

A-School

LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

Power of Reading 2025-2026 Vol.5



Introduction

Travelling is one of the best ways to experience the world beyond textbooks—through streets, landscapes, food, art, and everyday traditions.

In this newsletter, we explore five countries that offer very different travel moods and unforgettable highlights: Germany, Austria, Turkey, Spain, and Chile. Each destination has its own personality. Germany blends historic depth with modern efficiency, while Austria is often remembered for its elegance, imperial culture, and famous classical music heritage. Turkey stands out for its location and cultural mix between continents, creating a journey where ancient history and lively city life meet. Spain is known for its passion and rhythm, expressed through festivals, strong regional identities, and social, late-night energy. Chile, in contrast, is defined by dramatic nature—deserts, mountains, glaciers, and wide-open skies that make outdoor adventure feel endless. These countries show how travel can be both educational and deeply personal.

Germany

Germany offers a compelling mix of modern dynamism and deep historical roots. Visitors often appreciate how easy it is to move around cities, thanks to reliable public transport and a strong network of trams, trains, and regional connections. The country is also rich in art and culture, with excellent museums and galleries that cover everything from classical masterpieces to contemporary design. Whether you prefer thought-provoking exhibitions or hands-on experiences, Germany provides many ways to engage with culture in a structured and rewarding setting.

Berlin is a standout destination for its museums, memorial sites, and its ability to represent both the complexity of history and the energy of modern life. Frankfurt is a fascinating destination renowned for its striking skyline and its role as a major financial hub. Yet, it also offers an abundance of culture and history. Visitors can explore the historic Römer district, stroll along the Main River, and enjoy museums and local food in traditional areas. Furthermore, Frankfurt is convenient for day trips to nearby towns and regions, making it a practical base for exploring central Germany.

Munich, on the other hand, is known for its refined cultural atmosphere, its iconic architecture, and its lively festivals that draw people from across the country. For a step back in time, medieval towns such as Rothenburg ob der Tauber offer charming streets, well-preserved buildings, and a postcard-like atmosphere that feels wonderfully old-world.

Germany

Food and social traditions are also a defining part of travel in Germany. The country is famed for its beer culture, from traditional beer gardens to lively brewing customs that bring locals and visitors together. Seasonal festivals add another layer of excitement, celebrating everything from springtime events to harvest traditions. At the same time, Germany's well-marked walking routes and scenic trails make it simple to explore neighbourhoods, riverside paths, and countryside viewpoints at a relaxed pace.

Overall, Germany is a travel destination that satisfies many interests simultaneously—history, culture, outdoor experiences, and local traditions—while offering the comfort of organization and accessibility. It is a place where you can go from museum visits to scenic strolls, and from modern city streets to medieval charm, all in one trip.

Austria

Austria is often described as romantic and musical, largely because its cultural identity has been shaped by great composers such as Mozart, as well as by the refined traditions of imperial Europe. Travel here commonly feels elegant and welcoming, with cities and towns that preserve a sense of history while still offering modern comfort.

Vienna stands out for its exceptional concentration of art, classical music, and historic architecture. Visitors can admire grand palaces, learn about centuries of court culture, and experience world-class performances in concert halls and historic venues. The city's atmosphere reflects both sophistication and everyday charm, making it easy to enjoy museums, cafés, and scenic city walks.

Salzburg complements this experience with a different style: it feels intimate, scenic, and storybook-like. Its beautifully preserved Old Town, charming squares, and breathtaking views create a distinctive atmosphere that attracts travellers who want to slow down and take in the surroundings.

Austria's connection to classical music is especially strong, and it feels almost impossible to travel there without encountering the legacy of its composers. Mozart, born in Salzburg, is closely linked to the music and culture of both cities, and visitors can experience his world through performances and historic sites associated with his life. In Vienna, Beethoven is another major figure—he spent his most important years in the city, shaping his career and leaving a lasting musical impact. Together, Mozart and Beethoven represent Austria's musical spirit, where history and melody come together in concert halls, museums, and public performances.

Austria

On the other hand, one of Austria's most appealing features is its strong connection between culture and nature. Rather than offering these as separate experiences, the country blends them into a single journey. Mountain landscapes in Tirol provide opportunities for fresh-air days and panoramic routes, while the Salzkammergut region offers relaxing lake scenery and outdoor activities that fit easily into a travel itinerary.

Overall, Austria is a destination where visitors can enjoy learning through culture while also benefiting from peaceful surroundings. It offers a balanced travel experience — full of music, art, and heritage, yet equally filled with natural beauty that invites relaxation and reflection.

Turkey

Turkey is a destination defined by contrast and connection. Its unique position at the crossroads of Europe and Asia gives it a cultural blend that feels both historical and dynamic. Travellers experience a country where ancient civilizations, Islamic heritage, and modern influences coexist in the same cities, neighbourhoods, and landscapes. This mixture creates a travel atmosphere that is constantly shifting — one moment filled with echoes of the past, the next full of contemporary energy.

Istanbul, the country's best-known city, captures this perfectly. It is famous for its lively markets and bustling bazaars, where visitors can browse for spices, textiles, ceramics, and local crafts. Alongside the shopping streets, the city offers impressive architecture and religious landmarks. Travellers often find it unforgettable to see grand mosques, elegant domes, and intricate details up close. Iconic sightseeing highlights frequently include the Hagia Sophia area and the viewpoints along the Bosphorus, where the city's skyline and waterway create a dramatic sense of place. Turkey's culinary culture is another major part of its appeal. Food is celebrated as a social experience, enjoyed slowly and with plenty of variety. Classic dishes such as kebabs, gözleme (savory stuffed flatbreads), and seasonal meze create a flavorful journey, while desserts like baklava showcase the richness of Turkish baking and sweet traditions. Turkish tea, served throughout the day, adds to the rhythm of everyday life and encourages conversation.

Turkey

Beyond sights and food, Turkey's character is strongly shaped by its people. Visitors typically notice a warm and passionate hospitality, with locals often eager to share stories, recommend places, or guide travellers through local experiences. Street life is lively, and even short walks can feel like cultural discoveries — full of music, scents from cafés, and the movement of everyday communities.

Overall, Turkey offers a trip that feels deeply immersive. It combines culture, history, and lively urban life in a way that invites exploration, curiosity, and unforgettable memories.

Spain

Spain is widely known for its passion, and that energy shows up in everyday life as well as in big moments. The country often feels vibrant and expressive, with celebrations, music, and lively public spaces shaping the atmosphere. One of the most noticeable characteristics is the way festivals fill the calendar. Whether they are local fiestas or widely recognized events, they bring people together and turn streets into stages filled with colour, sound, and tradition.

Spain is also defined by a strong sense of regional identity. Different areas feel distinct in language, style, and customs, so travel becomes an experience of variety rather than repetition. Major cities such as Madrid and Barcelona show Spain's modern side, including contemporary art scenes, stylish neighbourhoods, and an impressive mix of architecture. At the same time, they are rich in culture and history, offering masterpieces that range from grand building designs to unforgettable museums and historic landmarks.

For a more traditional feel, smaller destinations can be especially rewarding. Smaller towns often preserve local routines more clearly — morning markets, quiet plazas, and community-centered events that highlight how Spanish life is lived day to day. These places can reveal the quieter charm behind the country's more energetic reputation.

Spain also supports an active style of travel. From the coastline, visitors can enjoy beach days, sea views, and relaxed outdoor evenings. Inland, there are opportunities for hikes, scenic drives, and nature escapes that help visitors experience Spain beyond its cities.

Spain

Even food and social life can be part of “active travel,” since exploring tapas routes keeps visitors moving from one lively venue to the next, sampling regional flavours along the way encourages walking from one neighbourhood to another, tasting new flavours along the way.

Another defining characteristic is the daily rhythm. Spain’s lifestyle is often more relaxed and social, with later meal times and long evenings that encourage conversation and time outdoors. Dinner frequently feels like a social event rather than a quick routine, and nights often extend into lively street life. Overall, Spain offers a travel experience that feels connected — full of culture, movement, and friendly energy that invites visitors to join in rather than simply observe.

Chile

Chile is a destination shaped by dramatic geography, offering landscapes that feel both extreme and surprisingly diverse. It is known for presenting nature in “bigger-than-life” ways — from the otherworldly silence of the Atacama Desert to the rugged beauty of Patagonia. Travellers often describe Chile as a place where the scenery changes so dramatically that each region feels like a new chapter. Whether it’s salt flats, volcano views, icy glaciers, or mountain ranges, the natural world is the main attraction and provides constant moments of wonder.

One of Chile’s strongest characteristics is the sense of variety within a single trip. The country stretches long from north to south, which means you can experience multiple climates and ecosystems without leaving the country. Desert light in the north can give way to cooler forests, deep valleys, and windswept southern coastlines. As a result, travel routes feel like moving through several “worlds” in one journey — each with its own colours, textures, and atmosphere.

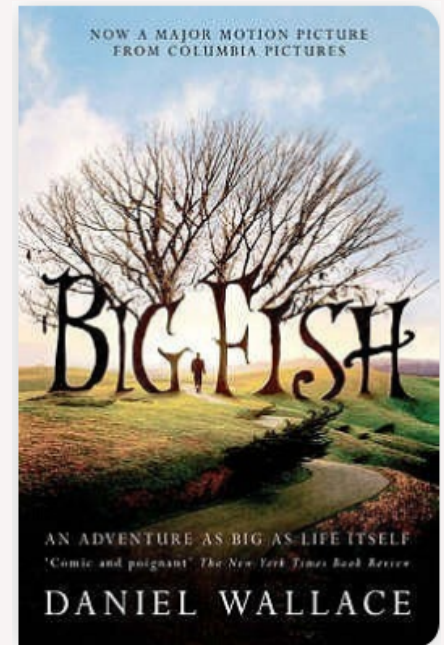
Chile also makes outdoor exploration a central part of its identity. Activities such as trekking, glacier viewing, and wildlife-focused excursions are common attractions, supported by well-known natural regions that invite adventure. The environment often encourages active days filled with viewpoints, trail walks, and unforgettable horizons. For travellers who want a mix of nature and city convenience, Santiago plays an important role as a gateway. The city’s location makes it easier to reach day-trip destinations and nearby wine regions, offering a balance between rest and exploration.

Chile

This combination of urban access and breathtaking wilderness makes Chile an incredibly well-rounded destination for any adventurer surrounding natural beauty helps travellers design flexible routes.

Chile is also strongly associated with experiences that connect people to the sky and the outdoors. Wide-open spaces and clear conditions—especially in the northern regions—make stargazing a memorable feature. Overall, Chile stands out for travellers who want landscapes with a strong emotional impact, plenty of space to explore, and a travel style that feels adventurous from start to finish.

Students' Recommendation



The story centers on William Bloom, whose frequently absent father, Edward Bloom, has recently been diagnosed with cancer. Before his father passes away, William returns home in a final attempt to discover the truth of who his father truly was as a person. To do this, he must carefully distinguish fact from fiction in the life of his father, a legendary teller of tall tales.

Through the retelling of Edward's life across four unique "takes," we encounter giants, witches, and improbable towns, all while exploring a son's deep frustration with his elusive parent. As Edward's death nears, William moves past this frustration, embracing his father's eccentricities and finally understanding him on a profound emotional level through his rich fantasies and exaggerations. In the end, Will fulfills his father's final wish to 'escape' and be released into the water, where Edward metaphorically becomes a big fish and swims away. Ultimately, the novel celebrates storytelling as a powerful vehicle for forgiveness and immortality, transforming an ordinary life into an extraordinary myth.

In *Big Fish*, Edward and Will are initially estranged because Will believes his father's life is entirely built on falsehoods, jokes, and fabrications. Yet, as an act of filial piety, Will returns home to his father's deathbed in hopes of reconciling and repairing their broken bond. During this final precious time together, Will begins to understand Edward, learning that true reconciliation is built on acceptance. He also takes it upon himself to fulfill his father's final wishes.

Despite the emotional challenges Will faces, his determination to care for and reconcile with his father one last time is a deeply moving trait from which we can all learn. This novel is a highly recommended read because it balances a delightful, almost fairy-tale-like narrative structure with serious themes. It beautifully stresses the importance of forgiveness, empathy, and acceptance, particularly within familial relationships.

新書推薦

很多努力生活卻身心俱疲的人，常常會這樣想：

「事情一定要照那樣發展，不然就完了。」
「我必須要好好表現，不能讓對方失望。」
「那個人不應該這樣對我。」

其實，這些「應該／必須／一定不能……」的想法，正是所謂的「非理性信念」。它們會悄悄偷走你的能量、自信和人生。

幸好，只要透過REBT，重新設定「理性」的想法，你的煩惱就能大大消散！

理情行為治療法（REBT），是由美國最受尊敬的心理學家亞伯·艾里斯所開創，主要是透過感受（情緒）、想法（認知）、行為三大面向的技術，來看清我們內在的非理性信念，進而調整情緒與行為。

本書提供REBT簡單且富有成效的自我訓練技巧（如A-B-C-D-E轉念法），以及實用的心理學智慧，一旦讀通了，活用了，你就能：

- 把你的煩惱，轉變成健康的想法與感受。
- 面對逆境與挫折，更能處變不驚（而非處變大驚）。
- 靠自己的力量，克服焦慮、憂鬱、憤怒、自怨自艾還有自憐。
- 讓你的生活變得更快樂，而且困擾大減。
- 釋放長久以來的壓力，感受到深刻的自在與救贖。



新書推薦

我們很少因為關於未來事件的預知夢而苦惱。然而，我們一定都做過一些令人費解的夢。這些夢，是進入潛意識的入口，它們正向你傳達甚麼重要訊息？

你的夢，其實是你精神上的救贖。現今的科學已證實，夢境反映了自己日常的活動與焦慮。你做的夢，不論是單一的夢境，或是連續性的夢境，都可能是你目前正面臨生活挑戰及壓力的出口。

本書是自助解夢的指南，內容涵蓋多種夢境象徵、夢境主題及其意義。透過書中傳授的「夢境日記」，記錄下自己的夢，進而揭開夢境隱藏的含義，讓夢成為自我認知與靈感的來源。

夢境日記如何寫？

- 每晚睡覺前，透過「做設定」來協助你的記憶，盡可能記住最多細節。
- 告訴你自己，你想要記得自己的夢境。
- 想像一個田園場景，或海浪拍打在寧靜的海灘上，藉此安定自己並放鬆。
- 醒來時，別急著把所有東西寫下來。閉著眼睛，盡可能回想著最多細節。
- 夢境的整體氛圍，是意義的關鍵。務必留意你的感受、故事線及任何聽到的對話片段。別一開始就去分析夢中的景象。
- 最後，回想前一週的任何事件或影像，那些可能是這夢境的靈感來源，並把它們寫下來。





HONG KONG PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Upcoming Activities



古典詩歌選讀：漢魏晉五言詩選讀

日期: 2026年7月19日(星期日)

時間: 下午2時15分至下午3時45分

地點: 大會堂公共圖書館 (推廣活動室)

講者: 李學銘教授

機構: 香港公共圖書館與學海書樓合辦

備註:

- 講座以粵語進行，免費入場，須預先登記留座。
- 名額 105 個，先到先得，額滿即止，不設候補。
- 有興趣人士可於講座當天：

一、上午9時至下午1時30分致電2921 2508 或 親臨大會堂公共圖書館3樓成人借閱圖書館服務台（1號櫃台）登記留座；

二、下午1時30分起，親臨大會堂公共圖書館8樓推廣活動室外的登記處登記留座。

一人一額方式登記，名額有限，先到先得，額滿即止。



HONG KONG PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Upcoming Activities



2026年「與作家會面」：

幸福書房 - 從明畫看生活中的小確幸

日期: 2026年7月26日 (星期日)

時間: 下午2時30分至4時

地點: 藍田公共圖書館 (推廣活動室)

講者: mingmingo 插畫師

機構: 康樂及文化事務署香港公共圖書館

備註:

- 粵語主講。免費入場。
- 講座舉行前2星期開始接受電話登記留座。名額有限，先到先得。
- 留座者須於講座開始前5分鐘到場。逾時者所作登記將告無效，有關座位將分配予現場等候人士。

查詢電話: 2927 7055

Upcoming Activities



香港書展

Hong Kong
Book Fair

香港貿發局香港書展 (第36屆)

展覽日期及開放時間:

2026年7月15至20日 (星期三至一)

上午10時至下午10時

2026年7月21日 (星期二)

上午9時至下午5時

展出地點:

香港會議展覽中心

香港灣仔博覽道一號 (港灣道入口)

*開放時間以最終確認為準

*展覽會於每日關閉前45分鐘停止參觀人士進場