

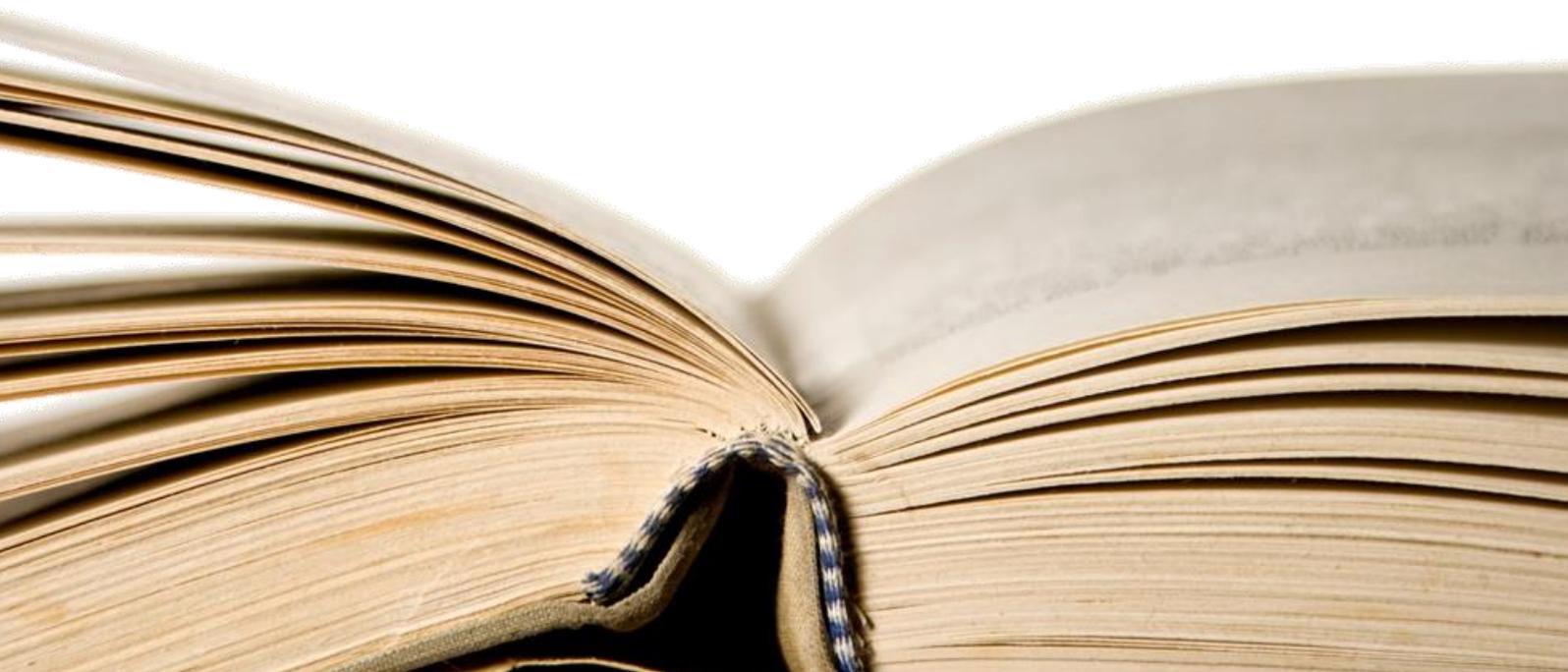
We wrote.  
We write.  
We are writing as  
we are writers.

**AN ANTHOLOGY OF YOUNG WRITERS  
IN YING WA PRIMARY SCHOOL**



# **Fire in Flame**

*Volume III 2013-2014*



# Foreword

I do understand how challenging and rewarding it is to put together an anthology like Fire in Flame. Every time when we review students' work and put the various pieces into the pages and format them in style, we also review what tasks we have been given to our boys and how motivated the boys have been when they work on these writing tasks. The fact is, we are glad every time as we see the efforts everybody put in to respond to each writing assignment given. That is why teachers in Ying Wa Primary School have never felt frustrated when spending time to edit magazines and books for our English loving children.

These young writers deserve these excellent platforms to showcase their work and our English Department has the responsibility to make sure that these high-quality collections of writings from children are published so that more children will be touched by the magic of reading and writing.

The third volume of Fire in Flame has certainly collected the most extraordinary and marvelous works of poetry, prose and drama from these two school years. I am proud to say that, as a publication from and for children, this book is too good, this book itself is yet another memorable trophy for the boys of our glorious school.

H. C. Lee, Ed.D.

Panel Chair

Department of English

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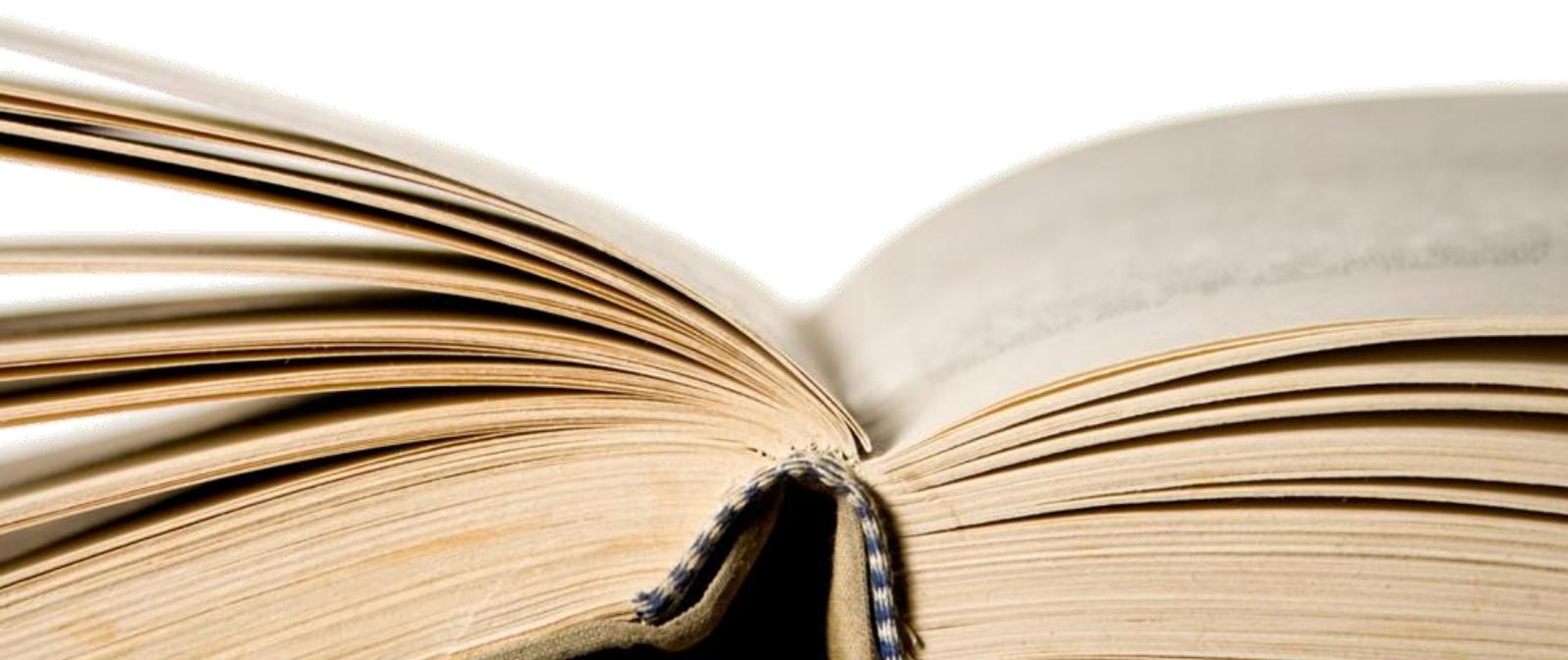
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*The* **Book** *of*  
[the perfect ten]  
**10|10|10**

a celebration for 10th school anniversary of YWPS



## Sonnet 10 to Ying Wa

*Kieran Wong (P.6B), Henry Poon (P.6C), Felix Cheung (P.6C), Steve Tang (P.6E), Ocean Huang (P.6D), John Ho, Jeremy Cheung, Enoch Kao (YWPS Alumni), Dr. Lee HC, Ms. Claire Leung (Teachers)*

Would you resound the **one** and only song?  
We cry as one, we praise the tune along:  
A name to guard, a home we all embrace.  
We all unite for this triumphant day.

With Christ's conviction, humbly facing dares.  
In history's torrents, aiding pals with care.  
Our Snoopy-love's jests, her annual schemes,  
Our **two** superb homes, all receive esteem.

Our smiles are lighting up the solemn hall,  
With pride and boldness, we are standing tall;  
By heart, we learn the **three** immortal deeds,  
They're "Faith" and "Hope" and "Love" our Father's seeds.

**Four** subjects to master in these six years,  
We learn in joy, with eagerness not fear.  
The fondness of learning in every heart,  
Always smiling and shining like a star.

Derive great fun from campus all we thrive.  
In tune, melodic cheers: we come alive.  
The **five** ensemble bands, they radiate.  
A home of youth where beaming smiles create.

How glorious! A wonder school it is!  
A double **six**, we play and pray to His  
Realm; we praise for youth with faith; a humble  
Rejoice! In Him, we buildup ensemble!

We all join around the age of **seven**,  
Here we grow brilliance and competence.  
Care and love are our daily lessons,  
You nurture us into an all-around person.

You foster our **eight** intelligences,  
Let us applaud for your excellence  
The school guides us along the path that is right  
Make all of us sparkle and shine so bright.

Persistency and wisdom stand for **nine**;  
It will soon be our time to shine.  
Let us sing our wondrous song again,  
Since nine's getting closer to ten.

*If* **ten** comprises a one and a ring,  
The Voice in unison, forever sing.

# 10

## *Chang Kwan Wa (YWPS Alumnus)*

Thee stood 10 years  
Eternal Name Of Glory thou possess  
Never sad hath thou been

All of us have had joy  
None of us have had sorrow  
Now we step into a new age  
In which new brothers join our brethren  
Valuable is this school  
Eager the students are to learn  
Reaching their goals  
Same in the next 10 years, I hope this school be  
And will the name be spread for eternity  
Ready are we to step into the new age?  
Yes we are, and will this school last.



# Amazing Ten

## *Vincent Song (P.2B)*

Ten is a very special number.

If you put one through zero,

It's like a plane!

This plane means Ying Wa is the most creative,

As his imaginations are soaring above usual thoughts.

If you put one under zero,

it's like a lamp!

This lamp means Ying Wa is very attractive.

Just like lots of bugs always fly around a lamp.

And it also signifies the warm cozy Ying Wa,

Because of the lights sending out from the lamp.

If you put one upon zero,

It's like a ship!

This ship means Ying Wa boys are courageous  
and full of knowledge,

As the ship is sailing on the sea of knowledge.

And it also signifies the ship carries dreams

and happiness to Ying Wa boys,

As his boys are always carefree and filled with amazing dreams.

## If I have ten dollars

*Alfred Kok (P.5D)*

If I have ten dollars, I can do many things, for example drink some juice, eat a hamburger, buy a toy, buy some books or donate them etc.

However, if I need to choose, I will donate the “ten” dollars to some charity organization. To you, ten dollars may not be much, but if everyone donate “ten” dollars, there will be much money.

If we donate money to charity organizations, we can help many people who have not enough money to heal their ailment, so they can survive.

There are a lot of charity organizations that you can donate money to, for example, Ronald McDonald House, Hong Kong Children’s Cancer Foundation, Hong Kong Camp, etc.

These organizations can help many people or children suffering from cancer. The Hong Kong Children’s Cancer Foundation helps children who are suffering from cancer, while Hong Kong Cancer Fund gives a helping hand to the old people or adults with cancer.

If everyone donates ten dollars to these agencies, the people who are suffering from cancer, would be funded to heal their disease.

If you have ten dollars, how would you use it?

# An Essay on Ten

*Chris Pang (P.6C)*

Ten. After nine. Before eleven. The end for some. A change for some others. One of the very numbers that link to human nature. In some money systems, ten symbolizes the largest coin and the smallest banknote, the only number to be published in both banknote form and coin form. Today, I present you with the study of 10.

First, the religious and spiritual meanings of ten. For many people, ten years are the utmost limit of their patience in waiting. Christians and Jews follow Ten Commandments. Tenth signals a new beginning for a child, a birthday that is most importantly celebrated as the start of the “double-digit” march into adulthood. When you become ten, it is expected for you to lose your “childish habits” and “act maturely”. The first of a series of changing points that mark your life forever.

Second, the mathematical, cultural and biological links with ten. We have ten toes and ten fingers, which is no wonder why our ancestors had invented the decimal number system as the first, and most common, number system where the base number is 10. More importantly, ten is a barrier or gateway in most systems: ten objects together or more commonly ten years are called a decade, while its brother, the hundred years, and is called a century. Both are made out of tens. A tenth anniversary of a company is greatly celebrated as a sign that it is a successful survivor. After ten years of working in a field, you are treated as a “common” in the field. It has been proven again and again, the power of ten in our lives.

# Amazing Recounts of 10

*Jason Siu (P.5A)*

Creamy white clouds were floating in the clear blue sky. Leaves were rustling in the summer breeze. I was floating enjoyably in the swimming pool, recalling the brilliant moments of the school year from my mental diary...

“10 Brothers” were the magical words I heard anytime and everywhere at school this year! Everyone at Ying Wa knew them. I was surprised that my grandma knew them too. Had she overheard our stories during the assembly? I was excited to get any updated information about the ten brothers from Mrs. Lam. It was fun playing the “10 Brothers” card games too.

“10 months” were what I was very contented with. I was happy that I had the chance to serve my class as a monitor for 10 months from September to June, and serve my school as a prefect for 10 months too.

“10 cheers” still made me excited. My classmate, Plato, and I were blessed to represent primary four to participate in the 4x100m relay with 10 other primary schoolmates and college big brothers. I would never forget the cheers and laughter during the race.

“10 seconds” was the target of my 60m race. I jumped to my feet as I found that I had broken my record of running 60m in 10 seconds on the School Sports Day!

“10 hours” were not the duration of marathon but the duration I performed on the School Open Days. I was honoured to play clarinet in the Opening Ceremony, Clarinet Solo and Clarinet Trio performances. I treasure every happy moment of the Open Days.

“10 tasks” were completed in our “Ten Brothers” nighttime activity. 10 brothers and I joined hands and did our best. Though we lost the games, we gained friendship!

“10-year-old boy” --- that’s me! I turned 10 this year, and so did my school! I was proud to celebrate the 10th birthday with my school. It was the 10th anniversary of Ying Wa Primary School.

“Happy 10<sup>th</sup> Birthday, my beloved school!”

# The TEN's Adventure

*Isaiah Lam (P.4E)*

In year 101010, ten ten-years-old scientists invented a special spaceship, called "Ten days ship". It could take people anywhere in just ten days! That was cool and amazing. They chose a planet from a book called "Ten Thousand Cool Planets in the Milky Way". It was called "Ten Planet". It took them just ten days to arrive.

Guess what was on Ten Planet? It was weird. They saw ten thousand buildings, ten thousand animals, all in tens ... The Ten planet aliens had ten eyes, ten ears, ten mouths, ten hands and ten legs, and all was about ten. The ten little scientists found them very interesting and were amazed! They stayed there for ten days and something started to change ...

An Evil figure came. It had strong power. It turned Ten Planet into hot sand and started smashing anything on its way. The hot sand burnt people so the Ten Planet aliens started melting. The scientists were scared and hid in a tall icy mountain. They found ten old wise men there.

"What happened? Can we help?" The ten wise men asked.

"An Evil figure came and messed up the city." The ten scientists explained.

"You all can help by taking ten fine round stones from the bottom of Sea Everest and ten leaves from the Wishing Tree." The wise men replied.

“Cover each stone with one leaf. Then plant them ten feet under the ground and pour ten liters of melted gold on them.” The wise men continued.

“Wait for ten hours, a tree will grow and it will do the rest for you ...”  
The wise men said.

“However, do hurry! The tree must be planted by midnight or else we will all melt!” The wise men popped and disappeared.

The ten little scientists set off with their best and most powerful weapons. They faced dozens of dangers. Finally, they planted the Tree by midnight! The Tree attracted lightning. When the Evil figure came near the Tree, the Tree struck him with lightning. The Evil figure screamed and fell on the ground with a loud thump and vanished. The sand started to cool down and turned back to their normal shape.

Thereafter, Ten Planet was back to peace! The ten little scientists went back to Earth. They were being transformed into “The Ten Brothers” in the Ten days ship, and hid in different places around Earth.

# Tom's Incredible Invention

*James Lai (P.6C)*

Tom has invented something new and incredible – THE TEN BROTHERS SUPER WATCH!

It can let you possess the EXTRAORDINARY abilities of the Ten Brothers!!!

Tom can't wait to try it out! Without hesitation, he pressed the "1" button. His vision became blurry, then clear. A second later, he's looking at the Prime Minister of Britain!!! He's listening to music, watching TV, reading a book, eating fish & chips, talking to his wife, dancing Tap Dance, telling jokes--all at ONCE!

Tom pressed the "2" button. He heard his favorite singer, Selena Gomez singing-- for free!

Tom pressed the "3" button. He was lifted up the ICC building, which had 100...101 floors.

Tom pressed the "4" button. He walked out of his "Lab". (It's actually his room.) There was a burglar. The burglar tried to shoot him with his gun, but with the powers of Flexible Four, Tom didn't get hurt. He took the burglar to the Police Headquarters instead.

Tom pressed the "5" button. He soared up to space. Unfortunately, NO HUMAN can breathe the air in outer space without an oxygen mask.

Desperately, he pressed “6” button. His head was “aiming” for the floor. Fortunately, the thing that was broken wasn’t Tom’s head--it was the floor.

Tom immediately pressed the “7” button and he grew as tall as GODZILLA! The citizens couldn’t see a thing as Tom was using another invention-- THE ILLUSION TRON 2000. It can make people see things differently from what’s really happening. All the people could see was a little boy walking on the street normally.

Tom pressed the “8” button. He was looking forward to trying Modest Eight’s ability as Modest Eight was his favorite brother. After a nanosecond, he was underground, back to the surface, then underground again. “I invented the best gadget ever!” Tom exclaimed.

Tom pressed the “9” button. Willing to try the new ability, he coughed purposely. It blew an old man from Hong Kong to Canada to the USA to Egypt to Africa to Mexico to Korea to Japan to Singapore to Macau and back to Hong Kong. The old man was very happy as he couldn’t travel around the world anymore due to his sore legs.

Worriedly, Tom pressed the “10” button. Although he still wanted to try the “crying” ability, he was afraid that he might cause a flood. After pressing the button, a running little boy accidentally pushed him down on the floor. It hurt so much that Tom couldn’t help crying. His tears created a new lake--Tom Lake. But besides that, his tears saved 100 people’s lives from a fire! Tom was a hero!

The next day, a businessman came and tried to persuade Tom into

selling the Ten Brothers Super Watch. Tom refused, but the businessman snatched the watch without paying even a dollar!!! Luckily, the watch had a setting-it would only keep Tom's DNA as a password (unless Tom used his DNA to let his friends to try and use the watch) so no one could use the watch against Tom's will. Instead, the watch would attack the "intruder" by itself.

## INTRUDERS

"From this day on," exclaimed Tom, "I vow to use this watch for justice and against evil!"

Well, Tom turned out to be a great hero – and a great student!



# **The Ten Days with my Brother and family in Hokkaido**

*James Tam (P.3C)*

## **Day 1**

I went to Hokkaido in Japan with my brother Nicholas and my family. We drove to the hotel and kept singing. We checked in and rushed to the hot spa. Oh no, the water was too hot!

## **Day 2**

We went to a bear farm. Nicholas was excited as bear is his favorite animal. Unfortunately, it started raining. I thought the bears growled so loud that the sky was sick of it! We saw some cute squirrels doing gym too.

## **Day 3**

We enjoyed watching lavenders, sunflowers and lots of other beautiful and colorful flowers in Furano. The scenery was lovely and unforgettable.

## **Day 4**

We fed animals in a farm. There were ponies, ducks, bunnies, alpacas, sheep and ostriches. They were really cool.

## **Day 5**

We went to a cheese factory to make cheese. You know, cheese is made of milk. We ate the cheese that we made. It was yummy! We also visited a wine factory and a jam factory.

## **Day 6**

We picked cherries in a cherry farm. They were high up in the trees and we had to climb up ladders to reach them. They were tiny but sweet!

## **Day 7**

We went to an aquarium in Sapporo. There were fierce sharks, stingrays and lots of other cool fishes. We saw cute porpoises diving, furry penguins waddling along, fat walruses swimming and hungry seals begging us to feed them! There were turtles, otters and capybaras too.

## **Day 8**

We lived in a fairytale hostel. It was a wonderful hostel except for the flies and mosquitoes! We were so silly to open the windows. Finally, we caught all the insects with insect nets. We had a sushi and Hokkaido melon party that night.

## **Day 9**

We went to the Asahiyama Zoo. We saw polar bears, leopards, snow owls, giraffes and lots of other animals there. Nicholas and I were so excited.

## **Day 10**

This was our last day. We filled our tummy with a delicious Wagyu beef lunch and then rode the Japan Railway to the airport. I bought my favorite Japanese chocolate before I got on the plane.

I enjoyed this trip so much. Do you want to join me next time?

## **Subject: 10**

*Tom Kwok (P.3D)*

Ten is a number. Ten cars, ten dogs, ten pencils etc. I am now going to write a story about a boy called TEN.

There was one night when, Tom could not sleep. All of a sudden, a swarm of black numbers appeared in front of his eyes, they were all the same number, number "10". After the black numbers past by Tom, he saw himself as a sheep. He saw another nine sheep, they all became friends. Each one had a different name, their names were all numbers. The first one was called One, the second was called Two, and so on. The last one was number Ten, who was Tom. They were in a city called City Ten. In the city, ten trolls lived in the river which ran through it and the river was called River Ten.

The next day, the ten friends found that the river was crystal clear. Alongside the river was a field which had fresh green grass, it looked a lot more delicious from what they had been eating. The only way to get to the other side of the river was by crossing a small wooden bridge. Ten and the others got closer to the bridge, all of a sudden the bridge collapsed. Soon after that, ten trolls appeared in the river.

The trolls did not look fierce. Strangely, they began to shrink. Within a few moments, they became the size of an ant. Suddenly, a large fish appeared and swallowed them all up. Then the wind blew strongly. The sheep were terrified. A tall tree standing by the river's edge was also blown over. It was tall enough to span over the river for the sheep

to cross to the other side. The sheep found shelter and crossed the river to the field with the delicious grass.

But that was not the end of the story. That night when Ten went to sleep along with all the others, a big number “10” flashed in front of his eyes. It was very bright. Afterwards, it became brighter, and brighter, and suddenly Ten woke up.

Tom had awakened and was being himself again. In front of him, there was one angry woman who was his mum. Tom's mum said, “Go to the wash room and brush your teeth, you are late for school.” Tom thought, was it a dream? Fortunately, it had all been a dream.



# The Hunger Poets

*We all write poems; it is simply that poets  
are the ones who write in words.*

*- John Fowles*

輕輕的我走了

正如我輕輕的來

## *Taking Leave of Cambridge Again*

*Softly I am leaving,*

*Just as softly as I came;*

*I softly wave goodbye*

*To the clouds in the western sky.*

*By Xu Zhimo*

## **Animals of the Frozen North**

*Marco Yu (YWPS Alumnus)*

*Merit, Hong Kong Budding Poets Award 2012-2013*

First memories of the warm den,  
A cave scooped deep down the snow,  
Polar bear cub snuggled closely to his mother,  
All through the long grey northern winter.

Dawn of a day, golden beam of the sky,  
The furry family stretched their bodies,  
spread around the cold, and snatched,  
tunneled out for food through the soft snow.

A snowy owl flew by on silent wings,  
A fluffy white hare with bobble tails ran off.  
Mother bear growled at a white-teeth fox  
The cub bear stumbled in surprise.

Walking towards the sea,  
Sniffed salty smell in the air.  
They heard the loud cries of the seabirds  
In a distance, a great whale spouted.

A hole in the ice for catching seals.  
Mother bear looked for food, cub bear waited.  
Suddenly, a seal poked its head up through a hole,  
The astonished cub bear could not think what to do.

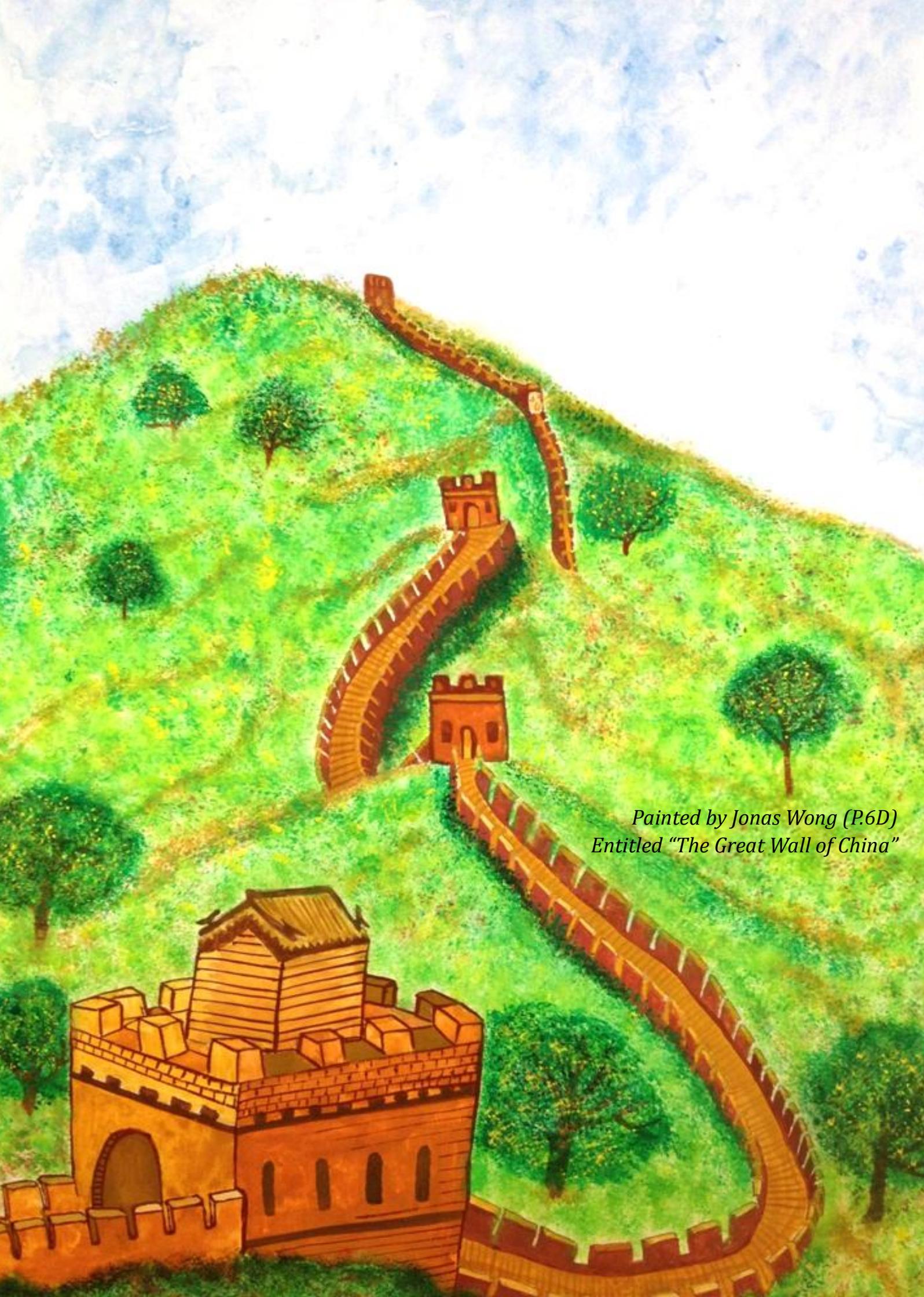
The seal vanished quickly under the ice again.  
No supper! Cub bear trotted quietly after its mother.  
Crouched lowly on the ice, mother watched a seals' bask.  
Cub bear explored around an icy rocky hill.

Wow! A walrus of huge white tusks appeared.  
Cub bear ran in fright! The paper-thin ice  
Moving beneath, floating towards the sea,  
Stranding on an iceberg! A cry thundered.

Shaking their coats, getting rid of water,  
New shapes gathered among the floes.  
Hunters in their boats, petrified.  
They sailed backwards leaving the Frozen North.

Wildlife and humans first had a harmonic ensemble; now a rival.  
Yet, climate changes, animals struggled for survival.  
Keep a balance, build a future,  
Human needs are mingled in harmony with nature.





*Painted by Jonas Wong (P.6D)  
Entitled "The Great Wall of China"*

# Seasons of the Great Wall

*Douglas Tsang (P.6D)*

*Highly Commended, Hong Kong Young Writers Awards 2013*

Great Wall, a thousand-year-old giant,  
Built with slabs and stones.  
Over the years, he lies on the range,  
Waiting for us to wake him.

Great Wall, a colorful scarf,  
Pretty blossom flourishes everywhere.  
Birds sing softly there,  
Awaiting for Spring.

Great Wall, a fierce dragon,  
Fireballs flare far and wide,  
Where no one wants to climb  
On it for a summer picnic.

Great Wall, a red carpet,  
Leaves falling leaves flow along.  
Animals race for autumn food and bed  
Great Wall witnesses all the rest.

Great Wall, a white dragon lies on a castle,  
Soft snow covers all the squares.  
In a jiffy, its tail disappears  
In this winter's tale.



Great Wall, woken up by loud laughter  
after thousand years, spreads his arms  
offering a big hug to welcome us.  
We read his beauty and his story there forever.

\*\*\*

## **Soar Against Gravity**

*Michael Cheng (P.6A)*

I was locked in that dusty warehouse,  
I peeked at the stocks and stocks.  
Beam shone through the gaps between trees,  
through the closed window, onto a mouse.  
I warbled, hoped to be freed.

Then, the rusty door cracked,  
A shadow of a man grew.  
I spread my wings wide,  
Until I could see the tip of every feather,  
I was sure that I couldn't hover.

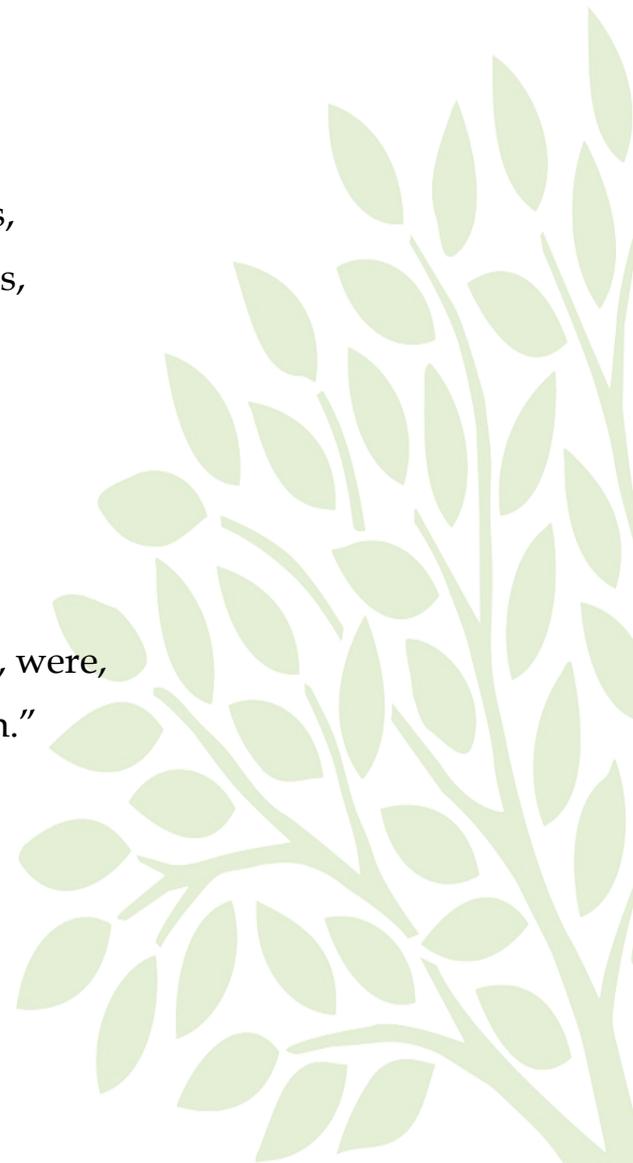
I accumulated my energy,  
I gave strength onto my feet,  
I gave a powerful strike.  
My beak was thrust into his hand,  
He screamed as if it were a spike.

I took a deep breath,  
and made a vigorous flap.  
I totally ignored gravity,  
I grew faster as I approached the horizon,  
a rest wouldn't come until my death.

I saw envy from swallow's and owl's eyes,  
I heard praise from parrot's and nightingale's song,  
I smelt surprise from humming bird's and woodpecker's sweat,  
I tasted inferiority from roc's and eagle's tears,  
I felt terror from canary's and heron's temperature: I am only poultry.

All I wanted was to reach the atmosphere,  
To glance at the elegant manner of phoenixes,  
To admire the awesome figure of thunderbirds,  
To review the appearance of supernatural birds,  
or beg for bliss from the paradise of birds.

Suddenly I lost my strength,  
I fell like a vagrant, a gypsy.  
Wind whistled next to my ears, I felt dizzy.  
The last words before I turned into mincemeat, were,  
"Look! He ends, but with incomparable esteem."



# **A Whale, One of a Kind**

*Ken Lee (P.6B)*

Have you heard of the story of a whale?  
A remarkable whale which loved to fly?

She was a sleeping beauty, bathing under the sun one day  
A hot-air balloonist blew and flew her away.  
He looked down below and spotted her hump,  
    “I will land on that rock,” he cheered with a thumb.  
He tied up his balloon with a butter-golden bow,  
As she slept, she didn’t know.

Then, a big tornado whirled over the sea,  
It blew her up high above the sky – nowhere could be seen.  
    “What a fantastic feeling!” she cried in glee.  
    “I am floating above the sparkling blue sea!”  
She chatted with seagulls and eagles,  
waved her tremendous fins.

Then, he dropped her back home at the end of the day,  
“Oh, thank you!” she smiled, and then, swam away.

# My Unusual Mind

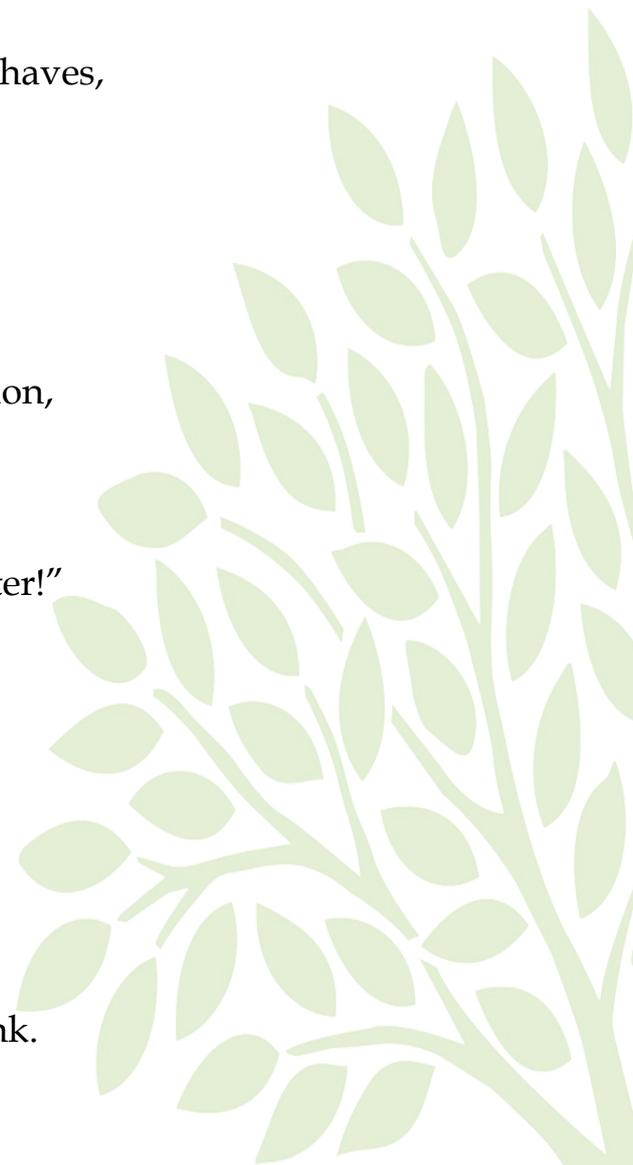
*Felix Cheung (P.6C)*

I am a child with an unusual mind,  
It makes me special and unique. I find...  
Sometimes my mind can function perfectly well,  
It gives me great and extraordinary ideas nobody can tell.  
I can memorize all those difficult passages easily,  
And can handle all the tough assignments satisfactorily.

However most of the time my mind goes wild,  
It makes me different from a normal child.  
I don't like the out-of-control way my mind behaves,  
It makes me feel like sailing in big waves.  
I can never just sit down and begin reading,  
I need a long time to settle down for studying.

Mum reminds me to pay twice as much attention,  
In order to get good grading in examination.  
"Don't miss the commas and the capital letter.  
Focus on your work and you can do much better!"  
I have already tried my best,  
But my mind prefers to take a rest.

Whenever I need to take a test,  
I feel nervous and cannot rest.  
My mind often balks and goes blank,  
I struggle to find information from the databank.  
My mind seems to be covered in a veil,



It makes me answer the questions as slow as a snail.

All the answers are actually on my mind,  
For unknown reasons they are just hard to find.  
When I hear "Hurry up! It's time to stop!"  
I become anxious and my pen drops.  
Even I really studied hard,  
My effort can't be reflected on the report card.

I always feel a bit sad,  
As it's hard to tell the problems I had.  
There are many roadblocks in my way,  
Can I find a way out one day?  
Mum says, "Don't worry my dear, everything will be fine.  
Once you can manage your unusual mind, you can shine!"

# A Nightmare Documentary

*Chris Pang (P.6C)*

As I go into bed and slowly close my eyes,  
I try to forget everything (that I found was wise).  
But beneath the normal “you’ll sleep well” disguise,  
There lies the terrible incident that you cannot describe.

Under the deep warm bed, a creature called “nightmare”,  
I shall see him in all my dreams without paying a fare.  
This thing’s in control of what you see, lying in its lair,  
And something happens faster than a running mare.

For example, the part when Red Riding Hood  
gets her little bread, and skips to nearly an end-up dead.  
But some other scary parts that you wish to quickly end,  
are stretched much longer than the story can ever bend:

The bloody hunter’s hunt’s lasted for an hour long,  
Quickly, he shoots an arrow at you, with a tremendous bong.  
Then you think, with a sigh, “It’s all over, that cannot be wrong,”  
You see a killer monk, holding a huge gong.

Those images are only the iceberg tip; this beast can make you see,  
much more terrible, than a bunch of killing trees.

The tiniest pawn in its monster army is the mutant stinger poisonous bee,  
right up to the top, with a behemoth bellowing in glee.

Then, my mum calls, *WAKE UP!*

All my ice-cold sweat really fills a cup.

Now, I decide to write with so much ink to wash a pup,

So I scribble this poem, really casually writing up.

I hope after reading this, you'll know how to prepare,

against old nightmare's definitely killing glare.

For this beast is lying in shadows waiting for its next scare,

and that might be you, to deny it, I don't dare...

# Dreams in a Paradise

*Henry Poon (P.6C)*

Dreams are the part that makes you animate,  
They are the part that catches your life.  
I always dream of a glorious paradise that was never found,  
Where blue seas surrounding my unadorned body.

I always dream of moonlit nights,  
Where angels dancing in candle lights.  
I always dream of a beautiful field,  
Where the smell of flowers permeates the air with their sweet aroma.

I always dream of naked waterfalls,  
That ease my pain.  
I always dream of midnight,  
Caressing while the bright sun comes up.

I always dream of illimitable happiness,  
On my enlightened spirit.  
I always dream of calm seas,  
That passes its breeze through the land.

If the world is without dreams,  
The world will be as dark as the night that knows no stars.  
I sleep, so I must be a dreamer,  
And dream of a life that never ends.



# Animals in Spring

*Ocean Huang (P.6D)*

The splendid sun smiles brilliantly in the sky.  
Blooming flowers invites the butterflies to kiss.  
The animals have revived with bliss.

Bees vibrate their wings with wonderful tune.  
Collecting nectar sweet from the rainbow flowers.  
They are assiduous gardeners, full of ardor.

Swallows dash with swift wings,  
Like the small jets landing on the dome.  
Twittering gleefully to go home.

Ducklings waddle after their mom,  
Down to the green pond,  
Exultant to engulf the frond.

Whales sway their chubby chunky trunks,  
Moving calmly in the sparkling blue sea,  
Making fountains high as a thrifty tree.

Sheep nibble on the ferny hill,  
Like snow balls rolling on the emerald quilt.  
Praising the spring with graceful lilt.

Grizzly bears get up from their snores,  
Wading across the stream with elation,

Sweet salmons are their aspiration.

The animals sing,  
'Let's begin in this magnificent spring.  
Our ravishing world has never been extinct.'

\*\*\*

## **A 1/3 Sonnet to Mum** *Ocean Huang (P.6D)*

You never roar when I was not nimble.  
Usually, you applaud when I was right.  
You always cheer me when I have trouble.  
I owe your love that likes glorious light.



# **I am Who I am**

*Peter Ho (P.6D)*

My name is Great.

Who is courageous, responsible, caring and enormous.

Sibling of Stonehenge, Colosseum, Catacombs of Kom el Shoqafa,  
Porcelain Tower of Nanjing, Hagia Sophia and Leaning Tower of Pisa.

Who, loves visitors like bees looking for honey, loves China like parents  
loves their children, loves nature like sheep lying on meadow.

Who needs care from you, exclamation from tourists.

Who feels amazingly ecstatic, enjoyable, energetic and cheerful.

Who, gives protection to defend the hunt, gives love to the people of  
China in the old times.

Who fears bubble gum, banana skins and spit.

Who shares precious experience, ancient war history and views.

Who is a resident of China Beijing.

Wall of China.

## **A Sonnet to Mum**

*Terry Wan (P.6E)*

This is your lovely son here to say,  
I must thank you for your jubilant heart –  
I love you day and night and always pray:  
To be the apple in your eyes that never part.

You are so thoughtful and so very dear,  
A kind and doting person you are too.  
Very warm and sweet, tender and sincere,  
These qualities of yours I love so true.

A talented mum with professional skills,  
You are the one I admire for long.  
You take care of me when I am ill,  
And comfort me with my favourite song.

Whenever I am depressed, I need you mum,  
You always stand by me, I thank you mum.



# **The Life of a Slave**

*Steve Tang (P.6E)*

It was once a pity life,  
born in the forest,  
found by a man,  
his life was changed.

Summer sun boiled the sky,  
he slaved away through the field.  
The master, standing by, gazed at him non-stop,  
not letting him get even a second stop.

At night, the chattering ghost of dark came,  
tightened to a tree, facing the gale himself,  
gawking at the moon, murmuring:  
Mum, where are you? Where are you?

The second day, pain awakened the slave.  
The farmer untied the string, and pulled it hard  
with full strength. The other side of the string,  
hooked onto his ring. The master almost pulled off his nose!

Day by day, he grew old.  
He worked slower than he was told.  
The master thought the slave was a waste,  
his head was cut off without a second thought.

Reddish fluid spilled all over the floor,

his body was chopped into pieces.  
Tender slices were served in the hotpot shops,  
Savored and flavored with mustard sauce.

\*\*\*

## **The Chinese Dragon**

*Steve Tang (P.6E)*

I, the dragon, guarded the empire of China,  
assembled by thousand of heroes long time ago.  
Indestructible body built with granites,  
lying over mountain ridges day and night.

Overjoyed with thousand spring time,  
green trees and plants deep-rooted as my neighbours.  
Swirling through the warm sunbeam,  
feeling so fresh with gentle breeze.

Enraptured with the magnificent summertime,  
blooming leaves and blossom dot the mountains.  
Visitors lured to trail up to the top,  
praising and applauding – my glory.

Sound of rustling echoed throughout autumn time,  
red, golden, yellow and brown carpets blanketed my body.  
Still, cold air blew and soothed my face,  
migrating birds greeted and goodbye they waved.

Colours faded gradually during winter time,  
snowflakes danced on my entire body.

Frost and gale passed through my backbone,  
Wind whirled around bare branches.

I, the country guard, overviewed the empire of China,  
admired by million men at the moment.

Indestructible spirit, built by the identity,  
embedded into us, reminded us day and night.

**No!**

*Genper Wong (P.6E)*

No!

The boy held his letter,

Silently,

Walked down the street.

A sound broke the silence,

Throwing bombs, a line of silver bats

Disappeared into the sky,

As the hill turned into pieces.

No!

The boy held his letter,

Silently,

Walked down the streets.

A beast would make a destruction.

Blank face, god's blaze,

Vaporized a building,

Made a crack in the city.

No!

The boy held his letter,

Silently,

Walked down the streets.

A group of helmets marched pass,

Aimed to rob, young ones horrified,

Easy to get the loots,

As happiness shattered.



No!

The boy was blanked now,  
A word emerged from his mouth,  
No!  
He said,

“No”!

\*\*\*

**No!**

*Lau Shun Him (P.6E)*

A boy takes a letter to there.  
The plane destroys the mountain here.  
An elephant booms the street here.  
The soldiers rob the children's house here.  
A man draws the president in ugly near there.  
The dog bites the man through the street here.  
The boy says "No!" The president has rules.  
Hoping the city has peace.

# No

*Terry Wan (P.6E)*

A cold day, in an uncivilized city.

A boy writing a letter,

but to who?

He walks out as huge birds boom over,

and with a boom,

the mountain is gone.

A green monster with a long nose rolls past,

and some black statues march past.

Depressing, saddening.

Violence is everywhere,

it doesn't stop,

not even a second.

He then mails the letter,

suddenly the whole world changes,

everything is more friendly, filled with colour!

But is this just his imagination?



# Say No to War

*Colson Yang (P.6E)*

Sadness follows as bullets fire.

As people run away from slayers.

Yelling "No!" to those with blood and snipers.

None shall live under the wrath of war.

Optimism in the battlefield becomes a flaw.

Tanks, jets, guns, grenades, rockets...

O' great warlord, is that why you rock?

War brings nothing but depression.

Are you sure it is a temptation?

Restore peace to the world -it's your new operation!

# No to Bullying

*Adrian So (P.6E)*

“No!” said the little boy  
who was bullied.

“No for what?” asked the mysterious man,  
“No mailing postcards?”

The man punched the boy,  
and stopped him from mailing.  
The boy shouted, ‘No’ for ten  
times and the man asked ‘No for what’ again.

The boy said, “No bombers bomb buildings,  
no tanks destroy houses, no soldiers rob homes,  
no dogs bite others,  
and NO BULLYING!”

What he said came true!  
Bombers gave presents to people on the street,  
tanks went away, soldiers sent presents,  
dogs licked others, no one bullied others,  
  
the world returned to peace.



# **In the Boy's Eyes**

*Steve Tang (P.6E)*

I am around you,  
waiting to touch your sleepy head,  
when your journey ends.

In the boy's eyes,  
birds were flying in the sky,  
lights were lit on the ground.

For me, I walked on the ashes,  
searching for "humans" inside,  
and lifted them to the sky.

In the boy's eyes,  
a green monster was walking by,  
crashing houses by its long nose.

For me, I saw the frightened souls,  
waiting to walk  
towards me.

In the boy's eyes,  
Santa Claus was wearing green clothes  
went into houses nearby.

For me, people were struggling  
to leave

my powerful hands.

What happened?  
I am haunted by  
Humans.

\*\*\*

**No!**

*Byron Chan (P.6E)*

“No! I don’t want violence,”  
said a child.  
Green elephants stomped on the street.  
Bombing houses, damaging the town.

“No! I don’t want violence,”  
said a child.  
Giant metal birds flying,  
bombing the hills.

“No! I don’t want violence,  
I want freedom,”  
said another child.  
People draw on pictures of the president,  
then he was hurt.

NO!



# Weather and Rules-WAR

*(Sing in a German melody)*

*Jason Cheung (P.6E)*

On a sunny day,  
the soldiers walked away.  
“Let’s go, let’s go!”  
and started their show.

As the sky looked blue,  
They forgot their rules.  
A bang! A bang!  
They jumped into a tank.

Not for many days,  
The sky changed into grey.  
A yawn! A yawn!  
They put their clothes on.

On the way back home,  
They only saw a thing:  
A bone! A bone!  
And many other bones.

# Flying over the World

*William Ho (P.6E)*

Plane is a bird made of metal.

Floating in the air, it's a Boeing model.

Let's see the world together,

Travelling around with a digital camera.

Choir music is flowing gently,

My soul is lying in an abbey.

Royal Crescent is like a new moon,

Sitting down quietly in the late afternoon.

A needle's piercing the cloud. Oh! It's Eiffel Tower,

Admiring Paris city spending an hour.

In a twinkling pyramid, there's a lady smiling at me.

Would she like to drink a cup of tea?

Vivid wind is touching my mind.

Four petals are spinning in the sky.

A long rainbow snake is under my feet.

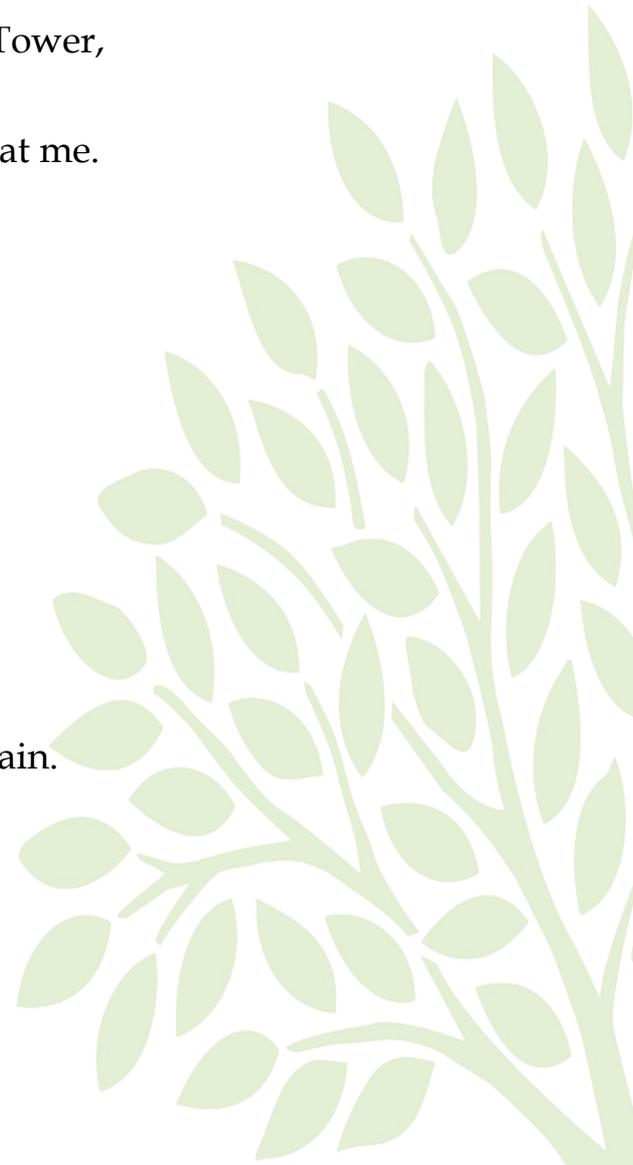
Here come a burst of fragrance is so sweet.

Mozart 525 is playing in the opera house.

Vienna Waltz causes me a fluttering pulse.

Let's fly up to the mountain,

from the heart of Schönbrunn Palace fountain.



# The Twelve Chinese Zodiac

*Hui Kwan To (P.5B)*

Little Red Riding Rat ranked first in the Chinese Zodiac,  
the others shouted, "UNFAIR" with their protesting banners.  
Ox praised himself diligent and tough; now lost his patience,  
"Get away Rat! You cheated and rode on my back!" stumbled his feet.  
Tiger had an awesome cry, no one could deny,  
"I'd choose Rabbit the pure though she's shy!"

Dragon claimed himself a noble, unique in the sky –  
his parallel one on land, the Snake, just couldn't fly,  
also blamed the Rat's barbaric act. Their buddy,  
Horse ran forward with pride,  
"Rat, You! Liar! Go back to the starting line or you'll die!"  
Goat, Monkey, Rooster and Dog joined in line and cried.

Pig giggled himself timid, but not stupid.  
He called for a meeting and gathering  
All the twelve to sit in a circle.  
"Each could lead or each could follow."  
There should be no fight!  
There should be no quarrel!

# Carnival of the Chinese Zodiac

*Ronney Chang (P.5B)*

When I saw that small rat,  
It made me think of my fussy cat  
Which lived with my mum and dad,  
And slept on a colorful mat.

The strong ox looked like a box,  
Which liked to chew on a soft white sock.  
It had its dinner near a dock  
And cried loudly, like an alarm clock.

Monsieur Tiger's black stripes prolonged  
On his body; his buddy, generous gorilla-King Kong,  
Loved to sing and chant emphatic songs  
Together with him the whole nightlong.

Near the bowl, there was a hole,  
Which lived the rabbit and the mole.  
Up in the sky, there was the dragon,  
It liked to sleep in a small wagon.

Under the ground, there was the snake,  
Who always liked to bake some cakes.  
The horse had long and lively legs,  
That could crack some nutshell-like eggs.



Goat dived underwater to the deep,  
with his brown buddy, Monkey,  
Whose pocket had a golden key  
For opening a barn, Rooster was born in glee.

Mixed some bones and marshmallow,  
Licked his jaw, Dog the loyal fellow.  
Behind the dog, Piggy danced waltz and jived  
With the visitors who joined this carnival live.

# Me

*Matthias Chan (P.5B)*

I am a little boy of nine,  
No shed of tears,  
But filled with cheers.  
Longing to soar through the clouds of dreams  
And yearning for the freedom gleam.  
There's no GPS behind the spy,  
But only wings of fearless that apply.

I am a little boy of nine,  
No more crunchy candies  
And fluffy teddies.  
Instead, I want something really big –  
Driving spaceship through the galaxy,  
Sending codes to aliens for courtesy  
And restoring law and order for my fantasy.

I am a little boy of nine,  
Following instructions like robots every day  
Running the same routine all the way.  
That's what I really hate.  
The way that kids used to be raised.  
I know I will be the King one day,  
Free to give orders and catch my prey.



# **The Merryland of Animals**

*Jason Chan (P.5C)*

Pigs are all funny and fat,  
Sleeping on their flowery beds with fantasy.  
In the Merryland, they are nothing but the head,  
Leading all animals against the bad.

Cows are working on the factory of milk,  
giving out milk, smooth like silk.  
Sadly, hardly see them wear a smile,  
But they make you run for a longer mile.

Sheep are as pure as peacemakers,  
quietly eating grass in harmony.  
They are always gentle and loyal,  
Listening to the orders from the royal.

Rabbits, another athletes, jump high  
to reach the sky; they never give up with a sigh.  
Their favorite snacks are sweet carrots  
But they never ruin and turn the land a riot.

Pigs, cows, sheep and rabbits belong to nobody,  
as the land is the home to everybody.

# Animals

*Quinnon Leung (P.5C)*

Different kinds of good have their individual taste.

Sweet, sour, salty...

Different kinds of animals have their individual trait.

Cute, awesome, clumsy...

The elephants are naughty,

Playing in the water from day to night.

They never say any sorry,

Just knowing how to fight.

The monkeys are always up to no good,

Planning all kinds of mischiefs.

They like to eat peanuts and fruit.

Mind these extremely sly thieves!

The lions are such beasts.

As the kings of the jungle,

They treat other animals as their feasts,

Grasping them till they no longer struggle.

The hamsters love their hamsters' feed.

And they run all day on the wheel

They also love eating sunflower seed,

After getting rid of the peel.

Different kinds of animals have their individual trait.



Similarly, different people have their individual character.  
We should not determine one another using grades and rate.  
We should respect one another to make the world better.

\*\*\*

## **The Ten Brothers**

*Austin Liew (P.5D)*

Observant one's big old eyes,  
see things further from the skies.  
Thoughtful two's thinking brain,  
thinks ideas through the rain.  
Super strength three's very strong,  
even when he sings a song.  
Flexible four's stretchy and hard,  
but he gets handy when there's a card.  
Proactive five loves to fly,  
especially eating apple pie.  
Persistent six's head is very tough,  
very perfect for kneading dough.  
Courageous seven's brave and bold,  
although he never has cups to hold.  
Modest eight digs a hole,  
cause' he's finding a mine of gold.  
Expressive nine's mouth is very wide,  
which makes him often say, 'go hide!'  
Compassionate ten cries all day,  
making others say, 'stop or jump in the bay?!

# Counting Sheep

*Cedric Leung (P.5E)*

I dreamed that I was a sheep  
in a flock of a thousand, giving humans a tip:  
The sheep is going to be a lord,  
as it has a magical cord.

Yet the hen objected,  
it launched a protest and attacked.

The sheep used the magical cord,  
and swung at the hen.  
The hen didn't hit the lord,  
yet it used barbaric egg bombs.

The egg bombs were made by magical tombs  
so they were more powerful than the cord.  
Now, the hen sat on the throne,  
urged the rest to surrender and

I was counting sheep in my dream,  
Am I one of them?



# Mysterious Dreams

*Tai Tin King (P.5E)*

Dreams are like mysteries. They change  
irregularly as clouds, beautiful as butterflies,  
as if water flowing along streams  
joining into the sea.

I dream that I am a pirate,  
bigger than a whale,  
no smaller than a clownfish,  
yet as fierce as a shark.

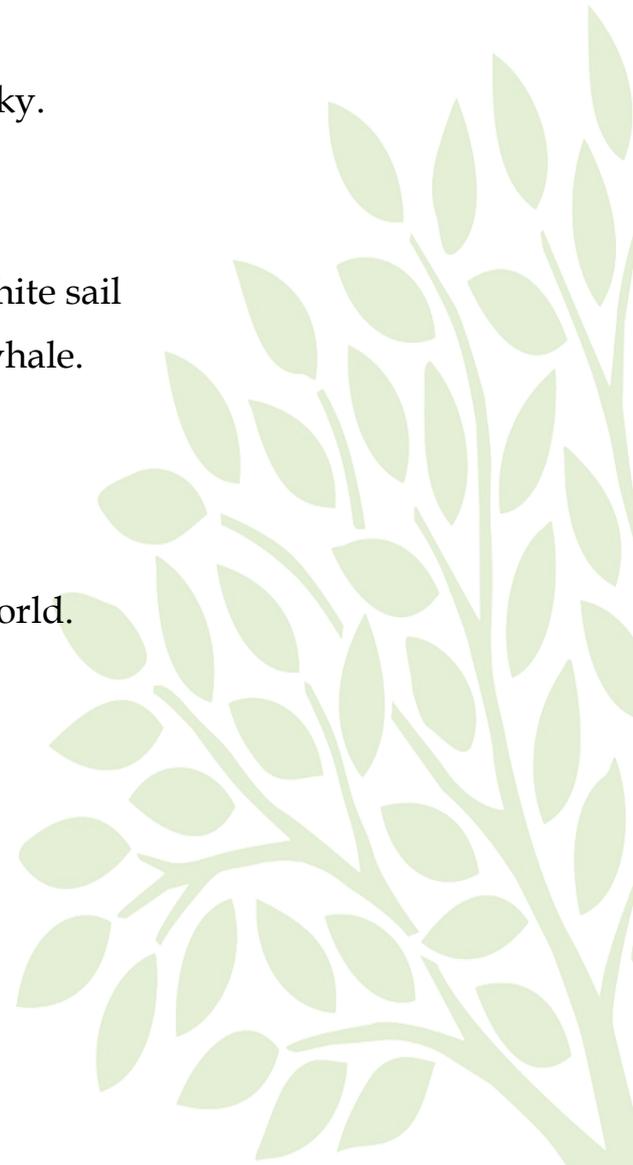
I dream that I have a big nose  
to sniff around to find my brothers  
who travel around the world  
and bring peace to people around.

Everyone has dreams,  
even animals have dreams.  
Dreams stay the same forever —  
fostering us to move forward faster.

# A Wish

*Mateo Noddy Chung (P.5E)*

I wish I had a kind heart  
Understanding the feelings of the others.  
I wish I had a wise brain  
No one calls me a fool.  
I wish I had a sweet voice  
Singing for Jesus as he is coming soon.  
I wish I had gentle hands  
To drift away the sadness and wipe away tears.  
I wish I had a pair of wings  
To fly among the shining stars and touch the sky.  
I wish I gave all the money to everyone  
No one becomes poor.  
I wish I had a teeny weeny boat with a small white sail  
Take me to the ocean and find the great blue whale.  
I wish I had a magic clock  
And go back to my childhood.  
I wish I had a coin tossed into a well  
Wish happiness and healthiness all over the world.  
I wish I had a magic wand  
To make all my wishes come true!



# Ten Super Brothers

*Nelson Chow (P.4A)*

Ten super brothers, with sharp eyesight,  
Observant One can see miles away.

With enormous ears, Thoughtful Two  
can hear miles away.

Super Strength Three is of athletic build  
with the greatest strength.

Flexible Four is invincible  
and has ability to stretch

Ten super brothers, give me five!  
Proactive Five has ability to fly without saying “bye”.

Persistent Six has a bald metal head and never saying “hi”.  
Courageous Seven can walk far away with his long fast legs.

Modest Eight can drill a way through the solid ground.  
Expressive Nine, Wild Wild Wild,

Compassionate Ten, Cry Cry Cry,  
Can cry an ocean and heal the sicknesses,

Altogether, they are awesome ten brothers!

# To Help and to Share

*Samuel Yiu (P.4A)*

Gifted with a pair of enormous wings,  
I can fly high up to the sky;

Flapping my wings, seeing many things with my eyes.  
Kissing the wind, lying on the clouds;  
As if I am a bird, travel many miles.

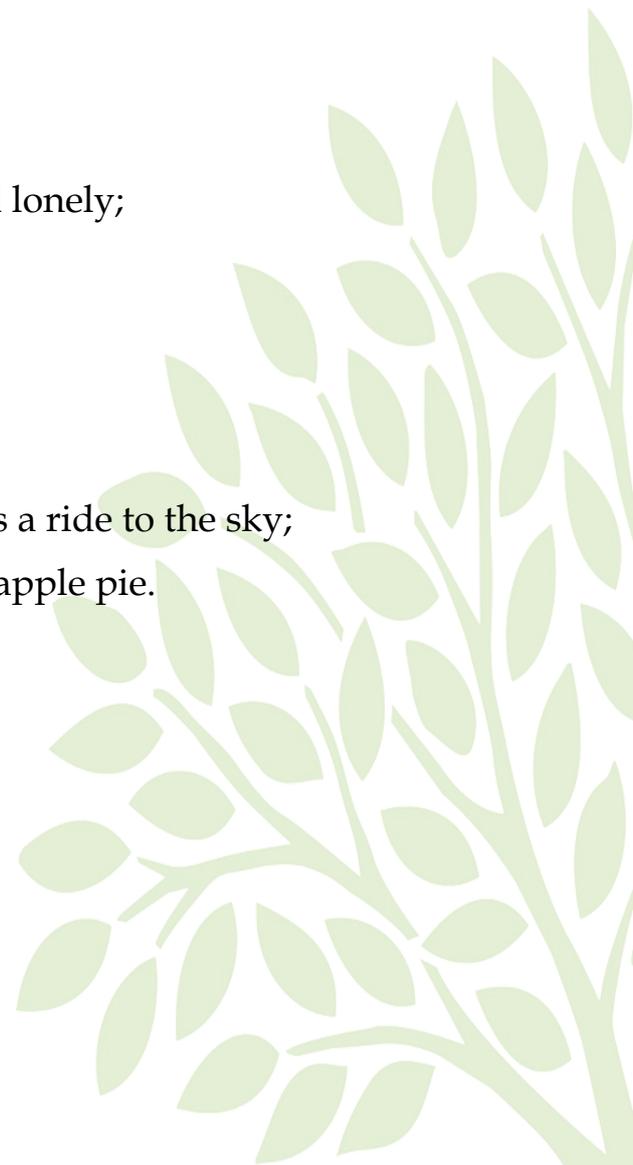
People gazing at me from the ground,  
feeling envious of my supernatural power;

Having greater fun than playing in the water!  
Flying too long by myself, feeling desolate and lonely;

I'd rather hide my wings and play  
with others on the ground happily!

Alternatively, offering my brothers and friends a ride to the sky;  
Learning to share is most joyful like eating an apple pie.

Thank God for my supernatural power,  
I pray for using it to help when I fly;  
Who am I? I am "Flying Five".



# DRAMATIC VOICES

# DRAMATIC VOICES

*“To be, or not to be:  
that is the question.”*

*Hamlet (Act III, Scene I),  
William Shakespeare*

SHAKESPEARE

# Circus Break

*Ms Claire Leung*

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*"Circus Break"* was written for The Hong Kong School Drama Festival 2013

## Character's List

Prof. Marvelous Mouse	A smart mouse, loves boosting how clever he is.
Fantastic Mr. Fox	Mouse's best friend, who's good at digging, with fantastic ideas.
Master Joe	The circus owner who has caught Mouse into his circus, later wants to sell the circus.
Lion the King	A lion that hates Mouse who steals his fame and limelight from him.
Tyrannical Tiger	A tiger good at bossing around, and always wants to manipulate the others.
Leopard the Drummer	A silly-comical one in the circus.
Kung-fu Panda	A panda who knows how to play kung-fu, but he is tired of playing kung-fu in the circus.
Elegant Elephant	A very clumsy elephant yet always want to become an elegant one.
Hunter	A cruel character who kills animals for a living.
Fisherman	An old wise man.

## **Scene 1 The Struggle**

*In the circus. Full house light and color effects. Circus music. Lion and tiger are roaring. Panda's playing kung-fu. Leopard's playing the Chinese drum and elephant is playing with the maracas. Master Joe, owner and tamer of the circus, is standing in the middle of the front stage. Nearly at the end of the circus show of the night.*

### **MASTER JOE**

*[clapping; inviting]* Welcome back to our most incredibly and marvelously entertaining circus! Here comes our star of tonight! Mind you, though it looks a bit like Mickey Mouse, it's definitely our MARVELLOUS Mouse! Without further ado, with a big round of applause, let's welcome our superstar: MARVELLOUS Mouse!

### **PROF. MOUSE**

*[in a long white cloak with sunglasses, singing a song: "London Bridge is Falling Down" melody; playing the violin]*

*Marvelous Mouse is who I am,  
I don't like green eggs and ham,  
But I like cream cheese and clam.  
Merci! Gracias! Danke!*

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! *[bows to the audience]*

### **MASTER JOE**

Bravo! Bravo! Once again, let's give a big round of applause to our MARVELLOUS MOUSE! Thanks for coming again! We all hope you had a wonderful evening! Good-bye and goodnight!

*[taming animals to downstage; sitting on the stairs, counting money]*

One thousand...two thousand... Oh my goodness... I still owe another thirty thousand to the hunter.

## HUNTER

*[voice-over]*

YOUR DEADLINE IS TOMORROW. TOMORROW. NOT THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW. IT IS TOMORROW.

## MASTER JOE

*[center stage; spotlight on]* What can I do? Shall I really sell my own circus to the hunter? What can I do? *[shakes his head and sighs]*

*[frustrated; sings "I Had a Circus" (Music and lyrics adapted from "I Dreamed a Dream")]*

I had a circus that was wonderful,  
When hope was there and life was upbeat.  
I had a circus that made people laugh,  
I hope that hunter would be gracious .

At first, I thought my debt could be settled,  
And circus was made and used and wasted.  
There was no ransom to be paid,  
No song unsung, no wine, untasted.

But the hunter comes at night,  
With his voice loud as the thunder,  
As he tears my hope apart,  
And life turns my dream to blame.

*[Exit]*

## Scene 2 The Circus' Trap

*While Master Joe is struggling, the animals have created noises and fear. Thunderstorm outside the circus. Lights dim.*

**TIGER**

*[speaks to the other animals]*

Did you hear what Master Joe said? He is going to sell the circus to that fierce hunter!

**LION**

*[shrugs his shoulders]* Well... it's not the first time that he's in debt. Why bother, bro?

**GIANT PANDA**

But...this time, he sounded pretty worried. Would the hunter kill us? You know, the hunter is famous for his merciless hunting skills.

**LEOPARD**

Don't worry. Be happy. Everything's gonna be fine. Shall we sing a song?

**TIGER**

Hey! It's not time for singing. I am tired of being trained and tamed. I am a tiger. And you, and you, and all of you are not clowns! We're animals! Mouse, you're a professor in your mouse world. Tell us your 'marvelous' idea!

**GIANT PANDA**

Marvelous Mouse! You're our leader now. Say something!

**LION**

*[snaps]* Who said that? Who said Mouse is the leader now? I'm the leader.  
*[roars]* Mouse is just a mouse. What can he do? Nothing!

**TIGER**

Oh! Lion. Let's face it. You're no longer under the limelight.

## **ELEPHANT**

Would all of you keep quiet, please? Professor Mouse would like to say something. Let's listen to him.

## **PROF. MOUSE**

One day, while I was walking on Wall Street, I saw a piece of mouth-watering cream cheese. Then, I had a tiny bite. That bite has changed my life. A net came down from my head. Master Joe caught and brought me here. He's crafted me to be a superstar.

## **LEOPARD**

[*puzzled*] Uh? Excuse me? What do you mean? Aren't you going to tell us the escape plan?

## **ELEPHANT**

Aren't you tired of being caged? The world outside is so big. Don't you want to leave the circus?

## **PROF. MOUSE**

I don't know. I don't want to betray Master Joe. He's fed me well.

## **LION**

See! Mouse is just a filthy coward. [*roars*]

[*While all other animals are arguing, Fantastic Fox enters the circus.*]

## **FOX**

Oh! Hey! Mouse...Marvelous Mouse! It's me. Fantastic Fox. Remember me?

## **PROF. MOUSE**

[*murmurs, speaks to himself*] Remember me... I always want to be remembered. Marvelous Mouse is a name to be remembered. It's without

a doubt.

**FOX**

*[whispers]* Mouse! What are you talking about? Wake up! It's me! Your old friend Foxy! I come here to save you! I've been looking for you for months. I heard from Mickey Mouse that you've been caught by a circus man! Don't worry. You're now safe with me.

*[Other animals have a suspicious attitude towards the entrance of Fox.]*

**PROF. MOUSE**

I am a marvelous mouse. I don't need you to rescue me. And, I am not going anywhere. *[furious]* Let me say it again. I don't need your help and I don't want to leave the circus. I enjoy being admired in the human world. If I go back to the mouse world, I can only be a mouse. Just a mouse. But here, I am different.

**FOX**

But don't you know that Master Joe is going to sell the circus to that merciless hunter? Do you remember how the hunter slaughtered your mouse friends? Do you remember how sad you were? Do you remember who you are?

*[Other animals are scared while listening to Fox.]*

**PROF. MOUSE**

*[puzzled]* I...I...

**FOX**

Now. Listen, everyone. I have the latest GPS iExplorer to locate the circus and I have dug an underground tunnel and we can all escape through it and go back to the woods.

**ELEPHANT**

How fantastically clever you are, Foxy! I believe you can help us.

**LION**

[*roars*] Well, Elephant, don't be so simple and naïve! How can you be that sure we can trust him? What if he's a spy from the hunter? Let me go and find it out! [*runs off*]

**GIANT PANDA, LEOPARD**

[*look to each other and terrified*] Really? What can we do? How can we run away?

**TIGER**

Quiet! Stop screaming!

**LION**

[*dashes back*] I overheard the conversation between Master Joe and the hunter and Master Joe has sold the circus and us!

**FOX**

My dear friends, we don't have time to argue. This is it. It's do-or-die. Fellows, follow me!

**CHORUS**

Yes!

**PROF. MOUSE**

Should I leave now?

**FOX**

[*sings; Music: "Count on Me" originally sung by Bruno Mars*]  
If you ever find yourself stuck in the middle of the sea,  
I'll sail the world to find you

If you ever find yourself lost in the dark and you can't see,  
I'll be the light to guide you  
Find out what we're made of  
When we are called to help our friends in need

**FOX and CHORUS**

You can count on me like 1 2 3  
I'll be there  
And I know when I need it I can count on you like 4 3 2  
And you'll be there

**FOX and CHORUS and PROF. MOUSE**

Cause that's what friends are supposed to do, oh yeah

**PROF. MOUSE**

Right! I should not be that stubborn. Let's go! Let's go! But where is the exit? What's the plan to go back to the woods?

**FOX**

Over there! [*points at the tent's exit*] We first go through that hole which is the entrance of the tunnel and it leads to the riverbank. Then, we will cross the river and then through the...

*[Before Fox finishes his explanation, Elephant runs to the exit. The other animals all cannot wait to escape.]*

**ELEPHANT**

I'm stuck! Can you all help me?

**LION**

I've told you to eat less and lose some weight! See! If you'd listened to me, you would not have been stuck in the hole and you are now blocking us from the escape!

**FOX**

Let's dig a bigger hole!

*[Lion, Mouse and Fox dig frantically and Leopard, Tiger push Elephant forward.]*

**LEOPARD**

Finally! Go! Go! Go! Let's go!

*[All the animals leave the circus. Lights dim. Master Joe and Hunter enter. Spotlight on Master Joe and Hunter]*

**HUNTER**

*[furious]* Where are the animals? You've promised to sell your circus animals to me!

**MASTER JOE**

*[anxiously]* Well...um...

**HUNTER**

*[speaks with rage]* Watch out animals. I know you are not far. I can track you down. You are all mine! I am after you! I am after you!

*[Exit]*

### **Scene 3 The Great Escape**

*All the animals arrive at the river bank and they need to cross the river; yet, the river is too deep and too wide that they don't know what to do! A fisherman is sitting there under a tree, fishing down the stage. Music: "Relax-Bird Song-Water Sounds"*

**LEOPARD**

*[scared]* Phew. Is the hunter after us?

## **GIANT PANDA**

*[anxiously]* Well...um... I hope not. But I think he is.

## **TIGER**

*[speaks with rage]* Look! Foxy, what's next? After all this way, what can we do?

*[Fox shakes his head; Mouse is speechless]*

## **LEOPARD**

Yes. What can we do? The current is too rapid. And the river is so deep and wide. Oh! No! We will all die here either being caught by the hunter or being drowned in the river... I am still very young and handsome. Look at my beautiful skin... *[bursts into tears]*

## **ELEPANT**

*[interrupts]* My friends, it's so simple.

## **LION**

*[mocks the Elephant]* Uh? SIMPLE? You're such a simple and naïve Elephant!

## **ELEPANT**

Well, you may be right. But the whole thing is really simple. Watch and wait.

*[Elephant uses all his strength to carry the huge logs to build a bridge. But then, when he is about to lift the log, the heavy log falls onto his feet. He cries.]*

## **TIGER**

It doesn't work!

**LEOPARD**

Don't lose faith. Keep trying!

**FOX**

Let's help Elephant to lift the log together! We are all in this together!  
[*Other animals work together.*] By the count of three —

**ALL**

Three! Two! One! LIFT IT UP!

**LION**

Thank you Elephant! I apologize for teasing you early on.

**ELEPANT**

No worries! We are friends!

[Gunshot sound]

**PROF. MOUSE**

Oh! No! I can hear that the gunshot from there! The hunter's near!  
Let's quickly cross the river and run!

[After all the animals cross the river and run off, the hunter meets the fisherman]

**HUNTER**

[*to the fisherman*] Have you seen any animals nearby?

**FISHERMAN**

[*laughs*] Ha...ha...ha...

The ones have gone to place where they belong —  
And actually, your arrogance and rage  
have boiled your heart and driven you to wrongs.

The time has come to craft a brand new page.

**HUNTER**

That's absurd. What are you talking about old man? I am not a poet. I am a hunter. I hunt. Now tell me where the animals are!

**FISHERMAN**

*[laughs]* Well... I have fished my wish. What about you?

*[Fisherman leaves the hunter puzzled. The animals have gone far away back to the woods.]*

*[The End]*

# The Time Device

*Keith Kwok (P.5B)*

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*"The Time Device"* was written for the Drama Fiesta 2013

## Scene 1: Movie Night at Home

[Prof Jones & Prof Chan are sitting on the sofa watching "Men In Black III"]

[Mr Snipe enters stage left holding a tray with drinks and chips.]

**Mr Snipe:** Professor Jones, your drinks and snacks.

**Prof Jones:** Thanks Mr Snipe. Please put them on the table for us.

[Mr Snipe places items on table and sits in the chair behind Prof Jones]

**Prof Chan:** [Slightly unhappy] So Jonesy, you're a Nobel Prize winner and you're watching this type of movie? [Complaining] We must've watched this a million times already. I can even memorize the lines! Next time I'm choosing the movie.

**Prof Jones:** [Calmly] Well Jeff, ever since we began reading books and watching movies about time travel together in primary school, you've said that science would never be advanced enough to build a time machine.

**Prof Chan:** [In agreement] Mmm hmm, yes ... yes I did say that.  
[Prof Jones & Chan looks upwards. Harp music plays and stage lights dim. A single spot light at stage right. The younger version of Jones, Chan & Snipe appear stage right. They are in exactly the same position, eating and drinking

the same things. Young Chan speaking]

**Young Chan:** [Speaking with a sure look on face] Hmmm yep, there's

noooo way that science is good enough to build one of these.

[Harp music, scene swings back to the present]

**Prof Jones:** Well ALL the years we've been working at the university, we've been trying to find the secrets of time travel.

[Snipe is also intrigued but pretends not to bother]

**Prof Chan:** [Chuckling] What? Are you trying to tell me that you've found out how to do it?

**Prof Jones:** [Looking calmly and seriously at Prof Chan and nods head]

**Prof Chan:** [Chuckles in disbelief] Whaaaaaaat? Noooooooooooooo you didn't ... did you?

[Snipe shows a little more interest but still doesn't show too much]

**Prof Jones:** [With a modest look on face] Yes my friend. I think I've worked out how to travel back in time.

**Prof Chan:** [Takes the remote and pauses the movie] Whoa ... stop right there. You're not someone who'd joke about this. You've found a way to travel back in time?

**Prof Jones:** I think I have. Well, at least in my head I think it's possible. [Snipe starts to stick his ear / head closer to the action.]

**Prof Chan:** [Taking the chips and opening the packet, puts his feet up on the sofa] No more movie. You're gonna tell me ALL about this.

[Miming - Jones does the talking while Chan looks at Jones in excitement and nods his head now and then]

[Ringing of the bell]

[Mr Snipe answers the door]

**Mr Snipe:** Good evening sir.

**John J:** Oh hi there Mr Snipe. Is my father at home?

**Mr Snipe:** Yes, he's in the living room with Professor Chan.

[Snipe exits and returns with some tea, hiding some paper and pencil underneath the serving tray]

**John J:** [Walks into the living room where the two professors are still chatting] Hey dad! Hi Professor Chan.

[No reaction from either elder gentlemen]

**John J:** [In a much louder voice] DAD!

[Professors are shocked]

**Prof Jones:** [Still shocked] Oh hey there John. We didn't see or hear you come in.

**John J:** Wow, you two must be talking about something REALLY important. Am I interrupting?

**Prof Jones:** Of course not. Come, pull up a chair and sit down with Uncle Jeff and me. There's something I want to share with you.

[Snipe is eavesdropping and jotting down notes]

[Props 1 comes with card that reads - "Later that night"]

**Prof Chan:** Oh dear, it's getting late now so I must leave. Don't worry Andy. Since I've always done the talking for you, let me handle the press conference and the media.

**Prof Jones:** No, I don't want too much media attention. It's not my style.

**Prof Chan:** Nevermind my friend. This is HUGE. Everyone needs to hear about this.

## Scene 2: The Press Conference

[Prof's Chan and Jones are seated in the conference room, which is full of reporters and journalists. Team of assistants sitting in the front rows]

**MC:** Welcome and thank you everyone for attending this press conference at such short notice. Today we start a new chapter in science. We're lucky to have world famous Nobel Prize winner Professor Andy Jones and his team here today to tell us of a plan for the future! Without further introduction, Professor Jones' lead partner, Professor Jeff Chan.

[Audience present at the press conference clap]

**Prof Chan:** [Looking at the MC] Thank you for your kind introduction. [Facing the audience and reporters] As Professor Jones is too modest to speak in front of you today I have the honour of making an announcement that we hope will change the nature of science, and of course, the world! Let's look at this short clip to help reveal our plans for the future.

[Music: MI3]

That's right, Professor Andy Jones and his team of scientists have already started to develop a device that will enable time travel to become a reality.

[Members of the media start to talk chaotically among themselves in disbelief]

[Talking over the murmur of the audience] Professor Jones has personally selected a team of scientists who are already working around the clock to help him fulfil this dream while his son, John Jones, has selected 5 very physically and mentally strong

assistants who are all most willing to learn from our Nobel Prize winner.

[Reporters already putting their hands up to ask questions]

**Reporter 1:** Mike Chung, Orange Daily. We know Professor Jones is a leader in the world of science, but EVERYONE knows that time travel is impossible. Professor Jones, what makes you so sure that it's going to work?

**Prof Jones:** The thing is, I don't know whether it'll work or not.

[Journalists starts to murmur to one another again]

**Reporter 2:** CY Lung, North Hong Kong Post. You've spent decades on finding ways to improve science. You've even won a Nobel Prize in the subject. At your age, shouldn't you be thinking about retiring and living off your fame? If you aren't able to make this device it could ruin your career couldn't it?

**Prof Jones:** I never really look at it from "my" career. I tend to look at it how I can help science. If I fail, I help science learn another way on how not to do things. If I succeed, we get one step closer to learning about our universe. This is what being a scientist is about. As for your question about my age? I don't think it has anything to do with advancing science. Science does not care about what age a person is.

**Reporter 3:** Lionel Wong, Scientific Discover Magazine. Professor, I've been in the business of reporting science discoveries for decades now and of all stories I've come across, THIS one's the most peculiar one. [A very firm and serious look] It's also, in my

opinion, [speaking slowly for effect] the one that is most likely to fail!!

[The whole room nods and murmurs in approval of Lionel's statement and some even start laughing at Professor Jones.]

**MC:** [Cutting in quickly and trying to keep the meeting in order]

Looks like that's all the time we have for today's press conference. We wish Professor Jones' team of scientists and assistants the best of luck.

[Prof's team all stand up and leave the stage while reporters start to pack up their gear and get on their phones to report]

[Lights off]

[As the props crew changes scenes, newspaper headlines with dates writing about the progress of the project – headlines progressively becoming more negative and cynical about Prof. Jones' project]

### **Scene 3: The Laboratory / Workshop**

[Sign / Screen that writes "4 years later"]

[Early in the morning at the lab / workshop and there's only Cameron, an assistant hand-picked by John J, who is already working hard at his station. Profs Jones and Chan are already working hard on the paperwork. Only a few lights are on]  
[Enter Freddie, another hand-picked assistant, from stage right. Strolls in with a breakfast bun in hand and eating it.]

**Freddie:** [Goes to his drawer and gets his apron on before getting to work]

[Walks over to Cameron's station and pats him on the back. Cameron is shocked.] Why am I not surprised to see you back at the workshop already? You're always the first person to arrive

and the last to leave. AND ... you've NEVER taken a day off work!

**Cameron:** [Already back to work but looking up and shrugging his shoulders] Errrrmm ... morning ... I dunno. Actually, I'm not the only one who's here [looks back at his work but points to the room where Prof. Jones is already working in the dim light]

[Enter stage right: the rest of the scientists, assistants and John J. Scientists and assistants get changed and John J. goes to the two assistants]

**John J** [Churpy] Morning boys! You're in bright and early.

**Freddie:** [Cameron working hard] Morning Mr. Jones [points to Cameron and lip-talks to John J. indicating that Cameron was the earliest] [John J nods in approval and goes and gets his lab coat on.] [Others come back in, says good morning and gets to work.]

**Dominic:** [Takes Martin, one of the scientists to stage front. Very concerned look] Martin, we've been working here for around 5 years now and we've not made any real progress on this time device. My family has been reading the newspapers and everyone has been predicting that this science project will fail and we'd all be out of the job! What should we do?

**Martin:** [Also with concerned look on face] You know, the only reason why I said yes to this project in the first place was because it was an opportunity to work with the great Professor Jones. If we continue to fail like this, I'm not sure if I should stay either. [Two professor's and Snipe walk out - Snipe is helping Prof Jones who also has a walking stick in hand. Prof Chan is

holding a stack of papers.]

**Martin:** [Pulling Dominic's arm] Psst, the professor's coming, let's chat about this after work.

**Prof Chan:** Morning fellas! Can we have your attention please?  
[The whole team gathers around]

**Prof Chan:** Both Professor Jones and I know how hard you have been working these few years and we thank you for staying with the team. All your efforts will be rewarded ... [lifting up the stack of papers] Fellas, Professor Jones has finally found the formula for making time travel possible.  
[Scientists and assistants get excited and show their excitement to each other?] Guys, but what you need to know is that the next few months will be the toughest you've ever faced ... and even the most dangerous! Are you up for the challenge?!

**Everyone:** [Yelling with arms lifted] YEAH!!!

**Prof Chan:** Right! Let's get to work!!!  
[Lights off, everyone works / builds the time device in the dark, more sound effects and clocks ticking / calendars showing on the projectors to show the audience that time is passing. Complex mathematical theorems flying around too. Prof. Jones' health to get a lot worse yet again]

#### **Scene 4: Pain and suffering over ... or is it?**

[Lights up]

**Dominic** [Rushes excitedly to office with Martin and yells]  
Professors, come quickly. We've built it!!!

**Prof Jones:** [Very weak voice] Well done team! I knew you could do it all along. I'm so proud of you all. [Cameron hands

Jones the device, Prof Jones lifts it up]. With this device ...

**Snipe:** [Snatches the device from Jones, everyone is shocked. Professor Jones slowly backs his way into the office].  
[With evil tone] HAHAAHAHAHAHA ... finally! ... [To the team] Don't ANY of you come any closer ... I've worked for you and your family for many, many years Professor Jones. All the 'yes sir this, yes sir that!' Ever since you became a scientist interested in time travel I've waited for this moment to come. YOU don't know how to take the fame and fortune of being a Nobel Prize winner. I, on the other hand, have it all planned! I will travel back in time to take everything away from you and life a life of fame and luxury!!!  
[Sound of a machine cranking up. Everyone looks around in shock. Snipe slowly moves backwards - he is slowly being sucked into a time warp at stage right. Lighting team? Sound effects team?]

**Snipe:** Whhhhat on Earth is happening?

**Prof Jones:** [Slowly walking back to the lab floor] I've created a portal that will suck the person who's holding the device into a time warp where you'll be sent back to the dinosaur ages.

**John J:** Snipe, you traitor! All these years you've been with my family! We've always treated you fairly and we've always thought of you as part of the family. For you to say all of this? You deserve to live with the dinosaurs!

**Snipe:** Curse your Professor Jones! Curse ALL of you!!! I'll go back and start plotting my revenge on you!

**Prof Chan:** [With a snigger] Good luck with that Snipe, you evil piece of filth!

**Snipe:** [Voice fades as he gets closer to the wings] You'll pay for this ... [Disappears]

**Cameron:** WOW, what just happened? [Everyone except Prof Jones looking astonished]

**Prof Jones:** [Disappointing sigh] I've just combined my biggest success with my biggest failure!

**John J:** [Helping his dad off stage left] It's ok dad, let's go home and talk this through.  
[Others on team still wondering what just happened ... curtain closes.]

*[The End]*

# A Page of Prose

*“For me a page of good prose is where one hears the rain...  
A page of good prose seems to me the most serious dialogue that  
well-informed and intelligent men and women carry on today.”*

— John Cheever

# A Celebration of Good Deeds

*Ocean Huang (P.6D)*

*1<sup>st</sup> Runner-up, Tung Wah Group of Hospitals, Good People, Good Deeds: English Story-Writing Competition 2014*

“Boom! Boom!” Thunder roared. Lightning cracked.

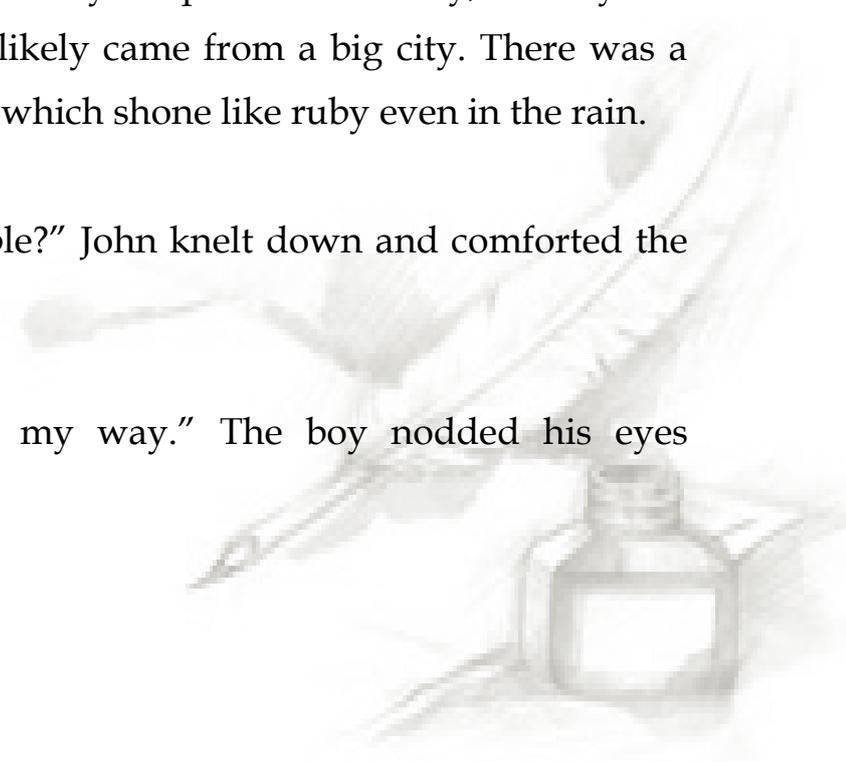
“Squeak, squeak...” A rickety old bicycle came near. A small, dark figure appeared in the white, endless mist in the rainfalls. There came a teenager who rode on a bicycle. He was John who was studying in a secondary school. The school was far away from his home. He was rushing home after school.

While he was riding near a farmland, a wail of great fear stopped him. He parked his bicycle under a banyan tree with coiled roots and gnarled branches. Then he walked straight into the golden farmland.

He found a pitiful boy sitting on the wet mud. He was wearing a brightly colored shirt and a pair of stylish pants. Obviously, the boy did not live in his village. He most likely came from a big city. There was a patch of blood on the boy’s knee which shone like ruby even in the rain.

“Hey! Boy. Are you in trouble?” John knelt down and comforted the boy.

“I’m Matthew. I have lost my way.” The boy nodded his eyes brimming with tears.



“Don’t worry, Matthew.” John said tenderly with smile. He took off his raincoat and draped it over Matthew’s shoulders. “Tell me how you lost your way. I can help you find your mum.”

“I come from Hong Kong. It is my first time to visit my hometown. ” Matthew told John honestly. “While I was playing in the field, I saw a pack of lovely ducklings. I chased after them and went farther and farther. Then I lost my way. The thunder frightened me and a pile of wheatear tripped me down. My knees were hurt. They are very painful.” Sparkling tears rolled down his little, white cheeks.

“Don’t cry. You are a brave boy!” John cheered him and supported him up from the mud with his hands. “Now, let’s go and find your mum.”

Matthew’s tears gave way to laughter.

John supported Matthew carefully with his arms and hobbled towards the banyan. He helped Matthew settle down on the back seat of his bicycle and rode with him towards the village.

“Squeak, squeak...” When they arrived at the village entrance, there was a woman standing under an umbrella. She was looking around anxiously and crying repeatedly, “Matthew, where are you?”

“Mum, I’m here.” Matthew rushed to the woman pleasantly.

The woman threw away her umbrella and held Matthew in her arms tightly.

At that moment, the rain stopped. The sun shone brightly in the blue sky. A brilliant rainbow hung over the farmland. John watched Matthew and his mum and smiled although he was a drenched chicken now. He realized that helping others is the fountain of happiness!



# The Internet – Good & Bad

*Genper Wong (P.6E)*

*Winner, P.5 Public Speaking, Speech Gala 2013*

*This speech was originally written for the Speech Gala 2013 Public Speaking*

Nowadays, everyone has a computer and some people even have more than one. However, in the past, there were no computers and the Internet hadn't even been thought of. Technology has advanced and changed our lives!

The Internet is a research and learning tool. We can get different information by surfing it. There is a well-known search engine called Wikipedia which helps us to gain knowledge in minutes rather than hours and days.

The Internet has become a great resource for working from home. People can send and receive messages and communicate with each other more easily and quickly. We can visit our friends and business partners on FaceTime. We can even go shopping online! It really saves time. Everything can be done by simply clicking onto the images.

The Internet provides great entertainment too! Users can play games, watch videos and movies, listen to music and chat with friends. People can share everything through the social networks.

However, since a coin always has two sides, the wide use of the Internet definitely also brings some drawbacks. Many people do not pay

attention to privacy protection. They disclose their personal information on social networks. It is easy to let the hackers trail and steal all the information and data from your computer. They might use your information to do illegal things.

As the Internet provides great fun, many people devote too much time surfing it. They are addicted to the Internet. It definitely affects their normal daily life.

The Internet brings so much convenience to people! In fact, more convenience means lazier people.

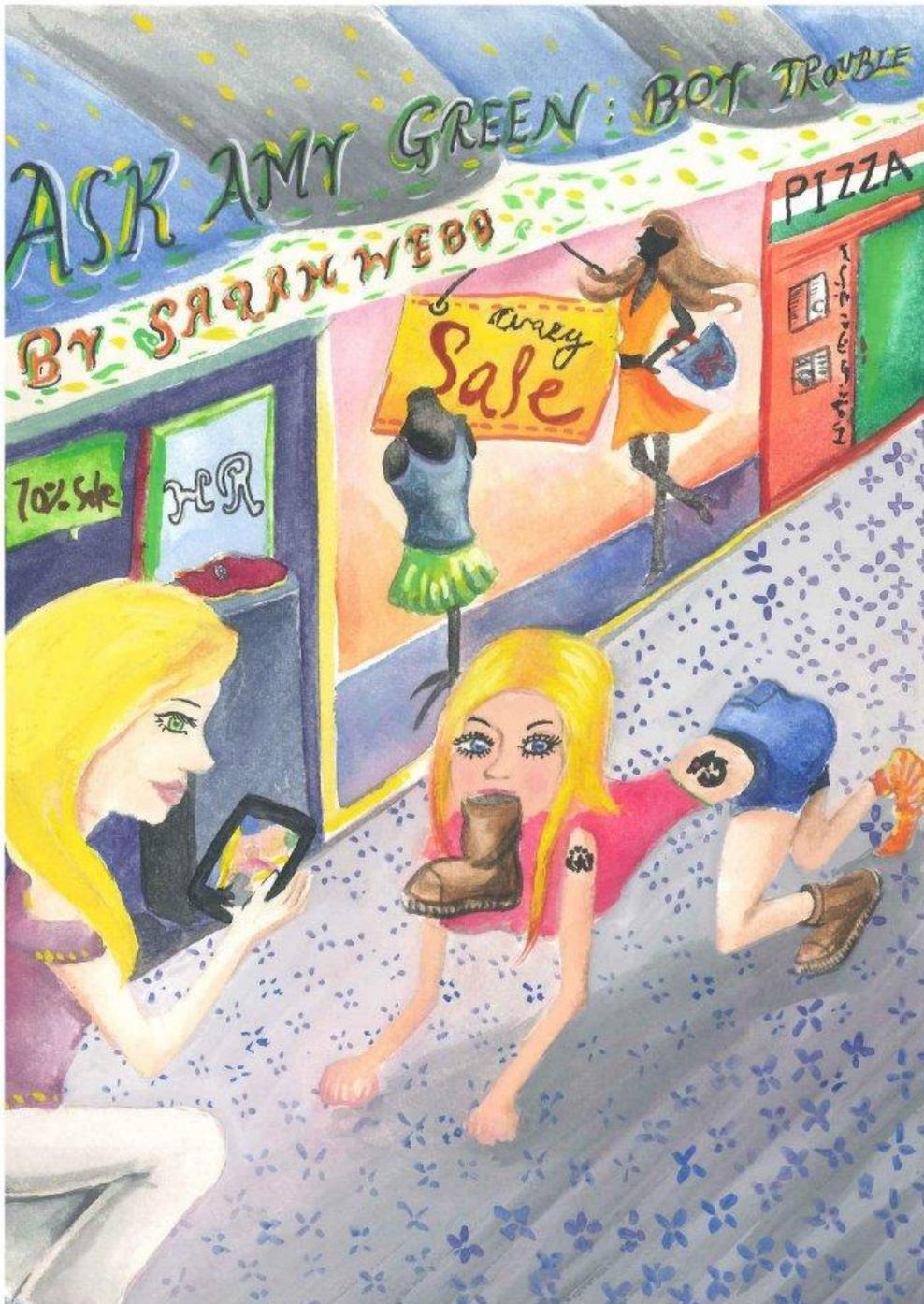
Clearly, there are both advantages and disadvantages of using the Internet. We should control ourselves – use the Internet less! Otherwise, it will drag us down!



# Ask Amy Green

Hui Kwan To (P.5B)

Bronze Award in Draw It! (Primary 4 to 6), Creative Readers Award 2013,  
Young Readers Festival, Hong Kong International Literary Festival 2013



## Analysis on Ask Amy Green

*Chris Pang (P.6C)*

*Bronze Award in Review It! (Primary 4 to 6), Creative Readers Award 2013,  
Young Readers Festival, Hong Kong International Literary Festival 2013*

This story began with the protagonist Amy, a young shy and inward girl getting bullied by a group of girls known as “D4”. In order to save Amy from public humiliation, Clover, Amy’s aunt (and best friend), pretended to be a casting agent and tricked Annabelle, the leader of the bullies, to demonstrate her acting skills on the spot to act out the character of a dog; little did Annabelle know that she was being filmed whilst doing the stunt. The story ends with Clover revealing her identity and blackmailing Annabelle that if she ever bullied Amy again, the clip would go public.

The story is funny and entertaining in parts. The wider message it tries to address is the moral question of whether Clover was in a position to bully Annabelle. The writer seems to be suggesting that despite the irony, bullying is perfectly justified when it is used for good.

I think what Clover did was justified because she only got her hands dirty out of love and care to protect her niece; whether the video will be released still depends on whether Annabelle continues her misdemeanor.

Perhaps it is sometimes right to fight fire with fire.

# **A Letter to the Chief Executive**

*Michael Cheng (P.6A)*

Dear Mr. Leung chun-ying,

My name is Michael Cheng—a simple sixth grade student who love Hong Kong as my own family. I hope you would have a serious look at this letter from me.

If someone asks, “Do you think the Chief Executive now is good or bad?” I cannot answer him. Most people are not convinced to remark you as a good Chief Executive; you have lots of areas to improve upon. Most people cannot deny that you have some precious strength; they do not want to conclude you as a bad one too early.

Indeed, you are an outstanding person in formulating the policy; nevertheless, your weakness is your dishonesty and defective way in handling affairs. A person’s mistrust on others always builds on somebody’s dishonesty. The main reason of citizens’ discontent towards you at this moment is your poor integrity.

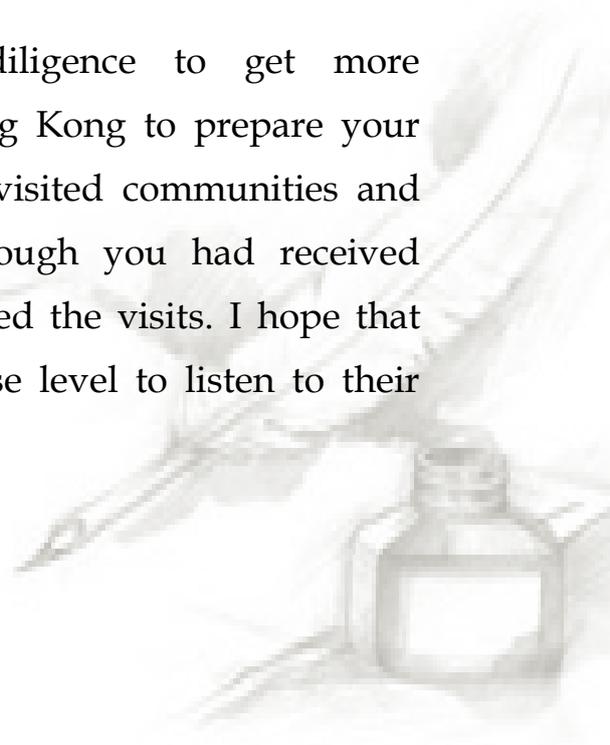
It was exposed that there was an unauthorized 100-feet glass shelf at your Bei Ling Road home. Later, when the staff of Building Department inspected your house, they found some more unauthorized structures, including a storeroom, a garage cover and an over-300-feet vault. The affair affects your honors adversely. After the discoveries of unauthorized structures, you have been requested to explain your mistake and attend face grilling in the legislative council. At the question and answer session,

you didn't admit that you had built illegal structures. On the contrary, you diverted the questions by playing tricks on words. You had been asked frequently whether you would step down or promise not to take part in the next term of election. You didn't answer directly but often separated the question or gave vague answers. The way you spoke causes a big critic and echo from the community.

I think that Hong Kong citizen would agree to direct and civil answers. They would like to adopt a courageous Chief Executive to step up, confess and apologize to public for his mistakes. This is the most effective and highly acceptable way to rebuild your credibility.

On the other side of the coin, your strong determination to make political evolution is marvelous. You rearranged the government structure by raising two assistant bureau chiefs and two government departments, no matter there were a lot of criticisms against your plan. Although no one knows if the action will help to improve the efficiency of the government departments, your confidence in your plan is highly appreciated by me.

Furthermore, I really applaud your diligence to get more understanding of the general situation in Hong Kong to prepare your commence as the Chief Executive. You often visited communities and listen to the comments from residents. Although you had received criticisms, you still didn't give up and continued the visits. I hope that you can extend this action deeply into the base level to listen to their needs.



Most people in Hong Kong are expecting an extraordinary Chief Executive in Hong Kong's history!

At last, I hope to express our strong will to step towards open election in Hong Kong and we hope you can support to accelerate the new era. Don't give up! Hong Kong citizens are waiting for you to amaze us! We will support you!

Yours sincerely,  
Michael Cheng

## Occupy Central

*Arthur Lo (P.6A)*

“Occupy Central” was an occupation movement that echoed “Occupy Wall Street”. People came from different countries— students, young professionals, activists, the unemployed and homeless, all joined this occupy movement from 15th October, 2011 to 11th September, 2012. The occupants set up camps in the plaza underneath the HSBC headquarters. They also put sofas and other furniture, sold books, had concerts and found volunteers during the period of time. People complained about capitalism diverting the richest and the poorest to the two extremes. Also, the Hong Kong encampment aimed at creating an ideal community advocating “equality”.

At first, there were around 20 and 10 campers respectively, but there were more than 200 participants engaged in the campaign during its height. The campers treated the plaza of HSBC headquarters as their home. They slept, watched TV, played TV games, played instruments, etc. during the days when they were occupying.

The campaign carried on for ten months non-stop until June 2012, HSBC brought the case to the high court as the previous requests for the activists to leave voluntarily were ignored. So on August 13th, 2012, the court granted an injunction and ruled them to clear out the occupied area by 9pm on August 27th, 2012. But 14 days later, the protesters defied the order and remained in place until 15 days after the deadline, 11th September. Court bailiffs came to remove their furniture and tents. During the clearance, some complained and fought with the guards. Plenty of people were hurt or injured in this clearance, including both

guards and occupants.

At last, by 4pm 11th September, 2012, 11 campers were forcefully evicted from the ground. Three people were arrested for assaulting security guards.

# Becoming Friends

*Kadan Lam (P.6B)*

I used to think that every kid is normal, but after today I see that some kids aren't normal at all.

At recess, Klowski Jones was inside the classroom. When he walked out of the classroom, a lot of students laughed at him because he had stepped on some dog poop this morning. Since then, everyone called him 'Koop Joop'.

But there was something unusual afterwards. After he walked back into the classroom, he was chewing something. I thought he was just biting his fingers, but when I got a closer look, he was actually chewing some metals!

A boy who chews metals? "Yikes!" I cried out. "What's happening?" Another boy asked. "He, 'Koop Joop', " I said, "was chewing some metals!" Just then, a teacher came in and said, " It's alright. The doctor said that he has to eat metals. The scientist checked his body before and found something special in his body: his stomach is twice as big as the others." And with that, the teacher walked away.

At lunch time, I stared at Klowski. He was eating his lunch like the normal kids. Then, I noticed it wasn't just me who was staring at him. Everyone in my class was staring at him, too! I decided to apologize to him.

"Sorry, Klowski," I said. "Before I used to call you 'Koop Joop'." "It's

ok," he replied. Then we become friends.

Becoming friends, with somebody who chews metals? Totally awesome!

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## **Trapped Life? 'Iron' Government?**

*Yik Seng Tang (P.6B)*

I used to think that the government would 'produce' happiness when I was small...

Everything in the world is 'chlorine' (not in chemistry, definitely), it isn't just a poisonous little beast which kills people in wars. It changes into daily life goods when it combines with other chemical elements!

Let's not go too far away, just imagine, if you were living in North Korea...

As an example, if you bought a television there, you would be using platinum to exchange nitrogen. It would help you to get a tremendous experience of being a guinea pig of taking correct and essential information out and sipping wrong ones in, with a great speed. And it also happened to the Internet.

More than that, you would be a bouncing ball in the 'oil lamp' (the shape of N. Korea) that seemed to be made of diamond. You don't need a single map since you can't travel to other countries. And it's far too

'plain' and normal to travel in your own country.

Head-washing... no, brain-washing is the fastest thing in the country. Unless you have a tremendously strong mind, you will just feel that every single place in the world is the same as North Korea and North Korea is doing a good job. You won't know the truth since you don't have enough time to refresh the truth you used to feel when you were young or break the law and get out of your country.

Therefore, if you are fooled by the government, you will get some happiness. But, is it real happiness?



## **A Memorable Lesson**

*Marius Lau (P.6B)*

It was a stormy night. I was in a hurry to go back home. I immediately waved at a taxi and jumped in.

After telling my destination to the driver, I was astounded. The taxi's glass was shining like silver. You couldn't find any rubbish, dust or cigarettes on the taxi's carpet. Moreover, the lavenders on the back of the seats made the car so refreshing! "I have never been in such a ravishing car!" I said.

"Thank you!" said the smiling driver.

"When did you start to adorn your car?" I asked.

"Actually, I was a cleaner before I drove a taxi." said the driver, "Every day, I washed many cars. Every taxi was full of dust, tissues, rubbish and some had even some disgusting chewing gums on the old carpet! While I was cleaning tiredly, I thought, 'If I provide a comfortable environment for them, they may keep the environment as clean as new!' I instantly started to make all the cars to have the best environment for the passengers.

Afterwards, when I got a driver's license, my company promoted me to be a driver. That's why I finally have my own taxi. To make my passengers feel as cozy as home, I clean my taxi every night. Of course, my passengers do not let me down! They do not throw rubbish anywhere. After a few years, I apprehended that if you try to show your kindness,

love and care to others, eventually, they will also be kind to you.”

“That’s really kind of you, sir.” I said with respect, “but if I were you, I would just be an ordinary driver.”

So I had to do something,” answered the driver. “Hong Kong citizens are losing their harmony. Sometimes we are paying too much attention on earning money. That makes us forget how to take care for our fellow friends. I can just be ‘ordinary’, but I don’t want to be like that. There has to be someone stepping out, and showing our kindness, love and care to others. Why shouldn’t I be the first one?”

The taxi finally arrived at my home. While I hurried back home, I said quietly to myself, “From now on, I must be more kind to others. Then, everybody will care and be kind to others, then we can be happier!”



# Kingdom of the Gobi

*Ernest Wong (P.6C)*

"Hurray! I've got it!" Ernest shouted out excitedly.

The moment Ernest learned that he won the junior's writers award, he was overwhelmed with joy. What made him even more astonished was the expedition to the Gobi Desert for a fortnight.

He got his full gear in his luggage and was ready to go. Together with a party of eight, including his best friends James, Dick, the other winners and the facilitators, they flew over Altai Mountains and Mongolia and finally landed at Chinggis Khaan. Ernest expected the weather to be stuffy and pretty hot. Surprisingly, the showers of rain lowered the temperature. He felt rather comfortable. They were ready to be explorers searching for something mysterious in the Gobi Desert.

Stepping out of the airport, the explorers were welcomed by a troop of Bactrian camels as huge as horses. Their two humps looked like two mountains standing hand in hand. The explorers took the camel caravan and rode to the sand dunes. They spotted eagles soaring up above and animals like rattlesnakes, yellow-spotted lizards around but they quickly disappeared in the ridge before anybody got a chance to take a photo of them. The boys saw nothing green, only the vast wasteland ahead. The bumpy road was not well-paved. After a long miserable ride, they settled at the specific camp site for tourists. They took a break in the Mongolian Tents and met some nomadic children. The explorers received warm hospitality in Gobi.

Ernest, James and Dick formed a small group. Their first destination was the Flaming Cliffs where the first dinosaur eggs were discovered long time ago. The land was remote and desolate. The temperature hovered around 50 degrees Celsius. The three boys were dripping with sweat. They went up the cliff and saw the red orange unique sandstone cliffs, comprised of red sand and rocks, scorching sun and emptiness. There were no weeds, no bushes, no living things. The three explorers expected to search around for some fossilized dinosaurs trace but they found nothing ... All of a sudden, James heard some 'special-type' of music. James boldly asked Ernest and Dick to search around.

'Dear brothers, ' Dick hesitated, 'did you hear the music?'

'Listen, ' James assured him. 'We need to sort it out.' he continued.

'I just...' Ernest whispered. 'I just think it should be under the ground.'

The three explorers felt puzzled. They had a hot debate about what they should do. They wondered why music was underground. Ernest, James and Dick decided to dig the ground. They took out their folded shovels and started their search. Ernest stepped on the shovel blade and used all his energy...

'Um... I think an orchestra is under the ground.' Ernest exclaimed.

'Oh! Look... there's... a 'plant' in the soil!' James cried.

They took a close look at the plant and discovered some unique

symbols and patterns on the leaves. Some words were carved on the stem. The three explorers used the magnifying glass to read the words. It said, 'The Kingdom of Gobi'.

'Hmmm... The Kingdom of Gobi! It sounds interesting,' James yelled excitedly.

'Why... why... a plant in this infertile area?' Ernest questioned.

Dick was puzzled, 'I did some research about Gobi desert. It is supposed to be one of the largest deserts in the world and it is really dry... not suitable for plants.'

Ernest whooped with surprise, 'Let's explore!' Due to their curiosity, the three boys continued digging, they could still hear music underground. They dug deeper and deeper until they reached the mouth of a hole.

Ernest cheered, 'Light! I saw a beam of light ...!'

'Oh! The music is so near us. Great!' James stammered breathlessly.

The three explorers peeked through the hole. There was a serious passage leading to a mysterious hall - it was the Kingdom of Gobi. There lived the Gobians. The Gobians were singing Mongolian Folk Songs. Some Gobians were playing music using conch-like objects while some Gobians were beating large drums. Their music brought harmony and love. Before this discovery, 'Gobi' made people feel like a place without living things, music, love and lives. The three explorers could see much

greenery growing densely in the hall surrounded by a lake. There were trees like eight-meter giants, green leaves hugging the colourful flowers in the bushes, thousands of fruits as big as our heads, looking fresh and juicy. The books mentioned Gobi Desert was once fertile and was a 'Sacred place' with a lake. This sacred place for the enlightened people appeared in front of the explorers' eyes.

The three explorers squeezed through the tiny 'dog hole' and went inside the magical hall. They walked slowly and quietly towards the drummer and that Gobian was shocked when he saw the three boys.

'What the heck are you doing here? Our kingdom is fifty-thousand kilometers under Gobi! You three boys have dug all the way down here? That's impossible! No one has done this before!' The drummer questioned them.

All Gobians appreciated the boys' perseverance to dig such a long way down. The Gobians hugged the boys and invited them to dance together. Cooked mutton and creamy goat's milk were served. Life in the Kingdom of Gobi was full of harmony, warmth, love and hope.

Life in Gobi Desert was so different from life in The Kingdom of Gobi. It seemed like two different worlds. The explorers could never tell why there was The Kingdom of Gobi underground.

'We have waited for this day for such a long time! To show our appreciation to the explorers, we have decided to share half of our harvests each month as a reward to the humans living up in Gobi Desert!' the Gobian leader suggested.

'That's a good idea!' James exclaimed.

The three explorers went back to the Gobi Desert and shared this piece of good news with every man and woman in Gobi Desert.

# New Tales of the Gobi

*James Lai (P.6C)*

I opened my eyes. I felt for the first time I felt every single day--pain. But this time, I didn't feel it. "A miracle! Did the wound I got from fighting with a snow leopard finally heal?" I thought. But before I knew the answer to that, I heard the fearsome growl of a snow leopard that nearly made me deaf.

My name is Max, 25, adventurer and explorer (and an orphan) and this is my first trip to the Gobi Desert. As for my last name, don't ask me. I don't even know it myself. But, I vow to find out about my family. Okay, back to the snow leopard. The growl alerted me to prepare for battle. Instantly, I took out my deadly dagger. The nanosecond the snow leopard appeared in front of my eyes, I tried to stab it with my dagger without a bit of hesitation. But before I knew it, someone attacked me first.

"Clang!!!"The sound of "dagger-fighting" rang through the Gobi Desert. It stopped. "Who are you?" I asked loudly, trying to act scary. The "intruder" said, "Adam White. This is my pet, Rover. Who are YOU?" I told him everything I knew about myself. I figured out he didn't know his parents too. Well, at least he had pictures He invited me to his cave. In his cave, I saw a picture – a drawing of a young woman. She looked strangely familiar. This made me extremely inquisitive. "Is that your mother?" I asked. "Yes," Adam replied. "I wish I knew more about her." That made feel that we had a bond.

We travelled around Gobi Desert without much problems with Rover

as our guardian. But, when we were climbing a mountain Adam accidentally slipped off it unexpectedly. "No!" I exclaimed. "No..." Adam was my only friend. What about Rover? Who's going to take care of him? Rover gave me a look that said, "What's going to happen to him?" He looked really worried. "Adam..." I spluttered. "Adam's dead."

Little did they know that there was a young man named Adam White who survived a fall walking in the lands of Gobi Desert...

"They must think I'm dead." thought Adam. He was walking slowly through the Eastern Gobi desert steppe eco region, home to the Bactrian camel and many other animals. He only had 3 buckets of clean, drinkable water left. He needed to find clean, drinkable water as soon as possible or he will die out of thirst pretty soon. "It has been a long time since I met Rover, eh?" he thought. Unexpectedly, an anonymous old man ran extremely fast towards him and whacked Adam on the head. Adam blacked out.

Max patted Rover on the back. "I'm sorry buddy, but Adam is gone. Forever." Just as Max was rubbing Rover's cheeks, he felt something hard, something deadly. Something fishy was going on.

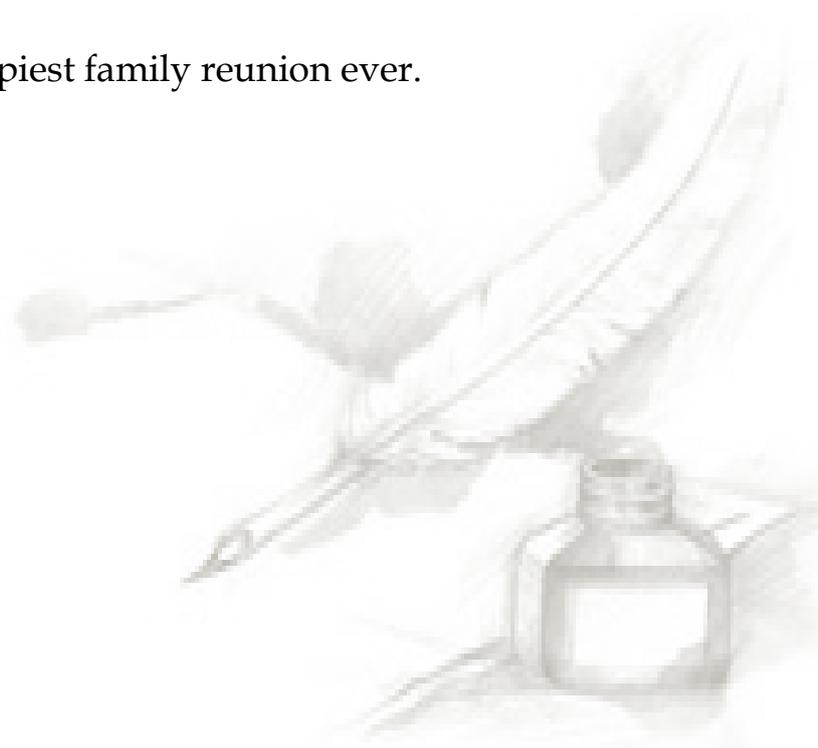
Adam woke up in a very beautiful room. He looked around the room. He saw lots of gold and silver. He even saw a fur coat (which was not really made out of fur)! He felt like a rich person. "Where am I?" he thought. Suddenly, the old man that whacked him on the head opened the door and answered him, as if he was a mind reader. "You're home, son." "What?" Adam exclaimed. He didn't know a thing about what this old man was talking about. "Who are you?" Adam asked. "Why did you

whack me on the head?” Suddenly, the old man tore off his beard, moustache and white hair. It was a disguise. The old man wasn’t an old man anymore. He was a very handsome man, who was in his 50s. “Adam,” the man said. “I am your father.”

Max was focusing on his friend’s pet snow leopard, Rover. It just didn’t feel right. He thought he felt steel under Rover’s fur. Suddenly, Rover’s eyes grew red. His eyes were glowing red. As it was starting to get dark, the eerie glow of Rover’s eyes was becoming the only light that people could see. Suddenly, a voice came out from Rover, “WARNING: SYSTEM MALFUNCTION!!!!!!” Then, Rover’s eyes turned blue. He started to talk, “Hello Max. I am your grandfather.”

“And then your grandfather got the body of a snow leopard. But, as he is half robotic, things didn’t go very well. Your grandfather went out of control and escaped from our lab. Fortunately, his brain and his heart and other important organs are still human.” Just then, Max and “Rover” arrived. “I know, Dad. I know. Adam is my brother.”

And they had their first and happiest family reunion ever.



# Sam's Adventure in the Gobi Desert

*Kyle Hsiao (P.6C)*

Sam, an American air-force soldier, wondered in the Gobi Desert in China. The Gobi Desert was hot and dry like hell. It was located in southern Mongolia and northwestern China. It belonged to the Mongol Empire.

Fifty years ago, Sam was a pilot who flew a fighter jet. While he was piloting the jet, he realized that the engine had broken down. He pressed the parachute button and left the exploding jet. He was in Gobi Desert. One day later, he felt very thirsty and hungry. He could not do anything to help himself. There was no sight of human anywhere. He thought he would die there. Sam walked for days. He started to feel ache in every part of his body. A dramatic sand storm came towards him. It was so strong that some cactus was blown away. He used his helmet to cover his face. He looked for a hiding place for his safety. He has encountered the worst. He stepped into a sudden quick sand trap. He thought it would end his life but he grabbed tight on a tree, "Ouch!" He was stung by the thorns but he survived fortunately.

Sam wondered around for thirteen hours. He saw a golden palace. It was not an illusion but a real palace. He went into it and found there was a red skinned person sitting on a throne. He must be the king. Sam said, "Please your majesty, can I stay and have some food?" The king didn't understand English. The translator right behind the king translated it. The king nodded and told the soldier to give some food and a room to Sam. He thanked the king and followed the soldier to his room. Meanwhile, the king found that Sam had dropped a treasure map. He came with a greedy

and cruel desire. He wanted to have all the gold and jewelry, so he decided to kill Sam, by setting the giant poisonous spider on him.

After Sam noticed the king wanted to kill him, Sam decided to escape. He used his powerful hands and pushed the locked door open. Fortunately, he ran faster than the spider and the soldiers. He crossed the throne and asked the king, "Why did you want to kill me?" The king told Sam it was because he saw Sam's treasure map and he wanted all the treasure. Sam protested, "It was just an ordinary painting, and it isn't real." The king said, "Then, prove it. There is a palace, a water fall, a cave around here. It must be real, liar." So Sam led them to look for the treasure. Sam estimated the trip would last more than a year because they must go through the land of cannibals.

They started their trip by riding on camels; they brought food and their weapons. Sam took his Winchester M1887 shot gun, which he had brought with him.

Three months later, they went past a lake, they had left the desert. They were exhausted. They decided to stay for two days. At night, a humongous cobra poisoned one third of the crew. The crew was forced to leave.

Four months later, they were attacked by cruel baboons. Fortunately, no one died.

Six months later, they met a troll. The one eyed troll suggested if he won the war, he would eat all of the crew. Sam went first to challenge him, he used a stone from the ground and threw it into his eye. He killed him easily, when the troll fell down, he landed on top of a man. The land

shook so severely that it felt like an earthquake.

It was already one year since Sam was in the desert. He and the others were at the land of cannibals. They sneaked past them, but they had good eyesight. They chased the crew. They had a bloody fight. The crew killed all the cannibals but two survived, Sam and the king.

They found the cave, Sam did not believe the painting had become true, he shouted, "Open sesame!" The cave door opened and glittering gold shone in both of their eyes. They were amazed. The king rushed to put treasures in the bags. It was heavy as tons of elephants, the king shouted, "What a place, it looks like heaven."

The king was enchanted by the gold, while Sam realized the cave door would be closed soon, He shouted to the king, "Quick, the door is closing, we must leave!" The king did not listen, Sam slid under the door leaving the king in the cave.

Three years later, a helicopter hovered over Gobi Desert. The pilot saw the "SOS" sign written by Sam. It landed in front of Sam. The pilot said, "Where are you going and what are you doing here?" Sam replied, "It is a long story, I want to go to the United States Air Force in Texas."

They arrived there in two days. The commander said to Sam, "Well done, Sam. You have been lost in the Gobi Desert for four years. As you are still alive, I would like to congratulate you by prompting you." Sam became the vice commander of Texas United States Air Force.

# Save Energy

*Ron Sin (P.6C)*

Earth is facing a problem about global warming, so we need to save the energy, or else we won't have much in the future. What is global warming? Global warming is made of greenhouse gas and greenhouse gas creates air pollution. Global warming will make temperature become high and many animals and plant would not be able to survive on Earth. That would destroy our food chain, we may need to leave Earth in the future .We need to stop global warming , the way to stop the global warming is to save energy .If we keep wasting energy, one day we can't live on Earth anymore.

Energy is very important and useful, but now, we are wasting the fossil fuels, and it is a non-renewable energy source. If people keep wasting, Earth wouldn't have fossil fuels. How can we save energy?

We can save energy in the house. How? Let's see this example. When we are going out, we should turn off the light. When we are getting out the bathroom, we shouldn't leave the tap on. When we find our tap is dripping, we should fix the dripping tap. When we take a bath, we shouldn't use a tank of water to bath, we should take a shower.

When we have summer, we should use fan and shouldn't use the air conditioner. Also, we shouldn't take hot water bath; we should take cold water bath. In winter, we shouldn't switch on the air conditioner. We should use paper on the both side. When we are shopping, we should bring our shopping bag, we shouldn't use plastic bags. We can give away the old books, old clothes, toys and furniture to second-hand shops. We

shouldn't throw away the cans, waste paper and plastic bottles; we should put them into the recycle bins. We should stop eating shark's fin and stop buying coral handicrafts. When we sweat, we shouldn't use tissue, we should use handkerchief.

These are the ways to save energy. If people start saving energy, global warming would stop.

# How About a Law to Do Good Deeds?

*Sean Leung (P.6D)*

President Kent was in his office, signing the document to pass the monumental “One good deed a day” law. As his entourage of presidential staff was looking on with glee, the president paused and seemed self-absorbed in deep thought. He was reminiscing the first good deeds of his own childhood...

Kent was a primary student back then. He took the same bus to school every morning. He always saw the same people on the bus each day. They were mostly people rushing to work. One day, a man carrying a bulky briefcase was standing in the corner, waiting for a seat. Kent thought the briefcase must be heavy, so he stood up and offered the man his own seat. This man said thank you so many times! Kent was overwhelmed with joy and pride.

The very next day, the same man saw an old, frail lady board the bus and gave her his seat. Then Kent realized that helping people starts a chain reaction! He believed that the old lady would also help people in the future.

Kent was a child who loved reading. Every Sunday he went to his favourite bookshop. He always saw a big sign soliciting for new staff needed in that bookshop, but he thought it had nothing to do with him.

On a particular Monday, when Kent was walking to the bus stop, he saw a beggar on the street. He thought about the sign at the bookshop and

said, "Hmm..." He walked up to the beggar and said, "You can try going to the bookshop and get a job!" The beggar jumped with joy, and ran towards the bookshop.

A month later, Kent needed to do a school project about politics. He went to the bookshop to look for appropriate books for his research. Just as Kent was rummaging for a nice reference book, he was delighted to see the beggar he met a month ago! He was proudly wearing his bookshop uniform, with a gleaming clean face. The former beggar said, "I'm glad to see you again, I can't thank you enough! May I help you with anything today?" Kent replied, "I'm looking for some books that would help me for a research on political science." The former beggar led Kent to the back of the shop and handed him a book. He said, "I've read this book. It explains political facts in interesting ways!" Kent said, "Thank you so much!" If Kent hadn't told the beggar about the available job at the bookshop, he wouldn't have recommended the book that helped Kent so much in his life as a politician!

"President Kent?" His staff suddenly called the president. He was slightly startled as he snapped out of his daydreaming. He quickly signed the document, determined to make everybody cheerful and to make his country a better place with the forthcoming flood of good deeds.

# My Little Secret

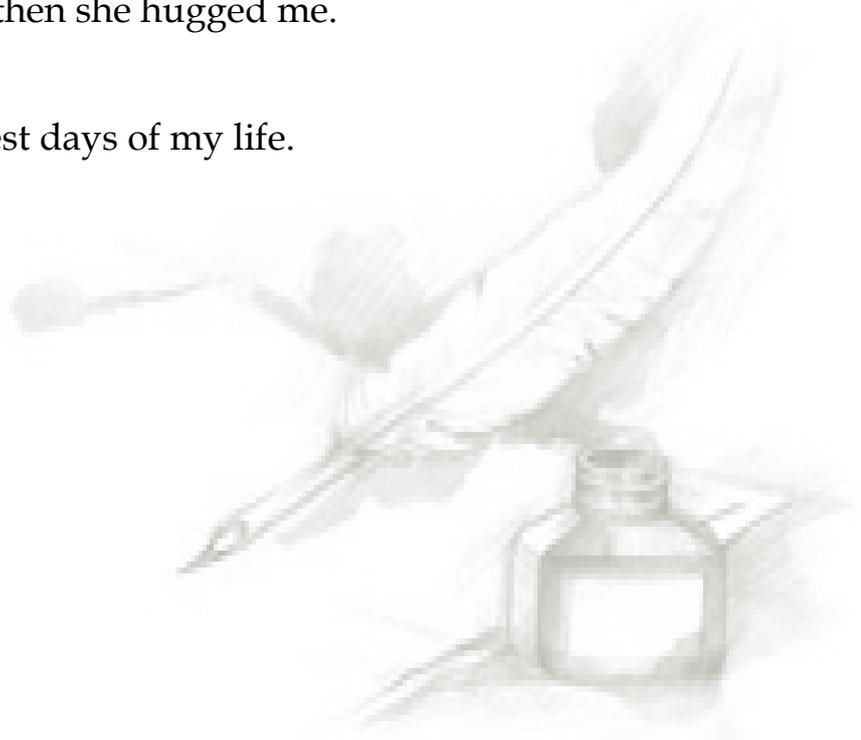
*Justin Lee (P.6D)*

When I picked up the photo album, my heart gave a leap as I've never been allowed to look at my photos. My parents worried that I'd mess up their pictures until now. I opened the album. Memories came rushing into my head...

It was a hot and sunny day. I returned home from kindergarten, having received a talk from my teacher, Ms Chan, about how our parents loved us and we should also love them. After lunch, I prepared to do something that I thought would amuse my mother. I grabbed hold of one of my mum's lipsticks, opened it and used it as paint. I drew a message on her bed-sheet and...Done! Everything was prepared and all I could do was to wait for my mother to come and see.

The familiar sound of the doorbell came. I pulled the door open and there stood my mum. I gave her a hug and pulled her into her bedroom. I showed her what I'd written. She raised her hand, seemingly to hit me, but what she did was clap. And then she hugged me.

It was probably one of the best days of my life.



# A Mythical War on the Great Wall

*Justin Lee (P.6D)*

Started by the first Emperor of China, Qin Shi Huang, and rebuilt in the Ming Dynasty, the Great Wall stretched from Shanhaiguan in the east, to Lop Lake in the west of China as the critical military defensive barrier of China throughout thousands of years. As a country rich in unlimited natural resources, China had long been a target of many nomadic tribes and even countries far in Europe which would like to invade and take over its wealth.

The Greek army was one of the greedy invaders. The violent fight between the Greek army and the Chinese army in the period of Ming Dynasty made a critical change to the structure of the Great Wall, helping to protect the Empire of China. It all began at the chilling fight over Shanhaiguan on the Great Wall on a howling windy night under the dim moonlight.

The wind howled. Evan, a Greek warrior who led his troops trying to conquer territories of Chinese empire, swiped his sword Damagear at the Chinese enemy. However, they blocked the strike in advance. There were too many fighters from the Chinese army! He pulled out his bow, fired a few shots, and retreated back into the darkness.

Back at Lop Lake, the wounded drank Theteus, a godly silver drink which was used to heal Ruzlus, a deadly poison of the Chinese. Evan slumped over to a bunk, exhausted of the fighting today. His legs ached. Holding his breath in the chilly dark, Evan knew clearly that the taking

over of the gateway Shanhaiguan signified the victory of the battle. He knew they were not the only army fighting to the death. Above him, the sky crackled with green colours. Lightning flashed. Evan knew immediately what it meant. Their God was fighting for them. The God of the Air, Apollo was battling the Jade Emperor, the Chinese God. The Jade Emperor was as powerful as Apollo. The Jade Emperor was also immortal. The Greeks won and took over all the world, except China. The Greeks were skilled in fighting, but they had been fighting a losing battle. The Chinese army had outnumbered them. They had a million fighters, but the Greeks had only three to four thousand of fighters. They had lost a hundred fighters already, but they still insisted on making an attack as they wanted to take over the world even though they had not enough warriors. They charged at the Chinese camp, ignoring the facts that they were not powerful enough.

Evan slashed, swiped and stabbed his sword, soldiers of the Chinese army fell and fell, but more just took their place. More and more Greek soldiers fell in blood. The Great Wall had become a bloody river. To defend the Greek warriors from the attack of Chinese army, Evan raised a shimmering core of energy, the core of the Greeks. He knew that if the core was destroyed, the whole Greek army would just disappear from the earth. However, this was the only way to save his Greek army. Without a second thought, Evan raised the core. Evan shouted, 'Full automation maxima!' Instantly, a wall of force shimmered in front of them, cutting off the Chinese and the Greeks. Just then, a Chinese soldier cast a spell on Evan. Instantly, thick, dark mist got into Evan's eyes and wrapped around him.

When Evan opened his eyes, he was confused why he was on a

shimmering line along the Great wall with thousands of soldiers yelling and heaps of dead bodies lying aside the wall. Suddenly, Positievian appeared before him. Immediately, Evan leapt on his CT1220 Sonic hyper-bike, and revved the engines, dust trailing after his bike, following Positievian, son of Apollo. Evan's eyes gleamed with a bloody red colour. He was being controlled by the Chinese spell! He had forgotten his identity – the militant leader of the Greek army! What was in his mind was just to kill Positievian to stop the bloody battle. He knew he had to do it fast as Apollo would come to save his son. When Apollo left the fight to save his son, the Chinese would win.

Positievian sensed Evan's weird act. He reinforced the air, ripping the oxygen out of the mist surrounding them, a pearly white wall of mist materialized. Evan pounded the wall of mist. Then, Positievian shouted a spell in Ancient Greek language, "O'beteristei, heifemiseti!" White mist wrapped around Evan, waking him from the Chinese spell. Once he was woken, he became stronger and returned to the battlefield in Shanhaiguan immediately.

Evan raced back to the battlefield, summoning wind spirits to blow away Chinese soldiers, lighting to flash on Chinese soldiers burning them to a crisp and killing them. All Greek army took the chance to push forward against the Chinese camp. Suddenly, Chinese archers on the Great Wall fired. They had stepped in a trap! Evan tried to summon a huge twister, but he was too weak to do so, because he was still recovering from the spell of the Chinese and drawing his sword stabbing the Chinese beast, Lycredo Fangrider. Once the beast burst into red smoke, the Greek archers shot arrows at the Chinese.

Evan shouted, 'Battle mode!' Thick, black steel wrapped around Evan's arms. He punched a rock, sending it flying into the Chinese core which was heavily and secretly guarded in tower on Shanhaiguan. By mistake, the Chinese core rose and smacked into the Greek core, sending a brilliant flash of white light covering them. Soon, everyone evaporated. Only the mighty Great Wall stood proudly on the mountains. The Great Wall became harder with bricks and stone instead of rammed earth after the war.

No one could prove that there was a fight on the Great Wall.



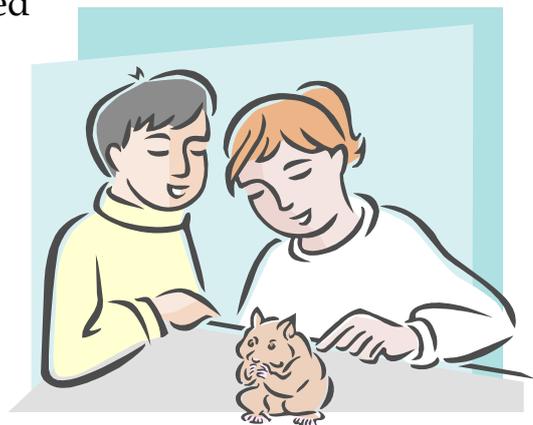
## Hamsters are ...heroes?

*Colson Yang (P.6E)*

I used to think hamsters are ordinary pets. Who knows that such tiny animals will become the only hopes of justice one day? Well, that day was the 15th October, 2016.

It all started in the normal year 2016, where a new TV show called “Hyperlady and her hamster save the day!” started showing on “Pearl”, a TV channel I always watch if I am bored. It was mainly about Sleeping Beauty waking up and for some strange reason; she thought she was a heroine instead of a princess. She trained a hamster as a sidekick and disguised herself, renaming herself as “Hyperlady” to fight evil. For another strange reason, my hamsters enjoyed watching this show. I could tell by their eyes, glistening like two stars, and by their behavior, always pretending to have superpowers after watching this show. One day, a fire broke out in a building. I suddenly heard a squeak from the hamsters.

When I saw them, they were all dressed in fancy superhero costumes. I wondered where they got those stuff from. Anyway, they set off to the scene hurriedly. That’s right, they flew away. Soon I saw them in TV. “This is Chucky C. Johnson reporting the shocking news of the fire break out. All seem hopeless for the ... Hey wait! Flying hamsters! In the sky! Wow! Amazing! You won’t believe it...”



In the end, the fire died out, thanks to my hamsters. More adventures await them in the future, such as “The terrible trolls of tuna attack”. They became famous, so did my family. The reason for how they got superpowers remained a mystery. The Chief Executive of Hong Kong decided to have a new public holiday every year to celebrate hamsters. Hamsters are new heroes!



# A Hundred Days around the World

*Jason Siu (P.5A)*

Miss HO was reading “James and the Giant Peach” in class, “Suddenly, James saw an old man emerging from the...the....the...reader!” The whole class screamed!

The Old man took out a LEGO house saying, “Travel around the world in 100 days to help the needy ones. The LEGO house will turn into something extraordinary!” He then vanished.

All Ying Wa boys accepted the challenge.

First, 150 P.1 boys spent 20 days in Asia. They went to Shanghai, China. They saw somebody getting dirty oil from the ground to make cooking oil! The boys stopped him immediately.

Then, 150 P.2 boys spent another 20 days in Africa. Madagascar was on fire! The boys threw water balls from helicopters, saving immense woods and the lives of animals.

During the next 20 days, the P.3 boys went to Australia. The sunshine was fierce. The boys wrote brochures about protecting the ozone layer.

Afterwards, the P.4 and P.5 boys travelled to Europe and America. They printed a lot of money. The boys asked Obama and the European Central Bank to spend money wisely. They spent 20 days.

For the last 20 days, the P.6 boys travelled to the Antarctica. The boys reminded people to alleviate global warming. They wanted to find homes for the penguins.

On the 100th day, all boys gathered in Ying Wa. Suddenly, the LEGO house became larger and larger and turned into a gymnasium with a swimming pool! All the boys cheered!



# My Dream

*Edwin Cheng (P.5B)*

A few months ago, I could remember that terrifying night when I was woken up by an urgent call from the hospital. The devil broke the silence and pulled me from sweet dream to nightmare. While my mother was answering the call, she was trembling uncontrollably. Everything was deadly quiet and full of unhappiness, anxiety and despair. I was also shocked by the bad news that my grandfather had been admitted to Intensive Care Unit because of sepsis. His life was on the edge as his renal function had severely deteriorated.

As my father was on duty in the hospital that night, I called him immediately in an effort to tell him this news. With his knowledge, I thought he could comfort us and gave us some advice. He tried to calm me down and asked me to pray for my grandfather, I wholly believed his words that my grandfather would finally win this battle.

We were ants walking on a hot pot, time passed extraordinary slow in such critical moment. I realized that life was really soft and weak. Today, I celebrated my birthday with my grandfather again. I treasured my life, my friends and my beloved family. My ambition is to become a doctor when I grow up, I would put my strenuous effort to save my patients from illness. "To help is better than to receive", I hope my dream would come true one day.

# A Colourful Rainbow of Life

*Keith Kwok (P.5B)*

"Dad, look at this picture!"

I was shocked and in tears hearing my son finally speak in 6 years since birth. The caption below the picture was: John Smith, a well known specialist helping autistic children, is famous for using paintings to arouse autistic children's interest to speak.

John Smith? My old pal! Instantly, I knew where I had previously seen a similar rainbow picture.

\* \* \*

"Hey, John! John Smith!" I shouted out. "Do you want to go to the park to play? Or do you want me to show you around the neighbourhood?" There was no response as usual. John, our new neighbour, always never answered me, let alone greet others. Did he know what manners were? I doubted it. I didn't want to see or talk to him anymore!

A few days later, I was in the queue waiting for the bus when I overheard John's parents' conversation. "I am very worried," John's dad said. "John has autism and what can we do?"

What was autism? The answer to John's weird behaviour was about to reveal itself. I had to ask Mum.

After knowing what autism was, I wasn't puzzled anymore. I actually felt sorry for what might be going through John's mind. He must be freaking out when trying to speak. He must be anxious when people try to approach him. What I thought was natural instinct to interact with people could be like nightmare to John. I didn't know what was exactly going through John's mind. I just knew that I should be more understanding and try to help whenever I could.

Every day, I put a drawing into John's mailbox and wrote a note to tell him about the drawing and who I was. I did that continuously for days despite the fact that he never replied. But on the tenth day, he finally wrote back, thanking me for giving him the drawings and suggested that we should continue to write to each other. Gradually, we became pen-pals although he still would not speak to me when we met.

One day after months of being a pen-pal of John, I was going to play in the park when I heard somebody say, "Hi, can I play with you?" It was John Smith! I gave him a warm smile and we played in the park together.

On a gloomy day a few years later when we were playing at the same park, John broke the news that his family would soon be moving out of the neighbourhood. The sky was pouring and my heart was aching because I knew that I would miss John forever. Just before we left the park that day, a colourful rainbow appeared. John and I each decided to draw a rainbow picture for each other, a precious gift to commemorate our friendship.

\* \* \*

John Smith, the once eccentric loner, had now become a well-known specialist helping millions of autistic children. He was helping autistic children to create a colourful rainbow in their lives.



## **“Capture” the Volcano**

*Justin Fung (P.5D)*

“This is your Captain speaking,” said the plane’s captain. “We’re going to have an emergency landing on the ocean.” There were four passengers on the light aircraft; they were photographer Jim, Ben, Sam and Julian. They were on a trip to Indonesia. Their mission was to take photos of the volcanoes.

Suddenly, a volcano erupted and the plane was trapped in a cloud of ash! The engine was spitting dust and the plane started to fall.

Jim mumbled, “I am going to die, I am going to die!”

Ben asked Julian to give him a sheet of paper and a pen to write a will and he was so nervous. Sam trembled. When the plane was about to dive into the water, they together shouted, “Ah!” Splash! The plane flopped on the water. Luckily, they were all safe.

At last, two rescue ships came by and picked them up and brought them back to Indonesia. After a few days, they continued their mission and that might be another thrilling, memorable journey.

# Travel to the Dinosaur Age

*Cyrus Lam (P.5D)*

Last Friday, it was time for me to go back home after school as usual. But Tom wanted to play games with me, so we went back home together. But, something strange happened. Let me tell you about it.



When we were playing games, I noticed there was a strange machine next to my bed and I was curious. I pressed a yellow button on the machine. Then, the room spun and spun and all the things changed.

After that, many pterosaurs, flying dinosaurs were flying in the sky and I noticed that we had gone to the Dinosaur Age. Suddenly, one of the pterosaurs grabbed the machine and flew to its nest. I was afraid because if I didn't get the machine back, we wouldn't be able to go back to the normal world. Tom was scared, too. Suddenly, he thought of an idea.

He took a chocolate bar out from his pocket and threw it far away to distract the pterosaur. Then, I climbed up the tree and got the machine down immediately. We felt peaceful and I pressed the green button. The world spun again and all the things changed back to normal. I remembered the awful and scary experience and I wouldn't go in it again. What an unforgettable day!

# My Dream

*Ron Yung (P.5E)*

It was a dark and stormy night. A flash of lightning lit up the dark, followed by the deafening thunder that sounded like bombs dropping from the sky. I left my backyard quickly but was attracted by a red pebble on the ground. It was so beautiful that I picked it up and brought it back home.

When I put the pebble on my desk, there was a strong flash light and I could hardly open my eyes. I saw something approaching me closer and closer.

“Hello, Master!” A little flying dragon was standing in front of me!

“Where’re you from?” I could hear my trembling voice.

“I’m from the Wish Pebble.”

“Wow!” I was stunned by the words of this little talking dragon. “So, you could grant me wishes, couldn’t you?”

“Sure, here comes your third wish.”

“Wait!” I haven’t made my first and second wishes yet!”

“Can’t you remember that I just granted you the first wish but you told me to resume everything to normal, and not gonna let you recall

anything?"

"Oh, really?" I was puzzled but still continued to make my third wish." I felt so lonely living in this mountain for years. May I know where my relatives and friends are now?"

"Oh, no..." The dragon sighed, "That's your first wish, Master. Obviously, you can't recall anything now!"

"These questions arose in my mind for years!"

The dragon grinned, "What you need most is the strength and courage to live at present and the readiness to face difficulties in the future. Sometimes, it may be better not to ask or complain too much."

"Life is like a dream..." The voice of the dragon was getting weaker and weaker. I rubbed my eyes hard. It vanished in a second. The pebble, however, was still on my desk... Was it a dream?

It was such a sunny day outside. I whistled. My little house had never been so cozy and warm before.



# The Case of the Identical Mothers

*Liu Yin You (P.4B)*

“Hello, I’m home!” I hollered in the living room. “Yes sweetie. What do you want for lunch? How’s school?” a voice asked. I could recognize that it was my mom.

“Hi, Mom! I invented a new robot at school. It has two wheels and iron hands with a CCTV and .....” I said as I walked into the kitchen. I also made a grandfather clock with wood. It has an eagle on it.” I continued. “Wonderful.” Mom praised “I’ll make you some spaghetti.”

After chatting with my mother, I skipped into my room to my room to finish my homework.

“Ding Dong!” the doorbell rang. I opened the door and saw another mom holding a big bag of groceries.

“Mom?” I whispered in horror.

“What’s the matter darling?” the both mums chanted. I screamed in fright and ran into my room. I closed my eyes and puffed and panted. “Is this a dream?” “This is definitely a dream” I muttered, clenching my fists. I drank some water to calm myself down. I have never seen anything so horrible in my life! Two mothers looking alike! I thought of a plan.

I told the two “mothers” to stand on one leg for three minutes without moving as my mother was a gymnast when she was twenty years-old.

However, both my “mother” stood as still as death. Then, I handed them two pieces of paper to copy a passage from my textbook, because my real mother writes very fast. However, the two “mothers” finished the writing at the same time.

I flopped down on to the sofa and sighed. There was only one more method to know who my mother was, which was to get their deoxyribonucleic acid. Whoever’s DNA matched with mine would be my mother. Luckily, I have the ability to know someone’s DNA by looking at their eyes. At last, I found my real mother and the fake mother ran away and never came back.

I am so thankful that I’ve got the superpower



# The Santa Claus who Sells Ice-cream

*Choi Hui Hui (P.4D)*

Nowadays we usually buy ice-cream and ice-lolly from supermarkets or convenience stores. Can you imagine there is a mini-store packed inside a trolley at a street corner? There is one in my neighbourhood. Just outside a school and a park near my home, there is an old man with an old-fashioned ice-cream trolley waiting for us to visit him. We can buy many things from him, for example, soft drinks, snacks, gums, seaweeds and candies at a price much lower than the chained stores. He is really a very old man with a humpback. He has some white beard, just like Santa Claus!

The old man comes to the street corner every day; no matter it is sunny or rainy, very hot or freezing cold. He always gives a kind and friendly smile to kids. So, when the students finish their school, they can buy snacks from him just outside the school gate. Children from the parks can also buy ice-cream easily when they are tired. He can really help everyone.

Other people also help him. The metal trolley with different snacks inside is very heavy, too heavy for an old man who is more than 80 years old. So, many people help him to push the trolley every day. Some are students, some are housewives, and even policemen help him. Moreover, buses and cars will stop to let him go across the roads slowly. Many of us will also give him a big smile and share greetings to encourage him. Some students from the university nearby even made a very big poster for him to attract customers. In winter, our neighbours

often give him hot food to cheer him up.

I hope he can earn his living by selling more goods, and more importantly, he can be healthier and live longer. I also hope he can continue to inspire more people to be kind and friendly to others.



# Puppy, Love

*Chester Wong (P.4D)*

John was an orphan because his parents had already passed away. He lived with his uncle. His uncle rarely talked to him because he was always busy with his business; neither did his neighbours, so he was always on his own.

One frosty day, John was wandering around and something drew his attention. He spotted a puppy lying on the ground next to the entrance of a shopping mall. The puppy was small and skinny, and was shivering. John thought the little dog must have been starving for ages, and it looked as if it had been abandoned. He took off his down jacket and wrapped the poor dog in it.

After bringing the dog back home, he treated it like his brother. He gave it the best food he could dig out from the fridge after giving it a nice and warm bath. The dog was very clever that it picked up the tricks that John taught it very quickly. John was delighted.

After a couple of months, John and the dog performed at an elderly home, the elderly loved it greatly. It was a convivial evening. The elderly asked John to bring the dog over sometime later and do another stupendous show. John was tremendously impressed by his “magical” dog, which made him very proud. Moreover, he deeply felt that bringing joy to people was an extraordinary pleasure.

A couple of weeks later, John went to a children’s service centre with

his dog. There were quite a lot of disabled children, who were on wheelchairs. John let the children touch the dog before the show, as they all thought the dog was very fluffy and adorable. The children enjoyed the show very much and praised that it was the most marvelous show ever.

John kept bringing his fluffy fellow all around the city and visited various charities. He became a famous man afterwards. He was even honored to be a superstar later. He was blissful as he could cooperate with his “pet” and bring happiness to people who were neglected or unfortunate.

Although John and his dog didn’t cure people physically, they helped spread the message that love was all around, and strengthened the bonding among people.



# **A Letter to God**

*Anders Choi (P.4D)*

Dear God,

How are you? I am a primary three student studying in Ying Wa Primary School. Like other kids, I have many personal wishes. I want to have good health, strong academic performance and a lot of buddy friends. Also, I like to play with different types of toys, including lego, transformer, chess, card games, etc. so I hope I can receive a lot of gifts for my birthday and the festivals.

Besides, I have some wishes about my family. I was born in a family of four members. I live together with my father, mother and younger brother, Vitus in Mei Foo. I love them very much and wish them to be happy and healthy all the time. Meanwhile, Vitus is applying for primary school this year. I hope he can get the offer from my school because he likes Ying Wa very much and always says that he wants to go to school together with me. I would be very happy if my school principal, Mrs. Lam could listen to my wish!

Moreover, I know there is illness, hunger, poverty and wars in some parts of the world. I hope you would save the people suffering from these tragedies and let them live in peace.

Last but not the least, wish you could cure the people who have bad mind, so that they would be kind and helpful to others.

Thank you for listening to me! Your kindness to all the people is highly praised. Amen.

Yours faithfully,  
Anders Choi



# Ten Brothers Saving the World

*Lucas Martins (P.3D)*

One day, a mysterious white-haired man appeared in the dream of little “Compassionate Ten” and told him that it would be the end of the world very soon. He felt so scared and ran to his brothers for the old man’s prophecy.

Oh! It was not only him to have such a strange dream. “Thoughtful Two”, “Proactive Five” and “Expressive Nine” also had similar encounters! “Expressive Nine” spoke loudly, “Yes! I met that strange man last night! He said one enormous unknown rock would be crashing Earth on 21<sup>st</sup> December, 2012 and everything would be destroyed, including us! What shall we do?”

“Observant One”, being the eldest brother, stood up suddenly and said, “We should use our special power to stop that rock from destroying us!” He asked “Super Strength Three” to fly to the space with “Courageous Seven”. Both of them found the giant rock and gave a few strong punches on it. “Bang... Bang... Bang!” A big explosion appeared in the dark space. The unknown rock was broken into tiny pieces by the two brothers.

The two brothers flew back to Earth after the mission was completed. The ten brothers saved the world with the power of unity. Everyone lived happily ever after!

## In Our Hands

*Ethan Chan (P.2C)*

“Our fate is not in our hands, my dear! It has been six months and we have found no trace of dinosaur fossils. We are running out of funding and this could be our last chance. Make sure you stay away from the vipers and the bears, okay?” Mom said.

“Don’t worry! See you soon!” Bataar and his dad nodded with determination.

Bataar and his dad were riding the camels. A gust of wind blew across the sand dunes. It was late in the afternoon but the sky suddenly became as dark as night. The sand came faster than they expected. The sunlight was blocked and sand whipped them hard on their faces. They could barely open their eyes and he heard muffled shouts of his dad but the wind was howling until he lost his direction in the chaos and Bataar fell down from the back of the camel.

When he woke up, it was already night. He shivered and rushed to a cave nearby as shelter. Suddenly, he heard a rumbling roar. A bulky figure was getting closer and closer. In the dark, Bataar saw a pair of cruel big eyes, an open enormous mouth with sharp teeth, and a furry brown body near the cave. A bear was returning to its den! He immediately dashed out of the cave. He heard the bear roaring fiercely behind him. He ran fast but the roar got even louder. He trampled over cacti and scratched his clothes, jumping like a cat on hot bricks. Ouch!

Bataar came up with an idea and picked up some stones to fill up his

pocket. He then saw a big rock in front of him and quickly climbed it up. The bear followed but every time it tried to climb up, Bataar hit it with stones and it fell to the ground. They kept toiling until Bataar threw out a heavy stone and gave a big strike on its head. The bear finally left.

Bataar was panting with relief though he was hungry and thirsty. He kept flashing his torch hoping that someone could notice. Suddenly, an approaching spotlight appeared in the dark sky. It was a helicopter! His parents along with the rescue team found him shivering on the top of a rock at an oasis.

When they were traveling back, there was an enchanting scene like a sea of gold when the bright sun ray shed over the sand dunes at dawn. The breeze was gentle and the sunshine was warm.

“Maybe we have to end this exploration as there are no fossils in this desert!” Bataar sighed and took out the last piece of stone from his pocket. “What is it? A stone in weird shape? ” Wait! It was a dinosaur bone fossil! Bataar was overwhelmed. Although he had been through a really scary night in Gobi, he was longing for his next dinosaur fossil hunt because he knew that his fate was in his hands!

## **My Dream**

*Joseph Lu (P.2C)*

I had many dreams. I dreamed to be an astronaut, a bus driver, and even an English teacher. But I've changed my dreams as I grow up. Now, my dream is to be an inventor in the future.

I dream to be a special inventor who can change people's life. I want to invent a time machine that can take me to the past and to the future. I also want to invent a brain machine that can create what I am thinking in my brain such as a car, a toy or a bag of lollipops, into something real.

I hope I will not change my dream this time and I wish I can build these cool inventions in the future.

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## **My Ideal Trip**

*Matthew Yu (P.2C)*

My ideal trip is for the courageous and adventurous. I want to go with all my 2C classmates and Miss Fung. Our destination is Antarctica, the coldest place on Earth.

First, we fly to New Zealand. Then, we travel by icebreaker and helicopter to visit the emperor penguin colonies. We can see the icebergs, the huge floating blocks of ice. We can also see many penguins and observe their lives. We can also see humpback whales and killer whales. We can stay in igloos and ride on a sleigh. It will be an amazing trip!

## **A Place in Hong Kong**

*Hayes Ng (P.2D)*

Hong Kong International Airport is on Lantau Island. We can go there by bus or MTR. When we want to travel overseas, we can take the airplane there. We can see many different kinds of airplanes.

There is an Aviation Discovery Centre (ADC) in the airport. Visitors can discover the fascinating aviation related topics and focus on the aviation development of Hong Kong through fun and exciting settings. The ADC is decorated throughout with aviation themed exhibits and graphics with attractions including Sky Deck, and Cock bit Simulator.

I enjoy going to the airport every time.

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## **A Place in Hong Kong**

*Lok Sze Chai (P.2D)*

Today, I go to the Hong Kong Heritage Museum with Mum and Dad. The Museum is located at Sha Tin. I go there by car.

I see the exhibition of Bruce Lee. It is about his life, his kung fu and his movies. The exhibition shows his letters to his wife and friends. I also see the figures of Bruce Lee, the toys of Green Hornet and the clips of Bruce's movies. After the exhibition, we go to the café on the ground floor to eat noodles. It is very delicious.

I enjoy the exhibition. I like to go to the Hong Kong Heritage Museum. There are many special things to see. I want to go there one more time.

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## A Letter to Super Strength Three

*Yu Lok (P.2D)*

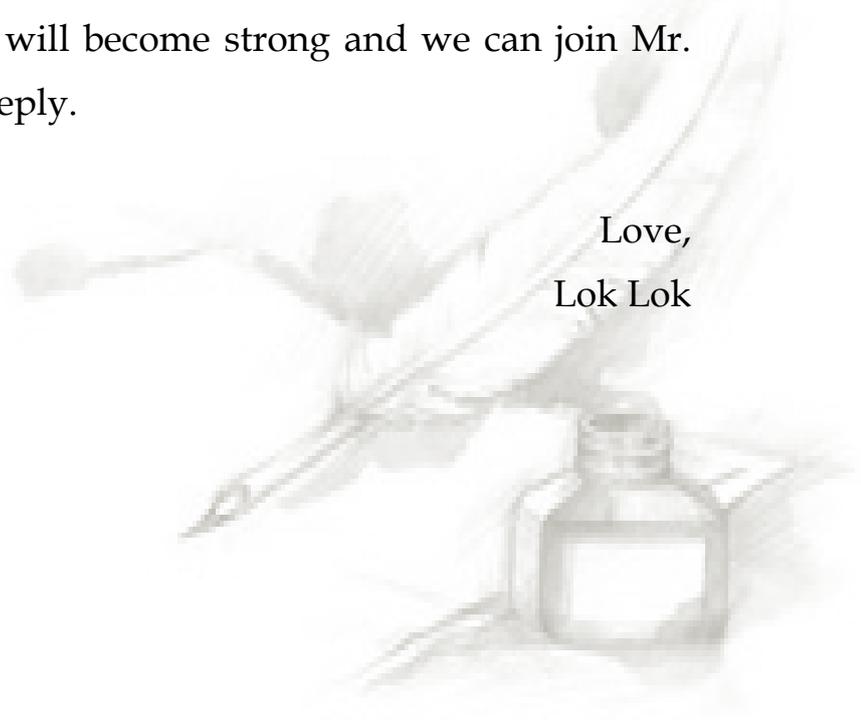
Dear Super Strength Three,

Happy New Year! How are you? I write this letter to you because you are so strong to help people in need. I appreciate you so much. I want to ask you some questions.

Why are you so strong? Is it because you go to the gym every day? How many bowls of rice do you eat every day? I think you must eat at least a hundred bowls of rice to maintain your muscles. Am I right?

I would be happy if you could be a P.E. teacher in Ying Wa Primary School. Thus, all Ying Wa boys will become strong and we can join Mr. Hong Kong or Mr. Asia. Please reply.

Love,  
Lok Lok



## **My Favourite Movie**

*Henry Chu (P.1E)*

My favourite movie is *Walking with Dinosaurs 3D*. I like it because it is breathtaking. The most exciting scene is when the Patchisaurs battled five Grogosaurs and Patchi won.

In spring, the Patchisaurs walked on thin ice. Five of them fall into the water. Luckily, the five of them were saved by Scowler, the leader of the group. Two weeks later, they were attacked by a Trodon and a Quetzalcoatlus, but Patchi crushed the intruders. Their fight was amazing.

I think this movie is the most exciting movie I have ever seen.

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## **A Letter to a Pilot**

*Joshua Lam (P.1E)*

Dear pilot,

How are you? I am very happy to write this letter to you. I want to thank you. And I have a lot to tell you!

You are so smart! You can control the big plane. You are so brave! You always fly up in the sky. You are so great! You have made all my travel safe. When do you have your meals on the plane? Are you scared of lightning and thunders? Do you know how to drive a car, too?

Thank you, pilot! I wish all your flights safe and pleasant!

Love,  
Joshua

# The Novelistic Collection

*Write it on your **heart** that every day  
is the best day in the year.*

*- Ralph Waldo Emerson*

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ge who had evidently run amok  
ter breakfast to the hammock, with the aim  
g himself — preferably in the company of Buster.

# **New Tales of the Gobi Desert**

*Steve Tang (P.6E)*

*Highly Commended, Group 5, Hong Kong Young Writers Awards 2014*

## **Prologue**

“This is the morning news. A strange and occult phenomenon happened in the Gobi Desert. A 41-year-old archaeologist disappeared under an old Saxaul tree. His collaborator fainted at that moment.

This is what he recalled, “At that time, we were dripping all over and almost out of breath due to the violent sun. Out of our expectation, we found a verdant tree; we wanted to sit beside it without hesitation. Then, I heard a big bang followed by a loud scream. The archeologist vanished into the thin air and I heard an eerie and cryptic voice which spoke in an alien language.”

When the collaborator woke up in the hospital, his body kept trembling. Search teams were sent to search for the archeologist all over the desert, but their effort was in vain. Instead, what they found was the archeologist’s clothes next to the lush green Saxaul tree...”

## **Chapter One**

### **Set off to the Gobi Desert**

Dr Franklin, a keen explorer, was lying on a brown sofa with his hazel brown eyes glued onto the TV screen for quite a while. He was intrigued.

“How could this be happening?” he muttered with a frown.

He was astonished by the correlation between the missing people and the tree. He kept searching for information about the Saxaul Tree in the State Central Library all day long. He buried his head into heavy stacks of books. According to the “Mystical and Supernatural Phenomenon Encyclopedia”, all these just happened at night, only when it was full moon. Even animals had no chance to escape. There was once a man who tried to destroy this evil tree with a bomb on 8 September 1952. The bomb couldn't explode; instead that crazy man vanished forever. The Chinese believed that this Saxaul Tree was the “God of Tree” that possessed powerful magic.

Dr Franklin was deeply fascinated by this mystic tree. In spite of the foreseeable danger, he was determined to plan an expedition to the Gobi Desert with his family at last. After collecting all the necessities and survival kits, they started off. It was winter and the freezing gusts, like stabbing knives, blew right onto their rough skins. The temperature was about minus 40°C. Snowflakes fell from the sky and covered the rough sand. Dr Franklin and his family slowly walked into the remote, borderless and arid desert. As they were walking in the desert, like shag on a rock, gales of laughter approached their ears from far away. They followed the sound and saw some traditional ger camps. The nomad families living inside the ger camps came out and welcomed them warmly. They were all wearing thick and colorful clothes embroidered with special patterns. Franklin's family was so delighted and decided to ask for a stay in their cozy house. Pots of hot mutton and salty tea were served to them. After chattering for a while, they all fell fast asleep. The dark night came and the cruel, ruthless and cold winter wind blew with strong whistles. Dr Franklin was woken up by the whistles and he

glanced out through the window. A full moon was hanging in the dark sky, without any companion. To his surprise, Dr Franklin saw a tiny green spot in the sky. He leapt up from his bed, let out a scream and shouted, "Wake up! Wake Up! I saw a mysterious green spot far away. Let's go and see." The family, being lured by the green spot, grabbed their coats in their hands, ran out of the cozy ger camp without hesitation and went into the borderless desert.

They walked and walked. Out of the blue, Dr Franklin's son, Max exclaimed, "Mum, Dad, do you feel it? We're all standing on some grass!" Dr Franklin touched the ground and gasped, "Oh! We are all stepping on something like wet mud. It's like walking inside a forest."

All at once, they saw a huge tree in front of their eyes. They slowly raised their heads and found a mighty tree with branches poking out of the clouds. It looked like the Saxaul Tree shown in the morning news before. It had hand-like branches with lush-green leaves pointing to the sky.

Next to the tree, there was a fierce-looking lion statue, with thick mosses wrapped all around its body and penetrated deep into its eyes, wearing the whole body entirely. Unexpectedly, the mosses dropped, showing two sorrowful eyes made of precious sapphire, shining alone. Dr Franklin dropped his jaw. He slightly patted the head of this wild beast. All of a sudden, a crystal bottle with delicate carving, rolled out of its mouth. Dr Franklin hesitated for a second, then grabbed the bottle with his rough hands, but it turned into dust and slipped through his fingers. Black smoke spewed out from the broken bottle and slowly formed into clusters of alphabets. The alphabets started to shuffle and formed a

message in the musty air. It read.

Danger lies ahead, step back or move ahead.  
Pluck up your courage, touch the Saxaul tree.

## **Chapter Two**

### **The Land of Lomse**

“What does that mean?” Franklin pondered. Coincidentally, the whole family stepped forward, touching the old Saxaul Tree without a second thought. Bang! The gigantic tree fell over. Web-like roots pointed towards the sky. A deep crack appeared down their feet. They tumbled heads over heels down the crack. Their screams echoed all the way down. They reached out their hands to reach for something, but it was in vain. Crooked faces of fierce and horrible monsters flashed out in their eyes. Anyone who had ever seen those faces would be scared to faint. The fall was finally settled on the dusty floor of a room. It was so dark that it was hard to see their own fingers. Muggy air filled every corner of the room. They were all soaked with sweat. A chilling gust suddenly blew into their skins that made them tremble all over. Instead, the candles on the two sides of the room lit up automatically. They heard an eerie laughing sound. Swaying spider webs were seen hanging all around the room. Ten creepy dark shadows were crawling painfully on the two sides of the walls. The ten shadows slowly rolled their eye balls and stared at the center of the room. Their bodies crouched as if they were having a spiritual ritual. A huge spooky shadow slowly emerged at the center of the room.

The huge shadow spoke slowly in a low voice, “Good morning, Dr

Franklin. I am Ghost Mania. Welcome to the land of Lomse. I'm going to help you to finish your mission."

"What mission?" Dr Franklin shouted, followed by a long silence.

Ghost Mania wandered around the room. Then stopped, pulling out a toad from its ear. The toad spit out a cloud of purple mist and it turned into different kinds of magical tools. A small booklet dropped on Dr Franklin's hands and it turned open by itself, it read:

*Dear Dr Franklin,*

*The hints below can save your life. You should either read it or die.*

*First, look at the five tiny bottles. When you get lost, open the bottle, the mist inside will drift out and lead you to the right way.*

*Then remember to keep this shiny golden key. It can open any locks.*

*Lastly, this is not an ordinary mirror. This can show you who the evil is.*

*Caution! The most important and precious magical tools are these tiny green beans inside this glowing sack. They represent wishes and hopes of the whole world. Throw them to your enemy when you are in utmost danger. Remember to use them well!*

Franklin closed the small booklet. He grabbed the glowing sack and put it into his ruck sack. His wife, Sarah, grabbed the other tools and packed them up.

His son, Max, was astounded. "Wow! I haven't been to such a cryptic place before!" He exclaimed.

His sister, Nancy, with eyes wide open, whispered in a trembling

voice, "I want to go back home now! I felt so scared. Please leave here. Dad, can you..."

"Bang!" A loud voice came from the left side like an explosion. They all turned their heads. Inside the room, a huge wall broke into pieces of fragments and collapsed.

Franklin bellowed with fear, "Ghost Mania! Are you still here? Please help us!"

But all the shadows left the room through the broken wall, leaving them alone. The candles went out in a flash. There was a long silence. The whole family decided to leave the room through the broken wall and walked into a corridor.

### **Chapter Three**

#### **A Blanket or a Monster**

"Let's go!" Franklin said, breaking the silence.

"Who's stepping on me? It really hurts!" said a young lady's voice.

"Leave me at once or I will open my mouth and swallow you all!" The same screeching voice cried out.

Franklin asked, "Do you know who is talking? She sounds like you, Sarah!"

"What? No kidding please," his wife snapped, "the one who is talking

is this nasty drain lid you're stepping on. Look at it, we are going to be swallowed up."

"Run!" Dr Franklin shouted, grabbing little Nancy in his arms. The others followed. They ran till the dead end of the corridor with the drain lid chasing behind.

"This metal door is the only exit," said Max breathlessly, "but it is locked."

"Try this golden key," Sarah suggested.

Click! The door unlocked. They dashed in and locked themselves inside a spacious room. After a few powerful bangs, the drain lid was gone.

Being overly exhausted, they collapsed on the floor and took some rest.

"I feel so cold!" Nancy whispered with her body rolled up like a hedgehog.

"It's ok." Franklin said, with Nancy hugged tightly in his arms.

When they almost fell asleep, a thick, wooly blanket appeared.

"Hurray! That is what we need to keep warm. It should be a present from Ghost Mania," said Franklin.

They all tucked themselves and continued to sleep. Suddenly, they heard a loud and horrible roar. The blanket turned into a bloody scaly sheet of skin. It grew out four wizened skulls and each skull turned to face each of them. Everyone was shocked and Nancy screamed desperately. The monster snarled, "I'm the servant of the "God of Evil". Hand over all your magic tools, or I will blow your heads."

The whole family screamed and screeched. They felt hopeless.

"Should we hand out the magic tools?" Sarah asked.

"No...no, we shouldn't. We shouldn't. We must fight till the last second. I have a feeling that someone will come to help us," Franklin answered.

In this critical moment, footsteps from far away were approaching. A black shadow was seen far away. It was dashing towards them and it became bigger and bigger. Little Nancy was so scared that she closed her eyes tightly.

"Aar," the horrible monster shrieked and writhed in agony. It jumped up and swirled and twirled in the room fiercely. Bluish blood poured out from its back and flooded all over the place. The monster started diminishing and it vanished at last.

## Chapter Four

### A New Teammate

Dr Franklin patted away the dust on his face and rubbed his eyes. He stood up slowly with his trembling feet. To his surprise, he found an ape-like man standing in front of his eyes. The man looked like a chimpanzee. Under his sooty face, what was seen was a cluster of messy mustache. His filthy clothes were torn and muddy. Seeing him, all of them were frozen into ice.

“Who...who are you?” Dr Franklin asked with a trembling voice, breaking the silence.

The man grinned, “Nice to meet you. I’m Tirian, the archaeologist that vanished in the Saxaul Tree a month ago.”

Dr Franklin heaved a sigh of relief, he continued, “Nice to meet you too! I’m Dr Franklin, an explorer. We also came here through the mystic Saxaul Tree. This is my wife, Sarah. My son, Max. My daughter, little Nancy.”

“We’re so lucky that we have just beaten down that evil-monster,” said Franklin.

“Ha! Ha! The blanket monster won’t die by itself,” Tirian giggled, “When I was wandering around, I heard you screaming. I sensed the presence of evil spirits. Not far away, a scaly blanket monster seemed to be battling with you.”

Tirian sighed, "To defeat the blanket monster, you have to identify its weaknesses. Its scales, like the sutures of our skull, are extraordinarily hard except four weaknesses where the four heads protrude out."

"Did you save us and kill the monster?" little Nancy interrupted with curiosity.

"Of course! I carefully dipped the tip of my dagger in poisonous magic potion, then I tip-toed next to the evil monster," explained Tirian.

"What followed then?" asked Max.

"The monster didn't notice me. So I used my full strength to jump on its back. I stabbed my dagger in one of its weaknesses. The poison circulated around its body and stopped its heart from pumping," Tirian answered seriously.

Franklin was very pleased. He exclaimed, "Wow! You're such a hero!"

"Why do you come here?" asked Tirian.

"One day, while I was watching the morning news, it said an archaeologist disappeared under an old Saxaul tree. I was fascinated, so I started my trip with my family. It was the same Saxaul tree which led us here," Franklin answered.

"Oh! So I was on TV?"

"Yes, of course!"

The two chatted like good old friends while the others were sleeping soundly. Tirian fished out a small piece of stone from his ruck sack. It was blue like sapphire but extremely heavy. He got out a bottle of white powder and sprayed them over the stone. Carvings in ancient Egyptian were vaguely seen. It read:



“After analyzing the carvings in detail, I am sure they were carved during the Cretaceous period when human beings did not exist,” Tirian was astonished.

“What do the carvings mean?” asked Franklin.

“They seem nonsense, or maybe I can’t decode them,” Tirian pondered for a while.

“Can I try it out?” Franklin stretched out his left hand and tried to grab it.

Once Franklin touched it, the stone cracked and burnt vigorously into ashes.

Nancy woke up and screamed, “Oh! Our room is on fire! Help me out, Dad.”

While they were searching for the way out, the flame died out.

“Amazing!” Franklin and Tirian uttered instantaneously, staring at the ashes on the floor, which seemed to have some meaning. But, Dr Franklin couldn’t resist stretching out his hand to touch them. Just then, a cold breeze touched their faces lightly. Some patterns seemed to trace out from the ashes.

Dr Franklin pondered, “It really looks like some kind of map!”

He studied it hard. At last, he found a tortuous path. At the end of it, there was a splendid but eerie castle. He examined it carefully and saw a mighty creature with a flat body and four heads.

“That creature looks so familiar,” Dr Franklin scratched his head, “Oh! It should be the blanket monster we’ve met before!”

“Dr Franklin, can you see that fearsome and vicious creature sitting next to the blanket monster?” asked Tirian.

Dr Franklin frowned, with his head full of questions. He thought, “What’s that creature beside the blanket monster? Why does the blanket monster look so humble in front of it?”

A bright idea suddenly flashed in his mind. “The terrible blanket monster should be the creature’s servant! It told us it was the servant of God of Evil before it died. God of Evil must have sensed our presence and sent blanket monster to kill us,” explained Dr Franklin.

After a long discussion, Dr Franklin and Tirian decided to find God of Evil to reveal the truth on the missing of people in front of the Saxaul tree. Then, they had a nice rest for a few hours.

## **Chapter Five**

### **Where are you, castle?**

At early dawn, Dr Franklin was awakened by the shrieking sound of some crows. As he reached out his hand to turn off the alarm as usual, he realized that he was in the land of Lomse, where an arduous journey was waiting for them. As everybody was ready, they set off and left. Tirian and Dr Franklin's family walked and walked along the corridor. No matter how hard they tried, they found it hard to decide which way to go. They passed through long narrow tunnels and walked up flight of stairs, but all they could see were concrete walls. They seemed wandering around in a maze. While they were trying hard to find the exit, Dr Franklin's wife, Sarah came up with an idea, "Ah! Do you remember what Ghost Mania has given us?" She fished out a tiny, delicately carved bottle with black mist inside.

"That's right!" Dr Franklin exclaimed, "Let's open it now."

Sarah pulled the cork away from the bottle carefully. The mist inside drifted out and gathered on the wall on her left. They were all intrigued on seeing the black mist vanish into the concrete wall. Dr Franklin's son, Max was most fascinated by the mist. He couldn't stop himself from touching the wall where the mist vanished.

"A-A-A-Ah!" shouted Max. A loud scream echoed into their ears.

Without a second thought, Dr Franklin grabbed little Nancy in his strong arm and touched the same wall, trying to follow Max. Meanwhile, all the others followed. All of them were being sucked into the wall. They tumbled inside a dark and gloomy tunnel. Clocks of all kinds with their thin hands were spinning backwards around them. At last, they thumped into a muddy ground with venomous and stinky scorpions crawling all over. Although the place was so nasty that anyone there would vomit, they didn't care at all. All they wanted to know was where Max had gone. Out of the blue, mud splashed on everyone's faces. A creepy-crawly muddy monster appeared in the swamp beside them. Its hands and legs were struggling in the mud. When they decided to run for their lives, Sarah shouted suddenly, "Stop! The beast in the swamp is not a monster. It should be our dear son! Do you hear him screaming for help?"

At this critical moment, Sarah fished out a long and strong rope from her rucksack. She tossed one end of the rope to Max and held the other end tightly. Max grabbed the rope with all his strength. At last, they managed to pull him out. Everyone heaved a sigh of relief. Max spat all the thick and sticky mud from his mouth. Tirian got out the packet of first-aid tools and helped clean up his wounds. After Max tidied himself a bit, they started their journey again.

They looked around and found a rusty road sign. They followed the sign, heading to the eerie castle. Cold breeze blew leisurely while trees crackled. A few super-giant crows shrieked overhead.

Bang! Something hard hit Tirian's head. It tumbled over his body and at last, dropped on the floor. Tirian looked closer and found it was a moldy skull. Some stinky bugs crawled out from its mouth while glaring

lights were shining out from its eye sockets. With a sudden gust, the skull rolled and tumbled down a steep hill. Without hesitation, they followed the skull and rolled down the hill. They passed through two shabby shacks, five reddish rivers, two tunnels filled with the smell of rotten meat, six misty cemeteries with swaying spider webs, a garden full of painful-looking statues made of stone, a stream with hungry piranha... Lastly, they saw a splendid castle right in front of their eyes. It was so high that it nearly poked into the clouds. To their surprise, the castle was made of precious gold. The skull didn't stop rolling until it bumped into the castle door which was made of verdant jade. The door opened automatically but the skull cracked into tiny pieces. With five pounding hearts, they all took their first step into the castle. The door slammed strongly behind them. Little Nancy was so worried by being shut. She tried to open the door with her little arms, but it was useless.

## **Chapter Six**

### **God of Evil**

An enormous and golden statue in the shape of a horrible evil creature was guarding the entrance. Inside the castle, there was a crystal chandelier hanging from the ceiling. The floor was made of pieces of sapphire with delicate carvings. While they were intrigued by the beauty of the castle, a corridor appeared. They followed the corridor which led into a spacious room filled with piles of luxurious jewellery. The jewellery sparkled and shimmered. Tirian was intrigued. He knelt down at once, examining the treasure one by one. He couldn't help keeping some of his favorites in his pockets. As he touched them, the whole room rocked tremendously. The pile of jewellery started to collapse. They slid down like gliding down from a huge sand dune. Tirian was being buried by the

jewellery. Unhesitatingly, Dr Franklin and Sarah pulled Tirian out with all their effort. But the harder they pulled, the more jewellery collapsed. Seeing this, little Nancy's eyes welled up with tears. She stood at the back of the room, with her motionless body trembling.

All of a sudden, a huge explosion shocked the squad. They all lost their balance and fell on the floor. As the smoke cleared out, lumps of flesh thrashed around wildly in the air. The pieces of flesh gathered and formed an enormous and hideous creature. It fished out an eyeball from its tummy and plugged it back in one of its sockets. It glared at them and swirled around in the air. A few poisonous beetles crawled on its craggy face. Horned vipers slithered out from its nostrils.

The hideous creature hissed, "I'm God of Evil. I've been waiting for you all for a long time. Look at the treasure under your feet. I'm sure mankind like you would want them all."

God of Evil grabbed a handful of shiny diamonds, showing them in front of their eyes. Not long, the diamonds in its hands burned vigorously. It made a deafening roar and splashed some deadly yellowish fluid everywhere, making the room smell fishy. At that moment, the whole room burst into flame. The strong heat waves hit them directly. They turned around and made a mad dash for survival.

God of Evil snarled, "Ha! Ha! Ha! You'd better join us and be part of my body. Enjoy the immense power of being evil."

God of Evil's coarse skin tore wide open. Its body was ablaze with flame. Pus and blood were dripping all over the place. Looking carefully,

they found lots of crooked faces inside, and they were all people craving for rescue. Their faces were full of blisters and their bodies were on fire.

A glaring light shone from the evil's tummy, raising Sarah, Tirian and Nancy in the air. Flame burst out of its tummy and they were being sucked in. Dr Franklin and Max were in panic. They dashed away and hid behind a big pile of jewellery.

"There should be two more," bellowed God of Evil. It knelt down to search for them. It sniffed right at the place where they were hiding.

"You should be here," muttered God of Evil, "I sense a strong smell of humans."

Max was extremely horrified. He peeped out to see God of Evil. Unfortunately, his head bumped into some pieces of gold. The whole pile of treasure started to slide, revealing Dr Franklin and Max. God of Evil stretched its hand, grabbing Max easily. No matter how hard he kicked, he could not be released.

## **Chapter Seven**

### **Evil or Angel**

God of Evil gazed at Dr Franklin, it bellowed, "Mankind is greedy and selfish. To enjoy luxurious life, they destroy the place where they live. They cut down tons of trees in the forest and kill millions of animals just for their own pleasure. Animals have to face extinction while the rainforest no longer exist. That is why Gobi Desert keeps expanding."

God of Evil continued, "That's why mankind should be penalized. You should fuse with my body and suffer pain day till night. The more people I swallow, the stronger is my evil power."

Dr Franklin gazed at God of Evil, seeing its flaming eyes, he replied, "You have misunderstood us. There is care, love and sharing in family. What you think is..."

"Nonsense! Mankind deserves extinction." God of Evil yelled with his deepest voice. It turned to Max and said cruelly, "Max, your fate has no exception. Do join the others and be part of my body."

It tore open its bloody skin, ready to toss Max in. Dr Franklin knelt in front of God of Evil. His hopeless eyes looked at it desperately. He begged sincerely, "Please don't hurt my son. He is young and innocent. He hasn't done anything bad to the world. I would be the one to be punished. Sarah and I would like to sacrifice our lives and be swallowed up in your body, suffering from pain. Should I make my last and only request to free Max and Nancy?"

Dr Franklin surrendered, dropped all his magical tools. Tears ran down his chin.

As Dr Franklin felt completely desperate, the green beans inside his rucksack started to glow. They floated up high in the air. Then they settled on Dr Franklin's hand. Wise Dr Franklin caught them at once and tossed them towards God of Evil.

God of Evil came to a halt. Paralysed. The glow of love and care shone

through its body. It was the sacrificial love from parents for their children. It was the power of love that moved God of Evil. His eyes were welling up with tears. His wounds started to heal up. Smooth skin regenerated, healing its bloody flesh. Silky feathers grew all over his body.

He put Max on the floor gently. Nancy, Sarah and Tirian were released. They cheered and hugged each other. God of Evil turned into God of Good. He said softly, "You all have changed me. I will go back to where angels belong and help people in need."

God of Good hugged all of them and flew away merrily. At that moment, the whole castle vanished into the thin air. A flourishing forest appeared in front of their eyes. Not long, they heard footsteps running towards them from far away. A man wearing colorful and thick clothes embroidered with special patterns was approaching. He was one of the Nomad family members.

He was astonished. "Where have you been? I've looked for you for years! Do you know why an oasis would suddenly appeared in the center of this remote Gobi Desert which is now so lively? It is really unbelievable!"

The five of them looked at each other and smiled. They all knew the reason in their hearts.

# The Quest of the Prophecy of Destiny

*Ocean Huang (P.6D)*

*Highly Commended, Group 5, Hong Kong Young Writers Awards 2014*

## Prologue

Chilly, freezing wind was wailing in the air of the Gobi Desert. The sun was above the horizon and about to set. Its remaining, dying glaze blazed out pale amber light, which turned the golden-brown sand to orange.

A tribe of camel caravan of eight members was travelling slowly on the famous, long Silk Road on broad, endless Gobi Desert. The dying sun finally drowned under the horizon, leaving a long line of purple twilight. After a while, few stars emerged.

Galen Tuimer Baryon, the tribe leader of the camel caravan, was a muscular, tall, handsome, middle age Mongolian man. He had short, black beard on his cheeks and chin. He raised his right hand to stop the tribe. Then he jumped down from his camel.

He announced, 'Let's stop here and rest until dawn.'

He sat down under a date palm with Sasha Aspen, his wife. Sasha is a young, beautiful, American woman. She was holding their baby in her arms tenderly. Galen hugged his wife and his son. Everything was peaceful and there was a long silence as this couple and their children, stared at the night sky.

Suddenly, the wind came moaning through the trees, grass started to shatter, a quick galloping noise became louder and louder, and

approached to them.

The young tribe leader stood up with vigilance. He jumped onto the back of his camel and surveyed. Then he cried as loudly as he could, 'It's Bandits! Everyone, unsheathe your sabers from your scabbards! We have to defeat the bandits! Everyone follow me!'

He unsheathed his gleaming, long, sharp saber. In an instant, all the men of the tribe unsheathed their sabers and waved them high and ready to fight the bandits.

Sasha was scared. She hugged her son tightly, as if he was going to disappear any second. But the baby boy was still sleeping quietly in her bosom. She hid under a massive tall date palm immediately.

Three men dressed in black rushed towards the tribe on about the back of three strong and powerful horses. One was very tall and thin; one was very short and fat; the last one, who was in the middle, was medium-sized and there was a long, deep scar across his face which made him look very dreadful. He unsheathed his huge, fearsome, long saber and pointed to the camel tribe.

'Attack!' He yelled. 'And grab everything you can from this caravan!'

The three bandits and the camel tribe had a tremendous fight. Galen was fighting with the bandit leader.

'Run!' yelled Galen. 'Run Sasha!'

Sasha was terrified. She wailed at Galen, 'What about you?'

'I'm fine!' said the tribe leader. 'Just take our little Tiglon as you leave...'

Just then, strong wind roared, which flung up the sand with its huge, gigantic paws and finally, sand was blown as high as a mountain; the sky was covered by the sand as the storm roared. Everything vanished in the roar of the sandstorm. The Gobi Desert remained silent...

## **Chapter 1-The Complicated Prophecy**

The pale white moon shone like a silver plate, spreading its sacred light onto a steep mountain of Gobi Desert. On the remote part of the mountain, there was a moonlit place where a flat, shimmering, pale blue-green stone rose straight up from the middle of a round pool. On the mountain, there were three felines. One was lying on the stone with its nose touching onto the stone while the other two were sitting beside the pool. They had the same pelts which were pale silver-gray tabby coat with huge, dark, round spots. They were snow leopards. Their appearances were different although they had the same soft pelts.

The one on the stone was a tall, broad-shouldered, long-legged, lithe, slender, sturdy, sleek, well-muscled and muscular male leopard. He had wide, pale, bright, stormy, brilliant, clear ice-blue sapphire eyes, three rippling flame-coloured stripes running down from his head to tail and an unusually long, winding, sleek, striped, plummy, bushy, thick tail.

One beside the pool was the youngest. He was big, broad-shouldered

and battle-scarred. He had one long, deep battle scar on his shoulder, dark, fierce amber eyes and long, curved, and hooked, thorn-sharp claws.

The other snow leopard beside the pool was the oldest and the largest. He was huge, fluffy, long-bodied, heavy and thick-furred with tufty ears, one of which is shredded, loyal, wise, warm dark blue eyes and a distinctive, bushy, snow-white tail.

The three snow leopards didn't say anything and it left an eerie silence.

After a while, the snow leopard with amber eyes broke the silence and asked the snow leopard with a long tail, 'Firestar,' it said, 'Did StarTribe send any omens to you?'

'Yes, it did,' the long-tailed snow leopard stood up from the place where he was lying and replied, 'Indeed there is, Brambleclaw. But the prophecy is far too complicated.'

'Can you read it out, Firestar?' asked the largest snow leopard

'Yes.' replied Firestar. 'The omen says "The son of the flame on an aspen is destined to save the Gobi Desert." Whitestorm, can you get what this prophecy means?' Firestar asked the largest one. His blue eyes were confused.

'I don't really get it either,' said Whitestorm, 'because fire is our main enemy, but at least one thing is sure that something can somehow save us from our hunters.'

## Chapter 2-Tragedy

A beam of pale golden sunlight broke through the window of a shabby, little cottage which lay near the foot of a mountain in Gobi Desert. The sunlight shone straight into a small, tidy room. In the room, there was a handsome boy who was about six years old, sleeping on his hard, small wooden bed with patchy bedclothes and was covered with a flimsy, tattered, wool blanket.

Then the bright sunlight woke the little boy up. He dressed in an old, tight Mongolian suit. Then he got water from a pool and went out for food with his mother. Life was peaceful until one day when he was nine years old. His mother was lying on her bed, with a very serious illness.

The boy's mother was a beautiful American woman. She was Sasha Aspen, once a great camel caravan tribe leader, Galen Tuimer Baryon's wife, and the boy was Tiglon Baryon, who was the baby that was sleeping in Sasha's arms on the night when the bandits attacked.

Tiglon Baryon stepped into a dark, gloomy room. 'Mum?' he said when he arrived at the entrance of the room.

'Come here, Tiglon,' said a weak, soft voice.

Tiglon came near the bed where his mother was lying on. Now, his mother was skinny and fragile.

'Come closer to me, my dear,' Sasha spoke weakly.



Tiglon walked next to Sasha and knelt down next to her.

‘Tiglon, listen to my last words carefully.’ she began, ‘I am going to die.’

‘No! Mum!’ Tiglon sobbed loudly.

‘No! Mum! You will be fine!’ Tiglon continued and his eyes brimmed with tears.

‘Calm down, my sweetheart,’ Sasha comforted Tiglon while stroking his head and tidying up his long hair.

‘Did I tell you that your father was a great camel caravan tribe leader and that he had disappeared during a sandstorm and was not found, when you asked about your father before?’

‘Yes,’ Tiglon nodded, a drop of tear dropped from his dark amber eyes and trickled down his smooth, swarthy cheeks.

‘Your father was a camel caravan tribe leader indeed. But he wasn’t really lost in a sandstorm, he was killed in a fierce battle with bandits,’ said Sasha.

‘What?’ squeaked Tiglon surprisingly, his amber eyes grew huge.

‘Yes,’ Sasha replied. ‘I met your father while I was lost in Gobi Desert, and then I married him. At that battle, I was supposed to die with your

father, but he told me to escape with you, so, you survived and so did I.'

Tiglon nodded and wiped his tears away from his face with the sleeve of his clothe.

'This...is a knife your father gave me...' Sasha whispered with a few struggling coughs and handed Tiglon a knife.

The knife was well designed. A platinum made tiger was surrounded by three golden dragons. They were carved on the scabbard. Its hilt was inlaid by five precious stones: diamond, emerald, ruby, topaz and a sapphire in the middle. When Tiglon turned to the back of the knife, the five colours of stones and the carving of tiger and dragon all shone glaringly, which made Tiglon's eyes glowed too.

'Cool!' he exclaimed. 'I feel real power coming from it.'

He read the words on the back of the knife in Mongolian language, 'Khutga Ni Khuvi Zayaa.' Then he murmured to oneself, 'Knife of Destiny!'

'Tiglon,' Sasha nodded quietly and said feebly, 'this is Baryon family's heirloom. The three bandits came for this knife at the night of the battle...all the bandits wanted was to have the material this knife is made of.'

'Guide...your...steps... wisely and... follow your dreams...because this is your destiny... remember my words...' Sasha panted heavily and said.



'Yes... mum,' whimpered Tiglon.

Sasha got up and hugged Tiglon, gave him a kiss on his forehead and glanced at him for the last time with her blue eyes sympathetically. Everything was quiet and peaceful. Tiglon closed his eyes to feel the last warmth of his mother's hug. While he was intoxicated in the warmth of his mother's loving hug, all of it gradually faded away, leaving Tiglon staying alone in the cold room while the wind roared outside. Tiglon opened his eyes, everything remained still, but the one difference was that Sasha could not soothe him evermore.

'Mum?' Tiglon cried out, looking at Sasha.

'Mum?' Tiglon repeated by pushing Sasha. He pushed several times again, but Sasha didn't show any response.

'Mum!' Tiglon wailed staring at her lying motionlessly without any breathes. His blood went cold at once after this tragedy. He leaped onto his mother's bed, hugged his mother tightly and wailed. There were only wails of Tiglon and the roars of wind, making the scene more wretched.

Tiglon staggered out of his cottage and carried her mother's body to the foot of the mountain to bury her. Wind roared and roared which made it hard to walk. Tiglon walked and walked with unsteady steps. He didn't realize that he had already walked over the foot of the mountain and he was walking straight to the remote part of the mountain.

Suddenly, the white, fluffy clouds in the sky began to gather, and

soon, it had become a huge leopard, roaring and thundering with its massive paws toward Tiglon. Tiglon was already overwhelmed by the tragedy of his mother's death so he didn't care about anything. The leopard banged him with one paw. Tiglon felt as if thunder was roaring in his ears and he was unconscious at once...

### Chapter 3-The Knife of Destiny

When Tiglon Baryon woke up, he found that he was wrapped in a warm and cozy hammock. He sat up instantly and glanced around. He saw that he was sleeping in a massive, broad cave carved with ancient moss and it was so high that it almost linked with the sky. Beside him, there sat a tall, pale silver-gray and spotted feline with three ginger stripes and an unusually long, bushy, thick tail.

'Ah!' screamed Tiglon when he saw this enormous creature beside him. The feline fixed its piercing blue gaze on his face thoughtfully. Tiglon was also a bit thoughtful why this large creature didn't gulp him in one mouthful instead of staring at him?

Then, the feline got up and walked out of the cave. Tiglon was curious so he jumped out from the hammock and followed the feline out of the cave. When he walked out of the cave, he saw nothing scary, exciting or happy, the thing that made Tiglon's heart stab with pain was when he saw something lying on the clearing. That was his mother's corpse.

'Mum!' Tiglon cried out and then rushed to the clearing and hugged his mother's corpse tightly.

The large feline whispered to a small feline with a thin dappled tail, bright, spirited amber eyes and a bent whisker and a large feline with dark brown legs, but the strange thing was, the three felines shared the same pelt colour, which was pale silver-gray tabby with huge dark round spots. After the first feline whispered to them, the two other felines walked to Sasha's corpse and started to pick her up.

'Never try to touch my mother, or I will shred you into rotten pieces of flesh!' Tiglon growled at the felines threateningly and bared his small white teeth with a snarl.

'Oh yes, shred us into pieces if you dare, you scraps of torn feather of a crow!' the feline with brown legs jeered and sneered at Tiglon with the language of human unexpectedly.

Tiglon was extremely furious at this insult, but he was even more shocked when he heard the feline could speak human language. 'What did you say?' Tiglon asked the brown-legged feline furiously and surprisingly.

'You heard me, stinking fox dung, shred us if you dare!' the brown-legged feline jeered at Tiglon, with its cold yellow gaze fixed on him.

Although shocked about the incident, Tiglon couldn't bear his anger at last. He unsheathed the knife which Sasha gave him. When he unsheathed the knife, a piercing blue light which made everyone close their eyelids.

When Tiglon opened his eyes, he saw that the light was shining through the whole clearing. The blade of the knife also carved the same picture on the blade on one side and on the other side carved the words 'Knife of Destiny.' The carving on the knife shone, Tiglon felt that his spirit was all connected with the knife and his eyes gleamed by the light of the knife, making his dark amber eyes turned to pale amber. After a long while, the light of the knife faded and it sheathed into the scabbard automatically by itself.

'So you have already known the power of my knife, you big and stupid lump of fur!' Tiglon jeered at the brown-legged feline in return. The brown-legged feline was too shocked to say anything.

'Leave him alone, Dustfoot,' the long-tailed feline said to the brown-legged feline.

But before Dustfoot could open his mouth to protest, Tiglon shouted to him,

'Did you hear what the long-tailed big guy told you to do? He told you to leave me and my mother alone!'

Dustfoot's neck fur bristled with anger and he growled deeply in his throat.

'Dustfoot!' the long-tailed feline told him solemnly and the feline with a bent whisker gave Dustfoot a friendly nudge, which made him calm down a little bit. Suddenly, Tiglon fell down on his mother's body again and fainted.

‘Onewhisker, Dustfoot, pull him back to my den at once!’ said the long-tailed feline to the feline with a bent whisker and Dustfoot. Onewhisker obeyed and dipped his head respectfully to the long-tailed tom. However, Dustfoot showed a look of unwillingness in his pale yellow eyes, and the long-tailed feline gave Dustfoot a look of suspicion with his blue eyes narrowed.

Finally, Dustfoot gave a last hateful glance at Tiglon, and obeyed by dipping his head respectfully to the long-tailed feline and uttered a few words uneasily to the long-tailed feline, ‘Yes, Firestar.’

## **Chapter 4-A New Home**

When Tiglon woke up again, he saw the long-tailed feline sitting beside him, and he was in the same place where he first woke up. He sat up and glared at the long-tailed feline and said fiercely, ‘Where is my mother?’ The long-tailed feline replied, ‘She is just outside the camp, where all of us were waiting for you to bury her by yourself.’

The long-tailed feline went out of the cave and headed straight to an underground tunnel. Tiglon followed the feline. When he glanced around the whole clearing, he found that it is on the top of the mountain where he was living with his mother before. He could see the most beautiful scenery of the Gobi Desert from here. But Tiglon had no mood to look at the sceneries. He just wanted to look at his generous mother and pay her his respect for the last time. He squeezed himself into the underground tunnel. Magically, the interior of the tunnel was bright and broad as if it was a large room.

After they got out of the tunnel, everything suddenly turned dark. Tiglon followed the feline until he saw a large hole. They jumped into the hole and saw that the hole was just a big tree hole from an ancient willow. Beside the willow, there sat ten felines. Tiglon could see Onewhisker and Dustfoot. He gave Dustfoot a hostile glance. Dustfoot shot him back a glare of enmity.

Tiglon walked closed to his mother's body and said sorrowfully, 'Mum, I wish you have a good time when you go to the heaven.'

After saying, he watched his mother's beautiful face for the last time and knelt with his head touching on the ground. After Firestar dipped his head, all the felines followed to do so, except Dustfoot. Finally, Sasha's corpse was buried under a quiet and peaceful area.

After the funeral, Tiglon sat at the side of the edge of the clearing, which was surrounded by gorse and bramble bushes, watching the beautiful sceneries and the other mountains in Gobi Desert. The long-tailed feline approached Tiglon with Onewhisker, a friendly small feline with a bent whisker and another huge feline that Tiglon didn't know which was with a unusually, bushy, white tail.

'Whitestorm,' the long-tailed feline said to the huge feline with a bushy, white tail, 'Can you tell me what had happened in the morning when you led the dawn patrol.'



Whitestorm dipped his head and said, 'In the dawn patrol, I took Brambleclaw and Onewhisker. When we arrived the foot of the mountain, we saw two humans, one was a male cub and one was a female adult, so

Onewhisker, Brambleclaw and I brought them back to the camp.'

The long-tailed feline nodded in acknowledgement and asked Tiglon tenderly, 'What's your name, youngster.'

'My name is Tiglon Baryon,' Tiglon said quietly and asked. 'Who are you?'

'I am Firestar, the leader of ThunderTribe, tribe of the snow leopards,' the long-tailed feline answered.

Tiglon remained silent and wooden, but when he heard the word 'snow leopard', he turned his face to Firestar and exclaimed, 'Snow leopard! I have heard many stories about you guys from my mother and you are known to be swift, fierce, powerful and loyal! She also said that snow leopards are "the king of mountains"!'!

'Thank you for your mother's appreciation. Humans just know how to rip off snow leopard's pelt instead of leaving them in peace.' Firestar said sadly and shook his head.

'Why do you say that?' asked Tiglon.

'It is because in these years, humans always take their guns and kill our tribe members for our pelt. Originally, snow leopards and humans were friends, but after humans started to hunt us, we became enemies. You cannot blame Dustfoot for being rude to you, because all his parents and siblings were killed by human hunters when he was a cub. So he hates humans since he was a cub and was desperate for revenge.' Firestar

explained to Tiglon.

All the feeling of hatred to Dustfoot in Tiglon's heart vanished without a trace and it all turned into sympathy for Dustfoot and he thought of his dead mother.

'But Firestar,' Tiglon asked, 'how can you speak our language?' Tiglon's amber eyes grew wide with curiosity.

'That's a very good question, Tiglon,' Firestar replied. 'When I was a cub, I heard that the elders' story about the animals.'

Firestar began the story, 'In the Legend of the Tribes, the God of the Sky, Tenger and his brother, the God of the Sea, Dalain created five tribes, they are MoonTribe, ThunderTribe, StoneTribe, CloudTribe and the SkyTribe. MoonTribe is wolves, ThunderTribe is snow leopards, StoneTribe is bears, CloudTribe is eagles and SkyTribe is humans. The five tribes all shared the same language and lived peacefully together as they were created by the same ancestors. But one day, after some SkyTribe warriors lit up a fire, the humans disappeared the next day and had never appeared in our world, until one day, they appeared again and some of them carried guns to hunt us. Then we changed our language and hid this secret for thousands of years since Thunderstar, had founded ThunderTribe and changed the language into growls to scare off our enemies and most importantly, the humans.'

'There are also warriors to protect ThunderTribe.' Firestar continued after clearing his throat, 'Warriors need to follow the warrior code and protect the tribe when attacked by enemies. Our main enemies are



humans and some wolves of MoonTribe, especially Saberfang, a huge, gigantic wolf with unusually long, deadly, sharp, yellow teeth that all the animals of Gobi Desert have feared of. All the other tribes lived in peace at first, but the peace was fading since the time that Saberfang had been born. But luckily, StarTribe lead our path, and we are still safe.'

'What is StarTribe?' asked Tiglon curiously.

'StarTribe is a tribe that noble warriors of each tribe go to when they have died. But if some warriors have made great crimes and against the warrior code, they will go to another place called DarkTribe,' answered Firestar.

'So I am really a descendent of SkyTribe!' Tiglon said excitedly.

'Thank you for sharing these stories with me,' Tiglon said gratefully. 'I think it's time for me to go home.'

While Tiglon was heading to the underground tunnel, Firestar called him walked to him.

'Tiglon,' he said, 'I know that now you are desperate for a home but your mother has passed away and you are too small to look after yourself. Besides, the world outside is too dangerous. Why don't you join ThunderTribe and live with us? Here is safe, and you have a home and family here!' suggested Firestar.

'Oh yes! Why haven't I thought about that?' Tiglon asked himself. 'Why don't I just join ThunderTribe? It is safe and once more, it seems a

warm and joyful family!

'Okay, Firestar. I will stay here,' after a deep thought, he told Firestar,

'That's great, Tiglon. I will hold your apprentice ceremony with Leafcub.' Firestar said cheerfully.

'What is an apprentice, Firestar?' Tiglon asked.

'Oh, apprentice is a snow leopard cub which will be apprenticed and trained by a warrior or deputy.' answered Firestar.

'But what is a deputy?' Tiglon asked nonstop.

'A deputy is the second in-commander who is going to become the leader when the leader dies and receive nine-lives from StarTribe ancestors in Starpool. After receiving nine lives, their warrior names will be changed to their leader's name by StarTribe in honour of our wise ancestors, and now our deputy is Whitestorm,' said Firestar patiently.

'So you really got nine lives!' Tiglon's amber eyes grew wide with amazement.

'Oh yes. I did get my nine lives many years ago. My name was Firestorm until I became the ThunderTribe leader!' laughed the ThunderTribe leader.

'So...' Tiglon still wanted to ask, but was interrupt by Firestar.

'You will know everything after you have become an apprentice,' said

Firestar, 'Follow me and let's go to the Highledge now!'

Although Tiglon still had many questions, he kept them in his mind and followed Firestar to the bottom of an enormous, tall stone which Tiglon recognized was where he had slept when he was fainted. At the bottom of the stone where sat a small, plump male snow leopard cub with a long, bushy, striped, sleek tail like Firestar's tail, but the cub's tail was even plumier than Firestar's.

Tiglon sat beside the cub quietly. The cub turned his tiny head to Tiglon and squeaked ardourly, 'Hello there! I am Leafcub, Firestar's son! Who are you?'

'I am Tiglon Baryon,' replied Tiglon. He liked this cub because he was cheerful and was the generous kind leader, Firestar's son.

'Nice to meet you!' said Leafcub and he put one of his paws in front of Tiglon.

'Nice to meet you too!' replied Tiglon and put his hand in front of Leafcub too.

They shook 'paws' together. Just then, Firestar leaped onto the Highledge and announced, 'Let the snow leopards old enough to catch their prey, come and join this meeting!' Immediately, snow leopard burst from stone caves and gathered around the Highledge.

Firestar began his speech, 'Leafcub, you have been with us for three years, and it is the time for you to start your warrior training.'

'Leafcub, come here.' said Firestar gently.

Leafcub climbed up to the Highledge bravely and settled himself beside Firestar.

'Leafcub,' Firestar said solemnly, 'from now on, you will be trained as a warrior apprentice and until you have earned your warrior name, you will be known Leafpaw. Brambleclaw will be your mentor! Brambleclaw, you are a new warrior of ThunderTribe, I hope you can pass the skills that I had taught you to your apprentice.'

A large, broad-shouldered snow leopard climbed onto the Highledge from another side and pride gleamed in the young warrior's amber eyes as he bent his head to touch noses with Leafcub. As Leafcub finished his apprentice ceremony and jumped down from the Highledge, he whispered to Tiglon, 'Good luck.'

After a while, Firestar said again, 'A human cub have come to ThunderTribe and he has already shown his bravery when he unsheathed his knife and his loyalty to his mother. StarTribe has already shown its approval - this newcomer is proper to become a great warrior and is free to join ThunderTribe as an apprentice.'

'Come here,' Firestar said gently to Tiglon.

Nervousness and excitement came to Tiglon when he climbed onto the Highledge and stood beside Firestar.

'Starting from today,' Firestar declared seriously, 'Until he has earned

his warrior name, he will be trained as a warrior apprentice and he will be renamed as Flamepaw in honour of his blazing amber eyes when he unsheathed his knife. I, Firestar, the leader of ThunderTribe will be his mentor! I swear by StarTribe that I will pass every experience I have gained through these years to this young apprentice.'

After that, he bent down and touched noses with Tiglon. Yowls of surprise thundered around the stone.

After the ceremony, Firestar said to Tiglon, 'Tiglon, you will live in my den from now until you became a warrior.'

'What an honor!' exclaimed Tiglon in his heart.

In the den under the Highledge, Tiglon looked at Firestar quietly. Firestar was sleeping. He wrapped around his long tail and curled himself into a tight ball.

Then Tiglon walked out of the den and stared at the cold, starry sky and prayed in his heart, 'Please, mum! Guide my steps wisely and light the path of my destiny!'

## **Chapter 5 - The Quest of the Stone of Destiny**

It was a tranquil night. Twelve-year-old Tiglon Flameheart Baryon dreamt about that he was prowling above in the sky with stars. Suddenly, he saw two blurry figures. They then grew larger and gradually came near him. They were one man and one woman. The man looked like him, but was much older, taller and stronger; while the woman was not any

other person, it was whom he loved the most-Sasha, his beautiful mother.

‘Mum,’ Tiglon cried unbelievably and surprisingly. ‘And... eh... Dad?’

The couple nodded and hugged him. Tiglon closed his eyes to experience the warmth of his mother and father. The warmth lasted for a long time.

Suddenly, something made his eyes open, and the thing he saw was not the starry sky or his mother or father. He just saw everything had changed - the moon was shining ghostly, making the sand of the desert silver. He heard the shrill cries of battle. He saw blood spill over his whole sight.

Fantastically, Tiglon saw his father appear again. He was waving the Knife of Destiny and fighting three bandits. The three bandits were swaying their sabers at his father, which made a long cut on his back. He shouted and waved his knife more quickly. The knife blazed out blue light and connected to the sky, the sky immediately made thunder and lightning which banged down the three bandits.

‘Sasha! Take this knife and flee!’ Tiglon’s father yelled.

Tiglon saw his mother get the knife and run with a baby. He recognized that the baby was himself. Then, a sandstorm covered everything which made him blind, but the cries of battle still echoed in his mind, and then faded away...



Tiglon woke up. Cold sweat streamed from his forehead and spine when he recalled the cruel scene of the battle. Beside him sat the ThunderTribe leader, Firestar.

'Tiglon, are you okay?' He curled his tail up and asked.

'Yes, I am okay.'

'So why you were shouting and yelling just now?' asked Firestar.

'Uh...just a nightmare...' said Tiglon.

'Tell me about your nightmare,' asked Firestar.

Then Tiglon told him about his nightmare, about all that he saw and heard.

'Tiglon, can you describe the three bandits for me again?' Firestar asked.

'One was tall and thin, one was short and fat; and the last one was medium sized...'

Firestar interrupted him and suddenly slapped against the wall with one of his powerful paws. 'I will take my revenge on them if I found them.' He murmured.

'Who are they, Firestar?' Tiglon was cautious and amazed as he had never seen Firestar lose control of his temper on any occasion.

'The thin one is called Bone Snake, the fat one is called Ice Hoot and the last one is called Blood Scourge.' Firestar replied.

'They killed my father. I am going to take my revenge!' said Tiglon furiously.

'What?' shouted Firestar suddenly, 'Galen was killed!'

'Yes,' Tiglon nodded. 'You know my father?'

'Yes, of course I know him,' replied Firestar, 'He was ThunderTribe's benefactor. The three bandits are snow leopard hunters. Bone, Ice and Blood attacked our camp for our treasure. Stone of Destiny and they hunted for our pelts. Luckily your father saved us. Although the stone was stolen, no one was hurt. That time, our leader was Bluestar and he thanked your father for saving us. But unfortunately, after Galen left, the three bandits attacked the camp again and killed Dustfoot's parents and siblings, and also my father and my sister. I was a cub at that time, but I have never forgotten that bloody and horrible night ever.'

He cleared his throat and continued, 'StarTribe sent me an omen the night once you became a warrior. The omen is "An ice, a bone and a scourge were controlled by a precious stone. They were struck by fire, but it didn't break the stone. The stone made them go mad. Only a knife could break the stone and stop them from destroying the Gobi Desert." Let's go to Starpool immediately and get the hints that StarTribe sent us for the quest.'

When they arrived at Starpool, it was already evening. Firestar and

Tiglon entered an ancient tunnel in the Highstones, and Firestar swam across the Moonpool and jumped onto a glimmering, blue-green stone while Tiglon stood beside the pool. The stone was called the Moonstone, where the leaders received their nine lives and tribe healers went to speak with the StarTribe. After a while, Firestar jumped down from the Moonstone and led Tiglon out of there.

That night, while Firestar was having dinner with Tiglon, he talked to him, 'Tiglon, StarTribe sent me about the hints of the quest of finding the Stone of Destiny. He said, "Slip out of your den on a starry midnight. Leave your own kin in his den. Bring your apprentice and cross the Silk Road to find the cliff of flame. In a bright cave, you will have your battle of the stone." The cliff of flames means the Flaming Cliffs in Gobi Desert, and we must cross the Silk Road. We have to begin our journey this midnight.'

'Will we bring Leafstorm with us?' asked Tiglon.

'No, we won't. He has already shown his loyalty to his tribe by risking his life to fight an eagle with you, to protect Willowpelt's two cubs and he deserved to be a warrior with you. Also, the omen said not to bring my own kin. Leafstorm is my own kin so I shouldn't bring him. Now, just have a full stomach to fight for the quest because you need power to finish the quest, and you are the one to save the whole Gobi Desert.' Firestar said sincerely.

A heavy pressure suddenly weighed on Tiglon's shoulders as he knew that he was the one of the prophecies that StarTribe sent to save the Gobi Desert. He had his dinner dully. While he was resting in his own

den, he stared at a glittering star and prayed, 'Mum, please guide my step, bless and protect me to finish my quest safely!'

Tiglon and Firestar slipped out from the camp that midnight while every snow leopard was sleeping in their den. While they were running down to the foot of the mountain, Tiglon glanced at the old cottage where he used to live with his mother. He felt a pang of sadness and loneliness, but when he thought of his important quest, he went on and followed Firestar to the Flaming Cliffs.

During the long journey, Firestar let Tiglon ride on his back to have a rest. Finally, they arrived at the Flaming Cliffs. They saw piles of tall red mountains that were just like flamed by sun. Tiglon took out the Knife of Destiny and grasped its hilt tight, as if battle was going to start in any second.

Then they found a cave on the cliffs. They stepped into the cave with exceptional caution and saw three men, who were the bandits they were looking for.

Bone Snake, Ice Hoot and Blood Scourge were kneeling beside a huge, colourful, glimmering diamond.

'Bone Snake, Ice Hoot and Blood Scourge! You three bastards roll out from your stoll full of fleas!' Firestar let out a menacing deep growl.

'You think you guys are so powerful, huh? You are just rotten bones, melted ice and stinking blood.' Tiglon continued.



The three men stood up arrogantly and bowed to the diamond. 'What should we do, master?' asked Blood Scourge.

'Kill'em all!' An eerie voice echoed.

The three bandits unsheathed their sabers and pointed at Tiglon and Firestar, 'Never try to stop us from destroying the world, or we will slice you into pieces!' Blood Scourge threatened them.

'Attack!' Firestar waved his long tail high and cried.

Tiglon unsheathed the Knife of Destiny and fought the three bandits with Firestar.

'Get the Stone of Destiny and destroy it!' Firestar cried.

Tiglon rushed to the front of the diamond. Suddenly, a ghostly snow leopard appeared. It was the largest creature which Tiglon had ever seen. It was gigantic with fearful white teeth, dreadful and deadly claws, massive and hefty paws, a ragged pelt criss-crossed with scars, and cunning pale yellow eyes.

'Tigerstar!' Firestar was shocked. 'You were the cruelest and the most blood-thirsty leader I have ever met! But why are you here? You should be dead and was banished to the DarkTribe!'

Tigerstar swayed his frightful front claws and leaped at Firestar and Tiglon. Firestar slid away with a swift of his tail and Tiglon swung his knife at Tigerstar.

'Clang!' claws and knife crashed. Tiglon slashed one part of Tigerstar's claws away and started to strike again.

Just then, all the carvings on the knife shone, and the diamond had the same carving as the knife. Meanwhile, when the blue light shone, Tiglon felt his eyes glow. Then he felt he was lifted into the air, feeling that power was coming from everywhere. He felt his power from his father and the warmth from his mother. He let all his power focus on the blade of the knife.

With a mighty strike, Tigerstar was sucked into the diamond and was locked in it. He cried crazily. It made the Stone of Destiny roll and roll.

## **Chapter 6-The Last Chance**

When Tiglon wanted to destroy the Stone of Destiny, Blood Scourge said, 'Hey, you, don't destroy our master, or I will kill this snow leopard and make you to go to hell!'

Tiglon turned his head, he really saw Firestar lying on a stone and the worse was a long, silver saber hanging on his neck.

'Don't care about me, young Baryon! Just save the Gobi Desert and finish your quest!' Firestar shouted seriously.

While Tiglon was floundering, Ice Hoot suddenly cried, 'Oh Jesus Christ! It was Galen Tuimer Baryon! No!'



Then, Bone Snake followed to yell, 'Blood! It's Galen Baryon! He revived to take his revenge on us!'

When Blood turned his head he saw a handsome boy, holding the Knife of Destiny. He had long, sleek, black hair and glimmering, dark, piercing, round, justice amber eyes, which was the appearance of younger Galen Tuimer Baryon.

'What?' Blood said unbelievably.

'It's the time!' thought Tiglon.

He waved his knife and stabbed into the Stone of Destiny. Immediately, shrill cries of Tigerstar began to fade in piercing blue lights followed by the three men's fading cries. After the blue light died out, everything changed. Firestar and Tiglon saw that Tiglon's parents, Galen Tuimer Baryon and Sasha Aspen, and a large, lithe and slender female snow leopard appeared. The snow leopard had clear, intense, brilliant, pale ice-blue eyes and unusually pale blue-gray spots on her coat.

'Bluestar!' Firestar said surprisingly and pleasantly.

Bluestar stepped forward and dipped her head to Tiglon and said, 'I am Bluestar from StarTribe. Thank you for saving the Gobi Desert.'

Bluestar took a step backward and Sasha and Galen took a pace forward.

'I am really proud of you, my son!' Galen said contentedly with a

smile.

Tiglon turned to Sasha, she was looking at him with a proud and gentle smile. In that moment, Tiglon Flameheart Baryon really felt warmth and happiness for the very first time.

Galen Tuimer Baryon, Sasha Aspen and Bluestar vanished into the air after a while.

## Chapter 7-The Path of Destiny

When Tiglon and Firestar returned to the camp, they were astounded to see a scene of horror. Whitestorm, the wise deputy was lying broken with a blood-soaked body covered by a large pool of blood. On the other side, lay a huge, massive wolf's body, its unusually long teeth stained with blood and his throat torn and a small pool of dried blood near it.

'Firestar!' said Brambleclaw surprisingly and stood up from the crowd surrounding the two corpses.

'What had happened while I was not here?' Firestar asked. His shocked blue eyes still stared at the corpses of Whitestorm and the wolf.

Brambleclaw told them the whole story of the calamity. He was sorrowful and heaved a deep sigh:

While Firestar and Tiglon were not here, a wolf, Saberfang from MoonTribe attacked the tribe during one patrol. Whitestorm ordered the camp members to resist. Brambleclaw defeated some wolves and they all

fled, which left Saberfang fighting with Whitestorm. Brambleclaw immediately wanted to help Whitestorm to fight against Saberfang. When Brambleclaw was almost near them, blood had soaked Whitestorm's whole body already. He told Brambleclaw to stay away. Brambleclaw wanted to get near, but they fought with each other fiercely thus Brambleclaw couldn't bear a hand to Whitestorm.

Just then, Saberfang leaped at Whitestorm, pouncing on him and forced his twice larger body on Whitestorm. Whitestorm struggled, but Saberfang bared his long teeth and wanted to kill Whitestorm with one killing bite. Whitestorm reacted nimbly. He quickly stabbed his claws into Saberfang's throat. While Saberfang was falling down, struggling from pain, trying to stop streams of blood bursting out from his neck, Brambleclaw leaped over to him and tore his throat with his unsheathed claws immediately, which made Saberfang breathless at last. When Brambleclaw rushed over to Whitestorm then, he already lay there and stared at the sky blankly.

Tiglon gazed at Whitestorm, the old deputy's blue eyes were shining under the sunlight. Tiglon could imagine how bravely he fought for his tribe. Firestar's expression was hard to read, but at least Tiglon knew that Firestar was sad about losing his loyal deputy of a very long time.

Tiglon was sad too because when he first came to the tribe, Whitestorm always encouraged him when he despaired. He mentored him sometimes when Firestar was sick or took his journey to Starpool. Firestar walked to the Highledge slowly and jumped onto it. All the snow leopards under the stone stared at him.

'As you know, ThunderTribe has lost a loyal and brave deputy, Whitestorm,' Firestar began his speech, 'We will all cherish our memory of him, and hope that he will have his wonderful and magnificent life in StarTribe.'

Then he dipped his head, followed by all the snow leopards and Tiglon.

After a long silence, Firestar announced, 'The time has come to appoint the new deputy of ThunderTribe. I say these words before StarTribe, that the spirits of our ancestors may hear and approve my choice,' he paused and cleared his throat and declared, 'Tiglon Flameheart Baryon will be the new deputy of ThunderTribe!'

Yowls of shock rose around the stone.

Tiglon pondered long and deeply for a while. Then he stood up and walked to the foot of the stone. He said aloud, 'Firestar, snow leopards of ThunderTribe, it's my great honour to be the deputy of ThunderTribe, but I can't do it.'

Yowls of shock rose again and Firestar stared at him surprisingly too.

'Firestar and all the snow leopards of ThunderTribe, my mother had always told me to follow my destiny. I didn't really get it at first, but I get it now. I can't live forever and spend my life like a snow leopard. I am a human so I must do my duty as a human. My uncle, aunts and the entire family members are all waiting in my home tribe far away from the Gobi Desert. Firestar, I am going to leave the ThunderTribe and look for my

destiny as a human. Thank you for your mentoring and care for me. You have also provided a great home for me. I treat you as my dearest friend in my life. Also, thank you to all the snow leopards in ThunderTribe, especially Leafstorm, for encouraging me always and helping me when I first came into the tribe.'

After his farewell, Tiglon gave Firestar and all the snow leopards a deep bow. As Tiglon left and disappeared into the underground tunnel, all the snow leopards sat at the same place expressionlessly with an eerie silence.

## **Epilogue**

The soft, warm wind sang its song softly in the Gobi Desert. The sun was above the horizon and about to fall. Tiglon unsheathed the Knife of Destiny, waved it to the pale orange sky and said, 'Lead the path to the place where my family live!'

Just then, the sky shot down a blue-green light and shot a straight long line to the ground. 'ThunderTribe had given me endless mercy, especially Firestar, and he treated me as if I were his own son. I swear by StarTribe that I must bear a hand to them should they get into trouble to repay their kindness to me,' Tiglon promised himself.

The dying sun blazed out its dying pale amber gaze. It flamed up the dark orange sky and the pink clouds; it made Tiglon's dark brown hair and dark amber eyes glow; it also brightened the burning desire of the path of destiny in Tigon's heart.

# **New Tales of the Great Wall**

*Ocean Huang (P.6D)*

*Highly Commended, Group 5, Hong Kong Young Writers Awards 2013*

## **Chapter 1**

### **Edward Albus Trotter**

Once upon a time, there was a boy named Edward Albus Trotter. He had big, ocean-blue eyes, deep brown hair and a slim fit figure. He was a brilliant genius. When you stared at him, you might find there was an indistinct blue trident mark on his forehead.

Edward lost his father and mother when he was born. He lived with his Uncle's family in California now. They treated him very well.

Many people said that Edward's parents were killed by illness, but little Edward didn't believe that. People said that he was ignorant but he knew he was different from the others. .

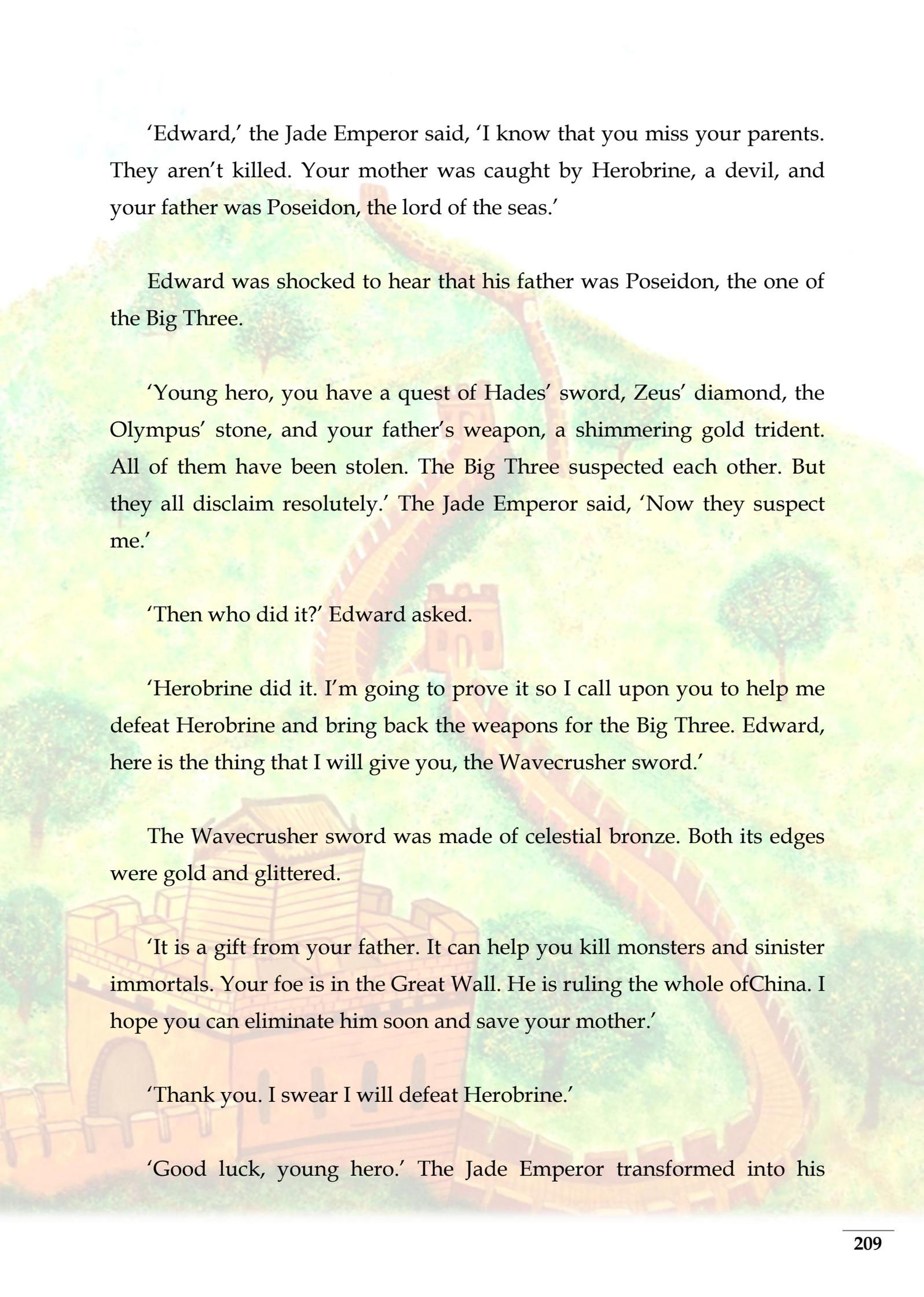
## **Chapter 2**

### **The Jade Emperor's Visit**

One night, Edward had a dream. There was an old Chinese man standing behind his bed, 'Hi, Edward.'

'Who are you?' Edward murmured with an astounded look.

'I am the Jade Emperor. I am the king of gods in China.' the old Chinese man answered.



‘Edward,’ the Jade Emperor said, ‘I know that you miss your parents. They aren’t killed. Your mother was caught by Herobrine, a devil, and your father was Poseidon, the lord of the seas.’

Edward was shocked to hear that his father was Poseidon, the one of the Big Three.

‘Young hero, you have a quest of Hades’ sword, Zeus’ diamond, the Olympus’ stone, and your father’s weapon, a shimmering gold trident. All of them have been stolen. The Big Three suspected each other. But they all disclaim resolutely.’ The Jade Emperor said, ‘Now they suspect me.’

‘Then who did it?’ Edward asked.

‘Herobrine did it. I’m going to prove it so I call upon you to help me defeat Herobrine and bring back the weapons for the Big Three. Edward, here is the thing that I will give you, the Wavecrusher sword.’

The Wavecrusher sword was made of celestial bronze. Both its edges were gold and glittered.

‘It is a gift from your father. It can help you kill monsters and sinister immortals. Your foe is in the Great Wall. He is ruling the whole of China. I hope you can eliminate him soon and save your mother.’

‘Thank you. I swear I will defeat Herobrine.’

‘Good luck, young hero.’ The Jade Emperor transformed into his

Immortal form and faded away.

The next morning, when Edward woke up, he found that there was a sword lying on his table. It was the weapon that the Jade Emperor gave him in his dream.

Edward got dressed quickly. He took his weapon and went to the backyard. He took his pet, Silversmith, a young white Pegasus. Then he rode on it and vanished in the air...

### **Chapter 3**

#### **At the Great Wall**

Lightning cracked, beneath the sky was the famous marvelous Great Wall. The thunder cloud was as black as coal while brilliant gold lightning smashed violently. The Great Wall was like an endless tremendous dragon lying on the country border of China.

Edward landed on a mountain beside the Great Wall. He led Silversmith to a mountain full of grass and fed him. While Silversmith was having its delicious meal, Edward walked down the green path. He looked at the dark sky. He missed his hometown. In California, he loved to play with his friend at school. He missed his friends and his uncle's family. He missed everything, just alone.

All of a sudden, he heard a huge army marching with a quick galloping. Edward wanted to conceal himself behind a bush, but he was curious about what was happening. When he looked back, he was shocked...

## Chapter 4

### James Galloper the centaur

Edward saw a boy whose age was as similar to him. The boy had brown hair and deep brown eyes. His body was a deep-red pony instead of human. From Edward's knowledge in his myth class, it was a centaur. The centaur galloped to him and grabbed him.

'Hey, run!' He put Edward onto his back. Silversmith sensed that they were in danger. It chased after the centaur in haste. The centaur brought them to a gloomy cave and put Edward on the ground.

'Who are you?' asked Edward.

'I'm James Galloper. Nice to meet you, and who are you?' asked the centaur.

'I'm Edward Trotter. I come from California.' Edward mumbled.

'It's you! I found you.' James the centaur shouted suddenly.

Just then, a familiar voice appeared, 'Hello, Edward.'

Then Edward saw an old tall Chinese man with a golden traditional Chinese dragon cloak and a golden Chinese crown.

'The Jade Emperor,' Edward gasped.

The Jade Emperor nodded, 'Edward, James is a junior guardian from

the Demigod Camp. Your mission is very serious. I'm a bit worried about you, so I called James to help you. I have something to remind you. Your sword, Wavecrusher, can only hurt immortals but not mortals because your sword's metal comes from Aether. You do think that it is hard to carry a two meter sword. You can see that there is a sapphire on the hilt, press it and see what happens.

Edward pressed the sapphire. Then he found that the long sword turned into a small iron knife. When he pressed the sapphire again, it returned to a long bronze sword again.

'How awesome it is!' Edward could not refrain from gasping. Then he put the knife into his pocket.

'Thanks that you have saved me just now.' He looked at James while James was staring at him with a glee.

'James, take care of yourself during this journey. Please lead Edward to the Palace to meet the Emperor of China.' The Jade Emperor preached James solemnly.

Edward and James departed from the Jade Emperor and flew to the Palace.

## **Chapter 5**

### **The Palace**

They soon arrived at the Palace. It was a resplendent and magnificent building.

'It's real great and marvelous!' they yelled with one accord.

They saw many Chinese soldiers guarding the corridors. Finally, they reached a grand golden room. In the centre of the room there sat a Chinese man with beard and similar costume as the Jade Emperor.

The man was not curious when he saw them.

'Greetings, young hero, I heard that you came to defeat Herobrine and save our country.' The man said. 'I know who you are. China is under control of Herobrine. He is a human-like devil with glowing white eyes and vigorous sharp teeth. He went to the villages and gulped down all the creatures such as villagers and livestock. I have already sent a lot of soldiers to protect the villagers but they are all gone never to return. Later, I came to know that they have been eaten by Herobrine.'

'Now, he is going to bring his demon army to attack us and occupy the Great Wall. I can't let him do it. The Great Wall was constructed by trillions of Chinese people. It is the final zone of defense of our country. I hope you can help us.' The man said again.

That night, as Edward was in bed, he could not fall asleep. Then he stepped on to the Great Wall and looked up to the starry sky.

'I must not allow Herobrine to destroy the Great Wall in a violent war.' Edward murmured to himself.

He determined to defeat Herobrine, get back the three gems for the Big Three and save his mother.

In the following month, Edward learnt swordsmanship and practiced it so hard that he neglected his sleep and meals with James. He also practiced how to keep balance when riding on Silversmith in a battle. He wanted to become a brilliant and outstanding swordsman.

## **Chapter 6**

### **The Battle of the Great Wall**

The night before the battle, Edward had a strange dream:

He was standing in the middle of the Ocean, where a tall, handsome man was smiling at him. He patted Edward's shoulders and whispered to him, 'My little boy, do your best. It's a significant drill for you.' A genial beam surrounded Edward. He felt warm, relaxed and powerful instantly.

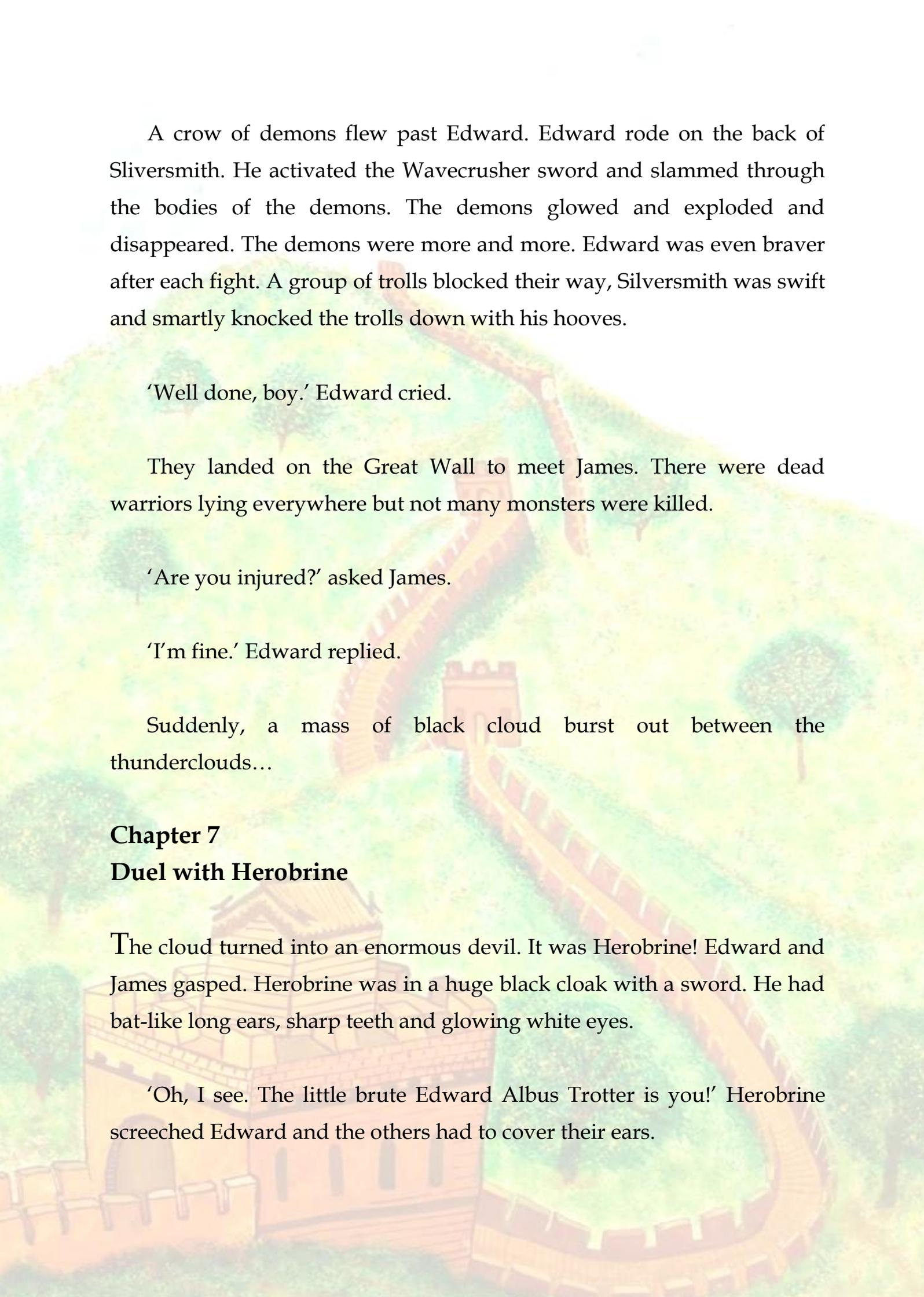
Edward woke up in a roar of the thunder. He wore his armour and brought his Wavecrusher knife and went to the backyard where James the centaur was absorbed in polishing his bronze sword.

'Good morning, James.' said Edward.

'Good morning, Edward. Are you ready for the battle?' asked James.

'Yes.' replied Edward. 'I'm sure that I'm ready.'

The wind was howling. The dark clouds grew ominous. As lightning cracked, a curtain of rain beat down from the heavens. It was time for the battle.



A crow of demons flew past Edward. Edward rode on the back of Silversmith. He activated the Wavecrusher sword and slammed through the bodies of the demons. The demons glowed and exploded and disappeared. The demons were more and more. Edward was even braver after each fight. A group of trolls blocked their way, Silversmith was swift and smartly knocked the trolls down with his hooves.

‘Well done, boy.’ Edward cried.

They landed on the Great Wall to meet James. There were dead warriors lying everywhere but not many monsters were killed.

‘Are you injured?’ asked James.

‘I’m fine.’ Edward replied.

Suddenly, a mass of black cloud burst out between the thunderclouds...

## **Chapter 7**

### **Duel with Herobrine**

The cloud turned into an enormous devil. It was Herobrine! Edward and James gasped. Herobrine was in a huge black cloak with a sword. He had bat-like long ears, sharp teeth and glowing white eyes.

‘Oh, I see. The little brute Edward Albus Trotter is you!’ Herobrine screeched Edward and the others had to cover their ears.

Then Herobrine drew his sword out from the scabbard. Edward gasped again. The sword belonged to Hades which was made of stygian iron. Edward slashed Herobrine with Wavecrush bravely. He failed to get his wants as Herorine was alert and powerful.

‘What can you this little crumbly weasel do?’ He laughed at Edward grimly.

Edward tried his best to hack Herobrine with his sword.

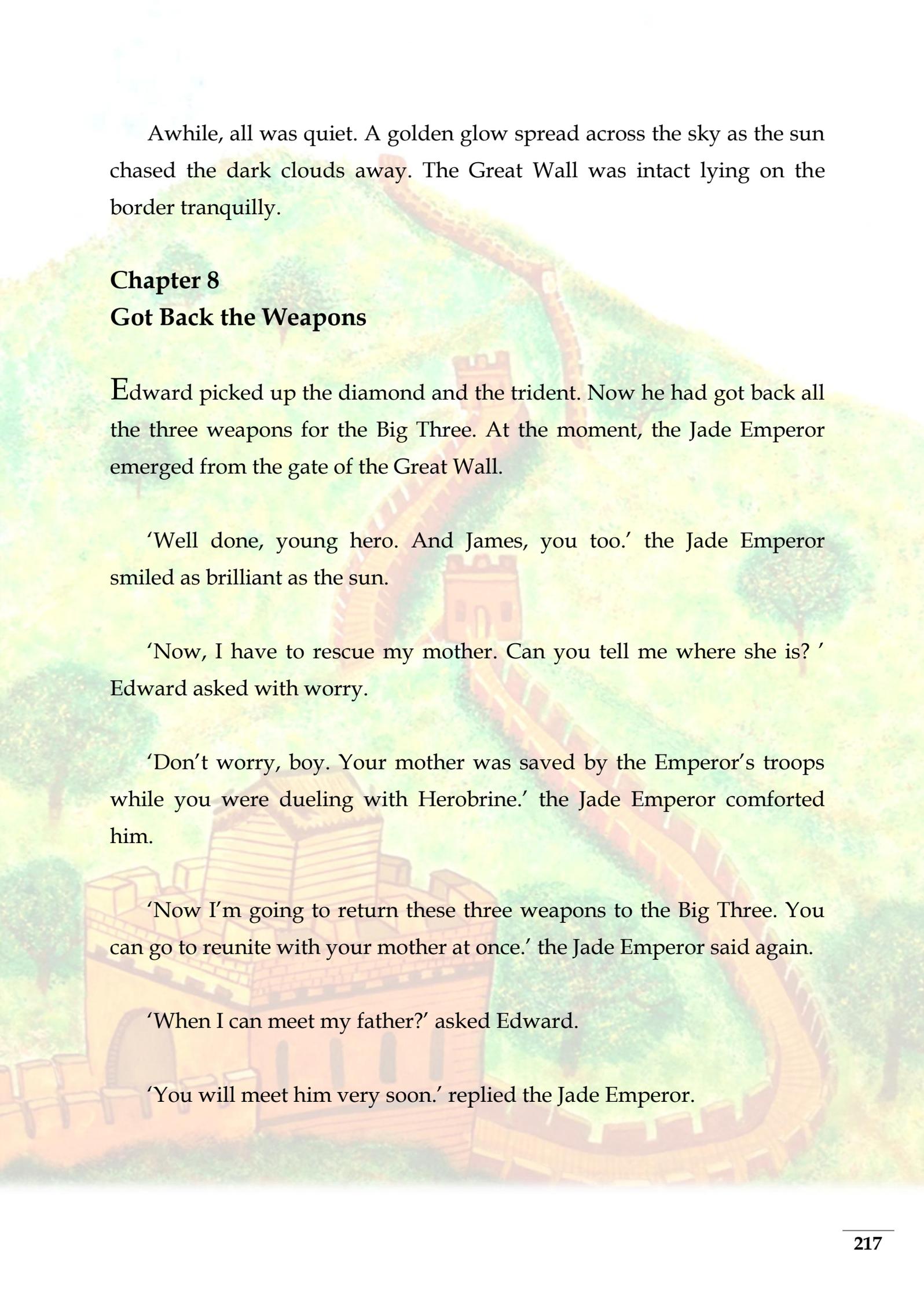
‘Clank!’ Edward’s sword hit the hilt of Herobrine’s. Herobrine could not hold his sword as he underestimated Edward. His sword was flung into the air. James leapt into the air and grabbed it immediately.

‘You two just sucklings!’ Herobrine roared furiously.

He took out a huge shimmering diamond and a glistening gold trident in his hands. After that he muttered some spells. In a split second, a thunderstorm and a bolt of lightning slammed at Edward.

Edward had to calm down. He stood silently still. His eyes and the trident mark on his forehead began to glow in blue. He rose into the air slowly. There were on the images of blue sea and the gentle smile from the man in Edward’s dream.

‘Bang’, the downpours became mountainous waves and rushed towards Herobrine. The waves slammed Herobrine miles away. He lost the diamond and the trident. Finally, he faded away with piteous cries.



Awhile, all was quiet. A golden glow spread across the sky as the sun chased the dark clouds away. The Great Wall was intact lying on the border tranquilly.

## Chapter 8

### Got Back the Weapons

Edward picked up the diamond and the trident. Now he had got back all the three weapons for the Big Three. At the moment, the Jade Emperor emerged from the gate of the Great Wall.

‘Well done, young hero. And James, you too.’ the Jade Emperor smiled as brilliant as the sun.

‘Now, I have to rescue my mother. Can you tell me where she is?’ Edward asked with worry.

‘Don’t worry, boy. Your mother was saved by the Emperor’s troops while you were dueling with Herobrine.’ the Jade Emperor comforted him.

‘Now I’m going to return these three weapons to the Big Three. You can go to reunite with your mother at once.’ the Jade Emperor said again.

‘When I can meet my father?’ asked Edward.

‘You will meet him very soon.’ replied the Jade Emperor.

## Chapter 9

### The Reunion

The Jade Emperor led Edward to a tower, and then he took out a pearl and dropped it onto the ground. When it hit the ground, it began to glow with a glittery beam, Edward felt very dizzy. When he opened his eyes, he found that he was standing in a splendid palace. He saw his parents were standing there and smiling at him. His mum gave him a big warm hug. There were different feelings welling up in Edward's heart.

Poseidon said, 'Great job, my son. Please always remember that we can only succeed if our hearts are strong.'

Edwards never forgot his father's words. He made a decision to be a vigorous man like the Great Wall guarding its country.

# The Secret of the Eternal Emperor's Jade Stamp

*Chris Pang (P.6C)*

## Prologue

The Great Wall of China. It is intriguing that a wall made merely out of stones and bricks can have such a prestigious trait in its history to protect the lives of so many people. Perhaps what is even more intriguing is the fact that what was once built to serve the best of mankind has now been transformed as an architecture that suppresses people. History, it seems, is never complete without a sense of irony.

## Chapter 1

I am John Freeman. I have always thought that it would be arrogant, almost cocky if I were to say that I am an expert in 'this' and an expert in 'that'- so I prefer to say that I have a bit of knowledge in this and that instead; I have some knowledge in solving puzzles, and can do a little bit of Math. I enjoy watching Kung Fu films and occasionally like to mimic some of their moves from television at home. Although going to museum for research is something that my job requires me to do, I nevertheless relish the chance to understand more about archeology and military history. Studying wars has now become my hobby.

It all began a few years ago when I joined an expedition to study the Great Wall as part of my archeological research.

I looked out the window and stared at the clouds surrounding our plane, trying to distract myself from the boredom of flying. I never liked

flying. Not that it is boring, but more because I feel that I am confined, like a caged animal exported from one place to another without the freedom to romp. The only good part of the trip was when I finally landed at the Great Wall.

Before the excursion, I was debriefed on the aim of today's task before the group was divided into 3 subgroups. I did not listen. Not much point really. What could possibly go wrong taking a tour of the Great Wall of China? So I followed everyone as we started to head out.

Getting lost was not fun. Though to be fair, it was entirely my fault. The reason I dropped back from the group was because I preferred to be alone. You never learn anything if all you did is stick around with your friends. But like my dad always said, 'you always find something when you least expect it.' 'Why is there a gate over there?' I wondered to myself. Since I was so far apart from everyone else, I did not see any reason to suppress my curiosity. At the end of the day, it does not make much difference if I had caught them up an hour earlier or two. As I walked closer to the gate, much to my disappointment, it was locked. It was a math puzzle lock, with Chinese numbers displayed as the digits. Either it's down to the fact that I had thought there was a short cut that lay behind it, or it was the fact that I always wanted to look for a bit of excitement in life, I started shifting the numbers on the lock. Although I was not entirely sure what number went first and what number followed, I remembered from television that it was always about how to rearrange the numbers so that every row and column would add up to the same aggregate total. Obviously, none of it worked, so I quickly lost interest and headed back the path I came.

As I turned my back from the gate, my shoulders felt something heavy and naturally I tried to get away from the hold on me. I felt a sting on my neck. Then, black out.

I woke up and reached immediately for my back pocket. It is a natural reaction for any man; in case he had a robbery. But my wallet remained intact. As I found myself untouched, I cursed repeatedly and got up to my knees. Much to my surprise, the gate was now open. I looked at my watch and much to my shock; it was almost six in the afternoon. I gambled and entered past the gate and followed the path ahead. It was getting dark.

## Chapter 2

“Yes, a hundred thousand as agreed.’ The voice was short and crisp, yet in this simple sentence, coldness radiated. As the phone was placed back onto its stand, the man sat back onto his leather seat. Like a street broker, the man’s eyes were sharp, icy, and did not show any sort of remorse or gratitude for he believed every man was for himself. The name? No other than Kasiv Gondolv, leader of the Chinese Antique black market

‘Mr. Kasiv, we have successfully connected to our comrades!’ A henchman screamed as he ran into the room in haste. It was strange but you can always tell a henchman from the protagonist or the main villain because they never have the nerve to handle a pressure situation.

‘Let’s go then.’ Mr Kasiv responded.

## Chapter 3

The thunderous sky was hazy, it was probably undecided whether to rain or not. So were my thoughts. My heart pounded as my fingers brushed against the metal. I took one big breath and swung open the gate and set about my task to find my colleagues.

The stone in my shoes pierced against the bottom of my foot. The stones that formed part of the legendary Great Wall had now turned against me. I sighed as I decided to soldier on, but I felt that I was a lone soldier lost from his troops. I glanced at the Great Wall across the horizon. To me, the Great Wall was always part of an archaeological study. In ancient times, it was a building for national defence. In modern times, it is a bonanza for tourists from abroad. But I never thought about what the Great Wall meant to the Chinese people. But now I do. It is a symbol of team effort.

As the last feeble ray of sun left the horizon, I speeded up my pace. Panic hits as I realised that I might not make it out of this place in one piece. But it started to become more and more difficult to manoeuvre my way as it was getting darker. I squinted as I tried to make my way out, and it was at this point that I regretted taking the detour.

As I climbed back up from the many stumbles and falls, my eyes were shot with a patch of light. Like a moth to a light bulb, I ran as fast as I could towards it. 'Help' I shouted.

The group of men turned towards me in shock and looked at me with their eyes opened. It was a gang of ten in leather jackets all holding

spades and torches.

‘Sorry guys, I have just been separated from my group...’ One of the guys leaped towards me, held a gun up towards me. ‘Do you want to actually hit him with that, Bill?’ A sharp icy voice followed.

‘Sorry boss, I will take care of this....’ In a split second, I knew it was now or never. Kill or be killed. I burst towards the shooter and rugby tackled him. We both fell on the ground. He started to rain punches on my face. As I was pinned on the ground, I finally made out that there were ten guys forming a loose circle around a treasure chest.

I suddenly had an idea. Whoever it was that designed this place, went to extreme measures to protect the treasure, and would never just simply let the treasure be taken away without any traps. I watched as the men all charged towards me, fury in their eyes. I tussled off the guy pinning me down and threw myself at the treasure box and opened it.

An assortment of colored spears, arrows and swords across the field flew across, piercing straight into the men. Blood spurted everywhere. I looked at what laid inside the chest. Emptiness greeted me. Instead, the floor trembled as the dead end, at the end of the wall suddenly shook, and a thin walkway winded into the mist. At the same time, the floor behind me disappeared. There was no way out but to continue.

## Chapter 4

Before I got over to the other side, though, I found a peculiar little box in the middle of the road. There was a simple piece pattern on the sides, like as if the box was sewn with five or six different pieces of cloth together. My mind, it seemed, was as scattered as that cloth.

There was only one single word on it: Yi, A sense of voluntary or responsibility. Now what? But as I was musing, I tripped, accidentally twisting the box! It was a puzzle box, I recognized, which I could twist to open...but how?

I started to write the word Yi on the box, and got an idea: what if I twisted Yi with the twisting function of the box? Left, down, right...with a click, the top panel slid open. Encased was a note, glinting in the light:

The way that lies before you is not a way. The floor isn't the floor, and the treasure lies within. Remember this: Yi is in you, but not behind. What they so desperately search is before you, so take the care for the backhanded stab your heart.

What? This guy who wrote this note sounds like a poet. I tried to analyze the note. Hmm... the way isn't a way... what if this was some sort of disguise of a floor, but why...unless there was a hole! The treasure lies within: this means that if the floor was a hole, there must be treasure under it! How ingenious! As for the "backhanded stab", somebody must be trying to follow me...

## Chapter 5

As you may have guessed, that was Kasiv who was the only one alive in his group of ten and he was determined to take revenge by killing me and getting the treasure.

Suddenly, he slid down a series of slides that took him to another cave, but this one was totally different. The walls were manmade with metal, and some sort of coldness radiated through them, making the evil man shiver. But what he saw made him forget all about this.

Inside, was a series of golden pendulums, which were edged with razor blades-the true treasure was on the other side of them! The man he had been following was already positioned in the middle.

Kasiv valued the deal options, the internal struggle immense: A) Risk his life by going through the pendulums to get the treasure. B) Leave now and return to his black market. He chose A, and knew he would never, ever forgive himself if he quit now.

Whoosh-He was through the first one, laughing! Then, the next pendulum cut off his hand! Kasiv nearly screamed with the immense pain that bore him. He staggered through the last steps, and used his one good hand to pull out-an Automatic Gun. "Give up the Jade Stamp!" he croaked. The world was nothing, the one and only objective was the treasure. But then, the world spun around and Kasiv Gondolv tumbled straight into a razor sharp blade, ending his life.

Back to my point of view, after I got through the terrible pendulums, I

ran to the top of the stand and grabbed the glistening objects wrapped with a note. I weighed it in my hands. It was heavy, like a rock, but then I noticed a tiny spark, running towards a few boxes of...gunpowder! The Chinese were the first to invent this deadly thing... and I suddenly heard a croaking voice, with yet another source of gunpowder pointing at me: a gun. "Give up the jade stamp." A voice croaked. The fuse reached its end.

Immediately, the world crumbled like a sandcastle in a tsunami wave! The golden stand shot up, through the tons of rubble, with me hanging on for dear life. Soon, I found myself back standing on the proud Great Wall, with its icy air, wonderful view, and collapsed secret room. I looked again, remembering the thoughts that passed my brain about cooperation. No, it wasn't stones or earth that supported this magnificent wall, it was teamwork. I quietly unraveled the note:

Dear descendant,

You have proved yourself brave, clever, resourceful and is fully worthy of this Jade Stamp of official judgment which once belonged to me, and the huge diamond that once belonged in my treasury.

Qin Shi Huang, the Eternal Emperor

I stared at the stamp, the note, and the diamond.

# A Mysterious Detective Adventure

*Jonas Wong (P.6D)*

## Chapter 1

“BOOM!” The Pearl of Alaska exploded. The whole school lobby was filled with dust and smoke. Nothing was visible. Bits and pieces of the broken pearl scattered all over the floor. When the dust and smoke cleared, all that could be seen was a set of footprints left by the monster. But ... where did the monster go?

Colson and Jonas ran to the school lobby, which was crowded with students. The alarming scene shocked all students; some of them were screaming and yelling.

“Jonas, please check if anything is left here.” Colson said. Colson Yeung and Jonas Wong were good friends and they were smart detectives too.

“Sure. Colson, would you please go to the office and inspect what the CCTVs captured.”

“OK. See you later.”

Since the broken pieces of the Pearl of Alaska scattered all over the floor, Jonas toed cautiously and looked curiously at these bits and pieces. All of a sudden, something shimmered on the floor “What’s that? ...ah... It’s a small piece of torn paper!” Jonas picked it up and opened it carefully. “Oops... what does this mean?”

Colson ran back as quick as a leopard, he sweated and gasped.

“The CCTVs had been broken by someone intentionally earlier this morning around 6 a.m., however, no fingerprints on it. What did you find?” Colson asked.

“There are totally four footprints near the broken pearl. I observe the size and shape of these footprints, I suspect these footprints belong to a baby Triceratops.” Jonas replied. “In addition, near the shell of the pearl, I found a sheet of torn paper, but I can’t read it!”

“Show me please.” Colson requested.

rs of afg. zoa obr mwbu ko pcmg,  
w oa gc gcffm hvoh w zsth gc girrsbzm obr rwr b’h gom hvoby  
mci hc ozz ct mci.  
w vor o awggwcb cb sofhv: hc rsghfcm hvs sofhv.  
kvc oa w? twbr hvs obgksf pm mcifgszt.

psgh kwgvsg,  
af. gsqfsh

“Is it the language from Mars?” Jonas giggled.

“Don’t play tricks on me, Jonas.” Colson smiled.

“What’s the creature of these footprints? Who stole the creature? Who left this piece of torn paper with unknown language? How can we find the criminal?” Jonas sighed out in grief.

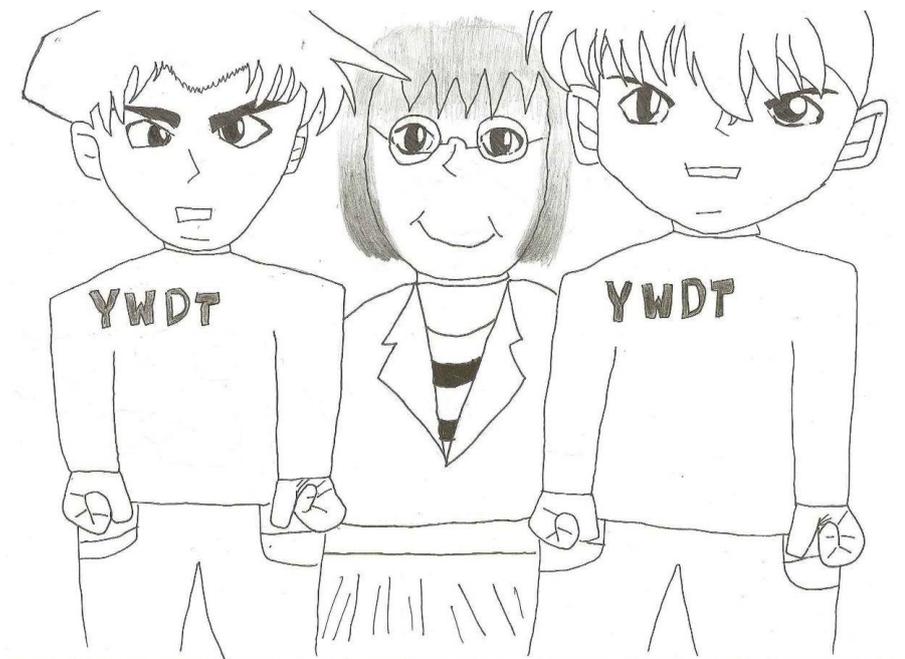
“It looks like a letter. I think this letter is a clue with which we can

find who the criminal is." Colson speculated.

"Let's ask our English teacher Miss Leung for help. She is an expert of linguistics, she may decode this message. Let's go." Jonas suggested.

## Chapter 2

They rushed frantically to the Staff Room on 7<sup>th</sup> floor. At the corner of the stairs, they encountered Mrs. Lam, the Principal, on their way.



"Do you have any idea about the incident?" Mrs. Lam asked.

"We have adventures all the time. And we solve all kinds of crime." Colson sang.

"We find mysteries in our school. And we look for clues so cool." Jonas chanted.

"We will investigate the incident in details, and tell you our findings."

The two smart detectives said proudly. "We are 'YWDT' - Ying Wa Detective Team, trust us!"

"Whenever you have problems, ask me." said Mrs. Lam.

"Thank you, Mrs. Lam," both said.

In the Staff Room, Miss Leung was surfing the Internet attentively.

"Excuse me, Miss Leung, sorry to disturb you." Jonas said. "May I ask you something about the 'The Pearl of Alaska'? We..."

"'The Pearl of Alaska'! Do you have any problems?" asked Miss Leung.

"Yes, Miss Leung, can you do us a favor?" asked Jonas.

"We know you are an expert of linguistics, can you decode this message for us, please?" Colson begged.

"It's my pleasure." said Miss Leung and read the paper, "Tligit, it's the language of Taku, a small tribe in Alaska. ...sof afg... I shall find the clue, I decode the first sentence and you two do the rest."

The two boys discussed and translated the message.

**Dear Mrs. Lam and Ying Wa boys,**

**I am so sorry that I left so suddenly and didn't say thank you to all of you. I had a mission on Earth: to destroy the Earth. Who am I? Find the answer by yourself.**

**Best wishes,  
Mr. Secret**

“Thank you, Miss Leung.” Colson said sincerely.

“You are welcome.” Miss Leung smiled.

“You are wonderful, Miss Leung. How did you know?” Jonas questioned, puzzled.

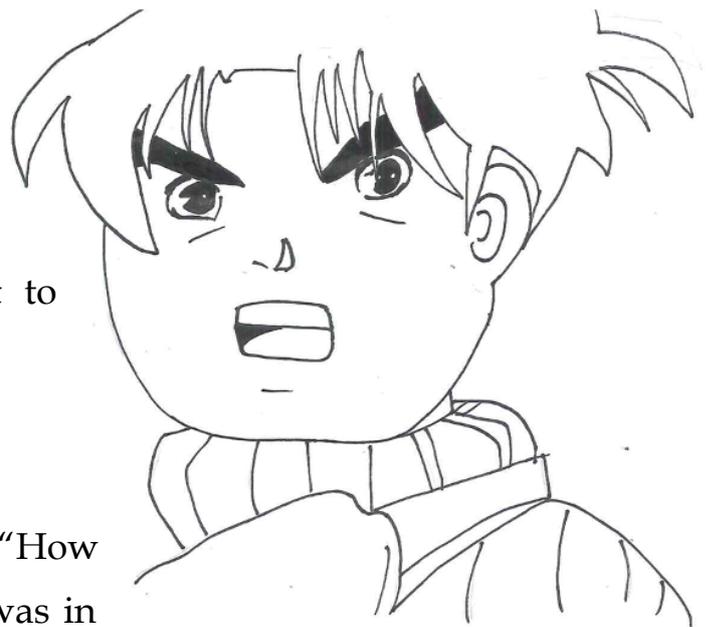
“It’s my secret.” Miss Leung grinned. “Keep on and do your best.”

They said goodbye and went to their secret base – the laboratory on 4th floor.

They read the paper carefully.

“Hey Colson, do you know who Mr. Secret is? Why does he want to destroy the Earth?” Jonas asked.

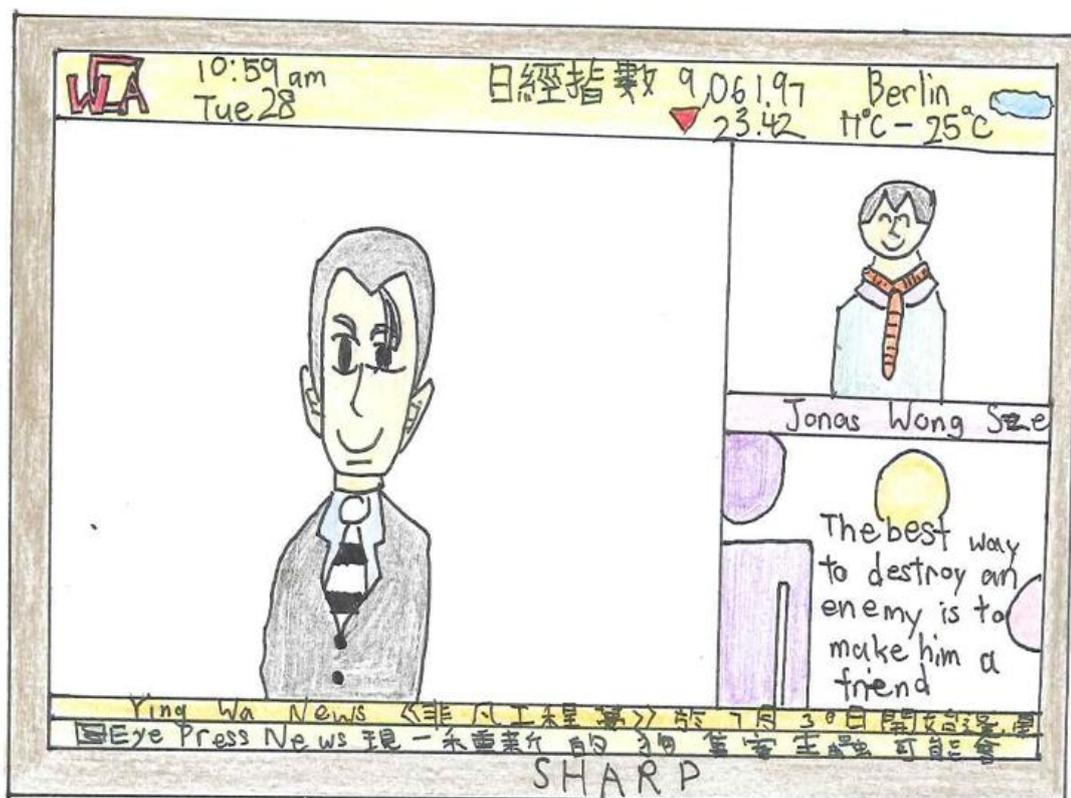
“I think he does not want us to know who he is.” Colson replied. “How did he know ‘The Pearl of Alaska’ was in Ying Wa? Why did he break the Pearl?”



## Chapter 3

The two detectives discussed seriously what they found and explored all possibilities, they concluded that this incident might not be a single case. That put them all in a thoughtful mood.

Since they focused on investigating the incident, they did not notice the television was on.



“This is Wa Square. Here is a special news.” A sweet-sounding voice came from the TV which attracted the two boys. “... A criminal escaped from the jail this morning ...”

“Wha-a-a-t?” shouted Jonas.

“Shhhhhh!” Colson said.

They eyed every second on the television.

“A prisoner, Benson Chan, aged 52, has escaped from Shek Pik Prison yesterday midnight at around 3 a.m. He was arrested and jailed in 1997 because he killed four professionals. A spokesperson for the Hong Kong Correctional Services Department said the case has been reported to the police. Since Shek Pik Prison is a



maximum security institution, they will study how the prisoner could run away from it. The Commissioner of Hong Kong Police Force stressed that Benson Chan is a “Wanted Criminal” now. Our Police Force will prevent and detect any crime. As reported, this criminal took the first ride of MTR to Nam Cheong Station early this morning. All citizens are welcome to provide crime information through our hotlines or go to the nearby police stations. Curtis Leung, reporting for Wa Square.”

## Chapter 4

This unexpected news baffled Jonas and Colson.

“Why these two important incidents happened on the same day? There should be some relationships between them.” Jonas muttered.

“Why?” Colson asked.

“We can think back over the information from Wa Square. The criminal fled at midnight, someone saw him at Nam Cheong Station which is near our school, and the CCTV was broken early around dawn, some footprints were on the floor, the monster came out from the pearl and disappeared this morning. That means the criminal might have gone to Ying Wa to catch the monster for some reasons.” Jonas explained.

“Let’s find the biography of Benson Chan on the Internet.” Colson suggested.

“We need to look for the background information to see why he was in jail.” Jonas responded.

These two boys studied very hard on the information they found.

### **Information on WIKIPEDIA -**

<http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?search=Benson+Chan&title=Special%3ASearch>

#### **Search results**

**Benson Chan** was born in 1960, his father was a scientist, and his mother was a nurse.

He studied biochemistry in Peach University. He endeavored to study the genetic code of dinosaurs, especially, the DNA of dinosaurs.

During his study, he had quarrels when he talked about dinosaurs matters with his lecturers.

**The South China Morning Post on 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 1997 –**

High Court Justice made a judgment about **Benson Chan**, Benson was sentenced to life imprisonment. He killed 4 victims on the same day with an amazing and horrid plan.

The four victims were -

- Pierre Lee was a historian and lecturer of Oak University. He concentrated on Prehistory.
- Eva Cheng was a paleontologist. She studied the dinosaur fossils to determine dinosaurs' evolution and interaction with the environment.
- Ail Wong was an archaeologist, who focused on the prehistoric life in the world.
- Kelvin Hui was a biologist, who specialized in the study of dinosaur evolutionary biology.

They all liked to study dinosaurs.

**The Apple Daily on 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 1997 -**

A press conference had been held in front of the High Court.

“Our police did their best to arrest this terrible criminal - Benson Chan. We would work closely with Hong Kong Correctional Services Department to ensure this man will be locked in jail with the highest security level.” said Mr. Cyrus Cheung, the Chief of Police, Hong Kong Police Force.

“Our Correctional Officers will teach him how to be a good citizen during the rest of his life.” Mr. Alvin Ho, The Commissioner of Hong Kong Correctional Services, presented.

“I suspect this criminal will attempt to make use the monster to destroy the world.” Jonas frowned.

“Why?” Colson questioned.

“How can you explain these two incidents happening on the same day?” Jonas replied.

Jonas marked down the names of the victims on a white board. It seemed he found the hint.

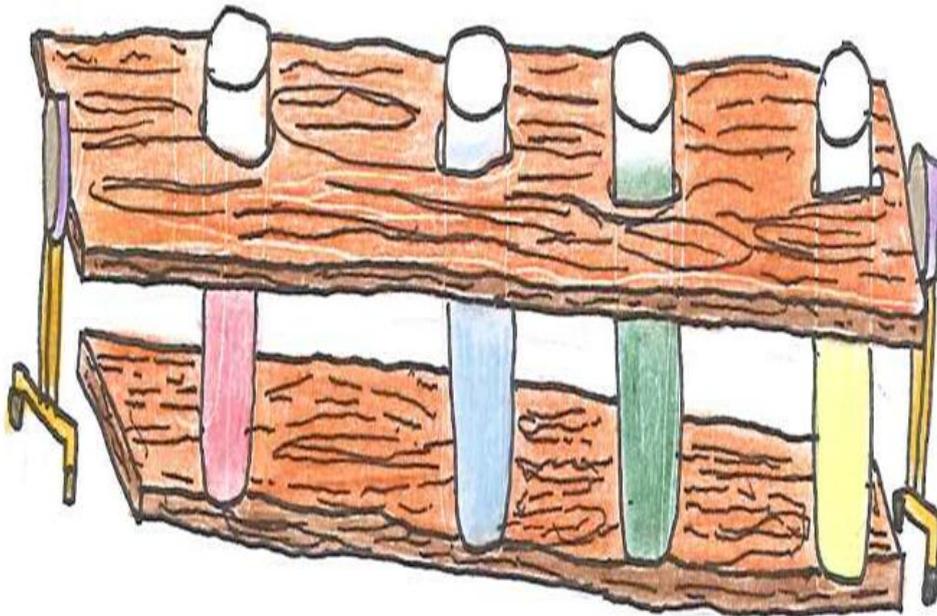


“Colson, I found the hint!” Jonas shouted. “If you mark down the first letter of each name, it consists of the word ‘PEAK’. In Hong Kong, ‘PEAK’ means “The Peak” at Hong Kong Island. I guess the criminal may hide in the Peak now with the monster.”

Colson said “Oh yeah! It’s a mysterious place. It is full of woods and murky enough to hide. The Triceratops can get its food easily. Let’s go to the Peak tomorrow with our detectives tools.”

## Chapter 5

At the Peak, there was a secret cave hidden in the woods. In this soggy cave, Mr. Benson Chan was engrossed in mixing the water in four test tubes with different colors. After some smoke spread in the air, Benson held a bottle of water in orange.



“Ha, ha, ha... I have invented the marvelous medicine.” said Benson with an eerie smile.

He looked at the little monster. "Drink it, little baby, after you drink it, you will become stronger and bigger, just drink it," he said ghostly.

A baby Triceratops was in a small cage. Some green and fresh leaves were placed at the bottom of the cage. It stretched itself with a yawn. This little Triceratops looked very thirsty, hungry and sleepy. It needed water, it needed food, and it needed rest. But if it closed its eyes for a second, it might never open them again.

It drank the mouth-watering medicine slowly. Suddenly, a miracle happened. It became as tall as a giraffe, as big as an elephant... and crashed the cage... then flew up in the air... through the clouds and the sun... at last, bounced back to the ground; it stood in front of Benson straightly.

"Hooray! Hooray! I waited for today for many years, now I succeed." shouted Benson ferociously.

"2012 is the end of the world, I will destroy the earth and new era will come. All the dinosaurs will become alive... Ha, ha, ha..."

The two smart detectives asked Peter Lau and Sky Leung for help. Peter was a robot genius and he was good at designing artificial intelligence robot. Sky Leung was keen on playing basketball; he could play the basketball like Kobe Bryant. These four boys met at the Peak tram and arrived at the entrance of the cave. They hid behind the bushes and looked into the cave.

“This is Benson Chan. He caught our baby Triceratops!” Colson whispered.

“How can we catch him?” asked Jonas.

“Let me try.” A voice came out from the bushes.

It was Peter.

## Chapter 6

“Don’t drink this red medicine, my little baby, which will change you to normal size.” Benson said softly.

“Don’t be happy so early.” Peter chuckled with his brave and wise robot.



Peter sat inside his robot and moved quickly towards Benson. The robot seized the red medicine and grasped it tightly with its purple claw.

“Who are you? Where did you guys come from?” Benson screamed.

“Don’t you know I am a robot genius? Thank you for your medicine.” Peter replied. “Sky, please feed the ‘giant’ baby Triceratops the medicine.”

“Okay!” Sky ran as fast as a horse. After drinking the medicine, the Triceratops became a baby Triceratops in normal size.”

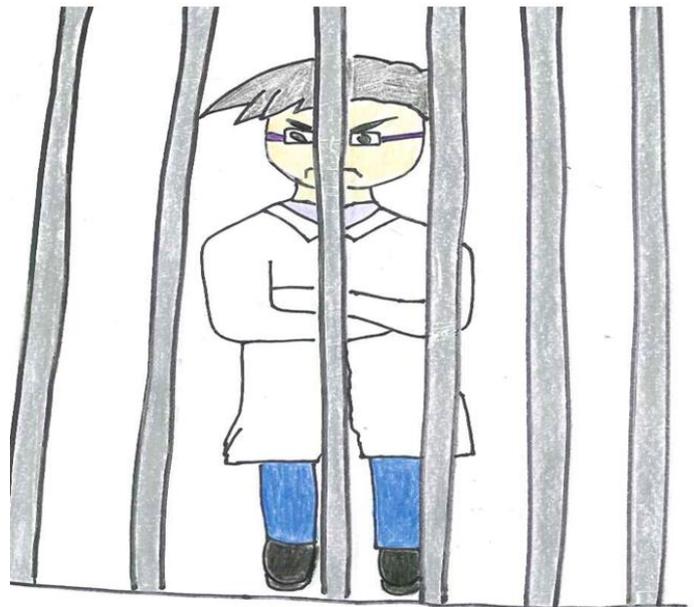
“It’s mine, don’t touch it!” Benson yelled.

“You are totally wrong, it belongs to Ying Wa, it belongs to the world, and it belongs to everyone,” Colson said clearly.

“You want this dinosaur egg, don’t you?” Jonas asked and held a colourful egg.

“You have another one! Only a few of the species born in prehistoric times can survive until now, how can you have another one?” Benson was excited.

“In order to achieve your wishes that you made when you were 36 years old, you planned nearly one year and then killed 4 victims that loved dinosaurs. You are a sinful man that you stole all their precious research papers. Luckily, we found the clue, the first letter of each victim can become the word “PEAK”, the place where you hide these days, am I right? Mr. Benson Chan.” Jonas explained.



“Shut up! Mammals occurred before dinosaurs were extinct. We should return this earth to dinosaurs. When Mrs. Lam took the ‘Pearl of Alaska’ to Ying Wa, I know it’s my turn to change the world. It is my mission to destroy the earth! I would be the master of the dinosaurs...” Benson shouted and attacked Jonas for the monster egg.

Sky threw a big stone powerfully and hit Benson’s head. Just like the last-second three-pointers.

“Leave the cave, friends.” Jonas shouted and tossed the monster egg towards Benson. Immediately, the cave was full of dust and smoke, it was on fire.

“Oh, the dinosaur...” Colson yelled.

“Let me save it.” Jonas ran back quickly.

Jonas hugged the dinosaur carefully. He was coughing seriously because of the smoke.

Peter, with the help of his robot, tied Benson with a thick rope.

“My mission... my dinosaur... my baby...” Benson cried.

Sky called the police. The policemen came in a minute.

Mr. Cyrus Cheung, the Chief of Police, asked Jonas, “What is the dinosaur egg?”

“It is a boom. I colored the surface of the boom in the Art Room.”  
Jonas laughed.

“Thanks for your help, Sky and Peter.” Colson said. “Let’s go back to school. We should report to Mrs. Lam, Miss Leung and all the Ying Wa boys.”

Benson was imprisoned again, Colson and Jonas gave Benson 120 shiny cards, and he could play the cards with other prisoners.



**Advisor**

*Mrs. Maria Woon-sum LAM MH, Headmistress*



*Dr. H. C. LEE,  
English Panel Head*



*Ms. Claire LEUNG,  
English Vice-panel  
Head*



*Mrs. Abanty PAUL,  
English Teacher*

# EDITORIAL BOARD@2014

**Published by:**

Department of English

Ying Wa Primary School

No. 3, Ying Wa Street, Shamshuipo, Kowloon, HONG KONG

Tel: (852) 2728-3320; fax: (852) 2728-6266

Email: [school@yingwa.hk](mailto:school@yingwa.hk)

Webpage: [www.yingwaps.edu.hk](http://www.yingwaps.edu.hk)

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