

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_ ( )

## Tuesday English News Report:

Broadcast Date: 10<sup>th</sup> Jan, 2017



### *Life in six panels: Old Master Q creator Alfonso Wong dies at 93*

**Tributes** paid to iconic Old Master Q creator, author and cartoonist, who died in the United States on New Year's Day

**Legions** of fans across the generations are **mourning** the loss of author-cartoonist Alfonso Wong Kar-hei, the creator of what is arguably one of Hong Kong's most beloved and **enduring** Chinese comics, Old Master Q.

Wong's Old Master Q comic strips first began appearing in local newspaper columns in 1962 just a few years after he moved to Hong Kong from Tianjin. They were serialised in 1964 and - became an **instant** hit. They continue to be published to this day.

His eldest son Joseph Wong Chak – whose name the elder Wong adopted as a pen name– took over the **franchise** following his father's retirement.

The six-panel comic strips touch upon themes ranging from current affairs and pop culture, to class divisions and social issues such as poverty and suicide.

Infused with offbeat local humour and documentations of **contemporary** society, the series revolves around Old Master Q, a quick-witted, lanky **eccentric** dressed in traditional Qing **garb**, the stumpy Big Potato and straight-talking Mr Chin, among many others. Creations of Wong's own imagination – aliens, ghosts and figures from the afterlife – would also make frequent appearances. Recurring themes were summed up in four character Chinese proverbs, perhaps the most classic being “intrigue and curiosity”.

In recent years, he was accused of *\*plagiarising* a mainland comic artist who created similar characters in the 1930s and 1940s.

*\* to copy someone's work and pass it off as your own*

Wong's death was announced on the penultimate day of an exhibition held in tribute to both his and his son's work on Old Master Q at the Comix Home Base in Wan Chai.

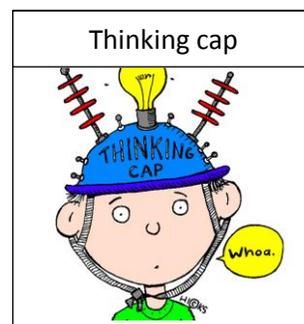
Tai Yim-kwan, an amateur sketch artist in his 70s, visited the expo on Tuesday to admire the elder Wong's brush skills and to draw inspiration for his own work. “His works really reflected modern society and cultural values [in the 1960s-80s],” he said. “He managed to make them entertaining.”

*\*a person who has ambitions to achieve something, in this case the next CEO of Hong Kong*

Retired judge and chief executive *\*aspirant* Woo Kwok-hing also visited on Tuesday and **lauded** the author and franchise as a “collective memory” for Hong Kong, and whose works contained a wealth of philosophy.

## 1. Questions to think about:

- Why is it important to remember people like cartoonist Alfonso Wong?
- Who do you admire? Why?
- What contribution do you hope to make to society?



## 2. I: Vocabulary and understanding meaning

Match the meaning and/or synonym (words with a similar or the same meaning) to the words which have been highlighted in bold in the article.

| Column A: Word from text | Letter | Column B: Meaning or synonym   |
|--------------------------|--------|--|
| 1. tribute (n)           |        | A: feel or show sorrow for the death of (someone),                       |
| 2. legions (n)           |        | B: immediate   |
| 3. mourn(ing) (v)        |        | C: a business or service   |
| 4. enduring (adj)        |        | D: a person of unconventional or slightly strange views or behaviour     |
| 5. instant (adj)         |        | E: big groups /great number of people                                    |
| 6. franchise (n)         |        | F: praise/compliment/show highest regard for                             |
| 7. contemporary (adj)    |        | G: clothing (colloquial expression)                                      |
| 8. eccentric (n)         |        | H: a statement to show gratitude (thankfulness), respect, or admiration: |
| 9. garb                  |        | I: long lasting  |
| 10. laud(ed) (v)         |        | J: modern/present day  |

**II: Usage of vocabulary:** Using the vocabulary from the table in Part I, fill in the missing words of the sentences. One of the words appears twice. Make sure you use the correct part of speech.

- When Mother Theresa passed away, (a) \_\_\_\_\_ came flooding in from all over the world, and many people (b) \_\_\_\_\_ her death. Key and important figures (c) \_\_\_\_\_ her selflessness. She had worked tirelessly for the poor and disadvantaged in India. Her spirit was (d) \_\_\_\_\_.
- People, especially older people who may behave in different ways to the norm and what is expected of society may be labelled as (a) \_\_\_\_\_, especially if they wear strange (b) \_\_\_\_\_.
- Nowadays there are many \_\_\_\_\_ across the world that people frequent. Examples include McDonald's, Starbucks, Pizza Hut, KFC etc.
- Manchester United appears to have \_\_\_\_\_ of fans. Wherever they go, they seem to attract a crowd of followers.
- Pokemon go became an (a) \_\_\_\_\_ craze, but it has not been (b) \_\_\_\_\_. In other words, the craze did not seem to continue for any length of time, and was over almost as soon as it began.
- Some art galleries in Hong Kong focus on \_\_\_\_\_ artists, in other words, artists whose styles reflect the modern day.

**Challenge of the week:** We can learn from all mediums. Besides enjoying drinks, snacks and good conversation in the English Corner today, come and enjoy some comics. There will also be prizes to be won.

**PRIZES & MORE PRIZES to be won!**