

Buddhist Wong Fung Ling College
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Name: Andy Yung (27)

Class: 5D

Andy Yung Ka Shing 5D 27

Title: 25-Year-Old Manga Character- Conan

‘Case Closed’, also known as ‘Detective Conan’, is a well-known Japanese detective manga series written by Gosho Aoyama. It was serialized in the most famous Japanese manga magazine on January 19, 1994. Why am I talking about this ‘ancient’ manga? In fact, this manga has survived until now! Over the time, Detective Conan has been adapted into various genres from anime, animated feature films, original video animations, video games, audio disc releases to live-action episodes on TV. The first video animation was released in 1996, and nearly 1000 series were made thereafter.

The anime came to every household’s television, and I started watching it when I was a kid. The young boy called Conan, who was always investigating mysterious detective cases, caught everyone’s attention. Although he was just a pupil, he managed to solve a multitude of cases with his calmness and wit. Conan is not the only character that attracts readers. Some other characters are also popular. For instance, Shinichi Kudo, one of the protagonists of the series, doesn't kill or hurt anyone. He just wanted to find the unknown organization which killed his father. He took on the role of Kid after identifying the organization called Pandora, and decided to destroy it. This handsome and cool character even ranked the top as the most popular character of the series on a Case Closed Character Popularity Poll.

How big is the impact of Conan on our real life? In 2014, a number of exhibitions on the manga were held in Japan, Taiwan, and Shanghai to celebrate its 20th anniversary. Apart from the Detective Conan exhibitions, there are music concerts about it. At the author’s birthplace, Tottori ken, you can see Conan’s trace everywhere from schools to stations. There are even bronze statues and posters in the library of the town. There is also a theme park in Japan that is dedicated to Detective Conan.

With 23 animated feature films, 23 years of TV anime, 25 years of manga serials, Detective Conan has been the memories of a generation. After you have read or watched them, whether you keep doing it or not, there is always a place in your childhood memory that belongs to this character. You may have forgotten some of the bizarre killing methods in his early years, or how Conan’s glasses glisten every time he cracks a case. But you will always remember these old memes that turned out every year: “When there is Conan, someone will die there”,

“Detective Conan” is not only an anime, but also an important part of popular culture. As years went by, we are growing up in the real world and Detective Conan is imperceptibly changing as well, from using the old flip mobile phones to a smartphone with a big screen; from killing people with physical means to murdering someone with computer virus. It may be hard to find another work, which accompanies fans and documents the changes in a generation for so long. It is this virtual companionship that makes “parting” extremely difficult. All of his fans will have such ambivalence. On the one hand, we often hope to see Conan grow up, the finale of the duel with the

mysterious organization, and especially how the emotional lines of the main characters will end. On the other hand, if the day of ending really arrives, it will probably bring a trace of panic, which represents another period of storage of memory.

Maybe it's time for Detective Conan to say goodbye to the people he accompanied and the people who accompanied him. But I think this masterpiece will become an “eternal” popular culture for some audiences. Of course, I will keep waiting until that day comes. (word count: 657)