

HKTA Tang Hin Memorial Secondary School
2011/2012 Inter-house Reading Competition (S1-S6)

Name: Yu Tsz Chui

Class: 5D

Class No.: 38

House: Blue

Title: The Girls

Author: Lori Lansens

Publisher: Virago

Essay-type English book report

The Girls is written by Lori Lansens. It is a fiction about Rose and Ruby Darlen, which are conjoined craniopagus twins, connecting at the head. They share an essential vein and can never be separated.

With this special situation, Rose and Ruby have never a private talk or solo walk. They are together at any time, but their brains are separated and functioning. They never enjoy a private time. It seems that they are always interdependent. To cope with the inconvenience caused, they have a timetable to allocate their activities. For instance, Rose writes novel at night and Ruby visits the museum in the afternoon.

Rose and Roby are even more different than most of the identical twins. Rose like sports and is bookish while Ruby prefers television and is girlie. They respect each other. It shows that everyone is unique. We have different habits and talents. So, just be yourself. It is not necessary to compare with others.

I do believe that Rose and Ruby are the closest sisters in the whole world, though they sometime argue with the other. I remember once Rose said "I understand that I am me, but that I am also we." She really knows that she cannot only consider her own interests, but also bear the responsibility to take care of her sister. How many sisters or brothers understand this simple but important point? Perhaps their case is a bit extreme, but it is the common point-blood relationship. It is the closest relation in

the world. It is really precious to have this kind of relationship. They are the one who always support you.

Also, I am sure that Rose and Ruby have a deep understanding of the other. I know it when I read between the lines. This book is quite interesting as it is written by two angels (Rose and Ruby). I can experience how they feel differently when facing the same event. It greatly helps me to understand their characters. The comparison between Rose and Ruby is very successful.

Besides, I think Rose and Ruby are lucky that they are adopted by Aunt Lovey and Uncle Stash. Aunt Lovey and Uncle Stash are just like their parents. They treat the twins with love and patience. I greatly appreciate them. With Rose and Ruby's special condition, Aunt Lovey and Uncle Stash have to pay more attention and show more love and care. It is easy for Rose and Ruby to get sick. If they are sick, it takes quite a long time for them to recover. However, Aunt Lovey and Uncle Stash never say that they are tired of looking after the twins. I believe it is the greatest love in the world.

As mentioned above, Rose and Ruby can never be separated. Rose has to bear Ruby's weight because Ruby's thighs astride Rose's hip. Aunt Lovey, who is a nurse, wants more for the twins than just survival. When they are small, Aunt Lovey trains them to get what they want by their own efforts. She places the twins in the middle of a room and they need to get the doll at the corner the room. No one will help them to get the doll and they only can do it by themselves. That makes them realize nobody can help them forever and they must be independent. Although Rose and Ruby are different from the ordinary people, Aunt Lovey and Uncle Stash do not spoil them. Not like nowadays, some helicopter parents always "help" their children whenever there are road blockers. The children can never grow up. They never learn how to cope with the reality.

On the contrary, Rose and Ruby understand that they are so rare. They are used to being stared at by others. In fact, they only consider themselves as "The Girls". Rose once said that "We are challenged, certainly, and uncomfortable, sometimes, but neither Ruby nor I would describe our conjoinment as painful". This positive attitude is very essential. Altitude determines destiny. No matter how long the life journey is, they can still enjoy their fruitful lives. They are so brave and optimistic that I need to learn from them. Seeing how tough they are, I realize that what I am facing is not difficult. They give me bravery to live my life to the fullest.

Undoubtedly, I can gain so much from the twins, Aunt Lovey and Uncle Stash .You really cannot miss this remarkable story! If you miss this great story, you will probably regret it! So, it is your reading time!

(800 words)