



i think

BEYOND BOUNDARIES

ANOTHER PUBLICATION BY ILOVEREADING.SG



06

The Cancelled Trip

17

Is Space Exploration by
Nations a Waste of
Resources Yes/No

45

Brighton – More than
London-by-the-Sea

BEYOND THE CLOUDS

Is space exploration
merely a waste of
national resources?

What are the
challenges
faced by the
airline industry?



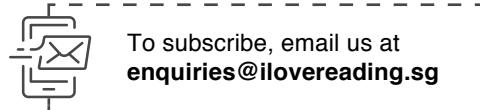
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METACOGNITIVE POINTS



SYMBOLS

FOR ARTICLES IN 'WRITE UP'



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METACOGNITIVE POINT

making connections

The theme for this issue is Beyond the Clouds, exploring both its literal and figurative meanings.



THINK-WRITE-SHARE

Think about the questions here, and write down your responses. Then, share your ideas with your partner or class.



01 Prior Knowledge

What comes to mind when you think about this theme, 'Beyond the Clouds'?

02 Thoughts

What are some thoughts or feelings you have about the various aspects of this theme?

03 Links

Does this theme relate to something you have learnt before?

04 Questions

What are some questions you have about this theme?

THE BIG IDEA

CLOUDS IN THE SHY

"Clouds come floating into my life, no longer to carry rain or usher storm, but to add color to my sunset sky." — Rabindranath Tagore

Why do clouds matter?

OUTER SPACE

"Land on Mars, a round-trip ticket - half a million dollars. It can be done." — Elon Musk

How glamorous (or unglamorous) is it to be an astronaut?

Is space exploration simply a waste of resources?

BEYOND THE CLOUDS

CLOUD STORAGE

"The cloud has become the next-generation supercomputer, and the smartphone has provided the revolution to spur its use." — Jerry Yang

How effective are virtual lessons and meetings?

AIR TRAVEL

"A world with a sudden limit on air travel would be tremendously different from the one we live in now." — Charles C. Man

What are the challenges faced by the airline industry?

How smooth is air travel nowadays?



Dear Reader,

First of all, thank you for your support. We have been receiving valuable feedback from you, and we want you to know that we have been listening. We are happy to announce that based on your feedback, we have introduced a new section, The Big Idea. You can now have an overview of the theme and sub-themes that we cover in each issue. We think this is a splendid idea too!

In this issue, we take you to the clouds and beyond.

Clouds – they seem misty and dreamlike, almost magical. Yet, they can be deceptive. They look soft and fluffy like cotton balls, but they are only a cluster of water droplets. When you and I look at a particular cloud, it may look like a terrifying tiger to me, but a beautiful bird to you – clouds hardly allow any two people to see them the same way. The flexible nature of the cloud has also made it easy to use it to pepper our language. Think metaphors: on cloud nine, every cloud has a silver lining, her head is in the clouds.

In today's digital world, the cloud has morphed into another being: cloud storage. Cloud storage is synonymous with various virtual platforms such as Dropbox, Amazon Cloud and Google Drive. Cloud-based school learning management systems as well as e-learning platforms have proven to be critical for us, especially during the shutdown of schools during the Covid-19 pandemic.

As we venture beyond the clouds, we think of air and space travel. What are the challenges faced by the airline industry? Is space exploration merely a waste of national resources? How does it feel to be an astronaut? We explore these issues and more in our essays and comprehension text-articles.

We know this issue will spark off interesting discussions.

Warmly,

Shoba Nair

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THE CANCELLED TRIP

By Jeremy Au Yong

a ONE NIGHT IN BANGKOK, BUT
b THE WORLD'S NOT MINE OYSTER.

This had to be either a mistake or a joke. Either way, it was not funny in the least. Anxiously, I scrolled through the barrage of WhatsApp messages that was bombarding my mobile phone.

This was no joke. Mum and Dad had received a slew of similar messages from friends, relatives and colleagues, some of whom had just sent us off at Singapore Changi Airport barely three hours ago. Every message was dead serious.

'WHERE ARE YOU? Landed yet?'

'Fly back ASAP! COVID-19!'

'OMG BREAKING NEWS PLS READ!'

This was no mistake. Grandma's message to our family's group chat, typed in uppercase letters, included a screen capture of the travel advisory from the Ministry of Health's website.

'From 16 March 2020, 2359 hours, all travellers (including Singapore Residents, Long-Term Visit Pass holders and Short-Term Visit Pass holders) entering Singapore with recent travel history to ASEAN countries, Japan, Switzerland, or the United Kingdom within the last 14 days will be issued with a 14-day Stay-Home Notice (SHN).'

I had been looking forward to this Bangkok trip since two years ago. Mum and Dad had been planning this getaway since last year. The hotel was booked, the tour reservations made and the itinerary planned.

"Let's just *carpe diem!* After all, isn't fourteen days but a small price to pay in return for five days and four nights in paradise?" Dad suggested. I thought it made sense. After all, we had already landed at Bangkok's Suvarnabhumi airport.



Mum, however, vetoed this brave thought. "Not so fast, dear," Mum replied, "what would the neighbours say once word gets around that we have to be on SHN? Besides, fourteen days SHN on top of five days leave would add up to a total of nineteen days away from the office. Your boss will retrench you, and we can't have that now can we, dear? Also, Junior can't afford to take any more days off school." Wallace Stevens was right when he wrote 'The world is ugly, / And the people are sad.'

All my lofty hopes and dreams for the perfect vacation came plummeting down to earth around me like a hail storm of Old Testament proportion.

Indeed, never had an airport arrival hall looked uglier and never had I felt sadder than this cursed mo-

ment. All my lofty hopes and dreams for the perfect vacation came plummeting down to earth around me like a ^a hail storm of Old Testament proportion. The expressions on the other travellers who had just disembarked from the same flight ran the gamut from incredulity to dismay. Apparently, ours was not the only holiday to be hailed upon.

Miserably, we started trudging forth. Dad scoured the internet for three one-way tickets back home. Mum told me to hand her the guidebook we had bought from the duty-free bookstore at Changi Airport. She dumped it, wordlessly, into one of the bins lining the path towards Baggage Conveyor Belt 13. Without the guidebook, my backpack only contained a half-empty water bottle, AirPods and my iPhone but I felt as if I were lugging bricks.



Instead of checking in to the five-star Park Hyatt Hotel in the heart of downtown Bangkok, we would have to check out the no-star airport lounge in the bowels of Suvarnabhumi Airport.

The conveyor belt inched along, empty. They had not even unloaded the luggage from the plane yet. The next available flight back was not only double the usual price but was scheduled to take off at the ungodly hour of half past six in the morning. Dad stoically fished out his credit card. We had touched down late in the evening on the 15th of March and it was already past midnight now. Instead of checking in to the five-star Park Hyatt Hotel in the heart of downtown Bangkok, we would have to check out the no-star airport lounge in the bowels of Suvarnabhumi Airport.

Like Stevens, Burns also got it right. ^eThe best-laid plans of mice and men really do often go awry, especially when they happen to be elaborate holiday plans for a much-needed, long-awaited break. The first few pieces of luggage finally started trickling out. Of course, not a single one was ours.



The writer makes a fair number of references to plays and poems as he recounts his disappointment about the cancelled trip. What is the effect of this on you, as a reader?

References to plays and poems:

^a'One night in Bangkok and the world's your oyster' – from *Chess*, by Tim Rice (musical): a popular culture reference celebrating the pleasures of a holiday in Bangkok, the capital of Thailand.

^b'the world's mine oyster' – from *The Merry Wives of Windsor* by Shakespeare (play): Just as the delicious meat of an oyster is easily plucked from its shell, likewise the world's riches are easily obtained by a person.

^c'The world is ugly, / And the people are sad.' – from *Gubbinal* by Wallace Stevens (poem): An expression of extreme pessimism.

^dhail storm of Old Testament proportion: this is a reference to the content in the Bible.

^e"The best laid schemes o' mice an' men / Gang aft a-gley." – from *To a Mouse* by Robert Burns (poem)