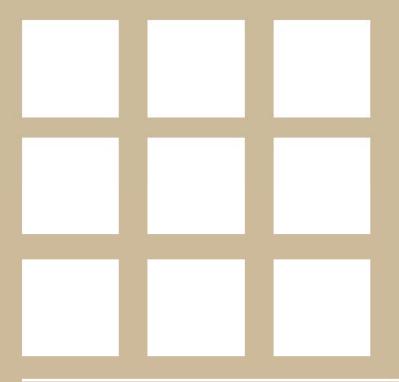


Movie Review:

Freedom Writers

文: Ashlev



THEIR STORY.
THEIR WORDS.
THEIR FUTURE.

I watched a great movie called *Freedom Writers* while flying home from Cairns to Hong Kong yesterday. Inspired by a true story, Academy Award winner Hilary Swank portrayed an idealistic teacher named Erin Gruwell, a.k.a. Ms. G by her inner city students, confronts a room of "unteachable, at-risk" children. While other teachers see absolutely no hope in these students and the integrated school policy, the persistent heroine see an opportunity to change 150 lives. So she takes the extraordinary steps to buy books such as *Anne Frank* for the students and gives up two part-time jobs in order to take them to extravaganza field trips.

I almost broke into tears when the anonymous student tells the class about his unbearable sufferings endured during the summer holiday, and coming back to the class in fall was the only motivation left for him to keep himself alive. Most teachers work for money under moderate enthusiasm for the betterment of the children, and they are definitely not willing to sacrifice their personal time to enhance the achievement of the students. But once in a while, a Ms. G came alone and would inspire us to do a better job.

The only regret I had with the movie was that Ms. G doesn't stay at Room 203 at Woodrow Wilson High School. She moves on, becomes a teacher educator at a college and sets up a foundation to promote her ideas. Yet another teacher does not last in the classroom and only uses the role of a teacher as a stepping stone for higher achievement, as though teaching has no greatness in itself.