



**Best Title Award 1<sup>st</sup> Runner Up**

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**School: St. Francis Xavier's College**

Theme:	<input type="checkbox"/> Social Issues <input type="checkbox"/> Popular Culture <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Inspiring People & Amazing Deeds
Division:	<input type="checkbox"/> S.1 – 3 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> S.4 – 7
Date:	30 May 2008
Title:	<b>The ponderous silence</b>
Picture:	
Caption:	Chopsticks, empty seat, pullover and he are waiting for the calmness returning to the bottom of his heart, which he always covets. But ... who else is he longing for?
Commentary:	<p>A lonely teenager, sitting in the loft upstairs of Mei Do Restaurant in Temple Street, Yau Ma Tei, waits with the accompaniment of bitter and chilling breeze. Who is he waiting for? An adorable friend? A hospitable relative? An attentive parent? Or merely a slice of silence? Maybe what he needs now is only him and also himself.</p> <p>Friends, relatives and parents are significant in building self-esteem of teenagers themselves. But teenagers need time for building castles in the air and searching for their own fantasies and dreams; What will I be in the future? Is there any destiny? Will I be happy when I'm old? May my life be fruitful? Does academy really matter? ...</p> <p>By questioning themselves, they may then reflect their own lives, occasions and problems that they are facing. A ponderous moment of quietude is sometimes a remedy and antidote of teenager's puzzlement. No matter how much support and care do the friends and families provide, youngsters need to be independent and solve many problems on their own when they have reached adulthood, stepping into the complex society. They have to learn these solely.</p>

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Though they may not be able to counter the situation, they can still have a precious chance for thinking and defining their personal value and moral towards their lives independently, which Hong Kong's teenagers lack of, as they have blurred visions of the vale and of the world.

What we can foresee is the society's bright future, if every of the hopes of the society can glow with mature thoughts and strong personal values

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