, Colin can live like an ordinary person. Sometimes we have to admit environment can change a person. When we meet some challenges, as long as we have confidence and accept help from others, we will get over them. It's inevitable for people to meet bad things. If we're willing to change our mood, we'll find out that maybe life isn't tough. XUE

The Secret Garden was a good book to read. I liked it. The story is about some bad-tempered people, at least the main characters. In the beginning, they were lonely and sad, and they had their own reasons. But destiny found a way to put them together. An ugly and selfish girl who lost her parents was moved to her uncle's house, where she met some people who changed her life. This is a nice and interesting story which shows us how good things can change lives. The story was not exciting, but I found a deep meaning at the end of the book. For some people who can be living in the same way, they will find a good reason to change their lives. I am glad I read this book, because it looks like a usual story, but it could be used as a true story. MARCIO

The Secret Garden's story began in India, where a terrible disease killed a lot of people, including Mary Lennox's parents. Alone, the young child was sent to Yorkshire in England to live with her uncle – a horrid and sad man called Archibald Craven. Disagreeable and bad-tempered, Mary felt lonely until she met Martha, a servant who cleaned her room and brought her food. Mary began to be interested in Martha when the young worker told her about a locked garden which was kept a secret. Later, Mary discovered the sad story about that place. It was where Mr Archibald's wife died. At this time, the disagreeable girl became friendly and gentle to everyone around her. Then, after she followed a crying sound, Mary found her cousin Colin. He thought he was ill and she made him change his mind. So she decided to take him to the secret garden, where they had a lot of fun in the company of Martha's brother Dickon, a kind and healthy boy. As time went by, Colin became healthy and met his father, changing the bad-tempered mind of Archibald. And Mary became a kind girl. It's a moving story about how the interaction between different people can change human behaviour, turning sadness into happiness. The readers have a chance to see how beautiful life can be, even when some disagreeable things happen in their lives. CARLOS

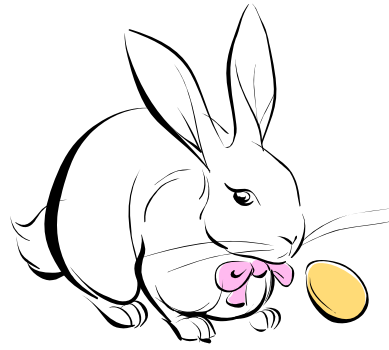
Mary, a little girl who grew up in India, has to live with her uncle when her parents die. When she arrives in Yorkshire, her life changes. She is selfish and bad-tempered. She likes to live there, because the weather is different from India. She wants to walk outside and that makes her healthier and friendlier. When she is in the secret garden, she decides to give new life to this garden, because it was locked for ten years. She keeps the secret with Dickon and Colin until her uncle comes home. When Mr Craven comes, he sees the changes and hears the story from the children. It is just like giving him a new life. It is a good book for children or adults, because it shows that everyone's life has to be with hope. You can't live without hope. People should always help each other and look forward. New life is just like the roses in the secret garden. If you work hard and carefully, it will come in summer time. Never lock yourself in a windowless room. Give yourself some space and fresh air. All the bad things can pass. We can see the good things happen at the end of the Secret Garden. DONG

Little Mary is a bad-tempered girl. She went to India with her parents, but her parents died in India, so she was sent back to Yorkshire in England. When she arrived in England she met some people, Dickon and Colin. Soon, she found a garden in the back yard. The garden is beautiful. It has flowers, birds, grass... She heard some noise from a room. She went to the room. She found Colin in the

room, but Colin was lying on the bed. He looked very sick. He said he would die, he had a back problem. He could not go anywhere because he needed a wheelchair. But Mary said the garden was so beautiful. She wanted to bring him to the secret garden. Colin found out that life was so beautiful. He thought he could stand up and walk, so he tried to start walking. He wanted to live, not die. In the end, Colin's father came back from America to England. Mr Craven didn't know his son could walk, but Colin gave his father a big surprise. Colin ran to his father and gave him a hug. The story is very good. I learned a lot from this story. XIN

Written by Frances Hodgson Burnett, the book "The Secret Garden" is a story about a girl, Mary Lennox, in which we can realise the improvement of her behaviour. Selfish, bad-tempered and disagreeable, she loses her parents too early and doesn't have intimacy with anyone. When she moves to her uncle's big house, she gets a skipping-rope and starts walking around the yard and discovers an amazing garden! By the way, the house is in the middle of nowhere, on a moor. In this house a boy, Colin, lives. He has a strange illness, because actually he is not ill, it is just psychological. Everybody said he was ill, that's why he feels it and doesn't go out of the house, just stays lying in his messy bedroom. Now Mary has improved a little bit in her behaviour and sometimes she discusses with Colin and says that Colin is not ill, that it is just in his mind. This makes Colin start thinking about this, and, thinking he is not ill, he becomes a delightful boy. He joins with Mary and her friends and takes a walk around the garden. This is an interesting story, because it shows us the power of the mind. When you think you are ill, you become ill! EMERSON





Easter Holidays!

There will be no school from 10th April to 20th April. Classes will start again on Tuesday 21st April.

We hope you have a great holiday!



Don't eat too much chocolate! ☺