

翁子涵 Anne Rice, an American author, amazed me when she wrote in her novel, *Interview With The Vampire*, "The only power that exists is inside ourselves." Indeed, we always somehow forgot that we have the power to change things, change others and change the world. But first, "You must be the change you wish to see in the world." This is a quotation from Mahatma Gandhi, the Indian spiritual and political leader. When he led the Non-Violence movement to struggle for India's Independence from British imperial rule, nobody thought it would succeed. Gandhi, however, was insistent. He said, "First they ignore you, then they laugh at you, then they fight you, then you win." When there is injustice, when there is inequality and when there is unfairness, we could choose either to stand up or shut up. Carlos Castaneda, the writer of the series of *The Teachings of Don Juan* said, "We either make ourselves miserable, or we make ourselves strong. The amount of work is the same." Therefore, why don't we use the power inside ourselves and make some change!

黃郁容 The protest against the service trade agreement is growing fiercely, which makes me think of a famous quote by Lord Acton, "Power tends to corrupt and absolute power corrupts absolutely." When our former president 陳水扁 was the mayor of Taipei, he accomplished many political achievements during his term and was highly praised for that. But after he was elected president, he got involved in money laundering and ended up in jail. This abuse of power confirms what Lord Acton says about corruption. In my opinion, perhaps the students' act of occupying the Legislature is also a kind of power that democracy entrusts to the students and people. Let us hope that it will not turn out to be another case of violent chaos or abuse of power.

李佳霓 I have chosen a good quote from Charles Dickens who said, "Happy, happy Christmas, that can win us back to the delusions of our childhood days, recall to the old man the pleasures of his youth, and transport the traveler back to his own fireside and quiet home!" I can feel the joy in this quote. In western culture, Christmas is like our Chinese New Year: families are united after a long year of separation, and friends get together after a whole year of hard work. I used to wait eagerly for the coming of the Chinese New Year, when my cousins would come to Hsinchu to celebrate with us. Even now, whenever I recall those childhood days, I smile as the old memories refresh their warmth and love. Charles Dickens had a great passion for this important holiday, and I will always treasure the Chinese New Year.

徐少婕 Albert Einstein's scientific theories have a great influence on the world, and he had a theory about life, too. He said, "If people are good only because they fear punishment, and hope for reward, then we are a sorry lot indeed." Punishment and reward may be suitable for children for they may not be mature enough to understand the real value of good deeds yet. Yet as we grow to be adults, we should be able to do what is right without need of the reward of heaven or the threat of hell. A truly mature person should be able to act on his own, by his own decision. If we only

behave because of the forces outside us, then we are not truly autonomous yet.

巫文凱 William Shakespeare was the most distinguished dramatist in the history of English literature; he was also one of the most remarkable writers in the Western literary history. In his most famous tragedy, *Hamlet*, the leading character Hamlet once said, "There is nothing either good or bad but thinking makes it so." Hamlet thought his motherland Denmark was a prison because it was where his father was murdered by his uncle, who then became his stepfather by marrying Hamlet's mother. Other characters in the play obviously did not share Hamlet's thoughts or feelings, and could not fully understand why he reacted so strongly against things around him. This also adds to the tragic feelings around the play.

徐郁蕙 When Sigmund Freud described the super-ego, he said, "Conscience is the internal perception of the reaction of a particular wish operating within us." He pointed out that sometimes we might have some specific aspirations that may not be suitable to be put into practice because of moral concerns. Therefore, conscience, the guard of the id (本我), will try to restrict our natural impulses. I agree that we need conscience to help us tell right from wrong instead of doing whatever we want. If we don't have conscience, we wouldn't think for others and wouldn't know the significance of care and love for others. We would only follow our desire, and the world would be in a state of chaos. 良心是一種內心的感覺，是對於躁動於我們體內的某種異常願望的抵制。

蔡宜軒 Oscar Wilde was an Irish writer, poet and playwright, and he was an advocate of the Aesthetic movement in England. Wilde became famous because of his plays. Here is a famous quote in his play, *Lady Windermere's Fan*, "We are all in the gutter, but some of us are looking at the stars." Life is not perfect. We often face lots of difficulties, encounter things we do not like, and meet people who want to hurt us. But some people can still remain optimistic and ambitious even in the worst conditions. They simply refuse to lose hope even in adverse conditions. We need to learn from them that there is always a chance to make our life better if we still hold on to hope.

劉婷昀 Here is a quote I choose from Mark Twain. "Good friends, good books, and a sleepy conscience: this is the ideal life." Good friends and good books seem to be necessary elements in our ideal life. However, as for me, they are not the most important factors. The third item in the list, a sleepy conscience, I think is the most vital thing to better my life. Some people think a sleepy conscience means people would ignore God's guidance; others think morality will become loose. But I think a sleepy conscience indicates that we wouldn't be too harsh on ourselves and there would be room to break free from stereotypes and try new things. This is why Twain thinks it is important for an ideal life.

林詩賢 When Franz Kafka, the author of the *Metamorphosis*, suffered from a

worsening laryngeal tuberculosis, he couldn't consume anything before he died. It's immensely sad for me to imagine that he once highly enjoyed food. He said, "So long as you have food in your mouth, you have solved all questions for the time being." The quotation also reminds me of a character in the novel. The weird big beetle, Gregor, did not have any fresh food but a rotten apple his father threw at him. Gregor's melancholy which later caused his death maybe partially related to a lack of delicacies, too. Undeniably, the enjoyment of food is a key question not only in Kafka's novel but also in his life.

黃佑竣 "God played a mean joke on me!" This is what people usually say when something they can't accept happens. But French writer, historian and philosopher Voltaire says, "God is a comedian playing to an audience too afraid to laugh." Voltaire was best known for advocating freedom of expression and religion in 18th century. Also, he fought against the Catholic Church because he thought Catholics often oppressed people by the power of religion. This might be the reason why he had the courage to describe the sacred god as a comedian. However, the jokes god created are mean and intolerable jokes on human beings. For example, if there is a target we have been working on for our whole life, and at the moment that we almost reach it, our efforts were destroyed. How could we laugh when everything we fought for is in vain? God may be proud of his performance with the joke, but we poor human beings are the ones who suffer.

廖元儷 "Being in power is like being a lady. If you have to tell people you are, you aren't." This is a famous quote from Margaret Thatcher, the prime minister of the United Kingdom from 1979 to 1990. The temperament of a lady will reflect on her behavior in the way she talks and dresses; there is no need to announce her status. It also works the same way on great leaders that hold the power. Nelson Mandela, Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King Jr.--none of them intentionally claim their power over the people. What they all have in common is the firm faith to improve the lives of the people they lead. In other words, it is their dedication that makes them trustworthy, and it is the people who give them the power and make them leaders.

鄭雅方 We are inclined to feel down in the face of adversity, and that's why it's easy for us to surrender to failure. This kind of attitude toward life really matters because it keeps success away from us. An old saying goes, "Adversity is a good discipline", which means each adversity has its own lesson that teaches us to overcome difficulties and leads us to success. I think Walt Disney's achievement can be a good example. Before establishing his business of animation industry, Disney encountered lots of hardship. Instead of feeling frustrated, he said, "All the adversity I've had in my life, all my troubles and obstacles, have strengthened me... You may not realize it when it happens, but a kick in the teeth may be the best thing in the world for you." For if life were too easy, what is there to live for?

蔡鈞如 I chose a meaningful quotation from Thomas Carlyle, a Scottish philosopher, satirical writer, essayist, historian and teacher during the Victorian era. He once said

that “Every noble work is at first impossible.” It tells us that things may seem impossible at the first moment, and some of us would give up. But there will be those of us who keep trying and trying, until they overcome the impossibilities and succeed. For impossible things are often noble missions, such as fighting for equal rights between blacks and white, between women and men, between homosexuals and heterosexuals. It is in fighting for the impossible that a person’s noble character shines through because he dares to push on. I think this is what Carlyle hopes to teach us.

吳昭穎 Aung San Suu Kyi is a Burmese opposition politician and chairperson of the National League for Democracy (NLD) in Burma. As she worked to promote Burma’s democracy, she and her like-minded comrades are oppressed by the military government and she was put under house arrest in Burma for almost 15 years. She once said, “To be forgotten, is to die a little.” To give up your fight is to become silent and be forgotten, and a part of you—your dignity and your fighting spirit—dies. The military government house-arrested Aung San Suu Kyi in order to make the world forget her. Yet, with her strong determination and the help of her husband and international support, she continues her fight and makes everybody remember her.