

Dork Diaries

Dork Diaries is like a girl version of the book Diary of a Wimpy Kid. Compared with the humorous plot in the Diary of a Wimpy Kid, the detailed depiction of a girl's inward thought in Dork Diaries is more appealing to me. The pink-covered diary belonged to an eighth grade student Nikki Maxwell, a typical adolescent girl who was imaginative and innocent. Nikki got this thick diary from her mother. Despite being disappointed with this unexpected present, Nikki started to keep a diary every day to record her new but not-fabulous life in a preparatory school. In the diary, she gave vent to her sentimental feelings in an exaggerated and imaginative way. By virtue of this diary, Nikki was no more self-abased. Instead, she finally conquered her adolescent contradiction and believed in herself to be a unique "dork".

After reading this English diary, I can not only learn some humorous English proverbs and common English buzzwords but also have a chance to release my anxiety of being a growing teenager. Just like Nikki, who thought that she was a dork in school because she was neither rich nor popular compared with other influential girls in her grade, I found that most teenagers and I experience the same dilemma of whether to be ourselves or to imitate other popular classmates. We all share the same sentiment of confusion and self-doubt while comparing ourselves with others. Since we are always concerned about others' perspectives and envious of others' advantages, most of us lack self-confidence and often contradict ourselves because of the differences we find between ourselves and others. It is also because we take others' opinions too seriously that we get annoyed easily and our emotions are always at the mercy of others' criticism and praise. In fact, almost all of us consider ourselves a dork even though we are actually not.

In Dork Diaries, Nikki tried hard to overcome her fear as a teenager or as a "dork." For example, she learned from a magazine the secret to happiness. She believed that happiness lay in the four Fs containing friends, fun, fashion, and flirting. To get rid of the feeling of being a complete loser, she fought hard against the adversity. Her persevering spirits inspire me. Similar to Nikki, we teenagers have our own worries to face with. However, just like caterpillars waiting to emerge from cocoons to become attractive butterflies, we need to conquer difficulties ahead of us with perseverance before we evolve into a mature and confident young person.

What's more, we have to make efforts to find our own uniqueness while facing the

pressure of being a mediocre teenager among our peers. Take Nikki as an example. She discovered her talent for painting. With her imagination and innovation, Nikki decided to join a competition and eventually won the first place. Thanks to the competition, Nikki realized that she was an exceptional girl who could have her own blue sky without worshipping others blindly. Nikki's story shows us the importance of finding our own distinctiveness. As the saying goes, "All things in their being are good for something." We need to explore ourselves more deeply and find our own traits. In addition, we have to remind ourselves that we are not alone facing the struggle. Other teenagers may have the same problem as us just like Nikki and her classmates. Therefore, we should not immerse ourselves in the emotion of self-pity. Instead, we need to open a door for ourselves.

Through Nikki in *Dork Diaries*, I think I can see my own reflection. Perplexed about her life, Nikki conquered her fear of losing her true self by insisting on being herself and by finding her own advantage. Her story encourages me to face my troubles confidently. Well goes an old saying, "A tree should grow taller, accept more brightness, and then its root must be deeper and darker." Only by facing difficulties bravely and conquering all the trials during adolescence can I turn into a beautiful butterfly and fly to my own bright future.