

Text Type: Diary entry
Suggested finishing time: 25 mins

Listen!

The BULLY SLAYER

Let's Think!

1. Have you ever witnessed bullying?
2. If so, did you do anything about that?

Dear Diary,

This afternoon, I did something I thought I would never do. I am proud of myself, maybe a little too much so.

David and I have been friendly to each other since he transferred to our school at the start of the term. But I would not call him my friend with complete honesty. He was just another classmate 5
I knew something about, but not particularly well. All this seems to have changed now, I'm glad to say.

More to Take Away

The concept of 'karma', that what happens to a person now is caused by his or her past actions, is prevalent in Eastern culture. People who are doing good deeds may yet suffer as they might have accumulated bad karma in the past. People who perform or speak evil but are plain sailing may be actually using up the good karma they might have accumulated in the past, and they will eventually pay for the bad karma one day.

Moral

'I've learnt that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.'

Maya Angelou, American poet

David's appearance has often been ridiculed by the big bully James. Even at this moment I cannot understand why. True, there are a few freckles below his eyes. But those brown dots make his pale face 10
more recognisable—more attractive even, to speak frankly. And though I like the pimples on his face less, no one should make a joke out of those red dots, which nearly everyone around our age has. If there's anything I dislike about him, it's his anxiety about these petty blemishes. 15

Bullies have a way to make a simple truth like this hard to ¹tell. Nobody, not even the teachers, seemed to have the courage. Or maybe they just didn't deign to show it. Am I asking too much if I hope my classmates would stop being such indifferent cowards? If they put themselves in his shoes—to imagine unkind words being 20
thrown at them and themselves being pushed violently down to the ground—they should have been terrified.

Even Judy, a close friend of mine, told me not to do anything. Like many people's, her worries stemmed from self-preservation. Unlike her, I refuse to be a bystander forever. I told myself I would not stay 25

In line 16, what does the word ¹'tell' mean?

- ▶ It refers to the action of speaking up for the bullied, despite the risk of becoming the bullies' next target.
- A. (v.) to find something out by observation (the truth is known to everyone, not requiring investigation) ▶ ✗
- B. (v.) to give utterance to something (the truth is made a taboo, so people tend to leave it unmentioned) ▶ ✓
- C. (v.) to make an effect (people who dare to tell the truth only intend to speak up for the bullied) ▶ ✗
- D. (v.) to make something known (the truth is unspoken but known to everyone) ▶ ✗



STOP
BULLYING



silent, because doing so would make me look bad in my own eyes.

Today, again, David trudged through the whole day with his head down. My heart sank at the sight. David by no means deserves such isolation or whatever he experienced.³I entreated my heart to have no fear while James and his squad were again tossing David's notebook across the room. Then I rose from my seat. ²Terrified, Judy beckoned me to sit back down. But seeing a person I quite like in pain is a little too much for me. So, I told James to end this stupidity. At this, he went wilder and clenched his fist, like he was about to throw a punch in my face. 30

Just then, the principal passed by the classroom and saw us. I was too livid that I found my teeth clattering from rage, unable to explain the situation. This time, Judy proved herself a better friend by doing that for me. James was brought away. I picked up David's notebook and handed it to him. He answered with a faint smile on his usually sad face. When I saw that, my sunk heart lifted again. 35

Following that episode, the other classmates seemed to want to follow suit in caring more about David. ⁴I'm sure they would've done so sooner, if they had known that standing out against injustice would gain them a friend. 40

Yours,
Samantha

~500 words

Determine whether each of the following statements is a fact, an opinion, or undecidable because not enough information is given.

- (i) David was terrified when Samantha rose to her feet (²it is unknown but Judy was terrified > not given)
- (ii) Samantha told herself to be brave and finally spoke up for David. (³she entreated her heart and rose > fact)
- (iii) If other people had helped David, he would have become a friend of theirs. (⁴Samantha's own thought > opinion)

Looking into Grammar

Adverbs of frequency are usually placed between the subject and the main verb of the sentence.

✓ I **always** (~~Always~~) **brush** my teeth before I sleep.

If there is a modal verb or an auxiliary verb, place the adverb right before the main verb. If a modal verb and an auxiliary verb coexist, also place the adverb before the main verb.

✓ I **was often** (~~often was~~) **bullied** in Form 1.

✓ I **should have never** (~~never should have~~) **lied** to you.

? Circle TWO adverbs of frequency used in paragraphs 1 and 3.

Part A Multiple Choice Questions

Answer the following questions based on the information provided in the diary entry. Choose the best answer by blackening the appropriate circle.



1. Which of the following is NOT Samantha's opinion about David?
- A. He is often bullied by James.
 - B. He is too anxious sometimes.
 - C. His freckles make him look more recognisable.
 - D. There is nothing wrong with his appearance.

2. In paragraph 2, what is Samantha's tone?

- A. cold
- B. fond
- C. critical
- D. serious

2 Look for words that may be associated with the adjectives in the options.

3. Read line 16. The word 'this' refers to _____.

- A. that pimples cause anxiety
- B. that freckles are appealing
- C. that having blemishes is normal and therefore is nothing to be ashamed of
- D. that teenagers tend to get anxious about their appearance

4. Which of the following might James NOT have done to David?

- A. hurting him physically
- B. calling him a coward
- C. talking to him disrespectfully
- D. making fun of his look

4 Pay attention to specifically how David has been treated.

5. When Samantha thought of David's isolation, she felt _____.

- A. annoyed
- B. sad
- C. terrified
- D. disgusted



6. In line 39, the word 'faint' means _____.

- A. (*adj.*) lacking strength or vigour
- B. (*adj.*) feeling weak, dizzy and likely to become unconscious
- C. (*v.*) to become unconscious temporarily
- D. (*n.*) the act of suddenly becoming unconscious

7. Which of the following would most probably happen after the episode?

- A. Samantha and David would become friends.
- B. James would continue to bully David.
- C. Samantha would team up with other classmates to punish the bullies together.
- D. James would quit being a bully.



Self-evaluation Checklist

Please scan the QR code on P.6 to access the checklist for evaluating your own reading progress.

Part B Pre-HKDSE Questions

Answer the following questions based on the information provided in the diary entry. For questions 1 and 5, answer in complete sentences.

1. What did Judy do when she saw the principal?



2. Look for words or phrases in the diary entry that match the definitions below.

2 The answers to (ii) and (iii) have more than one word.

- (i) _____ (para. 2-3) (*adj.*) easy to identify or remember
- (ii) _____ (para. 6-7) (*phr.*) not at all
- (iii) _____ (para. 7-8) (*phr.*) to do the same as someone else

3. Match each of the following quotes with its most likely speaker. Put the letters in the corresponding boxes.

A. James

B. the principal

C. Judy

D. David

- (i) 'It makes me laugh just to look at your pimply face!'
- (ii) 'Oh my goodness, here comes a new spot again. It wasn't there yesterday!'
- (iii) 'This will not be tolerated at our school. If it ever happens again, we will take disciplinary action. Expulsion from school is not eliminated.'
- (iv) 'Don't even think about that. You really think he's worth your trouble? Just leave him alone with that bully!'



4. Determine whether each of the following statements is a fact, an opinion or undecided because not enough information is given.

Statement	Fact	Opinion	Not Given
(i) The teachers did not follow up on James's bullying behaviour.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
(ii) Samantha's classmates were unsympathetic cowards who turned a blind eye to bullies.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
(iii) Nobody except Samantha cared about David.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

5. What did Samantha mean by saying that her 'sunk heart lifted again'? Explain your answer.

Part C Vocabulary Bank

Label the photos in the mind map below with the words and phrases about some health and social issues from the word box.

drug abuse

isolation

drinking

cyber addiction

obesity

anxiety

eating disorders

smoking



1.



2.



3.

Causing mental harm



4.

Health and social issues



5.

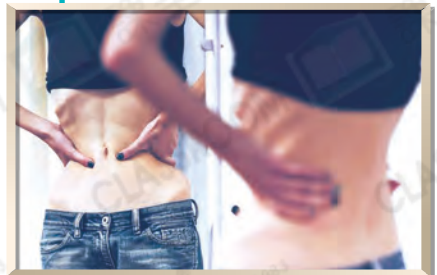
Causing physical harm



6.



7.



8.

Part D Cloze Passage

Complete the speech below with the appropriate words and phrases introduced on the previous page.

Dear Students,

I want to take on an impossible task: to advise you against some habits that threaten your physical and mental health. Some of you may be driven by (1) _____ or simply by a sense of intense curiosity to pick up one or more of them. You should be better warned now about the problems they may bring you, so that, when the time comes, you may at least have something to base on when defending your stance.

First, something my father couldn't help doing sometimes back in the days:

(2) _____. While how much one's respiratory system would suffer from it varies from person to person, I can tell you that it will suffer from it. And just as using cigarettes is bad for the lungs, (3) _____ alcoholic drinks is bad for the brain: with your concentration impaired and memory weakened, you will find it much harder to perform well academically.

I know many of you play computer games: an easy way to relieve stress, but also a source of (4) _____ if you allow yourself to indulge too much in them. Less sociable people may also experience a sense of (5) _____ from family and friends. But all these, at least, are better than (6) _____: not only is it illegal, it can also permanently undermine one's physical and mental health directly.

Eating too much is as detrimental to one's health as eating too little. The former leads you to (7) _____, while the latter exposes you to the danger of being underweight. Would you rather get slimmer and run the risk of getting (8) _____? These are great problems: we're talking about irregular heartbeats and loss of potassium, sodium and chloride, which should never be taken lightly.

I've spoken as if these habits affected your life and your life only. But it should be understood that they would also make those around you—especially those who love you—unhappy and worried. None of them would want to see you in bad shape. Perhaps that's the best reason why you should think twice before getting into any of these habits.

Let's Discuss!

1. In your opinion, why does bullying take place? Explain your thoughts.
2. Should we speak out against injustice? What would happen if we do nothing about it?