

IF I WERE A MILLIONAIRE

If I were a millionaire, then my life would take a dramatic turn from what it is now. I would adopt the lifestyle of the rich and famous.

The first thing that I would do, if I were a millionaire, is to help my parents. My parents are poor and live in a small house. It would be a dream come true if I could buy them a bigger, better and more spacious house. They would also be able to live a life of luxury, as I would be able to hire servants to help my mother with her domestic chores. My father would finally get his well-earned break. He has been selling vegetables in the market all his life and has worked hard. If I become a millionaire, I would ask him to stop working, as he is old and needs to rest. I would not want him to die in harness.

Money is definitely a boon and can be a friend. My life would change too. I would finally be able to afford to buy better clothes and would even be able to afford some designer labels like Gucci or Channel. Furthermore, I would no longer be seen riding my motorcycle, as I would be driving a fancy car. To maintain this image would mean that I would not be able to socialize with some of my friends at the *teh tarik* stall. I would now have to dine at the best clubs in town and rub shoulders with only very special people.

With more money, I would definitely be able to go on holidays and see the rest of the world. I would finally be able to fulfil a long cherished dream of helping the poor. I would be able to donate to charitable organisations, not only in Malaysia but also in other countries.

Being a millionaire definitely means having more fun. It also means having a better life and seeing many of my dreams come true. Wealth and riches may not be a bad thing, as it would definitely make me a better person.

Preventing Truancy

Truancy tops the list of misdemeanours by our students. Almost every day, students are caught playing truant. Although it is not a serious problem, it must be nipped in the bud.

Truancy means being absent from school without a valid reason. Students play truant for a number of reasons. Most of them play truant because of negative peer influence. They follow their friends who skip school. Financial problems can also cause a student to stay away from school and that explains why students who play truant are mainly from the lower income groups. Learning problems is another cause of truancy. Students who find academic subjects difficult or boring would prefer to play truant. Some students who are addicted to drugs or alcohol will frequently be absent. The fear of bullying or harassment may also cause timid students to play truant.

If left unchecked, truancy can lead to juvenile delinquency and numerous other negative outcomes. Youths who play truant have an increased risk of dropping out of school. School

dropouts are more likely to be unemployed as prospective employers are concerned about attendance of their potential employees. Regular school attendance is also important for academic success. If a student often plays truant, he may fail in his examinations. Students who play truant also have low self-esteem and become social misfits.

To curb truancy, initiatives must be taken. Prevention is the key. Early intervention can tackle the problem. Students who often skip classes should be given counselling. Parents should check with teachers and school authorities periodically to monitor students' attendance. Police patrols will deter repeat offenders.

Junk food

Junk food comes in many colours, flavours and types of packaging. Most of it contains very little nutrition.

Some are in the form of drinks and others in the form of food and snacks. The drinks are usually colorful and contain a lot of sugar. These drinks can cause diabetes and hyperactivity. Many school kids are addicted to these drinks and this has become a big problem to our health care system.

Burgers and fries are another form of junk food that has caught on here. They originate from western countries where the lifestyles need fast and convenient food that is usually fried and coated in sauces. These types of food, which include fried chicken and beef usually have high salt content. This paired with sweet colas is a recipe for disaster. They can lead to obesity and heart disease.

Other forms of junk food are preserved fruits. They usually come from China and are known to contain preservatives, artificial colouring and lots of salt or sugar. These preserved snacks are linked to allergies and cancer. Some food colouring can cause asthma. Almost all junk food is linked to obesity as it is high in carbohydrate.

When we mention junk food, the doughnut is one famous example. They are usually coated, glazed and covered in chocolate, sugar and all sorts of unhealthy colourful toppings. They are not cheap either. So it is an expensive way to diabetes and obesity. Another worrying example of junk food that is widely available is candy. Candies of all colours and shapes, flavours and wrappings are found almost everywhere. They are usually cheap and sold in places where there are children and schools. These candies are found to contain banned substances such as flavouring and colouring. Most are made from sugar and starch. Some have been banned by the Ministry of Health.

In conclusion, we must educate the public of this huge threat to our health. The younger generation must be informed of the danger and laws must be formulated to lessen the damage it causes.

My most unforgettable character

According to the doctors, my grandfather had only one or two years of life left in him but he fought back against one of the world's worst diseases. Eventually, after seven years, he did succumb to cancer.

I was only ten when he passed away but even now, I admire my grandfather for his courage and his will to survive. I knew his determination to succeed started when he himself was ten years old. It was then that his father who had emigrated to Malaysia many years before died, leaving behind his wife and many small children.

As the eldest child of the family, my grandfather assumed the role of head of the household. He worked very hard in an estate many miles from home to support the family. Since he could not afford any form of transport, my grandfather was forced to walk all the way there each day. By the time he reached home, his feet were full of blisters but he never complained.

Instead he reared cows at home to supplement the meagre income he got from tapping rubber. He knew success came from hard work and he was a conscientious worker, eager to make the best of the situation.

My grandfather married at an early age and had six children. He used to cycle ten miles to the estate where he toiled diligently. As the years passed by, he saved up enough money and made many intelligent investments. He soon became the owner of several estates. Once he found me crying. I had done badly in a test and thought myself a failure but he advised me to persevere and told me a story that changed my life.

During the Japanese Occupation, the Japanese had confiscated his only means of transport, his trusty bicycle. My grandfather was without his bicycle, he would not be able to go to his estate easily. However, he still continued the long journey on foot.

This story still sticks in my mind. Every time I want to give up, I think of the odds against him as he was growing up, and then I decide to persevere instead and make sure that I finally succeed.

Although my grandfather was not highly educated, he knew the importance of education, so he insisted on sending his children for higher education. Many people thought him mad when he insisted that his daughters too should be educated. At that time, it was unusual for Punjabi girls to get a university degree, but my grandfather ignored all the usual trends. He made sure that my mother and her sisters had the privilege of tertiary education.

My grandfather wanted his eldest son to be the first doctor from Kuala Krian and sure enough, my uncle was. Needless to say, his siblings, including his sister, my mother, have all succeeded in life too.

Honesty

According to the Cambridge dictionary, honesty is the quality of being truthful or being able to be trusted or the quality of not being able to steal, cheat or lie.

So, you can see what a good quality it is and how important it is for one to possess this quality.

Honesty requires one to be truthful. So it is a good quality for friends to have. Friends must be truthful to one another so that there is mutual trust. Friends must not cheat or betray one another. So-called friends who cheat or betray us are not really friends but are actually enemies in disguise.

Honesty must also be present in a marriage or the relationship will not last. Marriage partners must not cheat and have affairs with others. They must remain faithful to the one they have vowed to love in health or in sickness and during good times or bad. An honest couple have to stick through thick or thin, through heaven or through hell.

A child must also have honesty. He must be honest to his parents so that his parents will have complete trust in him. He must not do undesirable things that hurt his parents. He must act in ways that make them happy such as concentrating on his study and avoiding bad company. Honesty is also important in an employee. An employee must carry out his work honestly so that both his employer and he, himself, will prosper. Dishonesty at work such as not doing one's share of work properly or stealing employers' goods will harm both the firm he is working for and he, himself. Eventually the firm will have to close down and the employee lose his job.

Honesty is also important in a politician although many people think that politicians are never honest. Voters can see through a politician's falsehood and not vote for him. An honest politician stands out as a shining beacon towards whom the voters are attracted. Although many people believe that no politicians are honest, there are honest ones. And these are the ones that are elected. An honest politician is important because when he is elected and governs the country, he will not mislead, cheat or betray the people who have elected him. He will not act in his own interest but will act in the interest of the whole nation. Dishonest politicians are the cause of most of the world's troubles today.

From the foregoing, we can see how important honesty is in our lives, whatever we may be.

Sports should be made compulsory for students. Do you agree?

Introduction:

Yes, I agree - students should participate in sports - promotes a healthy lifestyle - instill some good values

Main Body:

- (1) some students naturally shy and not confident - have not discovered own talents - these talents can be developed
- (2) it encourages cultivation of good behaviour and values - discipline - students learn to play by the rules - go training on time - students would know how to play fair - accept a loss with grace - team work - they learn how to cooperate - useful qualities for the future
- (3) ensure students, time is well spent - it's a good way to fill up student's time - one of the solutions to the problem of social ills among youths - example; loafing & playing video games, visiting night clubs - this helps to monitor student's activities - if they have nothing to do - might participate in unhealthy activities

Conclusion:

Sports is important - help to develop a well-rounded individual - healthy body promotes a healthy mind

Sales

Introduction:

Sales - goods at reduced prices – a common practice worldwide - to encourage - shopping - women, especially, love sales - always on the lookout for sales

Main Body:

- (1) in Malaysia - mega sales - three times a year - March/April, August/ September, November / December - whole of Malaysia - during sales - shopping complexes are packed - with women, men and children - usually women shop, men accompany them and watch over children
- (2) excited buyers - looking for best buys - rummaging through items – inspect goods - try on clothes - some women - get opinion from husband, boyfriend, mother, or sister - crowded changing rooms - long queues - changing rooms and also cashier counters
- (3) in Malaysia - discounts range from ten to seventy percent - new arrivals - usually no discount - prices usually not rock bottom - in some countries - like Australia and the United States - great bargains - example - one-cent sale - toothpaste, soap, handkerchief, etc.

Conclusion:

generally speaking - sales - make goods more affordable - life more thrilling - is a time of family outing for some - time for leisure for others

'Pets help make life more meaningful'. How far do you agree with this statement?

Introduction:

most common animals - kept as pets cats, dogs, rabbits etc.

Main Body:

(Advantages)

- (1) excellent way to spend one's leisure time: never lonely - companion - eg. playing, training - helps keep owner and pet fit and healthy
- (2) opportunity to get to know the animals - habits - temperament - instinct
- (3) acquire discipline and responsibility - training pets - feeding, grooming etc - involves hard work and dedication - never give up on them

(Disadvantages)

- (1) can be expensive - food, visits to vet - inoculation - licence etc.
- (2) time consuming - may neglect other chores - responsibilities

Conclusion:

pets help people to fill a void in their lives - a dog is a man's best friend

Co education develops healthy relationships among boys and girls. What is your opinion?

Introduction:

school life important for everyone - make new friends - gain new experience - interact with different people - religion, race and gender

Main body:

- (1) in society members of the opposite sex - live and work together - no separate world for men and women - men and women are different - attending same school - put one at the ease with the opposite sex - easier to interact - usually shy with different gender - from young exposed to this environment - can cope in other environment
- (2) it's a learning experience - boys - and girls do not think alike - exchange of ideas - have healthy discussions on various issues - build friendships - have a better understanding of the opposite gender - future purposes - in the work place - in marriage

Conclusion:

two genders - being friends - not immoral - it's an education - aids in forging healthy relationships among men and women - better understanding - one can have meaningful and lasting relationships

Write a story highlighting the moral value of cooperation.

Introduction:

once - a village - poor - one day - heavy rains - seven days and seven nights -flooded - villagers fled - higher land - slept in jungle

Main Body:

- (1) could not move back - village had become a lake - had to build new homes - rear animals - plant food
- (2) Si Buang - disagreed - impossible to clear land - why not build small sheds - fish in river - hunt for small animals - refused to cooperate - Mamat said - if all helped - possible - Si Buang with some others - still refused
- (3) Mamat and rest of villagers - started to clear the jungle - built small huts -women reared chickens - planted vegetables and fruit trees - very difficult - worked day and night
- (4) One year later - villagers - realised jungle almost cleared - many huts built — trees fruiting - joyful - with cooperation - a big task became small - not only that - fostered close friendship

Conclusion:

Si Buang - and friends - regretted not helping - still live in a corner of the jungle - with little food to eat

School days are the happiest days in one's life. Do you agree?

Introduction:

school days - most memorable – happiest days - not much responsibilities - surrounded by friends

Main Body:

- (1) enjoy life - friends are always there -a lot of clubs - to join - take part in activities - for example Interact Club, Caring Society and English Language Society - interesting - as can enrich oneself - make new friends - only responsibility is to study
- (2) have more time - long holidays - a time to learn new things not only in school - can take part-time courses -indulge in various activities - like reading, watching movies, playing games
- (3) no work pressure - bosses - no financial worries - supported by family - carefree days - adulthood - a new set of responsibilities - time taken up by work

Conclusion:

school days are the happiest - you are young - not burdened by looking for jobs and supporting oneself - more time to spend with friends and family

Inter-racial marriages

Introduction:

inter-racial marriages - marriage between two people of different races - some are for it - some against it

Main Body:

- (1) some think - healthy - promote racial harmony and unity - understanding - overcome racial barriers - especially in Malaysia - promote racial tolerance - builds a new healthy nation of the Malaysian race and culture - not Malay, Chinese or Indian
- (2) in many mix marriages - still free to follow one's own customs and culture - celebrate spouse's cultural festivals as well - no loss of rich culture and identity - in fact - strengthen it - diversified culture within marriage - joyous and merrier
- (3) however - certain sectors of the society - do not see mix marriages as beneficial - fear of loss of identity - one's rich culture - may be diluted or made impure - difficulty in accepting other practices - however - it is good - help foster stronger ties

Conclusion:

inter-racial marriages - how healthy it is dependant on one's openness - it can unite - break down a marriage - but ideal - race no longer remains an issue - especially in a plural society like Malaysia

The last day of school

Introduction:

the atmosphere - different - everyone - festive mood - class parties and games - but fifth formers were sad - would not be returning

Main Body:

- (1) each class held class parties with (their respective class teachers - speeches were made - teachers advised us to continue working hard - wished best of luck - I was moved - will miss my friends and teachers - played some music - each of us brought something to eat
- (2) after eating - played some games - like charades and musical chairs - had fun - class teacher surprised us - giving all of us a small memento
- (3) towards the end of the party - sat down talked - reminisced about old times - exchanged addresses, telephone numbers and e-mails - promised to keep in touch

Conclusion:

the bell rang - all fifth formers lined up - said goodbye - the teachers and friends - hugged them - some were crying - I walked out - took one last look at the school

My favourite teacher

Watching Mr Lim get into his car is educational; and watching him get out of it is even more so. Mr Lim, the teacher of Secondary 1, weighs more than a 100 kg and his car is an old mini.

At first sight one would think that it would be impossible for him to get in; but he does so with amazing agility and grace. No sooner does he get out of the car when we see a flock of school children running to greet him as if he were a film star. He will then make his entry into his classroom like a VIP on a visit.

As he walks he answers the various questions thrown at him from his young companions. Most of them are students from his present class, but some are his old students. They just happened to be around when Mr Lim arrived and they could not resist running to him.

Mr Lim is the oldest teacher in the school and has been teaching there since its founding in 1955. He has been teaching Secondary 1 for all these years and has taught thousands of students. Among the students he has taught are several top civil servants, two army generals, two cabinet ministers and our school principal. In spite of all his achievements, what makes Mr Lim my favourite teacher, and the favourite teacher to many others too, is the fact that he really cares. He cares about all of us equally. He does more than just teach us.

He knows all his students and ex-students by name and delves into all our personal lives. He can tell with a look that we are unhappy about something. He will then take us aside and talk. He will get to the root of the problem, even seeing the principal or our parents if need be. He will not stop until the problem, whatever it is, is solved and he does it in all sincerity — without expecting anything in return. Is there any wonder then that we all love him?