

**2021 Bookman Book Report Contest**  
**Novels for Young Adults and the Young at Heart!**  
**書林第十一屆全國高中職英文讀書心得**

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書籍基本資料	
英文書名	The Night Diary
ISBN	9780735228511
作者	Veera Hiranandani
出版單位	Puffin Books
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心得分享		
限用英文書寫，字數限 500~700 字(字數請勿超過 700 字)	全文總字數統計	503 字
<p><b>The Truth of Religion</b></p> <p>William J. Brennan once said, “Religion conflict can be the bloodiest and cruelest conflicts that turn people into fanatics”. When talking about religion, it is not only related to the credulity of religious believers that should be examined, but also about the victims within absurd situations that deserve attention. Veera Hiranandani successfully digs into this aspect by writing a narrative novel, entitled <i>The Night Diary</i>. Interestingly, Hiranandani uses the perspective of a twelve-year-old girl - Nisha - to present the story; based on her letters to her mother, written in the form of personal diaristic journals, the readers witness Nisha’s inner transformation, as she experiences the loss of her homeland. More importantly, the well-designed plots and the relationships between characters demonstrate the theme of the book - that religion sets people’s morality and we should encounter others’ religion with politeness, not with hate.</p> <p><i>The Night Diary</i> takes place in 1947 when India was freed from British rule and divided into two countries where Hindus would supposedly be in India and Muslims in Pakistan. The story first talks about the discrimination Nisha’s family faced in Pakistan, which they faced serious unfair treatments, such as getting hit and be thrown foods and rocks. Then, Hiranandani writes about the long cruel journey Nisha’s family went through along their way moving to another country. Lacking water, easily getting sick, and finding decent places to sleep overnight are the challenges Nisha’s family encounter as they travel through the desert; this is where the readers see Nisha’s inner transformation from a naive girl living in a peaceful life to a little woman with perseverance, determination, and a past. Finally, the writer describes the life in “New India” of Nisha’s family. The ultimate reunion</p>		

of Kazi, a Muslim, and Nisha's family as well as Nisha's love towards her mother, a Muslim too, suggest that people should not form relationships based on religion.

Religion conflict is a long-lasting and serious problem in the world.

Religion substantially redefines people's morality. But when individuals with different morality meet, conflicts emerge because people have different, or even opposite, opinions towards a circumstance, a figure, or an ideology. We can have our own beliefs - whether it is Buddhism, Muslim, Christianity, or Hinduism - but we should never force others to believe what we believe in. Instead, when we hear different voices, we should respect their speaking because everyone has the right to believe, to pursue, and to have faith. There is no definition of right and wrong when it comes to the matter of religion; an individual's own religion sets that definition. Religion conflicts happen when people realize others have a different definition. But when everyone acknowledges that each individual has their own set of definitions, unnecessary conflicts will be reduced. As a global citizen, it is our responsibility to make the world a better, more peaceful, and more civilized place. We can, shall, must take the responsibility. This is what readers should learn when they connect *The Night Diary* and the modern society, and even the past history.