

20140305 Quote Presentation Scripts

林詩賢 We live in a world where individual popularity becomes increasingly desirable. Take the example of Facebook. People feel happy or sad according to the number of “Likes” on their posting. The action does not take much effort and may not mean people really like what you are saying, but many of us live our lives around that. We are afraid of being left out of the crowd. It is in this kind of culture that we need to remember Mark Twain, the world-famous American author and humorist. He once said, “Whenever you find yourself on the side of the majority, it is time to pause and reflect.” If you are checking Facebook now, it is time to pause and reflect.

洪詩涵 I picked a quotation by Mark Twain, who was an American author and humorist. The quote goes like this: "The man who does not read good books has no advantage over the man who cannot read them." While I agree with the value of reading good books, I think Mark Twain fails to understand people who cannot read. Plenty of people could not read because they did not have the opportunity to go to school. This is especially true in poor Third-World countries. In that sense, we should not think about our own “advantage” when we read good books; we should think of those who cannot read and try to help them by changing this world of inequality.

翁子涵 I'd like to introduce a quotation from Tom Clancy, an American novelist best known for his detailed espionage and military storylines. He says, "The difference between fiction and reality? Fiction has to make sense." People think fiction is the work of wild imagination and is full of unbelievable things, but fiction still has to be reasonable in order to convince its readers. Clancy on the other hand points out that the real world may be far more incredible than fiction. That's because while fiction is created by the limited brains of humans, the real world operates under the influence of multiple and complicated forces. Who can tell what will happen tomorrow? Our lives are not fictional, but unexpected things happen every day! Sometimes I wonder, perhaps we are just living roles in a fiction that does not make any sense.

徐少婕 I picked a quotation by Walt Disney, who is famous for his influence and contribution to the world of entertainment. When Disney was planning for the theme park that later became Disneyland, many people did not believe it would work. Others thought it would be a big failure. One day, after someone expressed serious doubts about his project, Disney simply turned and smiled and gently said, “It’s kind of fun to do the impossible.” I think the statement inspires me a lot because it encourages us to do the impossible and have fun doing it. Well, Disney’s project turned out to be a great success, and now adults and children can all have fun there and live the impossible.

徐郁蕙 Samuel Johnson was an English writer who made lasting contributions to English literature through his compilation of *A Dictionary of the English Language*. He was believed to have said a famous quote: "The true measure of a man is how he treats someone who can do him absolutely no good." I think Johnson was trying to point out that most people are calculating: only when someone can bring them actual profits, would that someone be treated nicely. But are we really as selfish as that? While many may fail the test, Johnson seems to be still hopeful that some men can measure up to the standard of not being so self-centered.

徐資雅 I read a quote from Bill Gates and would like to share it with you. He says, "Success is a lousy teacher. It seduces smart people into thinking they can't lose." This is so true. When people are successful, they start to think they are invincible. Even the smartest people have lost because of this pride that led to carelessness. Yet, if we follow Gates' logic, then that loss would not be such a bad thing either. For failure would make a good teacher by teaching us how to modify our strategy and move on. So, be it success or failure, if we take good advantage of it, it will work to our best benefit either way.

王慶華 John D. Rockefeller was a famous and successful businessman who had a great deal of influence on the oil industry and American industries. He was an aspiring and adventurous person and this famous quote was quite representative of his spirit. He said, "Don't be afraid to give up the good to go for the great." Perhaps a lot of people would be content when they have reached some level of success, and when others tell them they are good. But Rockefeller was not satisfied. Like a gambler, he was willing to throw in the good so as to try for something greater. And in his case, good turned into great, and Rockefeller became one of the richest men in the world. If you are his kind, you should also be brave and explore your potentials.

林詩賢 Johann Wolfgang von Goethe was best known in our world for his novel, *The Sorrows of Young Werther*. It described the life of a sensitive young man as he experienced love and loss. In the end, the young man killed himself. Perhaps the story of such a sensitive soul and its tragedy was too much for its author, so Goethe once said, "Do not give in too much to feelings. An overly sensitive heart is an unhappy possession on this shaky earth." And in his later work, *Faust*, Goethe turned to the rational mind as the way to face the confused era that he was in. For him, maybe the rational mind can help people comprehend life more clearly.

劉婷昀 Mae West was an American actress who dared to be herself. She once said, "I used to be a Snow White. But I drifted." Being a Snow White of course means that she was thought to be innocent and pure, like the fairy tale princess. But

then she said she drifted, which means, like snow, she drifted with the wind, away from innocence and purity. As a sex symbol of her age, she was brave enough to admit to her impurity, and she said it as a matter of fact rather than being full of regret. I think that courage is quite admirable.