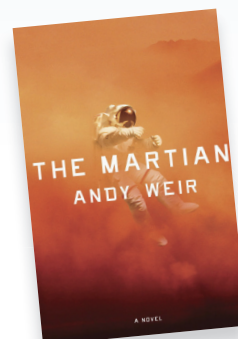
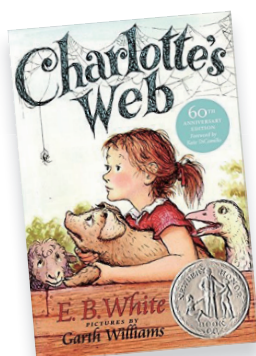
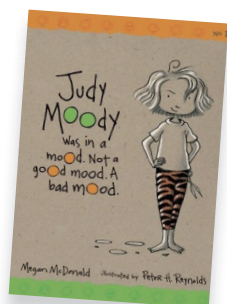


ISSUE 12  
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第十二期  
智學通訊 11 月刊



from

BOOK

to

BOOK



Message from Ms. Pun  
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# Message from Ms. Pun

## 潘老師寄語



**2016**-17 has been a busy year for all of us at i-Learner. A new section of our centre has been opened on the 8th floor of Ritz Plaza. i-Learner at 8A focuses on senior levels of English, with a specific eye to IB, IGCSE and DSE exams. With the opening of our new course, Applied Critical Thinking, we aim to equip our students with the skills they need on the path to top universities such as the Universities of Cambridge, Oxford and Hong Kong.

We have also seen a continued surge in the number of students taking our courses to prepare for academic success, but we are proud that students are also still having fun with our tutors. Seeing students, parents and teachers talking happily around the centre, I am delighted to see the dedication and enthusiasm shown by everyone here at i-Learner.

2016-17 has also seen the coming of three important school consultancy projects in Macao, with our tutors joining hands with school teachers there to build up their school curricula and enhance their teaching effectiveness. While the year is no doubt going to be a busy one for the tutors involved, the project is already proving extremely rewarding for the team.

Finally, with Ms. Willow returning from her writing leave after finishing her novel, we will wish Mr. Adam well as he pursues his dream of studying languages and leaves us for three months. I am sure we will be surprised to see what he has learnt when he returns in March!

With such a strong start to the year, we are excited to see all at i-Learner, parents, and most importantly students, continue to make excellent progress in all their pursuits, whatever they may be! Here is to a fantastic year ahead!

**2016**至17學年對 i-Learner 全體來說都充實忙碌。中心拓展至麗斯中心 8A，開設高年級英文課程，主要是 IB、IGCSE 和 DSE 課程。中心亦會增設 Applied Critical Thinking 新課程，旨在指導學生提升思維技巧，為進入劍橋大學、牛津大學、香港大學等頂級學府深造而作好準備。

報讀 i-Learner 的學生人數持續迅速增長，同學們在努力追求學業上的進步的同時，課堂上亦充滿歡聲笑語。學生、家長和老師在堂上堂下愉快地交流，中心裏的每個人都展現出了積極投入的面貌。

2016 至 17 學年，我們也迎來了三個重要的澳門學校諮詢項目，i-Learner 的老師協助學校老師構建課程，提升教學果效。負責此項目的老師們付出了極大的努力，也從中獲益良多。

Willow 老師已經完成她的小說，回到了 i-Learner 的教學隊伍中；同時，Adam 老師將會離開我們三個月，去實現他學習語言的夢想。士別三日當刮目相看，讓我們共同期待他三月回來時滿滿的收穫吧！

新學年開了一個好頭，希望學生、家長和 i-Learner 都百尺竿頭，再接再厲，繼續追求自己的夢想。祝大家在新的學年中蒸蒸日上！



## Teachers' and Students' Book Reviews

# Find out what both i-Learner's teachers and our student Book Lover of the Term like to read...



Mr. MacDonald



### The Martian, by Andy Weir

"After a series of unfortunate events, one astronaut, Mark Watney is stranded from his crew, left alone on Mars with nothing but a couple of robotic rovers and rocks for company.

At the heart of this story is the struggle of one man against adversity. Watney needs to improvise solutions again and again. He must learn to cope with the isolation of being millions of miles from his family and every other human being who has ever lived. Reading this book puts you in his space suit and begs the question "How would you get yourself home?"

This is a story about heroic survival, and at the end of the day I think we all want to believe we could be heroes. Plus, it's about space and who isn't a little excited about that?! I'd recommend it to students between the ages of 10 – 14 or older who enjoy stories about personal battles and overcoming difficult situations."



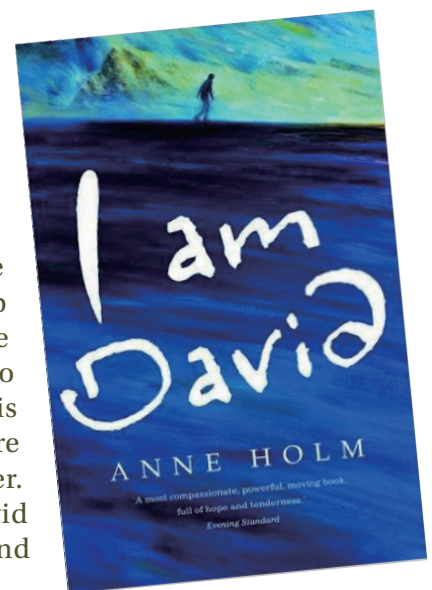
Ms. Alison



### I am David

"After World War II, many people in Eastern Europe who disagree with the new governments have been sent to concentration camps. With the help of a commandant, David, who has spent his entire twelve-year life in the camp, seizes the chance to escape. He struggles to cope in a world which is new to him, meeting good and bad people who are destined to influence his life one way or another. Fortunately, being brave and perseverant, David eventually succeeds in searching for freedom and reuniting with his mother.

This heartwarming story will restore any faith you have ever lost in humanity or society, while reminding you that, although trust can be painful, it is also rewarding."







### 《受戒》汪曾祺

「明海出家已經四年了。」汪曾祺的文字總是如此質樸無華，卻恰到好處地抓住讀者的心。師從沈從文，汪曾祺的文章也彷彿在話家常，娓娓道來。明海在前往葦蓆庵當小和尚的途中遇見了英子，英子把半個蓮蓬分給了他，這段單純的友誼就此開始。和尚的生活——念佛、殺豬、打牌、受戒，明海與英子的交往，沒有成熟世故，故事充滿了清新淳樸。



屠老師

都市中的人們雖不能過著如此閒適自由的鄉間生活，倒也可以借讀《受戒》的機會窺一斑而知全豹。



### Things Fall Apart, by Chinua Achebe

“Things Fall Apart, by Nigerian author Chinua Achebe, is a well-known example of a novel about colonialism, and this was the reason that initially attracted me, since I had read very little on this subject before. Through the story’s plot of an Igbo village that comes into reluctant contact with missionaries and colonialists, Things Fall Apart addresses the changes that happen in the characters’ community.

What I like most about this book is that, although it is told as a story, it is deeply rooted in reality, and therefore is a thought-provoking read. It was an interesting insight into how colonialism was received in Africa through history, but also how this legacy is still real today.

I would recommend this book to secondary-level students, especially those who study No Longer at Ease (the sequel of Things Fall Apart) for iGCSE Literature at iLearner.”



Mr. James

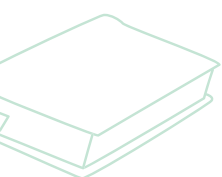
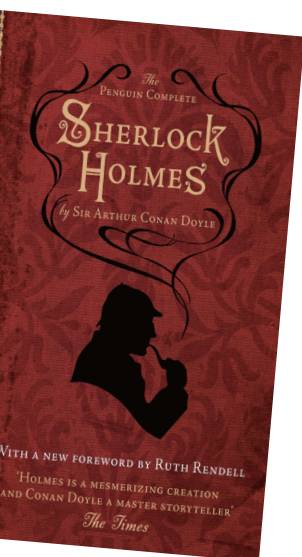


### The Sherlock Holmes series, by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

“Hi, my name is Yip Yi Lam and I'd die for a book. Of the thousands of books I must have read, my favourite series is the famous Sherlock Holmes books. Of the four novels and five volumes of the series, I've read and loved most of them. Reading the novels is just like actually going on an adventure, and solving crimes with the well-known detective and his assistant Dr. John Watson. It never fails to fill my bloodstream with adrenaline and excitement. Another reason I love this series is because after reading through the novels, I've found myself thinking a lot more logically. I'm no longer that girl who believes everything she's told.

Further, reading the series has also introduced me to thriller, action, and mystery books, and also further increased my interest in chemistry.

I strongly recommend this series as it suits anyone with a curious mind and it really encourages the gears in our brains to start turning. You will find that you are able to apply the logical reasoning from the books to your own lives!”



Yip Yi Lam

WINNER OF BOOK  
LOVER OF THE TERM

Ms. Willow's Writing Sabbatical

## Welcoming Back Ms. Willow !

**M**s. Willow recently took a writing sabbatical, where she completed the first drafts of two novels. We have invited Ms. Willow to talk with us about her time away.

I consider myself very lucky to be a teacher in an Education Centre which places such a strong emphasis on reading and writing. This enables me to spend my day sharing my love of books with students who are always eager to know more. I can do this in the confidence that nothing will improve a child's success at school as much or as quickly as increasing the amount that they read. I definitely credit my academic success with an early and eagerly encouraged love of books.

Not only was I a keen reader as a child, but I was also enthusiastic to write stories of my own. As an adult, I write daily, and I'm a member of a number of writing groups in Hong Kong, which have helped me to improve my work while I've been here. At the end of last year though, I decided to take a break from Hong Kong for a few months in order to give myself a chance to focus on my writing with a more professional type of drive.



My trip took me through remote villages in Italy, and up along the coast of Croatia. Both of these places offered me incredible inspiration, and also the time and focus needed in order to write the first drafts of two novels. The second of those novels is one which I have been struggling for a few years trying to write, and so it has felt very satisfying to finally be able to complete it.

Since returning, many of my students have asked me about my trip, and it has been a wonderful experience to tell them about. I can recall teachers of my own when I was young who did similar projects, such as writing plays for the school to perform, or trekking across Nepal. When those teachers spoke afterwards about the ambition and drive of what they had done, it made me raise the level of my own aspirations, and to set even higher goals for myself in life.



I hope that there are some students here at i-Learner who have heard about my sabbatical and have been inspired to look at their own dreams and try to work out how to make them come true.

For anyone whose dream happens to be the same as mine, and they want to write a book, the best tip is to do a little bit every day. Writing really is one of those things which can be improved by practice. Read as much as you can, and write every day...and enjoy it!



# Talking with Dr Katherine Chen



Dr Katherine Chen,  
School of English,  
University of Hong Kong



My favourite book is Alice in Wonderland. It is a book that I would recommend to both children and university students. I am quite sure children will be charmed by the fantasy world that Alice discovers when she falls

down the rabbit hole, as the story is full of fun and surprises. Children will love the characters like the mouse, Bill the Lizard, and the caterpillar that Alice meets during her journey. Children learn to play with language as they see Alice making up her own words: 'Curiouser, curiouser!' I am sure you can work out that she wants to say 'more curious, more curious!'

I love the book so much that sometimes I even

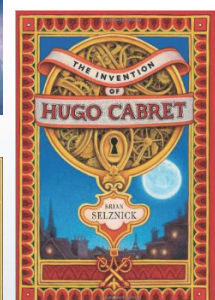
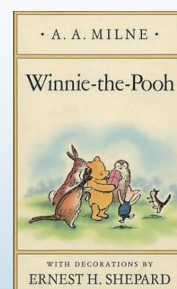
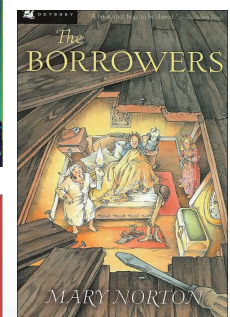
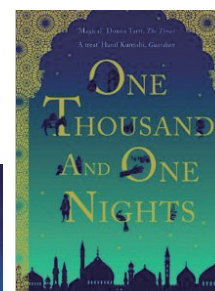
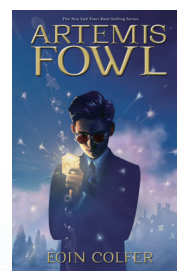
use the book to teach my students at university about word meaning in context and they love it too. It's a book full of wisdom and it plays around with language to create different effects. It demonstrates the power of words by using the strange and fun journey that Alice is going through. Take a look at the following quotation from the book:

"Take some more tea," the March Hare said to Alice, very earnestly. "I've had nothing yet," Alice replied in an offended tone, "so I can't take more." "You mean you can't take less," said the Hatter. "It's very easy to take more than nothing." "Nobody asked your opinion," said Alice.

Alice in Wonderland is an enjoyable read! It is a book which shows "imagination is the only weapon in the war against reality," as said by the Cheshire Cat.

## Updating the i-Learner library

In line with our term theme of From Book to Book, i-Learner teachers have compiled a list of their favourite reads and we will be refreshing our bookshelves with these new titles over the next few weeks. Be sure to talk to your teacher and ask them what they added to the library! Books are available for purchase at i-Learner Education Centre.





# i-Learner 8A

We are pleased to announce the opening of i-Learner 8A, our dedicated studio for students in the final few years of school which prepares young adults for university and the world beyond. With the opening of i-Learner 8A, we would also like to share with you our Applied Critical Thinking course, for S3 and above students who are aiming to apply to the world's top universities.



## New course launch Applied Critical Thinking

Join our Oxbridge teaching team as your child begins thinking about their future beyond i-Learner. Our Applied Critical Thinking course will challenge and develop students in preparation for top universities and exceptional careers.

Students will learn how laws are defended, how doctors weigh up ethical decisions and how to answer seemingly-impossible university application questions.

- A more focused environment for older students
- A place for intelligent discussions and inspirational work
- Perfect for our specialist courses for GCSE, HKDSE, IB and University Admission Training

## Meet the teaching team

Miss  
Willow



Graduated from the University of Cambridge with a degree in Natural Sciences. Also has a masters degree in Creative Writing.

Mr  
James



Graduated from the University of Oxford with a degree in Chinese Studies.

Mr  
Adam



Graduated from the University of Cambridge with a first class honors degree in Linguistics and Modern Greek.

Miss  
Lydia



Graduated from the University of Cambridge with an honors degree in Classics and History and Philosophy of Science.

# Reading at i-Learner

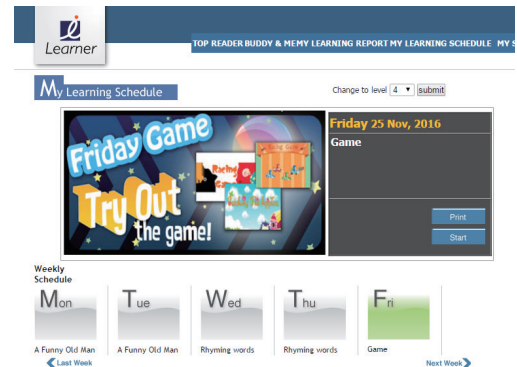


Find out more

At i-Learner, our teachers are passionate about reading, and enjoy sharing this love with students. Sometimes one book can light the spark, and sometimes a little more exploring is required. For any budding bookworm, i-Learner is an excellent place to begin your journey into the world of books!

## Online Reading Platform

- Strengthen main language skills
- Simple to use
- iPad and tablet friendly
- Fun games
- Rapid improvement
- Join Bugbug and his friends on our online reading platform
- Complete daily reading tasks to accumulate coins and customise your own space
- Native speaker text recordings
- Questions that test and challenge
- 14 levels



Complete daily reading tasks to accumulate coins and customise your own space!



200,000  
students



2,500  
questions



400  
schools



52  
language  
games



13  
levels



84  
sub-skills Up to  
67% improvement



# What you say

## about i-Learner?



**Jennifer**  
S3 (Essay Writing)

"I have been at i-Learner since I was in P6. My grammar has improved a lot and my writing skills are a lot better now too. I have become a writing-lover since I began here.

The teachers are close to the students and truly understand both their strengths and weaknesses. They are friendly and patient. Instead of just giving us patterns to follow, i-Learner teachers really teach us the skills we need to succeed in our exams.

My English results have improved and become more stable since I started taking the courses here."



**Mother of Morris**  
P2 (Critical Reading and Writing,  
Love to Write, Advanced  
Grammar and Writing)

"We joined i-Learner as we wanted to expose Morris to different areas in English, such as analysing stories, creative writing, etc. i-Learner is the right place for him and he has been studying here for three years.

Since coming to i-Learner, Morris has come to love reading and he manages to use a wider vocabulary when writing. His creative skills have also developed a lot.

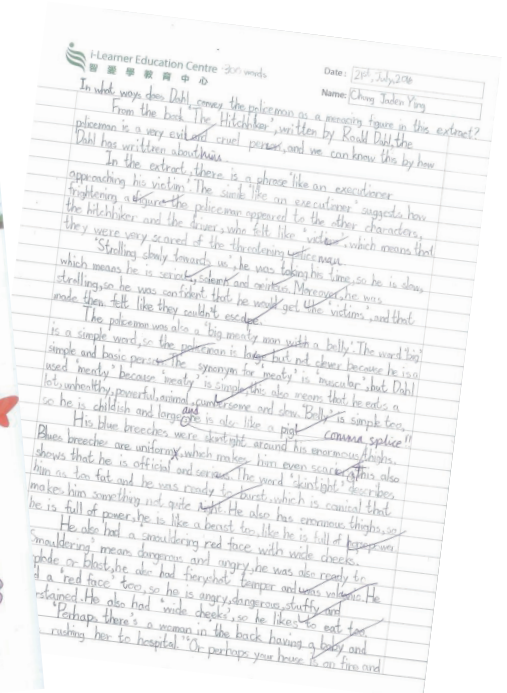
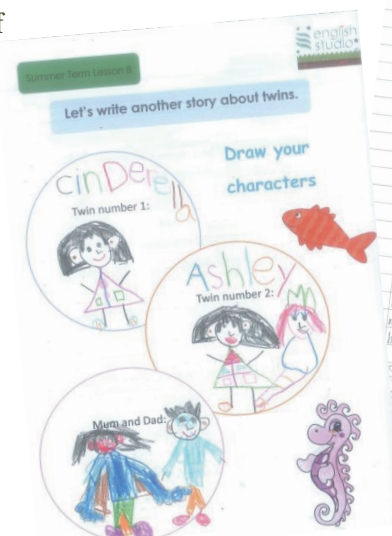
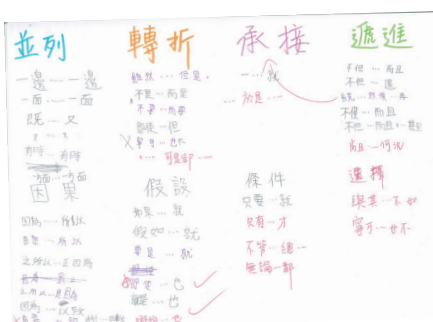
The teachers at i-Learner speak with native accents and help my son to speak with confidence.

I would like to take this chance to thank all at i-Learner for their hard work, especially Mr. MacDonald, Ms. Willow, Mr. Alvin and Ms. Pun."

## What our students achieve

At i-Learner, we are immensely proud of the hard work that our students put in and we like to celebrate the impressive progress they continue to make.

Teachers enjoy sharing outstanding pieces of work on our website. Scan the QR code at the top of this page to find out your teachers' favourite work!





# Mastering Reading Skills

Is reading not as fun as it should be?

Not sure where to start with books?

Reading exams still troubling you?

Come and learn to love reading at i-Learner! Our Mastering Reading Skills course helps children not only become better readers, but also fosters a love of reading.

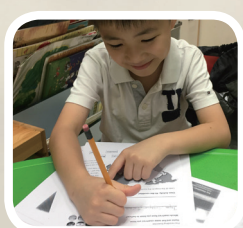
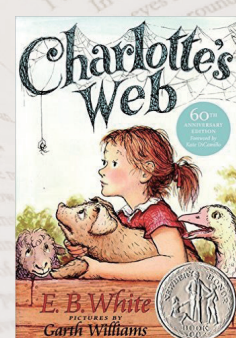
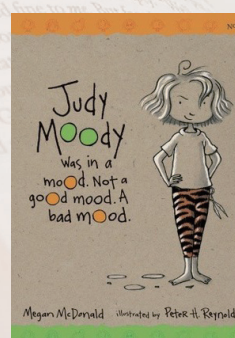
Students will build skills which are essential to becoming strong and effective readers.

By broadening their reading horizons through our teachers' carefully selected library of books available at our centre, students gain reading confidence as they begin their wonderful journey into the world of reading.

"Reading is always a great way to engage children in learning English. It's not only about reading for fun and inspiration but also developing essential reading skills such as summarising, analysing and inferring!"



Ms. Rachel,  
teacher of Mastering Reading Skills



「我決定報讀 Mastering Reading Skills 是因為孩子的英文文法不好和他不喜歡閱讀。我覺得孩子在閱讀理解和英文文法方面有明顯進步和對英文重拾興趣，另外，英文寫作亦有提升。現在，孩子上堂後很開心，又能學到我所想的。」

Mother of Carson Ng, Level 2

# Don't Miss Out!



## Exam Practice

It's never too late to sign up for exam help.

Our tailored curricula align with school exams to ensure your child is on the track for excellent exam results.

For more details about times and to sign up, call our Admin team or talk to your teacher.

## i-Learner Mobile App



At i-Learner, we are committed to providing quality service. In line with this goal, we are excited to announce the launch of the i-Learner Mobile App from 1st December.

With a few easy clicks, parents will be able to access their child's schedule, lesson information and payment details in the palm of their hand.



## Fun Parties

1. i-Learner will soon be holding its much-loved Christmas parties! This is a great chance to have fun and speak English in a relaxed environment.

2. Keep your eyes open for our January Chinese New Year parties, where students will practise their calligraphy and enjoy making crafts.



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