

## **A Mysterious Adventure**

**(by Cheng Sze Chit F.2D)**

One Saturday evening, I decided to have an adventure. I gathered some information and found a mansion. I invited my friend to go with me, but he was scared, so I went there myself. The mansion was very cheap. There were two reasons for this. One reason was that it was a bit far away from the city. Another reason was that there was a scary story about the house, so everyone tried to avoid it. Yet, because of the story, I wanted to find out what was happening inside the house.

The landlord and I arrived at the mansion. The building looked old, but the garden looked great. The grass was not too long, and the plants were growing strong. Maybe a little house cleaning would help. I wondered why people thought this mansion was scary. It looked majestic!

I could feel the wind blowing softly. It was comfortable. I thought I might want to live here for the beautiful and comfortable environment. The grass was soft and blunt. If you stayed quiet, you could hear the wind, grass, birds and whatever animals you could imagine, something you would not be able to hear in the city.

The landlord said he had better stay outside as he wouldn't want to get into trouble. He also said he would pray for me. I then went into the garden alone and walked around the house to take a look at the inside of the house. It didn't look scary at all, so I decided to go in to have a closer look.

‘Okay, well ... Be careful. Of those who entered this mansion, some of them never came out, and some did come out, but their faces looked terribly shocked. Some even turned crazy and started attacking others for no reason!

That is why the mansion has never been sold out, even at this low price!’  
The landlord remarked.

It was quite pretty on the inside as if someone was constantly cleaning the house! It was so tidy, as if someone had made the bed. Suddenly, I heard a voice asking me to leave. ‘Leave quickly! Leave quickly!’

Stuff in the house, like the sofa and table, started to move. Lights unscrewed and screwed by themselves. Windows were opening and closing by themselves, but there was no wind. After that, a shadow or, more probably, a ghost showed up! I tried to catch it. Unfortunately, I couldn’t. I realized that the ghost was actually psychic! That was why a physical attack couldn’t do any damage to him.

‘Leave now!’ The ghost shouted with his eye glowing with white light. The furniture started to shake. I quickly ran towards the door. All of a sudden, an idea struck me, and I stopped. I got back to the living room. The ghost showed up again and said, ‘Leave, or I’ll attack you!’

‘Go ahead,’ I replied with a confident look on my face. The ghost seemed to be shocked, so I continued, ‘I know you can’t touch me or attack me because you are psychic.’

The ghost became worried and, eventually, mad. He rushed towards me and said, ‘Then, I’ll possess you!’

A flashlight flickered, and the ghost disappeared. A man stood in the hallway with a bottle in his hand. I was sure I had seen him before. He was the scientist that was announced dead recently on TV news.

He walked closer and explained, 'You're a lucky man. Yes, I'm Dr. Comet. You are safe now. I'm glad I came here on time. The ghost was a Chamberlain originally.'

'No wonder why this house is well-cleaned,' I thought.

A big scream disrupted my thoughts. 'Uh oh! I must go!' Dr Comet screamed in panic.

A flashlight flickered, and he was gone. I walked around the house and decided to buy the house. I went back outside, and the landlord seemed surprised and told me I was the only one who came out without being hurt. So I bought the house at a cheap price and held a party there at night.

It was weird. Till now, I still could not find the answer. Was Dr. Comet really dead? How and why was the ghost there? I had no clue. After some months, I saw the news on TV. Dr Comet showed up and said that he had just got lost on an island! Then he started showcasing his new invention. It was a machine that could transfer a spirit from a body to a manmade body. I wondered, did he just get lost on an island? I know there was more to it. But I finally got something.

## **The True Story of *Sleeping Beauty*** **(by Chu Wing Him F.3D)**

Hi, there! I'm Maleficent. I'm sure that you have known me since childhood. I'm also sure that you hate me because of *Sleeping Beauty*. Everyone thinks I'm an evil witch, but I'm not. What you have heard about me is not the truth. I was a kind witch who loved Aurora very much. The three cunning fairies framed me, and unfortunately, everyone hates me now. Now I'm going to explain myself and tell you the truth. Here's the story.

At Aurora's Christening, I wasn't invited, but I still wanted to bless her. The three fairies poisoned my magic potion, so my blessing became a curse! Instead of living happily ever after, Aurora would prick her finger on the spindle of a spinning wheel and fall into a sleep-like death when she turned sixteen unless a true love's kiss woke her up. The King and the Queen were so furious that they banned me from entering the kingdom.

I knew what the three fairies wanted. They were spies from a neighbouring kingdom. Their plan was to ask their Prince Philip to wake Aurora with a kiss in order to gain the King's trust, eventually annexing the kingdom!

Knowing their plan, I tried my best to protect the kingdom. Sixteen years later, the three fairies held a party for Aurora's birthday. I knew they'd invited Prince Philip to the party to make Aurora fall in love with him. Unfortunately, the innocent princess did so.

As you know, I appeared and lured Aurora out of the party room at that

time, but the three fairies knew that and found us immediately. The three fairies made Aurora prick her finger on a spinning wheel's spindle, fulfilling the curse.

The three fairies placed the now-sleeping Aurora on a bed in the highest tower. They signalled Prince Philip to go up and kiss her.

To prevent Prince Philip from kissing Aurora, I summoned a forest of thorns to surround the castle, but the evil prince managed to get rid of the thorns and stabbed me, and I lost all my magic.

The story ended with the two of them getting married. Sadly, the kingdom fell into the hands of Prince Philip, and no one even realised it was a conspiracy! They started to rule the kingdom, telling everyone I was the evil witch and making everyone hate me. Now that you've heard of my side of the story, please tell everyone I'm innocent!

# **Probing Into The Highly Addictive Nature Of Mobile Games**

## **(by Yuan Shu Hui F.5A)**

With the advancement of technology, people of all ages jump into the bandwagon of having the latest model of mobile phones. This gives rise to the phenomenon of phubbing, a unique feature of the human species. A coined word “phubber”, which is a combination of the words “phone” and “snub”, is therefore widely used to describe those who are too focused on the phone that they turn a deaf ear and a blind eye to the surrounding environment. It is sure that you have witnessed the phubbers everywhere, or maybe you are one of those phubbers. The major reason for people turning into phubbers is that mobile games are highly addictive.

There are several reasons behind the addictive nature of mobile games. The first reason is related to the design of mobile games. Mobile games are designed exquisitely. Do you remember the game “Pokémon Go” that hit everywhere around the world a few years ago? How can people not appreciate its design? Those Pokémons are adorable, aren't they? The technology can support players to go everywhere to catch those Pokémons. Also, players can open the augmented reality camera to see Pokémon in real life. It is hard to refuse to be a phubber with this fascinating game. Phubbers are yelling, ‘Uhh, the Pokémon is fleeing’ everywhere. Is this not persuasive evidence to prove mobile games are addictive? If you are not into this game, there are still different types of games found at the game store on your phone, such as RPGs, first-person shooters and simulation games. Some games even have picturesque scenery that is rarely found in real life! When you are playing these beautiful games, you will be immersed in the amazing content.

Another reason for the attractiveness of mobile games is that they can satisfy your desire which you cannot do so in real life. Playing mobile games can help you escape from the cruel reality. Mobile game settings can create a VR utopia. For example, if you are deep into history, you can play games which allow you to travel back to the 18<sup>th</sup> century, which is a priceless trip. All you have to do is download the mobile game and set off for your journey, which is definitely both time and money-saving. Better still, you can change the destination and period according to your preference with just a click. Sometimes, you will find that life is too hard to get all that you want, such as a stable friendship, a nice relationship, an exotic expenditure and a luxurious lifestyle. Mobile games must be a shortcut to attain these goals. To have a stable friendship, you can “pick” or even “customise” a friend that completely fits your dream style. You do not need to worry about this 2D friend ‘betraying’ you. To have a nice relationship, you just need to trigger the dialogue with another 2D friend whom you may want to fall in love with and choose your preferred options, such as their physical style and personality, for a further date. If you fail to sustain your relationship, don’t worry; you can retry at any time as long as there is a network connection. Pathetically, you can face a lot of ups and downs in maintaining a relationship in real life.

Playing mobile games provides temporary spiritual support for those who are surviving soullessly in real life. Some reckon that life is tough, experiencing hardships and facing distressful situations: having conflicts with your trusted ones, dealing with undesirable changes, suffering from illnesses and getting through moments of life and death. Mobile games will be the best pills to defeat unhappiness. Non-gamers may say it is completely meaningless that you are actually spending time grabbing nothing tangible in your hand. I’ll say it can be meaningful to get hold of nothing in my hand, but an emotional support. You just need to be accompanied, to be comforted

and to put aside the problem which is unresolved temporarily. Mobile games cannot find a way out for you but make you feel better. At the moment, you are immersed in the virtual world, and your role is only a virtual player. Just focus on the virtual environment; forget that sad news from your real life at the moment. You can acquire a sense of accomplishment by proceeding stage by stage after conquering the virtual setbacks. Isn't this a great tool to heal your soul? How can you resist such temptation? Why do you still mind being called a game addict?

However, the benefits of playing mobile games should not be overwhelmingly upheld. Game addiction can be devastating and invasive to your normal life. Playing mobile games can be considered as seasoning your life, not dominating it. To avoid being addicted to mobile games, we can take some measures. Set a game access time limit and network disconnection system, which is a reminder for you to detach from the screen. Try other realistic, light-hearted ways to relieve pressure, like walking your dog and running errands.

To conclude, playing mobile games can be irresistible. A good balance between this obsession and real-life pursuit has to be obtained. Without controlling your time spent on this virtual activity, you will find yourself taking a harmful drug, not noticing its adverse addictive nature. Mobile games can be a healer and a killer. You need to prevent yourself from becoming one of the soulless phubbers but a mobile game aficionado with a good purpose.



## **A Mysterious Encounter**

**(by Ng Hon Kei F.6A)**

On 24<sup>th</sup> December, I was sent to investigate a research station in the Arctic after staff began to disappear mysteriously one by one.

I took the helicopter, which brought me to the entrance of the station. Standing on the cold ground in front of the station, I scrutinised the vicinity. I was dumbfounded as I found a bag, unzipped, with a bloodstain on it.

I took out everything from the bag. There were gadgets, papers and personal items, including an identity card that belonged to one of the workers. Written on the paper were different strings of numbers. I assumed they were passwords to the computers and software inside the station. I put those items into my bag.

Just outside the station, I typed the same password outside the door that had been given to me prior to the investigation. The door didn't open. There wasn't any response from the station either. I tried giving the door a slight push. The door fell backwards. Inside was a completely dark alley.

"Beep!" I jumped as I heard a sound coming from inside the building. I took out my flashlight, pointed at it inside, and turned it on. I took a few steps forward, slowly and warily, while checking around in case I discovered anything abnormal.

"Beep!" The same beep went into my ears again. I pinpointed the source of it. It was from Room 123. I entered the room. To my surprise, there were blood and flesh everywhere. A cold shiver went down my spine.

Suddenly, I felt a weight on my shoulder. ‘Hey, who are you?’ I turned around. Nobody was there!

I had to make a run for it! I went out of the room. Was it left or right from where I came from? I thought to myself. I decided to go right, hurrying along the corridor. It wasn’t the exit at the end that I saw, but rather a stair to the second floor. While contemplating whether I should detour or go upstairs, I heard footsteps approaching. Without a second thought, I rushed upstairs. What came in sight was a myriad of test subjects. Mutated animals, organs, cyborgs ... pretty much anything bizarre and sci-fi that anyone can conceive. I hid behind a gigantic cyborg and turned off my flashlight.

The footsteps had finally caught up. It walked around, searching for something, or perhaps it was searching for me. What surprised me was that it didn’t rely on any source of light. It was as if it had night vision or perfect hearing. “Dap, dap, dap,” the footsteps were now right in front of me.

‘What monstrous strength!’ I thought as it pushed the cyborg aside. I saw it up close, flashing a light on it using my flashlight. It looked like a worker here.

‘Greetings,’ said the man.