There was an artist once, and he painted a picture. Other artists had painted a richer, rarer, and painted more notable pictures. He painted his with one colour, and there was a wonderful red on it. It went up and down, and said, “We like the picture, we like the glow.”

The other artists came and said, “Where does he get his colour from?” They asked him, and he smiled and said, “I know a secret. I work on it, and when he put it on the picture it was dead.

But the artist painted always. The world got redder and richer, and the artist grew whiter and white. At last one day he found him dead before his picture, and they took him up to bury him. The other men looked about in all the post and crucibles, but they found nothing they had.

And when they dressed him, they found the dark jacket of the coat, and they went and got a white coat, and they cleaned it, and put it on the clothes of the other, and they dressed him and closed the door.

And they buried him. And still the people said about: “Where did he find his colour from?”

And it came to pass that after a while the artist was forgotten but the world was painted.

The Artist’s Secret
By Oliver Schirn

The farm that faces them, for how elegant admiring and admiration-inviting are those red apples on the half-killed orange upon the trees. When warm sun mingles with flowers blooming, or in public holidays, the roasting sun on the Shin Wah Farm is very often regarded as a high-bred spot by the people in town. Who knows its beauty has not lived in some poems or songs?

When Faith and Love and Hope are dead indeed, can Life still live?

—James Thompson

For art, it is to be reckoned as one of the great values of life, must teach men humility, toleration, wisdom and magnanimity. The value of art is not in its right action.

—S. Maugham

Flowers of Wisdom

In the picture, the love and beauty are transformed into life. If you cannot free yourself today and tomorrow, you will still have a dead snake.

Neither one would release the other: a fisherman, on them, and captured both of them.

Jommy Young (Y.M.C.A. College)