

Public Library

adapted from an article by Kate McGeown



- 1 If you put all the books you own on the street outside your house, you would expect them to disappear in a flash. But one man in Manilla tried it – and found that his collection grew. Hernando Guanlao is a cheerful man in his early 60s, with one abiding passion – books. They're his pride and joy, which is just as well because, whether he likes it or not, they seem to be taking over his house.
- 2 Guanlao has set up an informal library outside his home in central Manilla to encourage his local community to share his joy of reading. The idea is simple: readers can take as many books as they want, for as long as they want – even permanently. It's a policy you might assume would end very quickly – with Guanlao having no books at all. But in the 12 years he's been running his library he's found that his collection has grown rather than diminished, as more and more people donate to the cause.
- 3 Guanlao started his library in 2000, shortly after the death of his parents. He was looking for something to honour their remembrance, and that was when he hit upon the idea of promoting the reading habit he'd inherited. "I saw my old textbooks upstairs and came up with the concept of having the public use them," he says. So he put them outside the door of his house to see if anyone wanted to borrow them. They did, and they brought the books back with others to add to the collection – and the library was born.

- 4 Somehow, every day, a steady stream of people find their way there, to browse and to contribute. But it's people like Celine who sustain the library. She lives down the road from Guanlao which gives her the opportunity to help by regularly visiting with bulging bags of books. She says she loves the concept because Filipinos – certainly those who are not particularly wealthy – have limited access to books. “Considering the income here, I think parents have other priorities.”

- 5 As we sit outside Guanlao's house watching people browse through his collection, he tells me why he thought it was worth spending all his time – even to the point of giving up his job and surviving purely on his savings – to maintain the library. He has also given several boxes of books to a man trying to set up a similar venture outside Manilla. “You don't do justice to these books if you put them in a cabinet or a box,” he says. “A book should be used and reused. It has life, it has a message. As a book caretaker, you become a full man.”

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Tekst 7

- 1p 9 How does the writer introduce the subject in paragraph 1?
A by comparing two different events
B by contradicting the title of the article
C by describing a remarkable situation
D by supporting a courageous initiative
- 1p 10 'It's a policy you might assume would end very quickly' (alinea 2)
→ In welke zin heeft de schrijfster dit al eens eerder gezegd?
Citeer (= schrijf over uit de tekst) de eerste twee woorden van deze zin.
- 1p 11 Why did Guanlao start his project, according to paragraph 3?
He felt the need to
A contribute to a better environment for the future.
B do away with all the objects he did not really need.
C do something suitable in memory of his parents.
D share his great wealth with less fortunate people.
- 1p 12 What does Celine particularly like about Guanlao's library, according to paragraph 4?
A It gives poor people the chance to read books.
B It helps her get rid of books she no longer wants.
C It is in short walking distance from her home.
D It provides reading materials for local schools.
- 1p 13 What can be concluded about Guanlao from paragraph 5?
A He dislikes having to depend on gifts from well-wishers.
B He has found a way to earn money with his library.
C He is clearly pleased with the choices he has made.
D He lost his job because he spent too much time on his library.
E He wants to make his business profitable by expanding.

Bronvermelding

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