4B Maybelle Chan

Young Post

1 April, 2009

Literature doesn't have to be boring

Canadian writer Margaret Atwood was in Hong Kong for the Hong Kong International Literary Festival. I attended her talk at Chinese University where she read her poem *The Door*.

I had heard that her books are very complicated, with several layers of meaning. I was afraid I wouldn't understand the true meaning. But Atwood's approach to literature made it very interesting.

She cleverly uses the door to represent death.

When we are very young, we are scared there is something hiding behind the door, so we don't open it.

We are so happy during childhood, we never notice as the door swings open and cruelly shuts.

As we grow older, we start to wonder and ask about death, and steal a glance behind the door. We eventually step through the door when we're old.

I liked the poem immediately after reading it. I like the way Atwood uses a common object – a door – to represent something people don't like to talk about – death.

She also uses very simple language to discuss a difficult topic. But although the words she uses are easy to understand, this doesn't make the poem any less meaningful. This was probably the most memorable talk I have ever attended. Not only was it exciting to see a famous author in real life, and to buy one of her long, detailed books. I learned a lot about being a writer.

I used to wonder how writers came up with such imaginative ideas that normal people just can't. Now I have the answer: they open up their world and show it to us.

By letting us into their minds, we can see the world from a different perspective and form our own opinions on topics.

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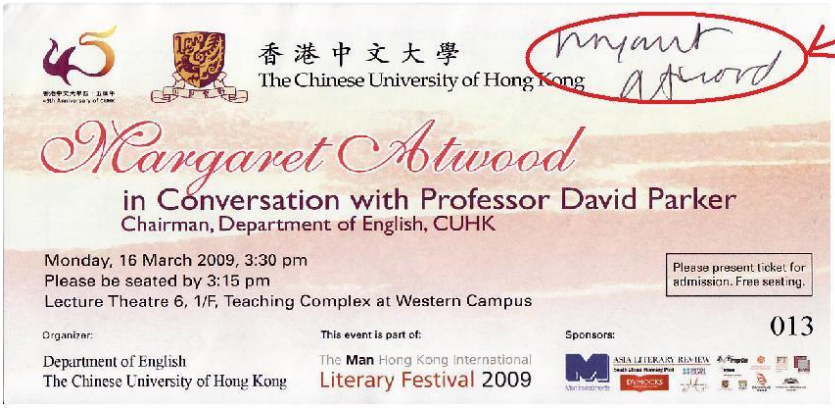

Here is her signature!