

5B Morning Assembly (NOV 15 2013)

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N: Narrator	Alan Ng (5B 23)
G: Government Official	Kenneth Fung (5B 10)
R: Rich person	Edward Tsoi (5B 29)
C: Middle class student	David Tse (5B 28)
P6: Poor person (\$6000/month)	Zafrina Lau (5B 16)
P5: Poor person (\$5000/month)	Allen Yim (5B 33)
M: Mathematician/ Maths Professor	Wilson Sit (5B 24)
Advisors:	Mr. Lau and Ms. A Cheung

N: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen, let me introduce you the 4 individuals who come from different social classes. Here is the rich person who earns 100,000 a month, while this one is a university student from the middle class. The 2 persons are from the grassroots who earns 5000 and 6000 per month respectively. They all have one single dream--buying a flat.

G: Good morning. I'm YC Fung, the Financial Secretary. I'm now working on the 2014 Fiscal Policy. As we all know, the Gini coefficient rose to 0.537 in 2011, which means the disparity between rich & poor is growing in Hong Kong. The government has decided to do more to help the poor. Do you need any subsidies from the government?

All: I need subsidies; I'm the one.....give it to me

R: YC, You know, I definitely need help from the government. Though I earn \$100,000 per month, I have to pay tax using almost a quarter of it. Now, I still cannot afford a decent flat in Central. See how poor I am. See, everyone here is poor! How can you tell whether one is rich or poor?

P6: Hey, that's unfair! I have to wake up at 5am in early morning to go for work & by the time I reach home, it's already 10 pm at night. But I can only earn \$6000 per month. I can only rent a 80 sq. feet subdivided room which costs me \$3500 already. So, I'm actually the one in need. We do need the government to help us. Why can't this little desire be satisfied? Why?

P5: Right! My case is even worse. I only earn \$5000 a month. We earn little simply because we do not have a university degree. We are indeed the core of the labour force. It is injustice to us!

G: Let me think about it and tell you the solutions in due course.

N: A middle-class university student is aware of this situation.

C: The poor are so pitiful. I must help them. (ruefully) ("Ding") Ah-haaa!

N: The university student goes to a professor in the Maths Department who is a mathematician and has been awarded the Nobel Prize in Maths.

C: Professor Maths, I have a problem.

M: I am keen on solving problems. Tell me and let me help you.

C: I met some pitiful persons. They only have low income but the government has no ideas if they should be granted any subsidies. I wonder if you could suggest a method to help the government identify those who are really the needy in the society.

M: Oh! It's easy. You can simply..... Well, how about having a meeting with the government official concerned?

C: That's great!

G: Oh, hi, are you Middle? What can I do to help you?

C: Well, I am Middle, a year 2 student from WYY University. I know Professor Maths who has a great idea to distinguish the poor from the rich. Professor Maths is the 2013 Nobel Prize winner in Maths.

G: Oh, my honour to meet you, Professor Maths.

M: My pleasure. To save time, let me tell you how it works.

Suppose there are five persons in the society. Their incomes are \$6000, \$8000, \$20,000, \$50,000 and \$100,000 a month respectively. We can simply employ the concept of median and divide it by two and the result is the poverty line.

G: What is it for?

M: The households/ individuals who are below the poverty line can be classified as the poor. Middle, can you tell me the poverty line?

C: Yes, Professor Maths. In this case, the median income is\$20,000 per month. Thus, the poverty line is \$10,000.

G: Great! That means the two individuals whose incomes are \$6000 and \$8000 per month are the poor who live below the poverty line.

M: That's right!

G: That's fantastic. Hopefully, those in need can lead a better life after getting the subsidies and allowances from the government.

C: Yup! Professor Maths & Mr. Fung, million thanks to you two.

M: Not at all!

G: You're welcome.

N: Mr. YC Fung announced the implementation of the new policy on TV.

G: (air on TV) Dear Hong Kong citizens, The poverty line of Hong Kong.....

P: Yeah! We can finally get some help from the government from now on.

R: Oh my god! How come?! It's totally unfair!