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Press Release

Authors of Tomorrow & Reading Battle Award Ceremony 2018-19

The annual Reading Battle Award Ceremony will be held by the Faculty of Education, The University of Hong Kong (HKU) on June 28 (Friday). The theme for this year's Award Ceremony is "Authors of Tomorrow".

Two guest speakers will share their experience in conducting an annual writing workshop aimed at guiding high performing primary school students, as identified through the award-winning e-learning platform – Reading Battle, in authoring their own storybooks. Dr Samuel Chu, Associate Professor, Faculty of Education, HKU, and the founder of the Reading Battle, has dedicated his research efforts to understanding e-learning, with a focus on gamification, reading, and 21st century skills. Ms Helen Chan, Senior Teacher and Teacher Librarian at Lam Tin Methodist Primary School, is an experienced educator in promoting reading and writing in children.

Reading and writing abilities are closely related to future career and success. Many adults may find it difficult to improve their reading and writing skills in later stages of their lives. As such, it is imperative that a nurturing environment to be provided for children at an early age to develop these abilities. The annual writing workshop entitled "Fostering Future Authors", began in the 2017-18 academic year, and is an innovative way to motivate students in developing not only the said abilities, but also their interest in reading and writing.

At the workshops, a team from the Faculty of Education, HKU, leads primary school students to participate in writing and illustrating their own stories through an online platform, incorporating both pictures and sound. After creating their e-books, the primary school students were guided to develop reading comprehension questions for their e-books, which further enhanced their understanding of story writing.

About 20 "Little Authors" participated in the inaugural "Fostering Future Authors" workshop, and 14 of them completed the journey and 14 children's e-books were created. In only seven months, these stories have been read online for more than 45,000 times. Highly rated books entitled *Mr Brain and Ms Hand* by Chung Pui-chi, a "Little Author" and *Big Teddy and Little Dragon's Adventure in the Toy Store* by another "Little Author", Hayden Lau, both received more than 1,700 "likes" from fellow primary school students. The "Little Authors"-created reading comprehension questions have been answered for more than 400,000 times. The best-received "Little Authors" will share their writing journey at the ceremony.

For media enquiries and registration, please contact Dr Charmaine Fung, Faculty of Education, HKU (Tel: 9237 1278 / email: funcg@hku.hk); or Mr Sunny Chan, Faculty of Education, HKU (Tel: 6655 2557 / email: schancy@hku.hk).

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