TSS St Hilda's Book and Philosophy Club Term 2

**LEGACY**

In Term 2, four girls from St Hilda's School and 8 boys from TSS met to discuss experiences and reading that highlighted the idea of *legacy*.

The boys discussed how past students’ legacies provide inspiration to present day students about how to behave and how to live an exemplary life. We noticed that we at St Hilda’s School do not have such a strong tradition of remembering past students in this way, but that the legacy of St Hilda herself is central to how we see ourselves.

Mr Stark looked at the legacy of bands such as U2 and the contribution musicians make, through their work and through participating in such events as “Live Aid”.

The ANZAC legacy was discussed. Overwhelmingly, the boys felt that the sacrifice of lives for one’s country, no matter what the finer details might be, should be remembered as a positive legacy. Others understood that one should not “cherry pick” aspects of history to create a legacy. The dangers of only remembering distorted, ‘convenient’ facts or memories to create a legacy were discussed. Books such as *The Giver* by Lois Lowry were discussed and the idea of propaganda touched upon. We discussed the legacies of public figures such as Hitler, Eleanor Roosevelt and Sylvia Plath. In particular, the legacies of known people, we saw, were curated.

“He who controls the past controls the future. He who controls the present controls the past.” George Orwell, 1984

Finally, we wondered what kind of legacy we would leave, we being humanity as a whole. Having children was discussed in this light and so, our biological legacy. We have a choice about what legacy we will leave, to a certain extent, but we have to decide to care about what that legacy will be and act accordingly.

For Term 3, we decided to look at the idea of *freedom*. We have already begun compiling books, films and ideas for the topic. Authors such as Ursula La Guin, Margaret Atwood and many more in the genre of science fiction, the Russian classics, epics of historical fiction such as Les Miserables, writers of colour and writers of historical struggles for freedom are being assembled for holiday reading. In addition, we ask: what freedom itself is. Are freedom struggles for men and women different? Why? Is freedom won or made or given? How are freedom and power related? Does complete freedom lead to anarchy or chaos? How do discipline, religion, doctrine, utilitarian constraints and different cultures deal with freedom and with different freedoms? What do our girls think about freedom and what do they want to know about it?

“The secret of happiness is freedom. The secret of freedom is courage.” Thucydides

“The only way to deal with an unfree world is to become so absolutely free that your very existence is an act of rebellion.” Albert Camus

“Lock up your libraries if you like, but there is no gate, no lock, no bolt that you can set upon the freedom of my mind.” Virginia Woolf, *A Room of One’s Own*

“I am not an angel”, I asserted, “and I will not be one till I die: I will be myself. Mr Rochester, you must neither expect nor exact anything celestial of me - for you will not get it, any more than I shall get it of you: which I do not at all anticipate.” Charlotte Brontë, *Jane Eyre*
If you wish to join us in the exploration and discussion, simply contact Mrs Robyn Markus-Sandgren or Miss Alexeem Boyle in the Library.