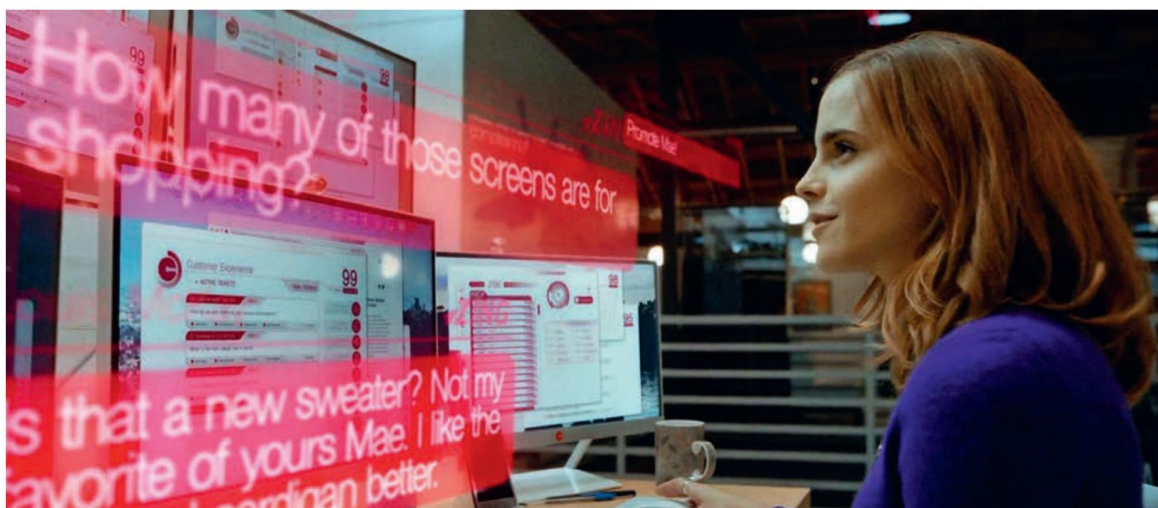


### 3 When work is your whole life ?

- A. Online, watch the trailer for *The Circle*.  
 B. What do you think of their motto: "Sharing is caring"?  
 C. "The needs of society and individuals should be the same." Do you agree with Mae's answer?  
 D. How would you characterise Eamon Bailey's vision of technology and humanity?  
 E. **Have your say.** Should we give up privacy to achieve a "better world"?

### 4 "The Circle" 📄



Mae opened the intra-company stream and began. There were company-wide notices about each day's menus, each day's weather, each day's words of the wise<sup>1</sup> – last week's aphorisms<sup>2</sup> were from MLK<sup>3</sup>, Gandhi, Salk, Mother Teresa and Steve Jobs. There were notices about each day's campus visits: a pet adoption agency, a state senator, a Congressman from Tennessee, the director of Médecins Sans Frontières. Mae found out, with a sting of remorse, that she'd missed, that very morning, a visit from Muhammad Yunus, winner of the Nobel Prize. There were surveys, at least 50 of them, gauging the Circles' opinions on various company policies, on optimal dates for upcoming gatherings, interest groups, celebrations and holiday breaks. There were dozens of clubs soliciting members and notifying all of meetings: there were cat-owner groups – at least 10 – a few rabbit groups, six reptile groups, four of them adamantly snake-exclusive. Most of

all, there were groups for dog-owners. She counted 22, but was sure that wasn't all of them. One of the groups dedicated to the owners of very small dogs, Lucky Lapdogs, wanted to know how many people would join a weekend club for walks and hikes and support; Mae ignored this one. Then, realising that ignoring it would only prompt a second, more urgent, message, she typed a message, explaining that she didn't have a dog. She was asked to sign a petition for more vegan options at lunch; she did. There were nine messages from various work-groups within the company, asking her to join their subCircles for more specific updates and information sharing. For now she joined the ones dedicated to crochet, soccer, and Hitchcock.

1 advice • 2 proverb expressing a general truth •  
 3 Martin Luther King

*The Circle*,  
 Dave Eggers, 2013



- A. Look at the picture. Imagine what her job consists in. How does Mae feel?  
 B. Read the text and list all the different campus visits, clubs and groups. What does the list of

possible groups imply? What might the effect be on the employees?  
 C. **Go further.** What atmosphere is created by the author in this excerpt? What is the author's goal?