



Competition Time!

RTL is starting a competition where students write a short story about a given topic, hand it in to the front desk staff of the centre they go to, and the best story will be published in the following month's newsletter. **Try to keep your stories under 250 words!** The topic for next month is My Favourite Place in HK. **An example is written below.**

My Favourite Place in HK

By Cameron MacLeod

Hong Kong is a place with astounding beauty; from the hustle and bustle of the city to the natural beauty of the territory's hills and beaches. For me though, my favourite place is Tai Long Wan in the Sai Kung Country Park.



The first time I ever went to Tai Long Wan was as a young boy interested in surfing. My elder brother led the walk out to the beach (there are no roads there). I remember reaching the peak of the hill and looking out over the most wonderful view – a long stretch of beach with long waves thundering towards the shore and not another person in sight. There was a clear line where the sky met the ocean and even today, I enjoy being able to see such a wide expanse of horizon that is not disturbed by tall buildings.



It's been over fifteen years since that trip out to Tai Long Wan but I still try to get out there twice a month, especially in winter when the waves are better! The place still holds a certain charm that I cannot find in other parts of Hong Kong. Maybe it's how relaxing it is to camp out there on clear, starry nights with a campfire to keep you warm; maybe the friendliness of the inhabitants there or maybe still the thrill of riding waves. Whatever the reason is, I'm sure I'll keep going to Tai Long Wan for a long time to come.

'I'm trying to make children laugh'

By Katie Boucher, from TheNational news paper, Abu Dhabi.

Una Rawlinson is a children's illustrator and author. She has illustrated *Cherry Loving Leila* and *The Camel That Got Away*. Her new book, *Fishcakes and Jelly*, which she wrote and illustrated, will be launched at Atlantis Hotel, Dubai, on Oct 22 and 23. She lives in Dubai.



Una Rawlinson

How did you become a children's illustrator?

It was by fluke. I did a painting of a camel, a saluki and a falcon for my business card and put it in a frame shop within weeks of getting here. The guy that runs the saluki centre in Abu Dhabi found it and rang me up. He took me along to the saluki centre and introduced me to the children's author Julia Johnson.

What was your previous experience as an artist?

I'm self-taught. I wanted to be an artist when I was younger but because I was academic I wasn't allowed. My mum used to manage kindergartens in Hong Kong and when I was studying history of art at university, I used to come back to Hong Kong every holiday and paint murals there. So I've always spent my time painting.

Having illustrated books previously, what made you want to write one as well?

When I'm just illustrating, I'm drawing somebody else's ideas. I enjoy that but I also wanted to have a go at writing my own. I watched my mother (**Elaine Shannon**) create a series of over 100 books, which began with a small English village full of badgers and moles and grew to a whole alien empire.

Where did you get the idea for *Fishcakes and Jelly*?

I was sitting outside Starbucks in Dubai Marina and a whale shark went past, so I started working on a story called Sarah's Sea Adventure. I gave it to a very honest friend, who said it was terrible. I then thought about using my daughter as the main character and started drawing her as a mermaid. Then I couldn't stop. Luckily a friend offered to sponsor it and [the publishers] Jerboa took it on.

Events Calendar 2008

- 1st Oct: National Day - RTL Closed
- 7th Oct: Chung Yeung Festival - RTL Closed
- 8th-9th Oct: Cambridge Preparation Classes
- 14th-15th Oct: Cambridge Preparation Classes
- 19th Oct: Cambridge Young Learners Examination in WSL

The Introduction of Level 13

Level 13 will be introduced to the classrooms this month and the change in format should quickly become apparent to students and parents. The lesson books have a recurring theme that is taught over a period of four books. For example the first four books will be; book 1 studies the topic of charity and language related to it; book 2 studies NGO's and private foundations; book 3 looks at volunteer groups and book 4 is then largely based on written work regarding the previous three books. Other topic areas include women's rights and equality, and our impact on the world.

The new books aim to develop students critical thinking through discussion, text analysis and proofreading exercises whilst also reinforcing core grammar concepts through the writing exercises. Other elements of the books such as reading and comprehension will remain the same.

Our Friendly Staff

Say Hi to our friendly staff whom many of you will be familiar with from our Second Floor, Wing Sing Lane centre.

Mandy Ng (left) has been working at RTL for a little over two years. She enjoys the atmosphere of working here, especially the 'buzz' of working on Saturdays which is an extremely busy day.



Queenie Check has been at RTL for nearly 9 years now! She likes being responsible for the smooth running of the centre on a day-to-day basis and communicating with the students, teachers and parents.

Spotlight on Mr Alan and one of his classes

Mr Alan says teaching this class from 6-7pm is a great way to finish the day as the children are keen and eager to learn and also bring a good level of humour to the class. The class is halfway through Level 3.



Hugo Chan has been coming to RTL since March last year. His favourite animals are cats and he likes doing page 6. in the book so he can improve his writing skills.



Natalie Gusawir has attended RTL for nearly a year and says her favourite animal is her pet rabbit. Natalie enjoys learning the new grammar concepts on page 2.



Alby Chui started coming to RTL earlier this year. He has a pet tortoise who he said is also called Alby. He likes page 1. because he learns new topics and vocabulary which he can relate to his own experiences.



Kody Ma has attended RTL since July 2007. She likes rabbits and said that she would like one. She enjoys the challenge of the assessment page (7.) and takes pride in the scores that she achieves.