

中级语法班精读课 1

Ghost Festivals 鬼节

When someone dies, we are very sad. We miss that person and think about him/her. In some countries there are special festivals for all the dead people. Some of these festivals are to remember our ancestors. Our ancestors lived a long time ago and are now dead. Every family has ancestors. For example, your grandfather's grandfather is your ancestor.

A festival for ancestors is a lot of fun. At the festival different people in different countries do different things for their ancestors. Some people give their ancestors food and drink. Some people have parties. What do you do in your country at a festival for ancestors?

Every spring there is an important festival for Chinese people all over the world called Qingming. At Qingming families visit the graves of their ancestors. They sweep the graves and make them look nice. They also leave joss-sticks, candles, flowers, food and Chinese wine for their ancestors.

Most Chinese people like to visit the graves of their ancestors at Qingming. But some people live too far away from their ancestors' graves to visit them. These people often have a special party at home. They cook nice food for their ancestors and later they eat the food themselves.

Many people think you should look after your ancestors. But some ghosts do not have families in our world. There is a special festival in the summer for these ghosts. It is called The Festival of Hungry Ghosts.

People make special food for the 'hungry ghosts'. They put it outside so the 'hungry ghosts' can take it. People think that the 'hungry ghosts' also need money, clothes and houses. People make these things out of paper and then burn them beside roads. Some people drowned in rivers or the sea so their ghosts do not have graves. People float paper presents down rivers or in the sea for them.

The Day of the Dead is a very special festival in Mexico. It is really three days, from 31 October until 2 November. On The Day of the Dead, Mexicans think that the ghosts of dead people come back to the world. There are parties to welcome the ghosts in all the towns and cities of Mexico.

The Day of the Dead is not a sad day. People eat and drink and have fun. They make sugar skulls and chocolate coffins. There are model skeletons everywhere. The model skeletons are often doing something funny. Sometimes they are answering the telephone or playing the guitar.

On the night of 31 October Mexican families get ready for The Day of the Dead. They cook food for the children's ghosts first. This is because many Mexicans think that the

ghosts of children come back before the ghosts of adults. They put many sweet things on the table for the children's ghosts. There are often chocolate and cakes to eat, and things like Coke and orange juice to drink.

Then the family cook food for the adults' ghosts. Each ghost is given his or her favourite food and drink. Sometimes people put special presents on the table for the ghosts to make them happy. Some families also give clothes to the ghosts.

The Cordoso family always remembers their grandfather on The Day of the Dead. Grandfather Cordoso's favourite food was chicken and his favourite drink was beer. They cook a big chicken for Grandfather Cordoso, and they give him a large glass of beer. They do this to tell him how much they love him.

Everybody knows that ghosts cannot eat and drink like us. The food will still be there the day after The Day of the Dead, and the Cordoso family will eat it themselves. But they think that Grandfather Cordoso will eat the food, too.

Hallowe'en is another important festival for ghosts. It is on the night of 31 October. Today people wear special clothes at Hallowe'en. They tell ghost stories and play games. It is a lot of fun.

In the past Hallowe'en was often very frightening. People called it The Night of the Flying Witches. People thought that the witches were women and that they flew on broomsticks on the night of Hallowe'en. People also thought that they could do terrible magic so they lit fires to frighten them. In England there is a very old tower. It is on the top of a hill. Many people call it Witches Hill.

In the past many people thought the tower was a very bad place. They said that all the witches in England went there at Hallowe'en. On the night of 31 October hundreds of people went to Witches Hill. Each person walked around the tower with a lighted candle because they thought that the witches were afraid of the lighted candles.

Later people went to fortune-tellers at Hallowe'en. A fortune-teller tells you things about the future. You can ask a fortune-teller any questions, e.g., Who will I marry? Will I be rich? In the past many women asked, 'Who will I marry?' Then the fortune-tellers gave the women a plant and said, 'Put the leaves of this plant under your pillow at Hallowe'en. That night you will see a man in your dream and you will marry him!'

There was also a special Hallowe'en cake. A silver coin was put inside the cake. When the cake was cut into pieces, someone would find the coin inside one of the pieces. People thought that this person would become rich.

Hallowe'en is still a special time today. In the USA and Canada children play a game

called trick or treat. To play trick or treat children must wear strange clothes to look like ghosts, witches or animals. They also wear strange masks. The children knock on doors. They say trick or treat to the person in the house. The person in the house must then give the children a 'treat'. A treat means something nice like chocolate.

When the person inside does not give the children a 'treat', the children then play tricks on him/her.

Children playing trick or treat often carry jack-o'-lanterns. A jack-o'-lantern is a pumpkin with holes cut in it to look like a face. The middle of the pumpkin is cut out with a knife and a candle is put inside. A handle is then made from a piece of string. Jack-o'-lanterns are easy to make.

中级语法班精读课 2

The Younger Brother

Terry Jackson's father was a doctor and a very good tennis player, too. Terry's mother was very clever. She was a Science 科学 teacher in a big school. Terry's brother, Sid, was four years older than Terry. His sister, Lousia, was two years older than him. Terry was the youngest person in the family! Sid and Lousia went to the same school - Kenton School.

People always said to Terry, 'You're very lucky. Both your father and mother are very clever. Your father's a very good tennis player. You'll be very clever and very good at tennis.' When Terry was twelve years old, he went to Kenton School, too. His class teacher was Mr Walker. Mr Walker was also the school tennis coach. 网球教练

'We all know your brother and sister,' Mr Walker said to Terry on his first day at Kenton School. 'Sid's a very good tennis player and Lousia's very clever. Are you going to be a tennis champion 冠军 like your father?' Terry was worried. 'I don't know, Mr Walker. I'm not a good tennis player,' he said.

Mr Walker laughed. 'The Jacksons are all good tennis players,' he said. 'I want you to play for the school tennis team. You will have your first tennis lesson tomorrow.'

Soon Terry had to play tennis for Kenton School. Mr Walker said, 'You're going to play **against** Ron Skipper. He's the best player at Belton School.'

Terry was very small. Ron Skipper was tall. Ron served very well. The ball hit the ground on Terry's side. Then it hit the wall behind Terry. Terry missed the ball! Mr Walker was very surprised 惊讶. 'Come on, Terry,' he shouted. 'You're a good tennis player. You're going to win!'

Ron served again. Terry missed the ball again. Soon Ron won the game.

Now Terry served. He served very badly and the ball hit the net.

Ron Skipper won the match in thirty minutes!

Terry was **sad and angry**. After the match, he ran away. He did not shake hands with Ron Skipper.

'Come back, Terry,' shouted Mr Walker. 'I want to talk to you.'

But Terry did not come back. He ran home. His mother was waiting for him. She did not ask Terry about the match. She said, 'Terry, you must do your homework now. You must work harder at school this year. You must work as hard as your sister!' Lousia was very clever. She wanted to be a vet.

Terry locked himself in his bedroom. He tried to do his homework but it was too difficult. He said to himself, 'I'm not like Lousia. I'm not clever!'

When Sid came home, he said to Terry, 'Why did you run away? Mr Walker was very cross. **生气的** He wants to see you tomorrow.'

The next day Terry went to see Mr Walker. He was very afraid.

'I talked to your father yesterday, Terry,' said Mr Walker.

'Your father and I want you to practise tennis more. You must have a tennis lesson with me every day after school.'

'But when will I do my homework, Mr Walker?' asked Terry.

'All the Jacksons are clever. You can do it after the tennis lesson,' said Mr Walker.

So Terry practised tennis every day after school. And he played with his father and Sid every weekend.

Now Terry was very busy. He had to practise tennis every day after school and do his homework in the evening. He did not have time to play!

'You must do your homework,' his mother told him.

'You must practise tennis more if you want to be a good tennis player like me,' said his father.

Terry began to hate tennis. He did not want to play tennis any more. **再也不想**

One afternoon Terry ran away before his tennis lesson. Sid ran after him. 'Come back! You must come to your tennis lesson,' shouted Sid. But Terry did not want to go to his lesson. He ran home.

Terry's mother was at home when Terry came home. 'You're early today,' she said. 'That's good! Now you can do lots of homework.' Mrs Jackson gave Terry some extra **额外的** homework. It was very difficult. About an hour later Mrs Jackson came into Terry's bedroom. She asked, 'Have you finished all the homework yet?'

'I can't do it,' said Terry.

'You can't do it?' said Mrs Jackson. 'Why not?'

'Because it's too difficult and I'm not like you and Lousia.'

'I'm not clever,' said Terry. 'And ... I'm not good at tennis like Sid and Dad. I'm not good at anything!'

Terry did not want to talk to anybody and everyone was angry with him.

One afternoon after school Terry was running home. He looked behind him and saw Mr Walker. Mr Walker was running after Terry. Terry was very angry. 'I don't want to play tennis,' he told himself. 'I don't want to do my homework. I would rather run!' Terry ran faster and faster. Then he looked behind him. Mr Walker was not there.

That night Terry ran again. When he was running, he was happy. But when he went home, he felt afraid. 'Perhaps Mr Walker will make me play tennis again!' he thought.

The next day Mr Walker saw Terry in the school playground. Terry felt very afraid and wanted to run away. But Mr Walker smiled at him and said, 'I tried to catch up with you last night.' 'I'm sorry, Mr Walker, but said Terry. 'I'm a good runner, but you were too fast!' said Mr Walker. 'I couldn't catch up with you. You're a very good runner. Do you like running more than tennis, Terry?' Terry thought about this. When he played tennis, he was not happy. When he did his homework, he was not happy. But when he ran, he was happy.

'Yes, Mr Walker,' said Terry. 'I would rather 宁愿 run.'

Terry saw Mr Walker again at lunch-time. Mr Walker said, 'I've talked to your father. I'm going to be your coach.'

'My tennis coach, Mr Walker?' asked Terry.

'No,' said Mr Walker, 'your running coach. There'll be a race 比赛 next month against Belton School. I want you to run for our school.' Mr Walker ran with Terry every day. Terry learned to start a race quickly. Mr Walker timed Terry with his stop-watch 秒表. Terry was very fast!

It was the day of the race. Terry felt very afraid. Belton School had the best runners. Ron Skipper was their fastest runner. He laughed when he saw Terry.

'What are you doing here?' Ron Skipper asked. 'I won our tennis match. And I'm going to win this race!'

The runners waited for the race to start. Terry looked around. All his family were watching him. Mr Walker was watching, too. He felt very afraid. The race started. Ron Skipper ran very fast, but Terry ran faster. Terry won the race! Everyone cheered.

Now Terry was very happy. He began to like his lessons. His mother and father were happy. Mr Walker was also happy. 'You have won all your races, Terry,' he said. 'I want to run with the fastest runners in the world,' said Terry. 'Where can I do that?'

Mr Walker smiled. 'At the Olympic Games 奥运会, Terry,' he said, 'but you'll have to work very hard to run there. Only the best athletes go to the Olympic Games.'

'I will work hard, Mr Walker,' said Terry. 'And I will work hard at school, too. One day I want to be the best runner in the world.'

The Olympic Games 奥运会

The Olympic Games happen every four years. Each time they are in a different city. The first Olympic Games were more than two thousand years ago in a place called Olympia in Greece. There were races and lots of different sports. People from all over Greece came to the Olympic Games.

The Olympic Games stopped for a very long time. Then a man called Baron Pierre de Coubertin started them again in Athens in 1896. Athletes from all over the world came to the new Olympics.

Today more than 15,000 athletes from 160 countries go to the Olympics each time. Before the Olympic Games start, there is an opening ceremony 开幕式 with music, dancing and fireworks. 烟花 All the athletes march 走 into the Stadium. 大型运动场 Each team carries the flag of its country. Some small countries have very small teams. Big countries like China and the USA have hundreds of athletes.

Then a runner runs into the stadium with the Olympic torch. 奥运火炬 The torch is always lit. The runner lights the Olympic fire in the stadium. Then the Olympic Games start.

The best athletes from each country go to the Olympic Games. There are three medals for each game. The gold medal 金牌 is for the champion. If you win the gold medal, you are the best athlete in the world at your sport. The silver medal is for the first runner-up. The bronze medal is for the second runner-up. If you win a medal, everyone sees your country's flag and hears your country's song.

There are lots of running races at the Olympics. The shortest race is 100 metres. Today runners can finish the race in about ten seconds. There are races of 5,000 metres and 10,000 metres. The longest race is the marathon. 马拉松 The marathon is 42,195 metres long. In the marathon the athletes run in the streets. Then the race ends in the stadium. Today marathon runners are very fast. In 1988 Belayneh Dinsamo from Ethiopia finished the marathon in 2 hours.

There are lots of different sports at the Olympics. Some are throwing games. To win a throwing game, the athletes must throw something very far. In the hammer, each athlete throws a very heavy ball with a long wire. The athlete holds the wire in his hands, spins it and himself, then releases it. In the discus, each athlete holds a very heavy discus in one hand. The athlete spins himself/ herself and then throws the discus. In the shot-put, each athlete holds a very heavy ball close to the neck. Then he/she pushes it away very fast. In the javelin, each athlete throws a javelin to make it

strike the round.

There are different jumping games, too. There is the long jump, the triple jump, the high jump and the pole vault. In the long jump, the jumpers run, step and jump onto a sandpit. In the triple jump, the jumpers run and then hop, step and jump onto a sandpit. In the high jump, the jumpers jump over a high bar. In the pole vault, the jumpers jump with the help of a long vaulting pole.

There are also some team games at the Olympics, for example, basketball and football. You can also watch boat races and bicycle races.

Most of the athletes at the Olympics are very good at one sport, but the athletes in the decathlon must be good at running, jumping and throwing. The decathlon takes two days. There are four different races, the long jump, the high jump, the pole vault, the shot-put, the discus and the javelin. The athletes get points for each sport. Then the points for all ten games are added up. The winner is the person with the most points.

Young sports Stars 年轻的体育明星

Some very young people become sports stars when they go to the Olympics. The youngest Olympic champion was Joy Foster from Jamaica. She became a table tennis champion in 1958 when she was only eight years old! A boy from France won a boat race at the Olympics in 1900. He was not more than ten years old.

Barbara Pearl Jones from the United States was a runner. She won a gold medal at the 1952 Olympics. She was fifteen years old.

Many people all over the world like playing football. The most important football match is the World Cup. It happens every four years. Norman Whiteside was the youngest football player to play in the World Cup. He played in the 1982 World Cup. He was only seventeen!

Pele was the best football player in the world. He started to play for Brazil when he was seventeen. Brazil won the World Cup three times in 1958, 1962 and 1970 when Pele was a player.

Today tennis is one of the most popular sports. In women's tennis some of the stars are fourteen or fifteen years old. In men's tennis the stars are usually older. Jennifer Capriati from the United States was fourteen in 1990 when she became a tennis star. Michael Chang is also from the United States. He became a tennis champion and a tennis star in 1989 when he was only seventeen years old.

Many young people want to be sports stars. Some want to play football in the World Cup. Some want to win a gold medal at the Olympic Games. It is not easy to be a young sports star. Young sports stars must work very hard. They must practise for many hours a day. Sometimes they do not have time to do their homework so they have to study at weekends. Sometimes they do not have time to play and to meet other

children. Some young sports stars are very lonely.

Which sport do you like? Do you want to be a sports star?

中级语法班精读课 3

The Fishing Hook 钓鱼钩

Two brothers, Hoki and Hono, lived in old Japan. Hoki was a good man, but Hono was not a nice man. 'I'm older than you,' Hono said to Hoki. 'And you must always listen to me.'

Hoki and Hono had a small house near the sea. Every day Hono went fishing. 'I don't want you to fish with me, Hoki,' said Hono. 'Your ugly face will frighten the fish!'

It was winter, and there was snow on the mountains and in the forest. But every day Hoki went to the forest to get wood. He cleaned the house. Then he made the fire and cooked the fish. Hoki worked very hard.

One night Hoki said, 'Brother, can I go fishing tomorrow? Can I use your fishing hook?' Hono thought, then he said, 'You must give me ten gold coins!' 'Hono, I only have ten gold coins!' said Hoki. 'But I will give them to you.'

The next day Hoki went to the sea-shore with the fishing hook. He fished for many hours, but he did not catch any fish. Then Hoki saw an enormous fish. The fish bit the fishing hook. Hoki pulled the fishing line, but the line broke and the fish swam away. 'Come back!' shouted Hoki to the fish. 'You've got Hono's fishing hook in your mouth.' But the fish did not come back.

Hoki was upset. He went home without the fishing hook. Hono was very angry. 'Where's my hook?' shouted Hono. 'Leave our home now! You must not come back without the fishing hook!'

Hoki walked away from the house. Hono started to laugh. 'I have many fishing hooks,' Hono thought to himself. 'But I wanted Hoki to go away, and now he will never come back.'

Hoki went back to the sea-shore. He sat on a rock above the water. He was very sad. How could he find the fishing hook now? Hoki stood up and closed his eyes. Then he jumped into the sea.

Hoki sank deeper and deeper into the sea. Then he came to the bottom. Hoki opened his eyes and saw a garden with flowers, trees, rocks and coral. There was a beautiful palace inside the garden. It was made of pink shells. There was a beautiful girl in the middle of the garden. She was sitting on a rock. The girl ran into the palace and spoke to the King of the Sea. 'Father, a man is here,' she said. 'He's very handsome!' Then the girl came back to the garden with her father. 'Welcome, young man,' said the King of the Sea. 'Come into our palace.'

Hoki was very happy to live under the sea. Every day he walked in the palace garden with the King's daughter, Princess Jade. Hoki fell in love with Princess Jade. Soon they were married.

All the fish in the sea came to their wedding. Hoki and Princess Jade were very happy. But one day Hoki remembered the fishing hook. He became very sad. 'Poor Hono needs his hook,' he thought to himself. 'He can't go fishing without it.'

Hoki went to see the King of the Sea. He told the King about the fishing hook. 'I'll tell all the fish to come to the palace,' said the King. 'We'll find your fishing hook. 'Hoki has lost a fishing hook,' the King told the fish. 'Have any of you eaten it? We want to give it back to Hoki's brother.'

The fish looked at each other. 'I haven't eaten a fishing hook,' they said. But then an old shark spoke. He looked very sick. 'I ate the fishing hook,' said the shark. 'It's here in my mouth. It hurts me very much. Please take it out. ' Hoki put his hand into the old shark's mouth. He found the hook and pulled it out. The shark thanked Hoki.

Then Hoki said to Princess Jade, 'I must take this hook back to Japan. Then I'll build a palace for you on the land. '

'I will come to your palace in one year,' said Princess Jade. 'You must build the best palace in the world for my daughter,' said the King.

'You must make the walls with rocks, and the doors with wood. You must make the roof with the feathers of sea birds. And you have to finish the palace in one year. '

The King gave Hoki a magic shell. 'One day this shell could help you,' he said. 'It can lift up the sea. You can also use it to talk to sea birds. ' Then the King told a crocodile to take Hoki to Japan. Hoki rode out of the palace on the crocodile's back. Hoki rode the crocodile out of the water to the sea-shore. Hono was making fishing nets at the edge of the water. He was very surprised and angry to see Hoki!

'Hono, it's me!' Hoki shouted. 'I've found your fishing hook!' But Hono threw a big stone at Hoki. 'Brother, what are you doing? '

'I've come back to give you your fishing hook. ' said Hoki.

'You've come back to steal my house and my gold!' shouted Hono.

Hono took a dagger out of his pocket and ran towards Hoki. 'I'm going to kill you,' he shouted.

Hoki was very frightened. Then he remembered the magic shell. He took it out of his pocket. 'Magic shell, please lift up the sea,' he said.

'Goodbye, my ugly brother!' Hono shouted, and he pushed the dagger towards Hoki's

heart. But an enormous wave came out of the sea, and Hono disappeared under the water.

The wave knocked Hoki over. When Hoki stood up, the sea was quiet, and Hono was not there. Hoki threw the fishing hook into the sea. He never saw Hono again.

Now Hoki had to build a palace for Princess Jade in one year. 'It must be the best palace in the world,' he thought. -But what colour shall I paint it? Shall I have blue walls? Or would Princess Jade rather have a pink palace? ' Hoki thought, then he started to build a blue palace. He took rocks from the sea-shore. He got wood from the forest. He built the walls from the rocks. He made the doors from wood. He painted the walls blue. But Hoki worried about the roof. 'Where am I going to find so many feathers? ' he asked himself.

Hoki used the magic shell to tell a sea bird his story, and about the feathers. 'We need our feathers to keep warm,' said the bird, 'but we can give you one feather every day. '

Hoki worked every day and every night building the palace. Every morning the sea bird gave him more feathers. 'I need three more feathers for the roof,' said Hoki, 'but Princess Jade will be here the day after tomorrow. ' 'Don't worry,' said the sea bird. 'I'll put three feathers next to the door of the palace tomorrow. ' It was a hot afternoon and Hoki was very tired. 'I'm going to sleep here on the beach,' he told the sea bird.

Hoki was very, very tired. He slept for two days. When Hoki woke up, he saw Princess Jade. She was coming out of the sea on a crocodile's back. When Princess Jade saw the roof, she said, 'My palace is not finished! I can't live here forever, but I'll stay until we have a child. Then I must leave you and never come back.'

Princess Jade had a baby son. Then she went back to her father's palace under the sea. Hoki and his son lived on the land in Japan. The boy became a very good fisherman. Every evening Hoki went to the beach. He stood next to the sea and called to his wife. Princess Jade did not answer, but Hoki always remembered her!

Fishing

People go fishing to get food, or because they like it. In Japan about 20 million people like fishing! People fish in rivers, ponds, lakes and in the sea. Some people catch fish in fishing nets on a boat. There are different kinds of nets, and the boats are different sizes, too. Small boats go nearer the shore. They leave in the morning and come back at night.

Big ships go to the deep sea and sometimes they do not come back for months. In 1986 some fishermen in a boat from Norway caught more than 120 million fish at the same time in one net! China and Japan catch enormous numbers 大量 of fish each year. In 1991 China caught 13. 3 million tonnes of fish. A tonne is 1,000 kilograms.

Some people catch fish with a fishing rod. A fishing rod has a line and a hook on the end. Some people put bread or worms on the hook, but some people put a fly on the hook. The fly is made of feathers

In 1959 a fisherman from Australia caught a great white shark with a fishing rod. The shark weighed 1,208 kilograms and was 5. 13 metres 米 long.

Sharks 鲨鱼

There are more than 300 different kinds of sharks. They live in the sea all round the world, but most sharks live in warm water, like the sea round China.

Sharks often swim near the surface of the water. You can see their back fin 鱼翅 above the water. It looks like a grey triangle. Some sharks eat shellfish. Other sharks eat plankton 浮游生物. Plankton is tiny plants and animals floating in the water. The whale shark eats plankton and it is the largest fish in the world! Some sharks eat fish, and the great white shark eats dolphins and seals, too.

A shark can have 3 000 teeth in its mouth! Some sharks are over 12 metres long, and some are less than a metre long. They are not all dangerous 危险. There are less than 100 shark attacks on people each year. Thousands of sharks are killed for food. People eat shark meat only in a few countries, like Japan. A lot of people like to eat sharks' fin soup. Some fishermen cut off the shark's fins, throw the shark back in the water, and let the shark die slowly.

Crocodiles 鳄鱼

Crocodiles live in hot and wet places. You can find them in Africa, Australia and the United States. Most crocodiles are about one metre long, but some are more than six metres long.

Crocodiles lie in the sun for most of the day. At night they would rather be under the water. When crocodiles are in the water, they often float, with only their nostrils and eyes above the surface. Crocodiles have strong tails and they use their tails to move in the water.

Young crocodiles eat insects 昆虫. Adult crocodiles eat fish. They have lots of sharp teeth. Big, old crocodiles can eat larger animals, and some can eat people, too.

There were crocodiles millions of years ago when dinosaurs were living. Now there are fewer crocodiles because hunters kill millions of young crocodiles and sell their skins. Then people make shoes, belts and bags from their skins and sell them to customers for a lot of money. Too many crocodiles are killed. In the future there will be fewer and fewer crocodiles.

Shells 贝壳

Shells are the homes of small animals called molluscs. The word 'mollusc' means soft, and all molluscs have soft bodies. Molluscs do not have bones. When the mollusc

grows, the shell grows, too. Some shells have two parts, and the mollusc can open and close the shell to catch food from the water. A clam 蛤 has a shell like this. Someone found the largest clam in the world in Japan in 1956. It was 115 centimetres long and weighed 333 kilograms! There are many different kinds of shells. Some shells are very beautiful. Some are one colour; some have lines or spots on them. You can find shells in ponds and on the sea-shore all round the world.

Waves 波浪

The water in the sea is moving all the time, but sometimes we do not see the waves. Sometimes they are under the water. A storm with a strong wind can make enormous waves. One wave in the Pacific Ocean was 34 metres high. But the most dangerous waves are called tsunamis 海啸. A tsunami can come when there is an earthquake under the sea. The highest tsunamis have been more than 70 metres high. They can cover houses and kill people near the shore.

Surfing 冲浪

People have surfed for hundreds of years. Surfing started in some islands in the Pacific Ocean. The waves in these islands were very high. First people lay on top of the waves. Then they made surfboards from wood, and stood on them. The first surfboards were very big. Now surfboards are short and light. They are about two metres long.

The most famous surfer was from Hawaii. He was called Duke Kahanamoku. In 1915 he surfed in Australia. Then other people started surfing in HAWAII Australia, too. Today people surf in many different countries.

Surfers need lots of high waves. Most surfers would rather surf in sunny weather than in cold, rainy weather. Most surfers like to surf in Hawaii, but people surf in cold countries, too. In England it is often cold and wet in the winter, but you can see people surfing on some beaches in December and January. Surfers need wet suits in cold weather. These wet suits are rubber, and they keep you warm and dry under the water.

中级语法班精读课 4

How Sam Grew

Sam Jordan liked basketball. Every afternoon he went to the basketball court 篮球场. Sometimes Sam played with his friend, Janet. Sometimes he played alone.

Sam wanted to play for the school basketball team but the basketball coach said, 'You should not play basketball. You're too small. Basketball players must be tall.' Sam was very sad.

'I want to be the best basketball player in the world,' he told Janet. 'But basketball players must be tall. I'm too short.'

'Don't worry, you'll grow!' said Janet.

'But I want to be tall now,' said Sam.

The next afternoon a teacher came to the basketball court when Sam and Janet were playing basketball.

'Good afternoon, Mr Becker,' said Sam and Janet.

'Good afternoon. Do you want some basketball magazines?' asked Mr Becker.

'Yes, but whose magazines are they?' asked Sam.

'They were Mr Smile's magazines,' said Mr Becker.

'Mr Smile was a science teacher at this school but he died ten years ago.'

Mr Becker took Sam and Janet to a room. It was full of dust. He showed Sam and Janet Mr Smile's cupboard. There were some old boxes inside. There were science books and magazines in one of the boxes. 'You can have everything. Nobody wants them,' said Mr Becker.

Sam and Janet looked at the basketball magazines and the science books. They were very old.

Sam saw some bottles under the magazines and books. He looked at one of the bottles. The label said: GROWING MEDICINE 生长药- DO NOT DRINK.

'I want to grow tall. I'll drink this medicine!' thought Sam.

He picked up the bottle and said, 'I'm going to drink this medicine.' Janet pointed to the label and said, 'You mustn't drink it, Sam.'

But Sam did not listen to Janet. He put the bottle back into the box and took the box home. That night Sam drank some of the growing medicine. The next morning he was taller! 'Good morning, Mum,' said Sam. Mrs Jordan dropped her cup. 'Sam, what has happened?' she asked. Sam smiled and said, 'Nothing.' 'You've grown. Now you're as tall as me,' said Mrs Jordan.

Sam went to school. The other children were very surprised. They said, 'Yesterday Sam was small. Today he's the tallest boy in his class.'

After school Sam went to play basketball. Janet came to the basketball court.

'Did you drink the medicine?' Janet asked.

'Yes, I did,' said Sam. 'Look, I've grown! And now I'm going to be a basketball star!'

That night Sam drank some more of the growing medicine. The next morning he could not move his legs. He called his mother. Mrs Jordan came into Sam's bedroom. She looked at Sam and screamed. 'Sam, what has happened? Why are you so tall? You're longer than your bed!'

Now Sam was taller than his mother. He was as tall as his father! That afternoon the basketball coach said to Sam, 'Today we're going to play against Sunshine Primary

School. We need a tall player. Now you're the tallest boy in the school. You can play for the school team. ' 'Hooray! 万岁' said Sam.

So Sam played basketball with the other players in the team after school. Soon it was the basketball match. The two teams were on the basketball court. Sam was the tallest player! Sam played very well. He scored many points. His team won the match and everybody cheered!

After the match Sam said to Janet, 'Now I'm the tallest boy in the school and I'm the best basketball player. ' That evening Sam threw the bottle of growing medicine away 'I don't need it any more,' he thought.

The next morning Sam saw himself in the mirror. 'Oh, no!' he screamed. 'I didn't drink the medicine last night, but this morning I'm taller! I don't want to grow any more.

Sam went to school. Now Sam was taller than all the teachers. That afternoon there was another basketball match. Sam went to the basketball court. But the coach said, 'You can't play for the school team, Sam. You're too tall. ' Sam sat down. He looked around. All the boys and girls were laughing at him. Sam wanted to cry. Janet came and sat beside Sam. 'Don't be sad,' she said.

'I can't play basketball,' said Sam. 'I'm too tall. Everyone is laughing at me!'

'Did you drink the growing medicine yesterday? ' asked Janet.

'No, I didn't. I threw it away,' said Sam. 'What can I do ?I want to stop growing. '

Sam grew taller every day. He could not go to school. One day a doctor came to see him but the doctor said to Mrs Jordan, 'I'm sorry! I can't help him. ' Sam's flat was on the third floor of a tall building. A few days later Sam was too tall to go through the door of the building. He had to stand outside the building. His mother handed him his food out of the kitchen window. At night Sam slept in the garden.

Many people came to see Sam. Newspaper reporters, radio reporters and television reporters all came. They pointed microphones and cameras at Sam. 'What is it like up there, Sam? ' they asked.

One day Janet came to see Sam's mother. Mrs Jordan was very worried. 'Janet, why is Sam growing so fast? ' she asked. Janet told Mrs Jordan about Mr Smile, the box and the growing medicine. 'Sam wanted to be tall,' said Janet. 'He wanted to be a basketball star so he drank some of the growing medicine. ' 'We must help him. Let's find Mr Smile's box,' said Mrs Jordan.

They went to Sam's bedroom and found the box under Sam's bed. There were some magazines inside the box. Mrs Jordan found some bottles under the magazines. The

label on one of the bottles said:DRINK THIS MEDICINE TO GET SMALLER.

Mrs Jordan picked up the bottle and said, 'Sam must drink this medicine. ' 'But how can we give it to him? 'Janet asked. 'He is now taller than the building. ' Outside the building there were fire-engines, firemen and firewomen. Janet and Mrs Jordan went outside to talk to one of the firemen. Mrs Jordan asked him, 'Can I please borrow your megaphone?喇叭' The fireman gave her the megaphone. Mrs Jordan and Janet ran upstairs to the roof of the building. The fireman followed them. Mrs Jordan used the megaphone to talk to Sam. 'Can you put your hand down, Sam? ' asked Mrs Jordan. 'We want to give you this bottle of medicine. ' Sam put his hand down but he could not reach the bottle of medicine. He was too tall!

'I'll throw this bottle of medicine up to you, but you must catch it. We have only one bottle,' said the fireman. 'Drink the medicine and you'll become smaller,' said Janet. The fireman threw the bottle of medicine into the air. Sam caught it in his right hand. Mrs Jordan, Janet, the fireman and all the people in the street cheered.欢呼

Quickly, Sam opened the bottle and drank the medicine. Two minutes later, Sam began to get smaller. Soon his head was below the roof of the building. After two hours, he was small again. 'Why did you drink the growing medicine, Sam? ' Mrs Jordan asked. 'I wanted to be a basketball star,' said Sam. 'Basketball stars must be tall. ' 'Perhaps you should play football! ' said Janet. 'You can be a goalkeeper. ' 'A goalkeeper? ' said Sam. 'Yes,' said Janet. 'You caught the bottle of medicine. You're very good at catching things. You can catch footballs, too. ' So Sam became the goalkeeper of the school football team. And he never wanted to be tall again.

Basketball 篮球

James Naismith was from Canada. He was a teacher in the United States. In 1891 he thought of a new game so his students could play a game in the winter when the ground was frozen.

In Dr Naismith's game there were two teams of five players. They played with a ball and two baskets. It became popular very quickly. Now we call this game basketball. Today people play basketball in many different countries.

Basketball players can throw and bounce the ball. They can also jump with the ball but they must not run with it. Players throw the ball into the other team's basket to score points. Each game is divided into two parts of twenty minutes.

The best basketball players in the world are tall. They need to be tall to throw the ball over other players. Some of them are over two metres tall. The tallest basketball player in the world was Suleiman Ali Nashnush from Libya in Africa. He was 2. 45 metres

tall. Good basketball players must be fast. They must also have good balance. Someone with good balance does not fall over often. Michael Jordan is one of the most famous basketball players in the world. He plays for a team called the Chicago Bulls in the United States.

People call him 'Air' Jordan. This is because he jumps so high in the air. People say, 'Michael Jordan can fly!'

Tall or Short?

Basketball stars are usually tall. The stars of other sports are sometimes short. Some of the best football players are not very tall. Short people often have better balance than tall people, so they do not fall over very often. In some sports the players must have good balance, for example, table tennis and running. You do not need long legs to run fast! Some of the fastest runners in the world are not very tall. Some people are tall and some people are short. There is no medicine to make people grow or to make people smaller.

The tallest woman in the world is Sandy Allen. She is 2.31 metres tall and lives in the United States. The shortest person in the world is Gul Mohammed from India. He is only 57 centimetres tall. Today young people in many countries grow taller than their parents. This is because they eat better food today. Good food can help children grow.

Medicines 药物

Medicines cannot help us grow taller. They cannot always help us when we are sick, but everyone needs medicines sometimes. A long time ago people did not have good medicines. Many people died when they were young. Today medicines are very good. They can help people to live longer.

In 1928 Alexander Fleming made a medicine called penicillin. 青霉素 Penicillin has saved many people. Today medicines are good but they are expensive. Poor countries, like some countries in Africa, do not have enough of them, so many sick people die.

Nobody wants to be sick and to need medicines. There are some things we should do or should not do if we want good health. To have better health, we should eat lots of vegetables and fruit. We should not eat too much food. Also we should not eat food with too much sugar because sugar rots our teeth. We should also exercise regularly and go to bed early

Fire-fighters

Firemen and firewomen are also called fire-fighters. They work in teams. One fire-fighter drives the fire-engine. The other fire-fighters use the hoses 软水管 and ladders 梯子. When there is a fire in a tall building, fire-fighters use long ladders. The longest ladders are 50 metres high. Sometimes there is a cage at the top of a long ladder. Fire-fighters stand in the cage to rescue people. Fire-fighters are strong and very brave. They go into burning buildings to rescue people.

Sometimes a fire-fighter is hurt or killed. Sometimes there are fires in forests when the weather is dry. When there is a forest fire, many trees are burned. If the fire is big, a lot of fire-fighters are needed to put it out. Sometimes fire-fighters use aeroplanes or helicopters to drop water from above to put out forest fires.

What should you do when there is a fire in your home? You should tell your parents or an adult immediately. Get everyone out of the flat, house or building. Close the door. Never go back into the fire. Call for a fire-engine. If you cannot get out, you should close the door and cover up all the cracks so smoke cannot come in. Open all the windows in the room and shout so people can hear you. If you cannot open the windows, smash them with a chair!

中级语法班精读课 5

The Snow Queen 白雪皇后

A long, long time ago, there was a magic mirror 魔镜. It made beautiful, good things look ugly and bad. One day, the magic mirror broke into many, many small, sharp pieces and the wind blew the pieces all over the world.

If a piece touched 触摸 someone's eye, the person forgot the pain and the person could never be happy again. If a piece of the magic mirror touched a person's heart, the heart became cold and the person could not love anyone.

Kay and his friend, Gerda, lived in two old houses in Sweden 瑞典. In the summer, they grew roses in their window boxes 窗槛花箱. In the cold winter, deep snow covered the window boxes.

One day in the winter, Kay and Gerda were looking through a window. The snow was falling. The snowflakes 雪花 were beautiful.

'The snowflakes are soldiers,' said Gerda's grandmother.

'Do they have a queen?' asked Kay.

'Yes,' said the old woman. 'She's called the Snow Queen. The snowflakes are her soldiers.'

'I'd like to see the Snow Queen,' said Kay quietly.

That night, Kay looked out of the window. He saw a tall, white, beautiful woman! Her eyes were like two cold stars. Kay closed the curtains quickly but he never forgot the beautiful woman.

Soon spring came and the roses grew again. One day, when Kay and Gerda were looking at the roses, Kay suddenly shouted. One piece of the magic mirror was in Kay's eye, and another one was in his heart.

'What's the matter?' asked Gerda. Kay did not answer. He pushed Gerda away angrily. 'Don't touch me!' Kay shouted. 'Your hands are dirty!'

Then he looked at the beautiful roses. They looked ugly. He said, 'They're ugly. I don't

like them!" Gerda started to cry. 'Don't cry! You look ugly when you cry!' shouted Kay. 'Go away!' Gerda was very sad. Kay was very unhappy. He did not love Gerda now. His heart was as cold as ice.

Autumn came, then winter, and the children played with their Sledges. 雪橇 One snowy day, Kay saw a big sledge with two beautiful Reindeer 驯鹿 near his house. Kay tied his small sledge to the big one, and waited. The sledge started to move. It moved very quickly on the snow. The reindeer ran like the wind. Soon Kay could not see his house behind him. He was afraid!

At last the big sledge stopped and the driver got out. It was the Snow Queen! She put her long white coat round Kay, and kissed him. Her lips were as cold as ice. She threw Kay's little sledge onto a pile of snow. 'Now fly away with me,' she said.

The next day Kay's family found his sledge but they did not find Kay 'The wolves have eaten him!' they said. 'They're always hungry in the winter.' 'It isn't true,' thought Gerda. 'I will go and look for Kay in the spring.'

One day in early spring, Gerda went down to the river. 'River,' she said, 'have you seen my friend Kay?'

'No,' said the river. Then Gerda saw a little boat. She climbed into it, and the boat started to move slowly down the river.

The boat stopped beside a beautiful garden. An old woman helped Gerda to get out of the boat. 'Who are you, child?' asked the old woman kindly.

'I'm Gerda, and I'm looking for my friend. He's lost.' Gerda told the old woman about Kay and the roses. The old woman had no children and she wanted Gerda to live with her. She wanted her to forget Kay. So she said some magic words and they made Gerda forget Kay. 'Kay likes roses. If Gerda sees my roses, she will remember him,' thought the old woman. So she said another magic word to hide all her roses under the ground.

Gerda lived happily with the kind old woman. Then, one cold day in the autumn, Gerda saw a picture of a rose. The picture made Gerda think of Kay's roses in the window boxes in his house. And then she remembered Kay. She started to cry. Her tears fell onto the leaves on the ground. Suddenly Gerda saw a red rose growing. It nodded its beautiful head.

'Rose,' said Gerda, 'have you seen Kay?' The rose shook its head. Gerda ran to the other flowers in the garden. 'Have you seen Kay?' she asked, but all the flowers shook their heads.

'I must go and look for Kay at once!' Gerda said to herself.

'Wait!' shouted the old woman, but Gerda ran out of the beautiful garden. Gerda ran and ran. Soon it was dark and the trees looked like ugly old men with long, horrible

fingers. She was very afraid.

Then a big black bird flew down from a tree and sat on Gerda's shoulder. 'Please, Bird,' said Gerda, 'have you seen my friend Kay?'

'I saw him last winter,' said the big black bird. 'He flew away in the Snow Queen's sledge.'

'Which way did they go?' asked Gerda.

'To the north,' said the bird, and it flew away.

Then Gerda met a reindeer. She told him her story. 'Climb onto my back, little girl,' said the reindeer. 'I know an old woman in Lapland 拉普兰. She knows many things. We'll ask her to help us.' Gerda was very tired and she fell asleep on the reindeer's back. When she woke again, she saw a lot of beautiful lights in the sky. 'Those are the Northern Lights, 北极光' said the reindeer. 'We only see them in the sky near the North Pole. Soon we shall be in Lapland.'

They came to the old woman's little house. 'The Snow Queen does not live here. She lives in a castle near the North Pole. There the snow never melts and the ground is always frozen,' said the old woman. 'Oh, no!' shouted Gerda. The old woman said, 'Don't be sad! Kay's happy because his heart has become Very cold, too.'

'How can I make his heart warm again?' asked Gerda.

'I don't know,' said the woman.

Gerda rode the reindeer to the Snow Queen's castle. The Northern Lights were shining on the walls of the castle. No flowers grew and no birds sang there because it was always winter. Gerda thanked the reindeer and kissed his soft, pink nose.

'Wait for me here,' she said. Then she walked bravely through the gates.

Snow was falling. The snowflakes were the Snow Queen's soldiers and they did not want Gerda to go into the castle. Gerda was very, very afraid! But her warm, kind heart melted the snowflakes and Gerda walked through the tall doors of the Snow Queen's castle.

There was a magic mirror in the Snow Queen's castle. It was made of thousands of small, sharp pieces of ice. Together, the pieces made a beautiful picture. Kay liked playing with the pieces. They were like a puzzle. He played with them all the time. He made pictures, and he made words, but he could not spell one word. That word was WINTER.

'I'm going away,' said the Snow Queen one day. 'Try to do your puzzle before I come back, Kay. If you can spell WINTER, I'll let you go.' But she thought, 'The puzzle's too difficult for him.'

Now Gerda found Kay beside the magic mirror! She took Kay in her arms and kissed

him. His body was very cold and he did not remember Gerda. 'Go away!' he shouted angrily. Gerda started to cry. Kay saw her tears and his heart became warm again. Kay started to cry, too. As he cried, the piece of the magic mirror came out of his eye. Now he remembered Gerda! He kissed her, and they danced and laughed together. The pieces of ice in the magic mirror danced, too. When they stopped, they became the word WINTER!

'Hooray!' shouted Kay. 'We've done the Snow Queen's puzzle. We can go home now!' As they walked, the snow on the ground melted and green grass grew. They climbed onto the reindeer's back and went home happily.

The North and South Poles 南北极

Can you see the North and South Poles? They are on the opposite sides of the world. In most places in the world, the sun rises and sets every day. But it is different near the two Poles. For many days in the middle of the winter there is only night near the North Pole because the sun does not rise. When it is dark near the North Pole, it is light near the South Pole. Also, for many days in the middle of the summer there is only day near the North Pole because the sun does not set. When it is light near the North Pole, it is dark near the South Pole.

Antarctica 南极洲

Antarctica is the coldest place in the world. The South Pole is in the centre of Antarctica. There are no land animals, trees or flowers, but there are a lot of fish, sea animals like seals, and sea birds like penguins. Penguins are birds but they cannot fly.

In 1911 Roald Amundsen, a Norwegian, walked across Antarctica to the South Pole with sledges and dogs. He was the first man to go to the South Pole and return safely. Many people tried to go to the South Pole but most of them died before they found it.

Today people from many countries visit Antarctica. They also use sledges but their sledges now have engines like cars. They have radios, too. If they need help, they can use the radios to tell their friends. But Antarctica is still a very dangerous place.

The Arctic 北极

The North Pole is in the centre of the Arctic. There are no cows or sheep near the North Pole because there is no grass for them to eat. But we can find reindeer near the North Pole because they can dig with their hoofs and find small plants under the ice and snow.

The sea near the North Pole is full of fish. Seals, whales and other sea animals catch the fish in the sea and eat them. Polar bears live on the ice near the North Pole, too. They eat seals and other animals. Polar bears have very thick, white coats 皮毛 to keep them warm. All animals near the North Pole need warm coats because the weather is always very cold.

People near the North Pole 靠近北极的人

Lapland is in the north of Sweden, Norway, Finland and Russia. Not many people live there because it is very cold. The children in Lapland learn to ski when they are very small. Reindeer used to be very important to the people of Lapland. They used to go every where by reindeer sledge. They ate reindeer meat. They drank reindeer milk and they made bags, clothes and shoes from reindeer skins. Now they can buy food and clothes in shops. But they still make beautiful clothes, shoes and bags with reindeer Skins.

The Inuit live in Greenland, Canada and Alaska near the North Pole. They are also called Eskimos. Today they live in houses. They have shops and schools, hospitals and libraries. In the past their lives were very different. Seals were the most important thing to them. They ate seal meat. They used to live in sealskin tents. They wore thick, warm sealskin clothes. They made sealskin boats, too. The Inuit made strong, light sledges. Inuit dogs were not pets. They pulled the sledges and they slept outside in the snow. The Inuit made holes in the frozen ground and speared fish through the holes.

Sometimes, when the Inuit were away from home, they built small, round snow houses called igloos. They slept on seal skins on the frozen ground.

Icebergs and Glaciers 冰山和冰河

There are icebergs and glaciers in both the North and South Poles. An iceberg is like a mountain of ice in the sea. It looks very, very big, but you can only see a small part of it above the water. Most of it is under the water. Sometimes the water becomes warmer, and the bottom of the iceberg melts. When the top of the iceberg is heavier than the bottom, the iceberg turns upside down and it makes a terrible noise.

Rivers of ice are called glaciers. Glaciers start at the top of a high mountain. They move like rivers but very, very slowly down the mountains. Some glaciers move faster than others. A glacier usually moves between one centimetre and one metre a day.

Snowflakes 雪花

Have you ever looked carefully at a snowflake? Some snowflakes are like wheels and some are like stars but every snowflake has six points.

For children, snow is fun. They can build snowmen with snow. They can throw snowballs and play with their sledges in the snow. They can ski in the snow, too.

Winter is not a good time for some animals and birds because the weather is too cold and they cannot find food. Some animals, like snakes and tortoises, go to sleep in the winter and wake up when the weather is warm again.

Things to do in Cold Weather 在寒冷的天气要做的事情

In some places it is very cold in the winter and it snows, too. When it snows, it is difficult to walk. Your feet become very wet and cold and you become very tired quickly. A long time ago the people in Canada made the first snow-shoes so the

people could move easily over the snow. Then, one day in the north of Europe, somebody made the first skis. The oldest ski is in a museum in Sweden. It is over 4,000 years old!

Today millions of people go skiing in the mountains. Some people learn to ski at skiing school. To ski you need skis 滑雪板, ski poles and boots. When it is very, very cold, ponds and rivers become frozen. It is very difficult to walk. Many, many years ago, people made the first skates from animal bones. They used skates to skate on frozen ponds and rivers.

In some places in the world it never snows and ponds and rivers never become frozen. People can still skate because they can skate on an ice-skating rink 溜冰场.

In the past, when rivers and ponds were frozen, people could not sail their boats. Now they can sail an ice yacht 冰上快艇. The wind blows the yacht across the ice very quickly. In a strong wind, an ice yacht can go at more than 200 kilometres an hour.

中级语法班精读课 6

Happy and the Plums 乐乐与李子

Many, many years ago, a fisherman, his wife and their baby lived near the Yangtze River in China. The fisherman was called Hai. His wife's name was Lan. Their baby was a happy little boy. He laughed a lot so Hai and Lan called him Siaole. It means 'happy' in English so his English name was Happy. The family lived in a little house near the river. The house was very small. They were poor but they were happy. Hai worked very hard and they always had enough food to eat.

One day Hai became very sick. He could not go fishing. After a few days he died! A few months later, Lan had to sell Hai's fishing boat because she had no money. Then she bought some food. 'Soon we'll have no money. I can grow fruit and vegetables in our little garden, but I need to buy rice for Happy. I must work to get some money,' Lan said to herself.

Then she sat down and looked round her little house. Everything was very clean. 'Some women do not like cleaning their houses or washing their clothes but I like cleaning and washing,' thought Lan. 'Perhaps I can work in a rich lady's house. I can clean the house and wash the clothes, and then I will have some money. Probably Happy can come to the house with me.' Lan was happy.

A week later, Lan found a job. She got up very early every morning. She bathed Happy and gave him his breakfast. She cleaned her little house and worked for an hour in her little garden. Then Lan and Happy went to Mrs Huang's big house. When Lan cleaned Mrs Huang's house and washed the Huang family's clothes, Happy played beside his mother. They were both happy. Mrs Huang was very rich but she did not give Lan much money. Little Happy always had rice to eat and clean clothes to wear. Lan was sometimes hungry but she was happy because her little son was happy.

and he was growing very quickly.

A few years later, it was time for Happy to go to school. Lan could not buy new clothes and new shoes for him because they were very poor. But Lan was clever! She cut up Hai's old clothes and made new clothes for Happy. But he still needed a pair of shoes!

One day Mrs Huang said to Happy, 'Would you like to wear my son's old shoes? They're too small for him.' The shoes were too big for Happy but he said, 'Thank you, Mrs Huang. These shoes are beautiful.' Now he had some shoes for school.

So every morning Happy walked to school in his new shoes. He walked along the river bank every day and saw the beautiful Temple 庙 there.

At school some other boys often laughed at Happy because he was poor. But Happy was still very happy! The rich boys always had new clothes and new shoes, and they had good food to eat.

'What did you eat yesterday, Happy?' they shouted. 'Did you eat cold rice again?'

'Some people have nothing to eat,' said Happy. 'I'm already very lucky.'

One day, when Happy came home from school, he saw a bowl of Plums 李子 on the table. They were soft and purple, full of juice and as big as apples.

'Mrs Huang gave us these plums,' said Lan.

'Please may I have one?' asked Happy.

'Yes, but eat our rice first,' answered his mother.

Suddenly someone knocked on the door. Lan opened it. An old woman was standing there. 'I'm very tired and hungry,' she said.

'Come in and sit down,' said Lan. 'We haven't got much food but would you like some rice?' She brought a bowl of rice and a pair of chopsticks for the old woman.

Happy and Lan started to eat their rice but the old woman did not eat her rice. She started to eat the plums! Soon the bowl was empty. Happy looked at the bowl and said, 'She has eaten all the plums!' Lan said to Happy quietly, 'Don't be angry. We must be kind.'

The old woman carefully put the plum stones in the bowl and said, 'Thank you for the plums. They were good! If you keep these plum stones, you will never be poor. I must go now. I will come back when the floods come.'

'When will the floods come?' asked Happy.

'Do you know the big stone lions in front of the temple?' asked the old woman.

'Yes,' said Happy.

'When their eyes become red, the water in the river will rise very quickly. The water will cover the village. When that happens, I'll come back,' said the old woman. Then she walked to the door and left.

Happy said to Lan angrily, 'The lions' eyes will never be red. They' remade of stone.'

The old woman was wrong. Lan and Happy became poorer and poorer. First Lan hurt her back. She could not work for two weeks. Mrs Huang did not give her any money. Then some insects ate all the vegetables in their little garden. Then Lan opened their last bag of rice.

'What are we going to do?' she said sadly.

'We've got the plum stones,' said Happy. 'The old woman said: You will never be poor if you keep these stones. Perhaps we can eat them.'

He brought the bowl of plum stones and cracked 咬碎 a stone between his teeth. It broke and there was a beautiful pearl inside it.

'I can't eat this!' said Happy.

'It's a pearl!' said Lan. 'Pearls are very expensive. We can sell them for a lot of money.'

They cracked all the plums stones and found a beautiful pearl inside every stone.

'If we tell people about these pearls,' said Lan, 'a thief will come and take them.' So Lan sold only one pearl and put the other pearls in a box.

When they went out, they still wore cheap clothes like poor people. But at home they ate good food. When Happy's shoes became too small, Lan bought him new shoes. Lan and Happy were happy!

Happy always wanted to, say thank you to the old woman. 'She said: I'll come back when the lions' eyes become red,' Happy thought. He looked at the lions every day, but their eyes were always grey.

One day the King said to his servant, 'Paint the temple!' In the evening, one of the painters still had some red paint in his tin. 'What do I do with the red paint?' he said to himself. 'I know! I'll paint the lions' eyes.' He painted the four stone eyes red. Then he cleaned his brushes and went home.

Next morning Happy went to see the lions and saw their red eyes. He remembered the old woman's words. He did not go to school. He ran home to tell his mother. Soon it started to rain. Happy told his mother about the lions' red eyes. Lan was very frightened. She put the pearls in a pocket in her trousers. She and Happy ran to tell their friends about the flood, but they did not listen to them.

Lan and Happy went to the river. They saw a fishing boat with a strong bamboo roof. 'Will you sell us your boat if I give you a pearl?' Lan asked the fisherman. She gave him a pearl.

The fisherman looked at the pearl and said, 'You can have my boat and my fishing nets, too!' Then he got off the boat. Lan and Happy put food and water in the boat. Then they climbed into the boat and the boat floated slowly down the Yangtze River.

It rained and rained. Soon the river was very high. The water covered the rice fields, then it covered 淹沒 the houses near the river. Many people and animals died. Sometimes Lan and Happy could only see the tops of the trees above the water.

After many days, the rain stopped. Lan and Happy saw a beautiful hill in front of them. It looked like an island in the water. A small farm was on the hill. There was a little house on the farm. There was a plum tree with a lot of white flowers in front of the house.

'The old woman saved us!' said Happy 'Let's live here, mother!' Lan nodded!

Floods 洪水

The flood in the story was dangerous. People do not usually like floods but some farmers need floods when their fields are too dry. When there is a flood, the water carries 携帶 mud and sand from the river bed to the fields near the river. When the water goes away, the mud and sand become good soil.

Many, many years ago people in Egypt 埃及 found this good soil after a flood. Then they built homes there near the river. Soon there were a few small farms. Later the people became rich and they built houses, shops and temples. They made many beautiful things. We can still see these beautiful things in museums today.

People in many countries tell stories about a very big flood. The flood covered the world. Here is just one of those stories. A long, long time ago, there was a man called Noah. He lived with his wife, his three sons and his sons' wives. One day, Noah heard a voice. It said, 'Noah, soon there will be a big flood. You must build a boat. You must put two of every animal and bird and insect in the boat. Many, many people will die in the flood but you and your family will be all right.'

Noah and his family built a boat. They put two of every animal, bird and insect in their boat. They put food in the boat, too. Then it started to rain.

It rained for forty days and forty nights. The water covered the world. The hills and mountains looked like islands. Noah's boat stopped on the top of a mountain. At last the rain stopped and the flood went away. There was a beautiful rainbow in the sky. And the animals and birds and insects left Noah's boat. They ran, jumped, walked and flew away to live on the mountain.

Pearls 珍珠

Pearls do not usually grow inside plums! Pearls grow inside shellfish, for example, oysters and clams. Shellfish have hard shells. They open and close their shells to catch their food. The shells are usually grey and ugly on the outside, but shiny and beautiful inside.

When something, for example, a little worm or some sand, gets inside a shellfish, the shellfish covers it with layers of mother-of-pearl. After a long time, it becomes a

pearl. A long time ago, people went out to sea in small boats, and dived into the water to look for pearls. They worked very quickly because they could not breathe under water. A good diver could work under water for about three minutes. Then they climbed into the boat again, opened the shells and looked for pearls.

Today pearl divers carry aqualungs (bottles of air) on their backs and they wear masks on their faces so they can work under the water for a long time. Today many pearls grow in oysters in oyster farms. People buy young oysters and put them in a place called an oyster bed. The oysters eat and grow there. When an oyster is big enough, the farm keeper opens it very gently and carefully. He puts a little bead 小珠子 inside its shell. Later the bead becomes a pearl. These pearls are called cultured pearls.

Pearls are beautiful and they are always expensive. In the past only rich people could buy pearls. Now pearls are much cheaper because people grow them on oyster farms. Many people make rings, ear-rings, bracelets and necklaces with pearls. Some people put pearls on their clothes and shoes, too.

Many kings and queens have pearls in their crowns. Look at this picture of Queen Elizabeth the First of England. There are pearls in her crown, on her ears, on her clothes and in her hair.

Most pearls are small, hard and round. Most of them are white but some are yellow, green, blue, grey, black or light purple. The most expensive pearl in the world is not round. It looks like an egg. It is not very big. It weighs 15.13 grams. It used to be in a king's crown. Someone bought it for US\$864,280 in 1988. There are a few giant pearls. The biggest pearl in the world is called the Pearl of Laozi. It is 24 centimetres long and weighs 6.37 kilograms! A poor fisherman found it in Palawan in the Philippines on 7 May 1934. It was inside a giant clam.

Plums 李子

A plum is a fruit and its seed is in the stone. Nobody has ever found a pearl inside a plum stone!

Many people like eating plums. Some people like fresh plums. Some people like dried plums. Some people make plum jam, plum jelly and plum pie. In some countries, people eat plums with meat, too.

Do you know how to make plum jelly? To make plum jelly you will need:

100 grams of plums

a packet of orange jelly powder

225 millilitres of water

If you do not like orange jelly, you can use other jelly powder. Also, you can eat the jelly with ice-cream.

中级语法班精读课 7

The Story of Tea 茶叶的故事

About two thousand years ago, there was a prince in India. He lived in a beautiful

palace but he was not happy. One day he left his palace. He went to different places in his country. Then he became a teacher. He told people to be kind to each other and to animals, not to be greedy and not to kill. Many people listened to his words. People called him Buddha 菩薩. He died when he was 80 years old.

Many, many years later, there was a very good man. His name was Bhodi-Dharma. He studied Buddhism 佛教 - the words of Buddha. One day he left his home and his family, and he became a Buddhist monk.和尚

Monks did not want beautiful homes, nice clothes or money. When they were hungry, they went to people's houses with their empty bowls, and people gave them food. They did not usually wear any shoes, and they wore the same clothes in the summer and in the winter. Sometimes they slept outside, on the ground. Sometimes people let them sleep in their homes. They moved from place to place and told people about Buddha.

Bhodi-Dharma walked all over India and China, and told people about Buddhism. Everybody loved him and listened to him. The animals loved him, too. The tigers, crocodiles, snakes and leopards were quiet and gentle when they saw Bhodi-Dharma. They did not fight, or make a noise; and they never tried to hurt Bhodi-Dharma. He was their friend. Bhodi-Dharma studied Buddha's words while he was going from place to place to teach people about Buddhism. He learned many things. He learned to forget about his body. He stopped feeling hungry, and he was never thirsty. He was never too cold, too hot or too tired. He was never angry, sad or afraid. 'I don't need much food or drink, and I don't need to sleep,' he told himself. 'I only need to study the words of Buddha.' Bhodi-Dharma was very happy!

After many years, Bhodi-Dharma became old. 'I want to be a good monk, but I'm too old,' he thought. 'When I was young, I used to study and pray all night and teach all day. I did not need much sleep. I used to walk for many hours a day but now I feel tired easily. Sometimes I fall asleep before I pray to Buddha. I try and try, but I just can't keep my eyes open. My eyelids close, and I fall asleep.'

One day Bhodi-Dharma woke up very late. 'I wanted to get up early,' he said to himself. 'Now it's already afternoon' and I haven't done anything. I haven't prayed to Buddha. I haven't had my morning bath. This evening I will be tired again. What can I do?'

That evening Bhodi-Dharma was very tired, and his eyelids started to close. He opened his eyes again quickly, but in a few seconds his eyelids closed again. He could not keep his eyes open. He was too sleepy! Bhodi-Dharma was never angry with other people; but now he was angry with his eyelids. He picked up some scissors and he cut off both his eyelids! He threw them on the ground. 'Now,' he said, 'I can't fall asleep any more! My eyes will always be open!'

Buddha saw this. He was very happy because Bhodi-Dharma wanted to study his words so much. Buddha said to himself, 'Let me help him!' When Bhodi-Dharma's eyelids touched the ground, a beautiful little plant began to grow from the ground. It was a bush. It had pretty dark green leaves and small white flowers. It smelt very nice. 'I've seen many plants,' said Bhodi-Dharma to himself, 'but I've never seen a plant like this. It's so pretty, and it smells so good. What is it?'

Then Bhodi-Dharma heard Buddha's voice. 'Bhodi-Dharma, you're a very good man. I'm very happy. Soon you will leave this world, and you will live with me in my beautiful home above the sky. But now this plant will help you. It's called tea.' 'It's a beautiful plant, but how can it help me?' asked Bhodi-Dharma. 'I'm too old. I feel tired and sleepy all the time. I can't stay awake to study your words.'

'This plant will keep you awake!' said Buddha. 'If you feel tired or sleepy, pick a few leaves from this plant and chew them. Soon you won't feel sleepy. You will feel young and strong again. And you can then stay awake to study my words.'

Bhodi-Dharma listened to Buddha. Then he picked a few leaves and put them in his mouth. He chewed them slowly. The leaves did not taste very nice, but they made him feel young, strong and awake. He took out his books and started to read. He studied for many hours, but he did not feel tired or sleepy. 'I must share this tea plant with everybody,' he said to himself.

Bhodi-Dharma started to collect the seeds from the tea plant, and he planted them in many different places. The plants grew well in good, wet ground. They did not grow in dry places. After a few years, there were tea plants all over India and China. People picked the leaves and chewed them; and they remembered Bhodi-Dharma.

One morning, the Emperor of China was feeling tired and sleepy. He had a lot of work to do but he could not keep his eyes open. 'Perhaps I'm sick,' he said to his servant. 'Get my doctor!' When the doctor arrived, the Emperor said, 'I have many things to do today, but I can't keep my eyes open. Can you help me?' The doctor opened his bag and took out a small box. There were some dry, dark leaves inside the box. 'Great Emperor, would you like to chew some of these leaves? They will help you. They are called tea-leaves,' said the doctor. The doctor gave the Emperor a few leaves.

The Emperor looked at the tea-leaves, then he put them in his mouth and chewed them. 'They don't taste very nice,' said the Emperor.

'But they will help you to stay awake, Great Emperor,' said the doctor.

'I'm the Emperor. If something doesn't taste nice, I don't chew it!' shouted the Emperor. 'If you don't take your leaves away, I'll cut off your head!'

While the doctor was leaving, two servants came into the room. They were carrying the Emperor's bath. It was full of hot water. A few tea-leaves fell into the hot water.

'That smells wonderful! Perhaps I can drink the tea-leaves,' the Emperor said to the doctor. 'Bring me a cup of hot water,' the Emperor shouted to his servant. When the servant brought a cup of hot water, the Emperor put a few tea-leaves in the water. It became a beautiful gold colour and it smelt very nice. The Emperor tasted the water. There was a big smile on his face. 'This tastes wonderful!' he shouted. Then he drank all the water. A few minutes later, he stopped feeling sleepy. He was awake, and he felt young and strong again. 'You're a very clever doctor,' he said. 'I won't cut off your head today.' Then he said to his servant, 'Bring me a cup of this wonderful tea every morning!'

Tea

People grow tea plants on large pieces of land called Plantations. 种植园 The plants need a lot of rain and they do not like too much sun. The plants grow more slowly on high ground, but the tea tastes better.

People grow different tea plants in different countries. Different tea plants have different tastes. India, China and Sri Lanka are the [most -famous tea- growing countries](#). Darjeeling 大吉岭 is in India. It is at the bottom of the Himalayan 喜马拉雅山 mountains. Many people say, 'Tea from Darjeeling is the best tea in the world.'

There are different types of tea. One of the most popular ones is black tea. 红茶 It is dark in colour and it is strong 浓. Most people in Europe like black tea. Many of them drink it with milk and sugar. Some people also like lemon in their tea. Green tea 绿茶 is also very popular. It is brownish-green in colour and it is not as strong as black tea. People in China and Japan like green tea very much. They usually drink green tea without milk.

People usually make tea in a teapot. People in different countries use different types of teapots. There are some very beautiful teapots, and some very funny ones, too.

Tea pickers 采茶人 work on tea plantations. They water the tea plants and prune them. When the plants are three years old or more, they choose the smallest, youngest leaves from each tea plant. They pick the leaves quickly but carefully from the plants to make tea. Some people have used machines to pick tea-leaves but the machines broke the plants and they could not choose the best tea-leaves.

People have grown tea in China for thousands of years. About 1,500 years ago tea was brought to Japan. At first only monks drank tea. About 700 years later, tea became a popular drink in Japan. Tea did not arrive in Europe and North America until about 300 years ago. When people in Europe and North America first tasted tea, they liked it

and wanted to drink it every day. Therefore, tea sellers bought tea in Asia. Then they brought it many thousands of kilometres to Europe and America, and sold it to their customers there.

There were no aeroplanes 300 years ago, therefore tea sellers used tea clippers - beautiful, fast sailing ships 帆船 - to bring tea to Europe and America. Many tea sellers became rich, but sometimes a tea clipper sank. Then the tea seller lost all his money. Sometimes the tea clippers had races. Every year, the new tea was picked and dried and then put into boxes in Asia. Then each tea seller tried to bring the tea to his customers before the others. The winner always got the most money for the tea.

Tea was very expensive for a long time. Poor people did not have the money to buy tea. Rich people used to keep their tea in a strong box called a tea-caddy. They locked the box with a key. The lady of the house used to open the box every morning. She gave the servants enough tea for one day. Then she closed the box again and locked it. Today, tea is cheap and everybody can drink it.

How do You Make a Pot of Tea?

To make a pot of tea, you need some tea-leaves or tea bags, some water, a kettle, a teapot and a spoon. When the tea is ready, you can drink it with sugar and milk, or without.

Why does Tea Keep Us Awake?

Bhodi-Dharma chewed tea-leaves to stay awake. Why? It is because there is caffeine in tea-leaves. There are other drinks with caffeine in, too, for example, Coca Cola and coffee.

Many people have a cup of coffee or tea in the morning before they go to work because caffeine stops them feeling sleepy. Students also drink coffee, tea or Coca Cola when they are studying because these drinks keep them awake.

In some places people do not drink tea, coffee or Coca Cola when they are sleepy. They chew cola nuts because there is caffeine in cola nuts.

Sleep

Everybody needs sleep. There are 24 hours in a day, and most people sleep for about eight hours. Many children sleep more than eight hours because they are growing. Many old people sleep less

than eight hours because they sleep during the day. We usually work and study during the day, and sleep during the night. But little babies sleep during the day, too. Most babies sleep for about 16 hours a day.

What happens when you sleep?

First, you feel tired, your eyelids close and soon you are asleep. After about an hour and a half, your eyes start to move very fast behind your closed eyelids. This is because you are dreaming. You probably dream about four times every night, but you do not usually remember your dreams when you wake up.

Most people sleep quietly, but some people talk or walk when they are asleep. Some

people also snore 打呼噜. We call them snorers. Snorers cannot hear the noise they make. The loudest snorer in the world lives in Sweden. He made the loudest noise in 1993. It was as loud as a train! Can you believe that?

中级语法班精读课 8

(1)

An old man died and left his son a lot of money. But the son was a foolish young man, and he quickly spent all the money, so that soon he had nothing left. Of course, when that happened, all his friends left him. When he was quite poor and alone, he went to see Nasreddin, who was a kind, clever old man and often helped people when they had troubles.

'My money has finished and my friends have gone,' said the young man. 'What will happen to me now?'

'Don't worry, young man,' answered Nasreddin. 'Everything will soon be all right again. Wait, and you will soon feel much happier.'

The young man was very glad. 'Am I going to get rich again then?' he asked Nasreddin.

'No, I didn't mean that,' said the old man. 'I meant that you would soon get used to being poor and to having no friends.'

(2)

When Mr Jones went to a restaurant one day, he left his coat near the door. There was nothing in the pockets of the coat when he left it, so he was very surprised when he took his coat after his meal and found the pockets full of jewellery!

There was a waiter near the door, so Mr Jones said to him, 'Somebody has made a mistake. He has put some jewellery in my coat. Take it, and when he comes back, give it to him.' The waiter took it and went away. Suddenly another man came in with a coat just like Mr Jones's. 'I am sorry,' said this man. 'I made a mistake.'

I took your coat and you have got mine. Please give me my coat and jewellery.' Mr Jones answered, 'I gave the jewellery to the waiter. He will give it to you.'

Mr Jones called the manager of the restaurant; but the manager said, 'We have no waiters here. We only have waitresses.' 'You gave the jewellery to a thief!' shouted the other man. 'I shall call the police!' Mr Jones was frightened and paid the man a lot of money for the jewellery.

(3)

A man was travelling abroad in a small red car. One day he left the car and went shopping. When he came back, its roof was badly damaged. Some boys told him that an elephant had damaged it.

The man did not believe them, but they took him to a circus which was near there. The owner of the elephant said, 'I am very sorry!'

My elephant has a big, round, red chair. He thought that your car was his chair, and he sat on it!' Then he gave the man a letter, in which he said that he was sorry and that he would pay for all the damage.

When the man got back to his own country, the customs officers would not believe his story. They said, 'You sold your new car while you were abroad and bought this old

one!"

It was only when the man showed them the letter from the circus man that they believed him.

(4)

Nasreddin was cutting a branch off a tree in his garden. While he was sawing, another man passed in the street. He stopped and said,

'Excuse me, but if you continue to saw that branch like that, you will fall down with it.' He said this because Nasreddin was sitting on the branch and cutting it at a place between himself and the trunk of the tree.

Nasreddin said nothing. He thought, 'This is some foolish person who has no work to do and goes about telling other people what to do and what not to do.'

The man continued on his way.

Of course, after a few minutes, the branch fell and Nasreddin fell with it.

'My God!' he cried. 'That man knows the future!' and he ran after him to ask how long he was going to live. But the man had gone.

(5)

Two rich ladies were sharing a taxi and talking about the high cost of going anywhere by taxi.

One of the ladies said, 'Taxis are terribly expensive these days.

The owners get a lot of money for nothing.'

'Yes,' said the other lady, 'and the drivers get such big tips that they soon become rich. They ought to be ashamed of themselves.'

One of the ladies was smoking a cigarette. After a minute or two she said to the other lady, 'Can you see an ashtray in this taxi?

There isn't one on my side.'

'No,' said the other, 'there isn't one on this side either. Driver!

Where is the ashtray in this taxi? Why haven't you got one?'

The driver, who had heard everything the ladies had said, answered, 'Oh, just drop the ashes on the carpet - I have a servant who comes in and cleans three days in the week!'

(6)

A judge was working in his room one day when a neighbour ran in and said, 'If one man's cow kills another's, is the owner of the first cow responsible?'

'It depends,' answered the judge.

'Well,' said the man, 'your cow has killed mine.'

'Oh,' answered the judge. 'Everyone knows that a cow cannot think like a man, so a cow is not responsible, and that means that its owner is not responsible either.'

'I am sorry, Judge,' said the man. 'I made a mistake. I meant that my cow killed yours.'

The judge thought for a few seconds and then said, 'When I think about it more carefully, this case is not as easy as I thought at first.'

And then he turned to his clerk and said, 'Please bring me that big black book from the shelf behind you.'

中级班从句精读小说 1

The £1,000,000 Bank Note

百万英镑

by Mark Twain

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Part One: From San Francisco to London

When I was 27 years old, I worked in an office in San Francisco. I did my job well and my future was promising^①. I was alone in the world and I was happy. On Saturday afternoons I didn't work. I sailed my little sailboat^② on San Francisco Bay. One Saturday afternoon, I sailed out too far. The strong afternoon wind pushed my sailboat out of the bay, into the Pacific Ocean.

That night, when I had lost all hope, a small British brig^③ saw me and took me on board. The brig was sailing to London. The voyage was long and stormy. I worked as a sailor to pay for my trip.

When I arrived in London, my clothes were old and dirty. I had only one dollar in my pocket. With this dollar, I ate and slept for the first twenty-four hours. During the next twenty-four hours, I didn't eat and I didn't sleep.

At about ten o'clock the following morning, I went to Portland Place. I saw a child walking past, holding a big pear. The child ate one small piece and then threw the pear onto the street. I stopped and looked at it. I was very hungry and I really wanted that pear.

But every time I tried to get it, someone passed by and looked at me. I quickly turned in the other direction and waited for the person to pass by. I tried again and again to get that pear, but the same thing happened. I was desperate^④. I decided to get the pear and not to worry about the people who saw me. At that moment, a gentleman opened a window behind me and said, "Come in here, please."

①promising: (此处指) 有前途的。②sailboat: (小) 帆船。

③brig: (双桅) 帆船。

④desperate: 绝望的。

A well-dressed servant① opened the door. He took me to a beautiful room. Here, two old gentlemen were sitting and discussing something important. Their breakfast was still on the table. I was very hungry and I stared② at their breakfast.

I want to tell the reader that the two gentlemen had made a bet③ several days before. I knew nothing about the bet until later. Let me tell you what happened.

①servant: 仆人。②stared: 盯着看。③bet: 打赌。

Part Two: An Unusual Bet

The two old gentlemen were brothers. For several days, they argued① about a very strange subject. They decided to end their argument with a bet, as the English usually do. The following was the subject of the bet.

The Bank of England issued two banknotes of a million pounds each for a public transaction② with a foreign country. England used one banknote and the other remained in the bank. At this point, Brother A said to Brother B,

"If an honest and intelligent stranger arrives in London without a friend and without money, except for the £ 1,000,000 banknote, he will starve to death③."

Brother B answered, "No! I don't agree."

Brother A said, "If he goes to the bank or anywhere else to change this big note, the police will put him in prison. Everyone will think he stole④ it."

They continued arguing for days, until Brother B said, "I'll bet £ 20,000 that the stranger will live for thirty days with the banknote and not go to prison."

Brother A accepted the bet. He went to the bank and bought the £ 1,000,000 banknote. After, he returned home and prepared a letter. Then the two brothers sat by⑤ the window and waited for the right man for the bet.

They saw a lot of honest faces go by, but they were not intelligent enough. Several faces were intelligent, but they were not honest. A lot of faces were

①argued: 争论。

②transaction: 交易。

③starve to death: 饿死。

④stole: 偷窃。

⑤ by: 在.....旁边。

honest and intelligent, but they were not poor enough①. Other faces were honest, intelligent and poor, but they were not strangers.

When they saw me from the window, they thought I was the right man. They asked me questions, and soon they knew my story.

Finally, they told me I was the right man for the bet. I asked them to explain the bet. One of the gentlemen gave me an envelope. I wanted to open it, but he said, "No, don't open it now. Wait until you are in your hotel room. Then read it very carefully."

I was confused and I wanted to discuss the subject with them. But they didn't. I felt hurt^② because I was the subject of a joke^③.

When I left their house, I looked for the pear on the street. It was gone. I was quite angry with those two gentlemen.

Far from their house, I opened the envelope. I saw that there was money inside! I didn't stop to read their letter.

I ran to the nearest eating place. I ate and ate and ate. At last, I took out the envelope with the money, to pay for my meal. I looked at the banknote and almost fainted^④. It was a banknote worth^⑤ five million dollars! I was speechless^⑥. I stared at the banknote. The two gentlemen had made a big mistake.

They probably wanted to give me a one-pound banknote. I saw the owner of the eating place staring at the banknote, too. We were both surprised. I did not know what to do or say, so I simply^⑦ give him the note and said, "Give me the change, please."

① poor enough: 够穷。 ② hurt: 愤怒的。
③ subject of a joke: 嘲笑的对象。 ④ fainted: 昏倒。
⑤ worth: 价值。 ⑥ speechless: 说不出来。 ⑦ simply: 仅。

The owner apologized^① a thousand times. "I'm very sorry, but I can't change this banknote, sir."

"I don't have any other money. Please change this note." The owner then said, "You can pay for this food whenever you want, sir. I understand that you are a very rich gentleman. You like playing jokes on people by dressing like a poor man. You can come here and eat all you want, whenever you want. You can pay me when you want."

① apologized: 道歉。

Part Three: The Letter

When I left the eating place, I hurried^① to the house of the two gentlemen. I wanted to correct the mistake they had made. I was very nervous.

When I arrived, the same servant opened the door. I asked for the two gentlemen.

"They are gone," the servant said.

"Gone? Gone where?"

"Oh, on a journey."

"But, where did they go?"

"To the Continent^②, I think."

"The Continent?"

"Yes, sir."

"When will they return?"

"In a month."

"A month! Oh, this is awful^③! How can I talk to them? It's extremely important."

"I can't help you. I don't know where they are, sir."

"Then I must see a member of the family."

"All the family are away. They're in Egypt and India, I think."

"Before leaving, the two gentlemen made an enormous mistake. They will certainly return home tonight. Tell them that I came here to correct the mistake. I will return tomorrow."

"I'll tell them if I see them. But I won't see them! Sir, you must not worry

① hurried: 快速地走。②Continent: (此处指) 亚洲大陆 ③awful: 糟糕。

because everything is all right. They will be here on time^①, and they will see you then. Good-bye."

I was confused. My head was in a fog^②. I did not understand what the servant told me. The letter I remembered the letter! This is what it said:

"You are an intelligent and honest man. You are also poor and a stranger. In this envelope you will find some money. It is yours only for 30 days. At the end of 30 days, return to this house, I have a bet on you. If I win this bet, you can have any job with any salary that you want."

There were no signature^③, no address, no date on the letter. How strange! I didn't know what to think. I went to a park, sat down and thought about what to do. After an hour, I reached the decision that follows.

The two old gentlemen are playing a game that I don't understand. They are betting on me. (But, at that time, I didn't know anything about the details of the bet.)

If I go to the Bank of England to return the banknote, the bank will ask me lots of questions. If I tell the truth, no one will believe me. They will put me in an asylum^④. If I tell a lie, the police will put me in prison. I can't even give it to anyone, because no honest person will want it. I can do only one thing: I must keep the bill^⑤ for a whole month. And, I must not lose it. If I help the old man to win his bet, he will give me the job I want. The idea of an important job with a big salary made me happy. With this exciting idea in mind, I began walking down the streets of London.

① on time: 准时。 ② in a fog: 困惑。

③ signature: 签名。 ④asylum: 精神病院。 ⑤ bill: 钞票。

Every time I passed in front of a tailor's, I wanted to enter and buy some new clothes. But, I had no money to pay for them. The £ 1,000,000 banknote in my pocket was useless②!

I passed in front of the same tailor's six times. At last I entered. I quietly asked if they had an old, unattractive③ suit that no one wanted to buy. The man I spoke to nodded④ his head, but he didn't speak. Then another man looked at me and nodded his head.

I went to him and he said, "One moment, please."

After some time, he took me to a back room. He looked at several ugly suits that no one wanted. He chose the worst for me. I really wanted a suit, so I said nothing.

It was time to pay. "Can you wait a few days for the money? I haven't got any small change⑤ with me."

The man said, "Oh, you haven't? Well, I thought gentlemen like you carried large change."

"My friend," I replied, "you can't judge a stranger by the clothes he wears. I can pay for this suit. But, can you change a large banknote?"

"Oh, of course we can change a large banknote," he said coldly.

I gave him the banknote. He received it with a smile, a big smile that covered his face. When he read the banknote, his smile disappeared.

① tailor's: 裁缝店。 ② useless: 没用的。

③ unattractive: 难看的。 ④ nodded: 点头。 ⑤ change: 零钱。

The owner of the shop came over and asked me, "What's the trouble①?"

"There isn't any trouble. I'm waiting for my change."

"Come, come. Give him his change, Tod. Quickly!"

Tod answered, "It's easy to say, but look at the banknote."

The owner looked at the banknote. Then he looked at my package② with the ugly suit.

"Tod," he shouted, "you are stupid! How can you sell this unattractive suit to a millionaire③! Tod, you can't see the difference between a millionaire and a poor man."

"I apologize, sir," the owner continued. "Please take off those things you are wearing and throw them in the fire. Put on this fine shirt and this handsome suit. It's perfect for you — simple but elegant④."

I told him I was very happy with the new suit.

"Oh, wait until you see what we can make for you in your size!"

Tod, bring a pen and a book. Let me measure^⑤ your leg, your arm ..."

I didn't have a moment to speak.

The owner measured me. Then he ordered his tailors to make me morning suits, evening suits, shirts, coats and other things.

"But, my dear sir," I said, "I can order all these things only if you change my banknote. Or, if you can wait a while before I pay you."

"Wait a while^⑥! I'll wait forever, that's the word. Tod, send these things to the gentleman's address. Let the less important customers^⑦ wait! What's your address, sir?"

① trouble: 问题。

② package: 包裹。

③ millionaire: 百万富翁。

④ elegant: 优雅地。

⑤ measure: 测量。

⑥ a while: 一会儿。

顾客。

⑦ customers: 顾客。

"I'm changing my home. I'll come back and give you my new address," I replied.

"Quite right, sir, quite right. Let me show you to the door, sir. Good day, sir, good day."

Part Five: The Poor Millionaire

The impossible happened. I bought everything I wanted without money. I showed my banknote and asked for change, but every time the same thing happened. No one was able to change it.

I bought all that I needed and all the luxuries^① that I wanted. I stayed at an expensive hotel in Hanover Square. I always had dinner at the hotel. But I preferred having breakfast at Harris's simple eating place. Harris's was the first place where I had a good meal with my million-pound note. That's where it all started.

The news about me and my banknote was all over London. Harris's eating place became famous because I had breakfast there. Harris was happy with all his new customers.

I lived like a rich, important man. I had money to spend. I lived in a dream. But often, I said to myself, "Remember, this dream will end when the two men return to London. Everything will change."

My story was in the newspapers. Everyone talked about the "strange millionaire with the million-pound note in his pocket." Punch magazine drew a funny picture of me on

the front page. People talked about everything I did and about everything I said. They followed me in the streets.

I kept my old clothes, and sometimes I wore them. It was fun when the shop owners thought I was poor. Then I showed them the banknote, and, oh, how their faces changed!

After ten days in London, I went to visit the American Ambassador^②. He was very happy to meet me. He invited me to a dinner-party that evening.

①luxuries: 奢侈品。

②ambassador: 大使。

He told me that he knew my father from Yale University. He invited me to visit his home whenever I wanted.

I was glad to have a new, important friend. I thought to myself, "I'll need an important friend, when the story of the million-pound note and bet comes out^①."

I want the reader to know that I planned to pay back all the shop owners who sold me things on credit^②. "If I win the bet for the old gentleman," I thought, "I will have an important job. With an important job, I will have a big salary." I planned to pay back everyone with my first year's salary.

① comes out: 显露。 ② on credit: 赊欠。

Part Six: The Dinner Party

There were fourteen people at the dinner party. The Duke^① and Duchess^② of Shoreditch, and their daughter, Lady Anne-Grace-Eleanor de Bohun, the Earl^③ and Countess^④ of Newgate, Viscount^⑤ Cheapside, Lord and Lady Blatherskite, the Ambassador and his wife and daughter, and some other people. There was also a beautiful, twenty-two-year old English girl, named Portia Langham. I fell in love with her in two minutes, and she with me!

After a while, the house servant presented another guest, Mr Lloyd Hastings. When Mr Hastings saw me, he said, "I think I know you."

"Yes, you probably do."

"Are you the — the —"

"Yes, I'm the strange millionaire with the million-pound note in his pocket!"

"Well, well, this is a surprise. I never thought you were the same Henry Adams from San Francisco! Six months ago, you were working in the offices of Blake Hopkins in San Francisco. I remember clearly. You had a very small salary. And, at night, you helped me arrange the papers^⑥ for the Gould and Curry Mining Company. Now you're a millionaire, a celebrity^⑦ here in London. I can't believe it! How exciting!"

"I can't believe it, either, Lloyd."

"Just three months ago, we went to the Miner's Restaurant"

① duke: 公爵。 ② duchess: 公爵夫人。 ③ earl: 伯爵。
④ countess: 伯爵夫人。 ⑤ viscount: 子爵。 ⑥ papers: 文件。
⑦ celebrity: 名人。

"No, no, it was the What Cheer Restaurant."

"Right, it was the What Cheer. We went there at two o'clock in the morning. We had steak① and coffee. That night we worked for six long hours on the Gould and Curry Mining Company papers. Do you remember, Henry, I asked you to come to London with me. I wanted you to help me sell the Gould and Curry gold mine shares②. But you refused."

Of course I remember. I didn't want to leave my job in San Francisco. And I still think it's difficult to sell shares of a California gold mine here in London."

"You were right, Henry. You were so right. It is impossible to sell these shares here in London. My plan failed and I spent all my money. I don't want to talk about it."

"But you must talk about it. When we leave the dinner party, you must tell me what happened."

"Oh, can I? I really need to talk to a friend," Lloyd said, with water in his eyes.

"Yes, I want to hear the whole story, every word of it."

"Thank you, Henry. You're a true friend."

At this point, it was time for dinner. Thanks to the English system of precedence③, there was no dinner.

The Duke of Shoreditch wanted to sit at the head of the table. The American Ambassador also wanted to sit at the head of the table. It was impossible for them to decide, so we had no dinner.

The English know about the system of precedence. They have dinner

① steak: 牛排。 ② shares: 股份。 ③ precedence: 地位
高低, 身份。

before going out to dinner. But strangers know nothing about it. They remain hungry all evening.

Instead, we had a dish of sardines① and a strawberry②. Now it was time for everyone to play a game called cribbage③. The English never play a game for fun. They play to win or to lose something.

Miss Langham and I played the game, but with little interest.

I looked at her beautiful face and said, "Miss Langham, I love you!"
"Mr Adams," she said softly and smiled, "I love you too!"

This was a wonderful evening. Miss Langham and I were very happy. We smiled, laughed and talked. I was honest with her. I told her that I was poor and that I didn't have a cent in the world. I explained that the million-pound note was not mine. She was very curious to know more. I told her the whole story from the start. She laughed and laughed. She thought the story was very funny. I didn't understand why it was funny. I also explained that I needed an important job with a big salary to pay all my debts④.

"Portia, dear, can you come with me on the day I must meet those two gentlemen?

"Well, yes, if I can help you," she replied.

"Of course you can help me. You are so lovely that when the two gentlemen see you, I can ask for any job and any salary. With you there, my sweet Portia, the two gentlemen won't refuse me anything."

① sardines: 沙丁鱼。 ② strawberry: 草莓。

③ cribbage: 一种纸牌戏。 ④ debts: 欠款。

Part Seven: A Million-Dollar Idea

At the end of the dinner party, I returned to the hotel with Hastings. He talked about his problems, but I didn't listen to him. I was thinking about Portia the whole time.

When we arrived at the hotel, Hastings said, "Let me just stand here and look at this marvelous① hotel. It's a palace! What expensive furniture! You have everything you want. You are rich, Henry. And I am poor."

His words scared② me. I too, was poor. I didn't have a cent in the world, and I had debts to pay. I needed to win the gentleman's bet. This was my last hope. Hastings didn't know the truth.

"Henry, just a tiny part of your income can save me. I'm desperate!" Hastings cried.

"My dear Hastings, sit down here and drink this hot whiskey. Now tell me your whole story, every word of it."

"Do you want to hear my story again?"

"But, you never told me your story."

"Of course I told you my story, as we walked to the hotel. Don't you remember?"

"I didn't hear one word of it."

"Henry, are you ill? Is something wrong with you? What did you drink at the dinner party?"

"Oh, Hastings, I'm in love! I can only think about my sweet Portia. This is why I didn't hear your story before."

① marvelous: 绝妙的。② scared: 吓住。

Hastings got up from his chair, shook my hand① and laughed.

"I'm very happy for you, Henry, very happy," he said smiling.

"I'll tell you the whole story again." So he sat down and patiently started to tell me his story.

To make a long story short②, the owners of the Gould and Curry Gold Mine sent Lloyd to England, to sell the shares of the mine for one million dollars. Any money he received over one million dollars was his to keep.

Hastings's dream was to sell the shares for more than one million dollars, and become rich. He had only one month to sell the shares. He had done everything to sell them, but nobody wanted to buy them. Then he jumped up and cried, "Henry, you can help me! Will you do it?"

"Tell me how."

"Give me a million dollars and I'll sell you all the shares. You will be the new owner of the gold mine. Don't, don't refuse."

I did not know what to say. I wanted to tell Hastings the truth. But then, an intelligent idea came to me. I thought about it for a moment and then calmly said, "I will save you, Lloyd."

"Then I am already saved! How can I thank you —"

"Let me finish, Lloyd. I will save you, but not in that way. I have a better way. I know everything about that mine. I know its great value. You will sell the shares by using my name. You can send anyone to me, since people in London know me. I will guarantee③ the gold mine. In a week or two, you will sell the shares for three million dollars, by using my name. And we'll

① shook my hand: 与我握手。

② to make a long story short: 长话短说。

③ guarantee: 担保。

share① the money you earn. Half to you and half to me."

Lloyd was very happy and excited. He danced around the room and laughed.

"I can use your name! Your name — think of it. The rich Londoners will run to buy these shares. I'm saved! And I'll never forget you, Henry!"

①share: 分享。

Part Eight: Back to Portland Place

The next day, all of London talked about the shares of the California gold mine. I stayed in my hotel and said to everyone who came to me.

"Yes, I know Mr Hastings. He's a very honest man. And I know the gold mine, because I lived in the California Gold Country. It is a mine of great value." People were now interested in buying the shares.

I spent every evening with Portia at the American Ambassador's house. I didn't tell her about the shares and the mine. It was a surprise①. We talked about our love and our future together.

Finally, the end of the month arrived. Lots of rich Londoners bought the shares of the mine. I had a million dollars of my own in the London and County Bank. And Lloyd did too.

It was time to meet with the two old gentlemen. I dressed in my best clothes, and I went to get Portia.

Before going to Portland Place, Portia and I talked about the job and the salary.

"Portia, you are so beautiful! When the two gentlemen meet you, they will give me any job and any salary I ask for."

"Henry, please remember that if we ask for too much, we will get nothing. Then what will happen to us?"

"Don't be afraid, Portia."

When we arrived, the same servant opened the door. There were the two old gentlemen having tea. They were surprised to see Portia. I introduced her to them. Then I said, "Gentlemen, I am ready to report to you."

"We are pleased to hear this," said one gentleman. "Now we can decide

① surprise: 意想不到地事情。

the bet that my brother Abel and I made. If you won for me, you can have any job in my power. Do you have the million-pound note?"

"Here it is, sir," and I gave it to him.

"I won!" he shouted. "Now what do you say, Abel?"

"I say he survived, and I lost twenty thousand pounds. I can't believe it!"

"I have more to tell you," I said. "But, it's a long story. I'll tell you another time. For now, look at this."

"What! A Certificate① of Deposit② for £ 200,000. Is it yours?"

"It's mine. I earned it by using the banknote you lent me for a month."

"This is astonishing③! I can't believe it."

Portia looked at me with surprise and said, "Henry, is that really your money? You didn't tell me the truth."

"No, I didn't. But, I know you'll forgive④ me."

"Don't be so sure! You told me a lie, Henry."

"Dearest Portia, it was only for fun. Come, let's go now."

"But, wait, wait!" my gentleman said. "I want to give you the job and the salary you choose."

"Thank you, thank you with all my heart. But I don't want the job."

"Henry, you didn't thank the good gentleman in the right way. Can I do it for you?" Portia said.

"Of course you can, my dear."

Portia walked to my gentleman, sat on his lap^⑤ and kissed him on the mouth.

① certificate: 证书。 ② deposit: 存款。 ③ astonishing: 惊人地。

④ forgive: 原谅。 ⑤ lap: 膝。

Then the two old gentlemen shouted and laughed. I was amazed^①. What was happening?

"Papa," said Portia, "Henry doesn't want your job. I feel very hurt."

"Darling, is that your father?" I asked.

"Yes, he's my stepfather^②, a dear man. Now do you understand why I laughed when you told me your story?"

"My dearest sir," I said, "I want to take back^③ what I said. There is a job that I want."

"Tell me!"

"I want the job of son-in-law^④."

"Well, well, well. But you were never a son-in-law before. Do you know how to do this job?"

"Try me, please! Try me for thirty or forty years, and if —"

"Oh, all right. Take her!"

Were Portia and I happy? There aren't enough words in the dictionary to describe our happiness. When the Londoners heard the whole story of my adventures with the banknote, they talked of nothing else.

Portia's father took the banknote back to the Bank of England and cashed^⑤ it. Then he gave us the cancelled banknote^⑥ as a wedding present. We put it in a picture frame^⑦ and hung it on the wall in our new home. And so I always say, "Yes, it's a million-pound banknote, but it only

① amazed: 吃惊的。② stepfather: 继父。③ take back: 收回。④ son-in-law: 女婿。

⑤ cashed: 兑换成现金。⑥ the cancelled banknote: 作废的钞票。⑦ picture frame: 相框。

bought one thing in its life: the most valuable^① thing in the world - Portia!"

① valuable: 贵重的, 值钱的, 有价值的

Gulliver's Travel 格列佛游记

By Jonathan Swift

(共 10 章)

Part One: A Voyage to Lilliput

My name is Lemuel Gulliver. I was born in England. In 16, when I was a young man I studied to be a doctor. I worked in London at first, but it was not easy to make money there. I decided to work as a ship's doctor. I liked travelling, and I made several voyages①. It was an interesting life.

One ship I worked on was called the Antelope. Our voyage went very well at first, but one day there was a great storm. The ship hit a rock in the sea, and began to sink. I managed② to jump into one of the ship's lifeboats with some sailors, and we thought we were safe. Then there was a big wave, and the little boat turned over in the water. We all began to swim. I soon lost sight of the other sailors, and I never saw them again. I think they all drowned③.

I swam for many hours in the water, and I was very tired. Suddenly I realised that the water was not deep any more - my feet touched the ground!

I walked a long time, and then I came to the beach. It was evening, and I was exhausted④. I fell asleep on the sand.

When I woke up it was morning. I tried to stand up, but I could not move at all. I raised my head a little, and I could see ropes around my body. They were tied very tightly⑤. I did not know what had happened to me.

Then I saw a very small creature⑥ walking along my body. I looked again, and I was very surprised to see that this creature was really a tiny⑦ man!

- ① voyages: 航海旅行。
- ② managed: 设法做到。
- ③ drowned: 淹死。
- ④ exhausted: 精疲力竭。
- ⑤ tightly: 紧紧地。
- ⑥ creature: 生物。
- ⑦ tiny: 很小的。

Soon there were more of these little men walking on me. There were hundreds of them on the ground near me. They were talking to each other, but I could not understand their language.

I shouted very loudly, and the little men were afraid. They ran away quickly. Then I tried to free myself, and I managed to break the ropes around one of my hands. As soon as I did this, I felt a sharp pain. The little men

were shooting arrows at me! The arrows were very small, but they were also very sharp, and I decided to lie still①.

Now the little men constructed^② a platform near my head. One of them climbed up to the top of the platform. He was standing very close to my ear. He began to shout into my ear. I could hear what he said, but I did not understand the language he was using. He used signs to communicate with me. He told me that the country was called Lilliput, and that he worked for the Emperor. Then he explained that I was their prisoner. He told me not to be frightened, because they only wanted to take me to see the Emperor.

It was now the middle of the morning, and I was hungry and thirsty. I put my finger in my mouth to show the little man that I wanted to eat and drink something. He understood me, and he gave some instructions to the hundreds of little men who were on the ground. They went away, and then they came back with ladders. They had wine and food with them. They

climbed up the ladders, and offered me the wine and food. Everything tasted good, but it was very small, like the men themselves. I drank whole barrels^③ of wine, and ate several cattle^④ and sheep.

Soon I could hear a lot of noise on the ground near me. I turned my head

① still: 静止的

② constructed: 修建

③ barrels: 桶

④ cattle: 牛

to look, and I saw that all the little men were now very busy. They had cut down a lot of trees, and they were building something with the trees. They worked for a long time, and then I saw what they were making. It was a large machine with many wheels. The machine was as big as me.

I was now tired again, and I fell asleep once more. While I slept, the little men pulled me onto the machine. The movement woke me. I was curious to find out what they were doing.

Then I heard a noise, and I saw hundreds of tiny horses. The little men attached the horses to the machine, and the horses began to pull me along. There were fifteen hundred horses pulling me! The machine began to move slowly forward.

We travelled slowly for a long time, and then we came to a city. We stopped outside the city. There was a very old temple^① here, and they asked me to get off the machine and enter the temple. I learned later that this temple was one of the largest buildings in the country. It was no longer used because someone had committed^② a terrible murder there some years before. There was just enough space in the temple for me to enter.

Once I was inside, the people tied me up again. They used ninety-one chains^③ and thirty-six padlocks^④! The chains were long enough to allow me to stand and walk

around. I'll never forget how surprised and frightened the people were, when they saw me stand up and walk!

Now the Emperor himself came to the temple. He brought his princess with him. They wanted to look at me. They climbed up a tower in the temple, and looked down at me where I lay.

① temple: 庙宇。 ② committed: 犯了 (罪)。
③ chains: 锁链。 ④ padlocks: 挂锁。

People from the city began to arrive as well, and they climbed up the walls of the temple to look down at me. Some very daring① people put ladders against my body, and climbed up these. Everybody was very surprised to see me. I was the biggest man they had ever seen!

① daring: 大胆的。

Part Two: Life in Lilliput

The next day the Emperor of Lilliput came to see me again. I tried to speak to him in English, but he did not understand me. I tried all the languages I knew, but he still did not understand me. He stayed about two hours, and then he went away. He left some soldiers in charge of① me.

Some of the people from the city began to come near me. They, too, wanted to see the giant man. Not all of them were friendly, however. A small group of them began to shoot arrows at me. The colonel in charge of

the soldiers was very angry, and he captured six of the ringleaders②. He told the soldiers to tie them with ropes. Then he gave them to me to punish. I picked up all six men in my hand, and put five of them into my pocket. I lifted the sixth man very close to my face. I pretended that I wanted to eat him, and took out my penknife③. The colonel and the soldiers looked unhappy when they saw me doing this — and the prisoner was terrified! I put the knife near the man's body, and gently cut the ropes around him. Then I placed him on the ground. I did the same thing with the other five men. The soldiers and the people were very happy when they saw that I was kind to the men who had tried to hurt me with their arrows.

The Emperor asked his government ministers what to do with me. They suggested that someone should teach me their language. I studied very hard, and in about a month I could speak it. Then I told the Emperor that I was tired of being a prisoner. I asked him to let me go. He said that he would consider my request. He asked me to be patient, and he told me they would

① in charge of: 负责看管。
② ringleaders: 头目。
③ penknife: 小刀。

treat① me well. Then the Emperor told me that he wanted his soldiers to search me

for weapons. I replied that I would show his men everything I had in my pockets. The Emperor thanked me, but he explained that the law was very clear: the search had to be carried out② by the Emperor's men themselves. He asked me to help the men carry out the search. I agreed to do this. I picked up the two men very carefully, and put them into my coat pockets. The two men later wrote a report for the Emperor. This is what they said in the report:

We found a very large piece of cloth in the giant③'s right pocket. In his left pocket we found a very large metal box. We asked the giant man to open this box for us. It contained a kind of powder④ that made us sneeze a lot. Then we looked in the giant's right waistcoat-pocket. We found some pieces of white material, and these were tied with ropes. We think these are papers, because there seems to be writing on them. The letters are very large - each letter is as big as a man's hand!

We found a huge machine in the giant's left waistcoat-pocket⑤. This machine has about twenty pieces of metal on it. We think it is the giant's comb⑥. In both of his trouser pockets we found a very long tube of metal attached to⑦ a piece of wood. We do not know what this is. Then we saw a very large chain that went into another pocket. We asked the giant to show us the whole chain. He pulled it out of his pocket, and we saw a large

① treat: 对待。	② carried out: 执行。	③ giant: 巨大的。
④ powder: 粉末。	⑤ waistcoat-pocket: 西装背心的口袋。	
⑥ comb: 梳子。	⑦ attached to: 与.....连接的。	

machine on the end of it. This machine is round, and it has writing on it. This machine makes a huge noise. We do not know if the machine is an animal, or a kind of god. We believe it may be the giant's god, because of something he told us. He said,'I never do anything without looking at this first.'

The giant has a belt around his body, and there are some objects hanging from this. We saw a huge sword①, the length of five men. We also saw a large bag on the belt. This contains some metal balls and some black powder — we do not know what these are.

I did not show the two men the pocket where I kept my glasses.

The Emperor was very curious to see all the objects described in the report. First he asked to see my sword. Then he wanted to see the 'very long tube of metal attached to a piece of wood.' I explained that this was my pistol, and I offered to fire it for him. I took some of the 'black powder', and put it into the pistol. Then I fired - the noise frightened the Emperor's soldiers very much! Next the Emperor wanted to see my watch. He did not know what it was, but he was very interested in the noise it made.

Everybody in Lilliput was very happy with my behaviour, and the people began to trust me. Sometimes they came to dance on my hand. The children played hide and seek② in my hair.

The Emperor was very pleased with me as well, and he invited me to see some special③ dances. These dances are performed in the Emperor's court, by his ministers and other important people. They are very strange dances.

① sword: 剑。

② hide and seek: 捉迷藏。

③ special: 特别的。

For the first dance, they place a rope above the ground, and the ministers dance on this rope. The government minister who does the best dance is given a government job. These dances are very dangerous, and there are many accidents. Most of the Emperor's ministers fall off the rope sooner or later, and are injured.

There is another kind of dance that is performed in the Emperor's court. This dance is performed for the Emperor, the Empress, and the first minister.

The Emperor puts some coloured threads① on a table. The threads are blue, red, and green. Then the dancers enter the room, and the performance begins. The Emperor holds a long piece of wood in front of himself. The dancers jump over the wood, or go under it. The Emperor raises and lowers the wood all the time, and it is difficult for the dancers to know whether they have to jump or to go under the wood. The best dancer is given the blue thread, the second best dancer is given the red one, and the third best is given the green one. Everyone in the court wants to win a blue thread. It is a great honour to have a piece of blue thread.

I thought it was a good idea to make a friend of the Emperor, and I tried to please him. He was very proud of his soldiers, and this gave me an idea. One day I organised a special military parade② for him. I placed some sticks on the ground. Then I tied my handkerchief to the sticks, and lifted some of the

Emperor's horsemen onto the handkerchief. They had a parade in the air, and this amused③ the Emperor greatly! Another time, the Emperor's army had a parade near the city. The Emperor asked me to stand very still with my feet apart—and the whole army marched④ between my legs!

① threads: 线。

② military parade: 阅兵。

③ amuse: 使（某人）开心。

④ marched: 齐步行进。

I asked the Emperor again to give me my freedom. The Emperor asked his ministers if this was a good idea. They said I had to agree to certain conditions^① before I could have my freedom. The two most important conditions were these: I must not leave Lilliput without permission, and I must help the Emperor's army if there was a war. I agreed to these conditions, and the Emperor gave me my freedom.

① conditions: 条件。

Part Three: The War of the Eggs

I now asked the Emperor for permission to visit the capital city of Lilliput, which is called Mildendo. The Emperor allowed me to go, but he told me to be careful when I was there. He did not want me to frighten the people. I was very happy to see the city, and particularly^① to see the Emperor's palace^②. I could not enter the palace, of course, because I was too big. I could look in through the windows, however, and I was delighted^③ by what I saw.

I stayed in Mildendo about two weeks. One of the Emperor's ministers came to see me one day. He looked very worried, and he said he needed my help. Then he told me that there was going to be a war with the country of Blefuscus. He explained the reasons for the war.

They seemed very strange reasons to me, because they concerned^④ the correct way to eat eggs. In the past, the people of Lilliput and the people of Blefuscus had agreed about this. They had both believed that eggs should be broken at the bigger end.

One day, however, the Emperor's grandfather had an accident while he was opening an egg. He cut his finger. He ordered all Lilliputians to open eggs from the smaller end in the future. The people did not like this order, and many of them refused to obey the Emperor. There was a civil war in Lilliput, and many people were killed. The Emperor's minister explained to me that Blefuscus supported the rebels in the civil war—many rebels went to live in Blefuscus.

① particularly: 尤其。

② palace: 王宫。

③ delighted: 高兴。

④ concerned: 涉及。

The situation was now very serious because Lilliput and Blefuscus were at war. Thousands of people had been killed in the war of the eggs. The government minister told me that Blefuscus was planning to attack Lilliput. The Emperor wanted my help. I told the minister that I was ready to help the Emperor.

The Blefuscu navy was planning to invade Lilliput by sea. The distance between the two countries is about three hundred metres by sea. All the Blefuscu ships were ready, and they were sure they would be victorious^① in the war. I told the Emperor of Lilliput that I had a plan of my own to help him defeat^② the enemy. I waited until it was dark. Then I took some rope with me, and walked into the sea that separated the two kingdoms^③. The water was not deep.

While I was walking in the sea, I put on my glasses to protect my eyes from the arrows of the enemy. I tied a piece of rope to each of the Blefuscu ships. The Blefuscu sailors were terrified when they saw me. They jumped into the sea, and swam away. I took the pieces of rope in my hands, and pulled the Blefuscu navy towards Lilliput.

When the people of Lilliput saw the Blefuscu navy, they thought the invasion had started. They were very frightened now!

Then they saw that I was pulling the ships, and they were happy. It was a great victory for Lilliput, and the Emperor said I was a hero.

The Emperor of Lilliput asked me to go on with the war against Blefuscu,

I did not want to go on with the war, because I did not want lots of people to be killed, The Emperor listened to what I said, but he was very angry with me. Now he did not like me.

① victorious: 胜利。

② defeat: 打败。

③ kingdoms: 王国。

Some government ministers from Blefuscu came to Lilliput. I spoke to them, and they invited me to visit their country, I thanked them for their invitation, and I decided to ask the Emperor for permission to go there.

'The Blefuscu ministers have asked me to visit their country,' I told him,

'May I go there?'

The Emperor looked at me very coldly before he replied. Then he said, 'Of course. You're free to go.'

I was surprised at the Emperor's coldness towards me, because I thought we were good friends. Soon I had an opportunity^① to help him once again. One night I was woken by a great noise in the city. Many people were shouting and calling for me. Several of the government ministers came to me, and they told me there was a fire in the palace, I ran to the palace, and I saw flames everywhere, People were trying to extinguish the flames with buckets of water - but

the fire was a big one. It seemed that the whole palace would be destroyed.

Then I had an idea, I had drunk a large quantity of wine that evening, I urinated^② over the palace, and extinguished^③ the flames. This act saved the palace from destruction. I was pleased at what I had done.

Then I remembered one of the most important laws of Lilliput. Urinating in the palace grounds was a crime punished by death! I was now worried, but the Emperor sent me a message, He said that he would order the court to pardon me for my crime, I learnt later that the Empress hated me for what I had done - she was very angry, and she decided never to return to the palace.

① opportunity: 机会

② urinated: 撒尿。

③ extinguished: 扑灭。

Part Four: The customs^① of Lilliput

One day I will write a big book about the kingdom of Lilliput. I will describe how the people live, and their habits. I will not describe it all here, but I do want to say something about this interesting country.

It is important to remember that the people of Lilliput are very small. They are about six inches tall, and all the animals and trees are in proportion. The tallest horse is about five inches high, and a sheep about one inch. Some of the animals are so small that I could not see them easily. Birds, for example, are about the same size as flies in England. The tallest trees in Lilliput are seven feet high.

The Lilliputians are very educated people, but their way of writing is strange. They do not write from left to right like the Europeans, or from right to left like the Arabs. They do not write from the top of the page downwards, like the Chinese, or from the bottom upwards. They write from one corner of the paper to the opposite corner!

The laws of Lilliput are also very different to English laws. They regard trade as very important, and they think that trade depends on honesty. So they always punish fraud^② with death. I remember once I asked the Emperor to save a prisoner who had been found guilty of fraud.

'Death is too serious a punishment,' I said. 'This man's crime is only that he told lies to his friend, and robbed him.'

The Emperor was very angry with me. He explained that this kind of robbery is the worst crime in the world.

Another strange thing about Lilliput is this. They punish bad behaviour, as

① customs: 习俗。

② fraud: 欺诈行为。

we do in England. But they also reward good behaviour, which we never do in England. A Lilliputian who has obeyed all the laws of the country for a long time, is given a special title and some money by the government.

Their ideas about children are very different to ours. They do not believe that parents should choose their children's education. All children are taken away from their parents when they are young, and are sent to nursery schools. When they are older, children go to different schools. The choice of school depends on the family the children come from.

The children from important families go to schools where they learn about religion, honour, justice①, and courage. Their professors② are always with them, and the children are not allowed to talk to the servants in the school.

Their parents can visit them once or twice a year, but they cannot bring them presents. Girls also go to schools, where they learn the same things as boys. They are also taught about family life. Girls are not allowed to talk to the servants in their schools. The result of this is that they do not hear the silly stories of ignorant women. In general, the women of Lilliput are sensible and intelligent.

The children of ordinary people go to schools where they learn various trades and professions. The children of the poorest people do not go to school, because they do not have to learn anything to do their work. Poor people in Lilliput are given a government pension③ when they are old or ill, and there are no beggars in the country.

① justice: 正义。

② professors: 教师。

③ government pension: 政府津贴。

I lived in Lilliput for nearly a year, and this is what my daily life was like. I made myself a table and chair from one of the biggest trees I could find. Two hundred women worked to make clothes for me. They used different techniques① for measuring me, and these techniques amused me. The first method was to determine the length of my clothes. I lay on the ground, and one woman stood near my head, and another stood near my leg. They had a long piece of rope which they used as a measure of my height. When they wanted to make a jacket for me, they asked me to kneel on the ground. Then they placed a ladder against my neck. A man climbed to the top of ladder, and threw a length of rope down to the ground. This showed them the correct length of the jacket they wanted to make.

Three hundred cooks worked to prepare my food every day. I lifted twenty waiters onto my table. They threw ropes over the side of the table to the ground below. The cooks attached the barrels of wine and dishes② of food to the ropes, and the waiters

pulled the food up to the table.

One night a very important Lilliputian came to see me at the temple. His visit there was a secret, he said.

'You are in danger,' he told me. 'The Emperor does not like you, and he wants to punish you.'

'Punish me!' I said. I was very surprised. 'Why does the Emperor want to punish me? I helped him to defeat the Blefuscu navy! And I saved the palace from the fire.'

'That's true,' the man agreed. 'But then you made a mistake. The Emperor wanted to destroy Blefuscu completely, and you refused to help him.'

'War is a terrible thing,' I replied. 'I didn't want to kill lots of people.'

① techniques: 技巧。

② dishes: 碟子。

'You're right,' the man admitted. 'But now the Emperor thinks you are his enemy. And then he was offended① at the way you saved the palace—he says it was an insult② to Lilliput!'

Then the important man told me what the Emperor and his ministers were planning.

'Some of his government ministers want to kill you,' he explained. 'But the Emperor has decided not to kill you. He thinks it will be enough to remove your eyes. He wants to blind③ you, Gulliver!'

I was horrified. I had thought the Emperor was my friend. I had helped his country in the war against Blefuscu — and now he wanted to take away my eyes! I decided to leave Lilliput immediately.

I travelled to Blefuscu, where the Emperor was very kind to me. One day I went for a walk on the beach. I was feeling sad and unhappy, and I was thinking about England. Suddenly I saw a boat in the water. It was a real ship's boat, not one of the little boats of the Blefuscu people. This was a real boat, big enough for someone of my size! I was very excited, and I ran into the sea. I swam out to the boat, and climbed into it. Then I took the boat back to the shore, and tied it up carefully.

I told the Emperor of Blefuscu about the boat.

'I'm lonely here,' I told him. 'I want to go back to England. Maybe I can use that boat to go home, if you will help me. It'll be a long journey, but I'm sure I can do it.'

'Very well,' he said, 'I'll help you. I'll give you food and drink to put in the boat.'

① offended: 生气。

② insult: 侮辱。

③ blind: 把（某人）弄瞎。

The Emperor ordered his men to prepare my boat. They gave me a large quantity of meat and wine. They also put some animals into the boat — six cows and two bulls, and six ewes^① and two rams. After a few days everything was ready.

I sailed away from Blefuscu. The sea was very big and lonely. After some days, I saw a large ship, and I followed it. It was an English ship, and one of the sailors saw me. They stopped, and took me on board^②. They were going to England, and they took me with them.

The captain of the ship was a friendly man. I told him about my adventures in Lilliput and Blefuscu. He did not believe me.

'Little men!' he laughed. 'You tell a good story, sir,' he said, 'but it's an impossible story, all the same.' And he laughed again.

'Then where do you think this came from?' I asked him. I put my hand in my pocket, and took out one of the tiny sheep from Blefuscu. I showed it to the captain. Now he believed my story!

① ewes: 母羊。

② on board: 上船。

Part Five: A Voyage to Broblingnay

I was very happy to be back in England, after my adventures in Lilliput and Blefuscu. I often thought about the two countries. I hoped they were not fighting each other again.

My next voyage began when I took a job on the ship Adventure. There was a very big storm and a terrible wind. The wind blew the ship off course^①, and we did not know where we were. Then one of the sailors saw

that we were near land. We needed some fresh water, so some of us decided to take a ship's boat to the land.

When we came to the beach, we could not see any houses. I walked a little distance, but there was no sign of a village or town.

'No one lives here,' I thought. I was disappointed, and I turned to walk back to the boat. Then I saw that the other sailors were already in our boat. They were going away from the land very fast—and there was a huge creature following them in the water! The sailors were very frightened. I watched as they took the boat back to the ship.

Now I was alone, and I was frightened. I was afraid of the huge creature. I ran away from the beach. I ran to the top of a hill, and then I had a surprise. There were fields here — but they were not ordinary fields of corn and grass. Everything was very big.

Then I saw a man —but he was as tall as a church! The corn was much taller than me, and I hid in it.

The giant called some other people. They were all giants, too. They began to cut the corn where I was hiding. I was very scared, and I cried out loudly. The first giant heard my cry, and he stopped work. He looked at the corn, and then he looked at the ground. He saw me. He reached down and picked

① off course: 偏离航道。

me up. He held me between his fingers and looked at me for a while. I was very frightened to be so high in the air. I thought he would throw me onto the ground. I spoke to him, to show that I was a man like him. He seemed pleased that I could speak. Then I used signs to explain that his fingers were hurting my sides. He understood what I wanted to say, and he put me gently in his pocket. He carried me to the farm.

'Look at this,' he said.

He put his hand in his pocket, and took me out. 'What do you think it is?' he asked. The farmer looked at me for a moment.

He put me on the ground, and studied me carefully for a moment. He looked at my clothes, which he seemed to think were a natural① part of my body.

'It's an animal,' he said. 'But I don't know what kind of animal it is.'

'I'm not an animal!' I shouted. 'I'm a man, like you.'

I walked backwards and forwards in front of the farmer and his men. I wanted to show them that I would not run away. They sat on the ground around me, and watched me with interest. I took off my hat. Then I pulled out my money and gave it to him. He looked at the money for a while, but he did not know what it was. Then I tried to speak to him.

'It can speak!' the farmer said. 'I don't know what it is — but I think I'll keep it.'

The farmer took me to his house. Everybody was eating dinner when we arrived. The farmer asked his wife what she thought of me. At first she thought I was a horrible little insect. She was frightened of me, the way

① natural: 天生的。

English ladies are frightened of spiders①. Then, when she saw that I understood what was happening, she lost her fear. She soon became a good friend.

The farmer put me on the table, and he gave me something to eat and drink. The farmer's son, who was about ten years old, then reached forward and picked me up. He held me in the air by my legs, and I was very frightened. The farmer was angry

with his son, and ordered him to put me down. Then he slapped^② his son on the ear very hard, and told him to leave the table. I remembered how children can be cruel to little animals, and I decided to make a friend of the boy. I used signs to show the farmer that I wanted him to forgive his son. The farmer smiled, and told his son to return to the table. When he had sat down again, I went to the boy and kissed his hand.

The family cat came into the room during dinner. I was very scared of this huge animal, but I was determined not to show my fear. I walked up and down in front of the animal for a while, and the enormous^③ cat seemed frightened of me! Then the nurse brought in the baby of the family, who was about one year old. The baby saw me, and wanted to play with me. It put me into its mouth, and I thought it would eat me. I cried out very loudly, and the baby dropped me. Luckily, her mother caught me, or I would have been killed in the fall.

After dinner the farmer's wife put me onto her bed to sleep. She covered me with a handkerchief, and I soon fell asleep.

I was woken by a strange noise on the bed. I looked up, and there were two enormous rats on the bed — they were as big as dogs. I took out my

① spiders: 蜘蛛。

② slapped: 打耳光。

③ enormous: 巨大的。

sword, and attacked them. I killed one of the rats, and the second one ran away. Now I knew that it was dangerous to be small!

When the farmer's wife came into the room, she saw the body of the rat on the bed. She was very happy that I was not hurt. The farmer and his wife had a daughter. She was nine years old, and she became my friend. She looked after me very well, and she taught me many things. She told me that the name of the country was Brobdingnag. She gave me lessons in their language. I called her Glumdalclitch, which is the word for 'little nurse' in their language. She called me Grildrig, which means 'little man' in their language.

Part Six: My career as a Performer

I was happy with the farmer and his family, and the days passed quickly. There were always a lot of visitors to the house. They came to see me. They were all interested in the little man that the farmer had found in the field.

One of the farmer's friends noticed that everybody in the village wanted to see me. 'You could make a lot of money,' he told the farmer. 'Everybody in the village has seen the little man. Why don't you take him into town on market day? Make the people pay

you to see him.'

The farmer thought this was a good idea. Glumdalclitch did not like the idea, because she was afraid the people would hurt me. She also knew that I was very modest^①, and that I would not want to perform for the public.

The next morning, however, the farmer took Glumdalclitch and me to town. They put me into a box on one of the horses, and the journey was very uncomfortable for me. The horse moved very violently^②, and it was like being in a ship during a storm.

When we arrived at the town, we stayed in a hotel. The farmer told the people in the town about me, and lots of them came to see me. We organised a show for them.

'Stand up!' Glumdalclitch told me.

I stood up, and bowed^③ politely to the people in the room. They laughed, and clapped their hands.

'Take out your sword!' she said next.

① modest: 谦虚。

② violently: 猛烈的。

③ bowed: 鞠躬。

I took out my sword, and looked fiercely at the people in the room. Once again, everybody laughed and clapped their hands.

The farmer made a lot of money, and he decided to travel to other towns. We went from town to town. Everyone came to see us, and I was very popular.

We lived like this for a long time. It was a terrible life for me. I did not like to be a spectacle^① for the people. I was unhappy, and I became ill. Every day I lost strength, and I thought I was going to die. Glumdalclitch was worried about me, but her father just wanted to make as much money as possible from me. He did not care about me at all.

One day we came to the capital city of Brobdingnag. We performed our show for the people as usual. A lot of people came to see me, and the farmer was happy. We decided to stay in the city for a while.

Soon the whole city was talking about me. One day a man from the palace came to talk to the farmer.

'The Queen wants to see this little man,' he said. 'Bring him to the palace tonight.'

The farmer, Glumdalclitch and I were very excited. We decided to perform a very special show for the Queen. We wanted to please her.

① spectacle: 令人好奇的人或东西。

We performed our special show for the Queen, and the Queen loved it. She smiled when I bowed to her, and she pretended to be frightened when I took out my sword. She clapped very loudly when we finished.

'What a wonderful little man!' she said to the farmer. 'I want to keep him. Will you sell him to me?'

'Yes, I'll sell him to you, Your Majesty,' the farmer told her.

I was sad, because I liked Glumdalclitch. Then I had a good idea. I approached^① the Queen. I could speak a few words of their language now, and I asked her to do something for me. The Queen smiled at me.

'What is it, little man?' she asked. 'What can I do for you?'

'Can Glumdalclitch stay here with me, Your Majesty?' I asked.

'Of course she can!' the Queen said. 'You two are friends, aren't you?' That is how my life with the Queen of Brobdingnag began. The Queen introduced me to the King, and he and I became friends very quickly. The King asked me a lot of questions about England. He was very surprised that everybody in England was small like me.

The King and Queen ordered a special box for me. It was made of wood, and there was a table inside, and some small chairs and a bed. The inside of the box was covered with soft material, so that I would not be hurt when someone carried it from one place to another. I kept a collection of interesting objects in the box. One of these was a servant's tooth - it was more than a metre in length! It was a happy time for me, but there were many dangers because of my

① approached: 走近。

small size. There are some incidents^① that I remember particularly.

Every morning Glumdalclitch carried my box to the window. One day she carried me to the window as usual, and then she left me there. Some huge wasps^② came in through the window, and entered the box. They were the size of birds in England, and they were very fierce. I was frightened of them. I took out my sword and fought them. I killed four of them. Luckily, the others flew away.

Another dangerous occasion that I remember was this. Glumdalclitch left me in the garden one day, and the weather was very bad. First it rained, and then it hailed^③ very hard. The hail-stones were the size of tennis-balls, and they hurt me badly. I managed to hide under a tree, but I was still hit by some of them.

Another danger came from an idea that the Queen had. She knew that I like boats, and she ordered one of her servants to make a little boat for me. The servant put the boat into a tank of water on the table. I spent many hours in this boat. One day, however, a frog jumped out of the water into the boat.

I thought the boat would sink, and I was frightened. I was lucky, and I managed to

push the frog out of the boat.

The King and I had many conversations. He was a friendly man, but he did not understand anything about science. He was very surprised when I told him about the English army. He could not understand when I described the cannons^④ that the army uses. When I offered to build a cannon for his own army, he became angry.

- ① incidents: 事件。
- ② wasps: 黄蜂。
- ③ hailed: 下冰雹。
- ④ cannons: 大炮。

'No, Gulliver, I forbid^① it!' he said. 'I don't understand what these cannons are, but they seem terrible things. Never mention this subject again, please!' My real problems in Brobdingnag started with the Queen's dwarf^②. Before my arrival at the palace, he had been the smallest person anyone had ever seen. I was much, much smaller than him, and he was jealous. He played all sorts of tricks^③ on me — some of them were very dangerous.

We were having dinner with the Queen one night. The dwarf suddenly picked me up, and dropped me into a bowl of cream. The bowl was very deep, and I nearly drowned. Luckily Glumdalclitch was there, and she saved me.

Another evening the dwarf attacked me again at dinner. This time he picked me up and pushed me into a bone^④ on the Queen's plate.

He attacked me a third time in the garden one afternoon. I was walking under some apple trees. He climbed into one of the trees, and shook^⑤ the branches^⑥. The apples, which were the size of barrels, fell onto the ground near me. It was a very dangerous and foolish thing to do.

It was not only the dwarf who was dangerous. Animals were also a danger to me, because I was so small. One day the gardener's dog picked me up in his mouth. I was very frightened, and I thought he was going to eat me.

The dog carried me very gently to the gardener, and dropped me at his feet.

- ① forbid: 不允许。
- ② dwarf: 矮子。
- ③ tricks: 玩笑。
- ④ bone: 骨头。
- ⑤ shook: 摆动。
- ⑥ branches: 树枝。

But the worst fright^① I had was with a monkey^②. The monkey came into a room of the palace. He picked me up, and carried me away. He seemed to think I was a baby monkey. He tried to give me food to eat, and then he climbed onto the roof of the palace with me in his hand. I was terrified. Some of the Queen's servants saw what

happened. They ran to fetch③ ladders, and they climbed onto the roof to save me.

I spent about two years in Brobdingnag. Once again I began to think of home, and to be lonely. I was tired of being special because of my size. I wanted to go back to England.

One day the King decided to visit one of his palaces near the sea. He wanted me and Glumdalclitch to go with him, as usual. We travelled to the palace together. When we arrived, Glumdalclitch did not feel very well, and she went to bed.

One of the King's servants carried my box to the beach. I was inside, and I enjoyed looking at the waves from the window.

The servant put the box down, and then he went back inside the palace. It was a hot day, and I fell asleep in the box.

I woke up suddenly when the box began to move. I looked out of the window, and the ground was a long way away—I was up in the air! I couldn't understand what had happened. Then I looked again, and I saw that a huge eagle④ was flying with the box in its mouth. I was very frightened, and I did not know what to do.

Then I heard another noise. I looked out of the window, and there were two large birds flying towards the eagle. They attacked the eagle. They had a

① **fright:** 恐惧。

② **monkey:** 猴子。

③ **fetch:** 去拿来！

④ **eagle:** 鹰。

terrible fight. In the middle of the fight the eagle dropped the box.

The box fell into the sea with a great crash① I thought the box would break, but it was very strong. It floated in the water for a long time.

The captain of an English ship saw the box in the water. He ordered his men to bring it onto the ship. The sailors were very surprised when they saw a man inside it.

The captain asked me to tell him my story, and I did. He did not believe the things I told him about Brobdingnag. 'Giants!' he said. 'You don't expect me to believe that, do you? Giants don't really exist, my friend!'

'Then where do you think this came from?' I asked him. I went into the box for a moment, and took out the servant's tooth that I kept there. I showed it to the captain. Now he believed my story!

① **crash:** 哗啦一声。

Part Eight: A Voyage to Laputa and Bahibarbi

I was at home for about ten days when a friend of mine came to see me. Captain Robinson owned a ship called the Hope-well, and he wanted me to sail with him. At first I did not want to go, but he offered me a lot of money, and in the end I agreed.

We sailed in the Hope-well to the East Indies. There was bad news when we arrived there. The goods which Captain Robinson wanted to buy were not ready.

'I'll have to stay here and wait,' Captain Robinson told me. 'But you don't have to stay here with me, Gulliver. Let's buy a smaller ship, and you can go to the islands near here and buy and sell goods.'

I agreed, and soon I was in command of① a little ship of my own.

Unfortunately this little ship was attacked by pirates. They came on board, and they stole everything, including the ship itself. They were very fierce, and I thought they were going to kill me. They changed their minds②, though, and decided to put me into a canoe③ with enough food and water for four days.

I knew there were some islands in this part of the sea. I spent a few days going from one island to another. The islands were all small ones, and there were no people on them. There was also very little food. I began to think that I would die on one of these islands, and I was very unhappy.

One day I saw something very strange in the sky. It was afternoon, and the sun was very hot. Suddenly the sky became dark, and I could not see the sun

① in command of: 掌管, 指挥。

② changed their minds: 改变(他们的)想法。

③ canoe: 独木舟。

at all. I looked up, and saw a huge object in the sky. It seemed to be an island, and it was flying! I looked at it through my telescope, and I saw people on the island. I was very surprised to see a flying island with people on it, and I did not know what to do.

I decided to call out to the people. Perhaps they would help me to escape. I shouted very loudly, and waved my arms. Some of the people on the flying island heard me, and they looked down at me. Soon there was a crowd of people looking down at me.

The island began to come close to me. Someone threw down a piece of rope with a chair tied to it. I climbed into the chair, and I was pulled up towards the mysterious island.

A crowd of people was waiting to welcome me when I arrived. They told me that the name of their island was Laputa. They were strange people. Their heads were very flat, and one eye looked up to the sky and the other eye looked in the opposite direction. The clothes of the rich people were strange, too. They had pictures of stars and musical instruments on them. The rich people all had servants, and I saw that the servants carried sticks with them. Sometimes the servants touched their masters on the mouth or ears with the stick. I did not understand why they did this until someone explained it to me. The rich people of the island were all mathematicians and thinkers. They were very busy with their thoughts. When someone wanted to speak to them, they did not notice. Their servants had to touch them with a stick to make them listen.

Some of the people took me to the King's palace, and he invited me to have dinner with him. The King was a very polite man, and he wanted me to be his guest and learn their language. The people of the island were only interested in mathematics and music.

They spent their time solving mathematical problems, and thinking about music. They were very good at making theories^①, but they were not practical people at all. They could not make proper clothes or build decent^② houses.

No one wanted to talk to me about my adventures, or to learn about my country. All they wanted to do was talk about mathematics and music. After a while, they stopped talking to me completely.

There was a very important man at the court who became a friend of mine. He was a cousin of the King, and had a very important position in the country. Everyone thought he was stupid because he was not good at mathematics or music. He was the only man on the island who was interested in talking to me about my adventures and about England. He asked me many questions about the places I had visited, and their systems of government.

After a month on the flying island, I wanted to leave. The people were kind to me, but they only wanted to talk about mathematics and music. They were not interested in me.

I learnt that the King of the island was also the King of the country below the island. This country is called Balnibarbi, and its capital city is called Lagado. I asked the King's permission to visit the other parts of his realm^③, and he gave it to me. My friend, the King's cousin, was sorry to see me go.

'I'll miss you,' he said, 'I've enjoyed our conversations. But when you are in Balnibarbi, please see my friend Lord Munodi. He'll show you the country.'

① theories: 理论。

② decent: 过得去的。

③ realm: 王国。

I met Lord Munodi in the capital city, Lagado. He was a very polite and intelligent man, and he took me on a tour of the country. I saw that the whole country was very badly organised. The houses in the towns were very ugly, and the people seemed poor. The land in the countryside seemed rich, but there were very few farms. I told Lord Munodi what I thought.

'Every country has its own traditions①,' he said quietly. 'Our country is certainly different to England.'

He took me to see his own farm, and this was very different to the other farms in the country. Everything was very well organised, and the people seemed happy and rich.
'What a difference!' I said. 'Your farm is the best in the whole country!'

'Thank you,' he replied. 'I'm happy that you like my farm.' Then he looked very sad.
'But it will not always be like this. I have just received some bad news. I will soon have to change everything, and make this farm like the others you have seen.'

I was very surprised at what he told me, and I asked him to explain. Then he told me the recent history of Balnibarbi.

'About forty years ago,' he said, 'the country was all like this. The towns were well organised, and the farms were rich. Then some people from Balnibarbi went up to Laputa. They stayed there for about five months.'

When they came back here, they brought with them ideas about mathematics and music. They asked the King to begin an academy at Lagado. That is the cause of the problem. The professors at the academy have all got new ideas - but none of their ideas work. They are destroying the country.'

I told Lord Munodi that I wanted to see this academy, and he asked a

① traditions: 传统。

friend to take me there. The academy was one of the strangest places I have ever seen. It was full of professors, and each professor was working on a different project.

The first professor that I saw had a special project. He wanted to extract①sunlight from cucumbers②.

'We can use the sunlight to heat the houses in winter,' he told me. He was sure that his project would be a great success.

There was a school of languages in the academy, and I went there to see what the professors were doing. One professor had a project to make conversations shorter. He was working on a language that only had nouns in it.

Another professor had a project for a new kind of language.

'Words are really the names of things,' he explained to me. 'In my new language, we use things instead of③ words. Everybody carries a bag with the things in it that he wants to talk about. When he wants to talk, he brings out the thing he wants to talk about, and shows it to the people!'

- ① extract: 提取。
- ② cucumbers: 黄瓜。
- ③ instead of: 而不是。

Part Nine: A Voyage to Glubbdubrib and Luggnagg

I now decided to leave Lagado, and to go home to England. My plan was to go to the port of MaJdonada, and to take a ship there for the island of Luggnagg. From Luggnagg I planned to travel to Japan. I knew that many ships went from Japan to Europe. When I arrived at Maldonada, I learnt that the next ship for Luggnagg was expected in a month. I spent a few days in the port of Maldonada, and the local people were very kind to me. One of them offered to take me to the little island of Glubbdubrib.

'It will amuse① you,' he said, 'and it isn't far. We can go there together, and when we come back, your ship for Luggnagg will be here.'

I accepted his kind offer, because I was curious to see Glubbdubrib. I knew that the name of the island means 'magician②' in their language, and I wanted to see what an island of magicians was like!

When we arrived on the island, we went to the Governor's palace. The Governor welcomed us kindly, but there was something strange about his servants. They were not dressed in modern clothes, and they were very white and pale. The Governor asked us to sit down, and began to question me about my adventures. Then he clapped his hands, and the servants in the room suddenly disappeared. One minute they were there, and the next they were gone! I was very surprised, and a little frightened. Then the Governor told me the truth about his servants.

'They're not real people,' he said, 'they're ghosts. I'm a magician, and I can make dead people appear and disappear.'

- ① amuse: 使（某人）开心。
- ② magician: 魔术师。

He clapped his hands again, and the servants reappeared instantly①.

We stayed about ten days on the island, and we saw the Governor of the island every day. I became used to the strange servants, and I was interested in the governor's

magic. He told me that he could use his power to make any dead person appear. He asked me if I would like to meet any famous people from history. He offered to make them appear for me. You can ask them any questions you like,' he told me. 'They are ghosts, and they will tell you the truth.'

I asked to see some of the heroes of the past. First I saw Alexander the Great, and the great General Hannibal. Then I saw Pompey the Great, Caesar and Brutus. Next I asked to see famous poets and thinkers from the past, and I saw Homer and Aristotle. I also saw some of the heroes of modern times.

I asked them many questions about famous events in history, but their answers made me sad. I learnt that many of these heroes had not been brave at all during their lives. They had been dishonest, and they had been cruel. I was very disappointed in my heroes.

We stayed about ten days on the island of Glubbdubdrib before returning to Maldonada. I then took a ship for the island of Luggnagg.

The King of Luggnagg welcomed me kindly, and I spent some time at the palace. I made friends with some of the most important men on the island, and we had many long conversations.

One day, one of my friends asked me if I knew about the Struldbruggs.

'No,' I replied, 'I've never heard of the Struldbruggs. Who are they?'

'The Struldbruggs,' he explained, 'are people who do not die. They live for ever.'

'How wonderful!' I cried. I was very excited. 'I'm sure the Struldbruggs are

① instantly: 立刻。

very wise. Do they share their wisdom① with the people? Do they help and advise the King? Think how happy they are, these men who never die!' My friend smiled.

'You think they are happy, these men who never die?' he asked me. 'You think they are wise, and good, and happy, don't you?'

'Certainly,' I replied. 'I'm sure they are wise, and good, and happy.'

'Listen to me,' my friend said, 'and I'll tell you the truth about the Struldbruggs. They are born with a special mark on their heads,' he began.

'Everyone knows who they are. They behave like ordinary people until they are about thirty years old. Then they become sad, and they are sad until they are about eighty years old. When they are eighty years old, they are like other old men. They forget things, and they become ill. After the age of eighty, they lose all their friends, and they never make new friends. Their sufferings② are terrible,' my friend said.

'When they are ninety years old, they have no memory at all,' he continued.

'They cannot remember the names of their children. They cannot read, because they cannot remember the words of a sentence. After two hundred years, they cannot even speak to people. This is because the language of the country changes, and they cannot learn the new words.'

This story of the Struldbriggs made me very sad. I left Luggnagg shortly afterwards. I travelled to Japan, where I found a ship for England.

- ① wisdom: 智慧。
- ② sufferings: 苦难。

Part Ten: A voyage to the Country of the Houybnbnms

I was very happy to reach home safely, and I decided to stay in England for a long time. Then someone offered me a ship of my own, the Adventure, and I left- England once again.

Many of the crew of the Adventure became ill on the journey, and some of them died. Soon there were not enough sailors to drive the ship. I decided to stop in Barbados to find more sailors. This was a mistake, however, because many of the new sailors were really pirates.

The new sailors waited until the ship was at sea, and then they attacked me, and one of them took command of the ship. They stopped the ship when they saw land, and they left me there. No one knew the name of the country. Once again, I was alone in a foreign land.

I did not know if there were people in this country, but I decided to look for a village or town. I walked for a long time, but I did not see any buildings, or any farms. At last I saw several animals in a field. These animals were very ugly, and looked a little like monkeys. I watched them for a while, and then continued my walk.

While I was walking, one of these animals came up to me. It raised one of its hands, and tried to touch me on the face. I took out my sword, and hit the animal to drive it away①. The animal cried out angrily, and about forty of the horrible creatures appeared. They surrounded me, and began shouting and making noises. I was frightened, and I hoped someone would come to rescue② me.

Suddenly all the animals ran away. This surprised me, because I did not

- ① drive it away: 赶走。
- ② rescue: 拯救。

see anyone. There was only a horse walking quietly by itself. The horse came close to me, and looked at me for a long time. It walked around me, and it seemed very interested in me.

Soon another horse appeared, and a very strange thing happened. The two horses looked at each other, and both of them made the same noise. They seemed to talk to each other!

'This is a wonderful country,' I thought. 'The horses talk to each other! I want to see the people, to find out if they are as wonderful as the horses.'

At that moment the horses came very close to me, and touched my hands and face. They were very gentle, and they did not hurt me. Then they made a low noise, and I understood that they wanted me to follow them.

The horses and I walked for about three miles, until we arrived at a large building. I was happy to see a building.

'The people here will help me' I thought, 'once they know I want to go back to England.'

We entered the building, and I was very surprised that there were no people in it. It was full of horses. Some of them were sitting down, which I thought was very strange. Others were working to prepare food. Then they took me into another room of the building. There was another horse in this room, and he seemed very important. The other horses behaved with great respect to the master horse. When he saw me, he said something. I heard the word Yahoo. The other horses repeated this word with anger and contempt^①.

Then we all went to another building, and I saw some of the horrible animals which had attacked me. They were very dirty, and they were tied with ropes. The master horse looked at the creatures, and then looked at me. All the horses were silent for a moment, and the master horse said the word

① contempt: 轻蔑。

Yahoo again. I looked at the ugly animals, and suddenly I was horrified. They were dirty, and they were covered in hair, but they were people!

Now we went back to the first building. The master horse was very surprised when I tried to use some of the words of their language. He tried to teach me more words, and he was very pleased that I could repeat them.

I am good at learning languages, and after ten weeks I was able to understand the horses when they spoke to me. I learnt that they called themselves Houhnhnm, which means horse. The master horse told me that they called the ugly creatures Yahoos.

'We thought you were a Yahoo as well,' he told me. 'You look the same, but you are intelligent and clean. When you spoke to us, we didn't know what to think. Yahoos can never learn to speak our language.'

I told him that I came from a different country. Then I told him about some of my adventures. When I told him about the ship, he looked unhappy.

'It's impossible,' he said. 'There isn't a country over the sea. And I don't understand this story of a ship. I don't know what a ship is, but it's impossible for creatures like you to make one. A Houyhnhnm couldn't make one - how could you?'

'In my country,' I explained to him, 'everything is different. The animals you call Yahoos are intelligent, like me. Horses in my country are not intelligent.'

'I don't believe you,' he replied. 'It's impossible to imagine a country where Yahoos are intelligent - and I cannot imagine a country where Houyhnhnms are not intelligent. You are inventing this story.'

Then I told the master horse about life in England. I explained that we use horses to pull carriages, and that we ride upon their backs. Again, he did not seem to think this was possible.

'Horses do not allow Yahoos to ride upon their backs,' he told me. 'What you say is impossible.'

I told him about the history of England and our famous wars with our enemies.

'This thing called war,' he said, 'is difficult for me to understand. You seem intelligent creatures, but you kill each other. It is a good thing you are not strong like horses - you cannot bite each other, or hurt each other very badly.'

'You are wrong,' I told him. 'It is true that our bodies are not strong, but we have very powerful weapons. We have bombs, guns, pistols, and swords. Many people are killed during our wars.' Now the master horse was angry. He looked at me very seriously.

'Then your people are worse than the Yahoos we have here,' he said. 'The Yahoos here are stupid and horrible, it's true. But your people are intelligent, and there is no excuse for them.'

One day the master horse called me to him.

'I have been thinking about your people,' he said. 'I think I understand you now. It is true that you are intelligent, and the Yahoos here are not intelligent. They are stupid and wicked^①. But your people are intelligent and wicked - that's the difference between you and the Yahoos!'

During my stay with the Houyhnhnms I began to understand and admire them. They live very simple lives, and they love friendship and truth. They never fight with each other, and they never argue. They believe they can use their intelligence to solve all problems.

I began to understand the Houyhnhnms, and I began to hate human beings.

① wicked: 邪恶。

The Houyhnhnms were gentle and noble①, and human beings are violent and stupid. I knew that we were Yahoos. I was ashamed of being a Yahoo.

I listened to many conversations between the master horse and his friends. They spoke very wisely, and I grew to love them. I wanted to spend the rest of my life with the Houyhnhnms. But one day the master horse came to see me.

'I have something to tell you,' he said. 'The great Assembly of the Houyhnhnms has made a decision about you. They say that you are a Yahoo, and they want you to leave. I am sorry, but you must go back to your own country.'

This was very bad news for me. I did not want to return to England, and to the world of the Yahoos. I knew I must obey, however, and I built myself a little boat for the journey. All my Houyhnhnm friends came to say goodbye to me on the day I left their country.

I stopped my little boat at an island in the middle of the sea. There was a ship here from Portugal, and the sailors captured② me. They took me to their captain, Don Pedro. He was very kind to me, and he said that I could travel to England with him.

'I don't want to come with you,' I said. 'I'm just a Yahoo - leave me alone.' Don Pedro did not understand what I was talking about, and he asked me to explain. I told him the story of my adventure with the Houyhnhnms.

'They are very good, and they taught me a lot,' I said. 'Now I don't like people - we're all just stupid Yahoos!'

Don Pedro persuaded③ me to return to England and my family. At first I did not want to see my family or my children. I did not want to live with Yahoos.

① noble: 高尚。 ② captured: 俘虏。 ③ persuaded: 说服。

I have now been back at home for five years, and I am still unhappy. I have had so many adventures, and I have learnt the truth about people. We are Yahoos. The knowledge makes me very sad. I miss my friends, the Houyhnhnms.

中级班从句精读小说 3
星际动物园
简介

人类是地球这颗行星上最成功的动物。所谓成功，是指在与其他动物的斗争中取得的成功。在争夺食物或土地的问题上，我们人类战无不胜。我们砍伐树木，修建房屋或工厂，自己种植粮食。其他动物不得不去另找其他的地方生活——如果它们能找着的话。

我们人类战无不胜是因为我们智力发达。我们会思想，会说话，会使用工具，会制造精妙的机器。我们是再聪明不过的动物……

也许聪明过头了。也许将来的人们会有不同的想法。蜂鸟（简称蜂儿）是一个生活在公元 22500 年的 16 岁姑娘，她住在离地球很远很远的一颗行星上。她喜欢漂亮的衣服，喜欢跳舞，还为自己将嫁给谁而忐忑不安。她从来没有见过树。什么动物啊、鸟啊她从来没有见过。当然，她知道什么是动物，因为在《往事追忆》这本书中有动物的故事。但谁会相信那种老掉牙的故事呢？

本书的作者，哈里·吉尔伯特，是住在伦敦的一位教师。这是他的第八本书，也是他为学习英语的学生写的第一本

1 You must marry me

Nothing ever happens on Just Like Home—that's the name of the planet I live on. I get so bored!

But tonight was Remembering Night and that's exciting. There's the big fire where everybody must put on something that they love and watch it burn. Then there's the dancing round the fire.

But what I like best about Remembering Night are the clothes. We usually wear what we like on Just Like Home—but the clothes must have the name of our name-animal on them. For example, I always have the word 'Hummingbird' on my clothes, which means my name is Hummingbird—Hummy for short.

Nobody knows what a hummingbird looks like, but we know what birds are. Birds are animals that fly. The Book of Remembering tells us that.

I don't always believe what the Book of Remembering says.

Nobody knows who you are on Remembering Night because you wear black clothes that cover you from head to foot, and there is no name of your name-animal. You can only see people's eyes looking out of the eye-holes in the clothes.

It was dark outside. The only light came from the big fire. I held my father's hand at first and we danced together. My mother danced away and I couldn't see her. Soon I lost my father. I didn't know where they were.

It didn't matter. I was dancing in the middle of the crowd. Our family would meet together in the robot plane afterwards.

There were about a thousand people round the fire. Too many people to count. Nearly everybody on Just Like Home was there.

Everybody, on planets all over the Galaxy, was dancing round fires at the same time. What a wonderful thing!

The last dance began. You hold hands in a big circle round the fire—everybody together. You dance round and round in a circle until...

Well, everybody knows what happens in the end.

I was holding hands with someone on my right and someone on my left. We were all shouting, 'BURN BURN BURN BURN BURN BURN BURN...'

The last dance went on for a long time. In the end somebody fell down. He pulled down the people on both sides of him. Then people on both sides of them fell

down. Everybody was too tired to stay on their feet.

People fell down all round the circle. Falling. Dying.

We wear black clothes to remember. We remember the Burning.

We remember that we have a Galaxy, but we are alone. We are empty in our hearts. We are the only living things in the Galaxy.

Sad. Lonely and sad.

I lay on the ground, very, very tired. I was happy and sad at the same time. Happy to be with everybody, sad that we were alone.

Then the worst thing in my life happened. Somebody came up to me and said, 'Hello. I didn't know who it was. I could only see his eyes shining in the light of the fire. But it was the voice of a man who was much older than me.

'Hello? I answered. I didn't want to talk to him.

'I saw you in the dance, 'he said. 'I know you're a young girl because you were dancing like a young girl. I think you're seventeen years old. '

'No, I'm only sixteen, 'I said.

'Wonderful. Just what I want, 'said the man. 'I will marry you. You must marry me. '

I couldn't believe what he was saying. This was terrible. And very bad luck.

Yes, it was true a woman must marry any man who asks her on Remembering Night—by order of the Star Council. I'm sixteen so I'm a woman, not a child. I couldn't say no to this man. I was sick in my heart.

'My name's Buff, 'the man said. 'What's your name, sweetheart? '

'Er, my name's, er...Caterpillar, 'I lied. 'I'm usually called Kate. '

'Well, Kate, 'Buff said, 'will you marry me? '

'I'm sorry, Buff. I know I'm sixteen and old enough to get married but my parents don't want me to get married yet. I'm their only daughter. '

Buff laughed. It was a horrible laugh. He enjoyed knowing I didn't want him. What a monster!

Oh, thank Earth—and—animals I hadn't told him my real name!

I jumped up suddenly and ran into the crowds of people in the dark. I was safe. He couldn't find me. I went to our robot plane and sat inside until my parents came.

I didn't tell my parents anything. I was afraid. The Star Council said Buff was right and I was wrong, and I didn't know what my parents would do.

Next morning I forgot about it. How could Buff find me? There were hundreds of girls on our planet. He didn't know my name. He had only seen my eyes.

Suddenly my father came into my room. 'Hummingbird, 'he said sadly.

'What's the matter? 'I asked. 'Why are you calling me Hummingbird, not Hummy? '

'Hummingbird, ask your robot for a wedding dress. '

'Why? Why? 'But I knew the answer.

'You will marry a gentleman called Buffalo. '

'No, father, I can't. I started crying. I don't want to. I'm too young. I don't want to leave you. I hate him! '

My father shook his head. 'Please, Hummy, it's only for one year. You can't be a child forever. Lots of girls don't want to get married at first. The Star Council says we must get married as often as possible and have children. You know why. '

'Why? ' I spoke like a small child.

'Because we are lonely. Because there is nothing in the Galaxy except us. You know all that, Hummy. '

The dressing-robot made me a wedding dress—we have robots for everything like that. The dress was white and covered me all over except for my eyes.

My father took my arm.

Buff was waiting with my mother. I saw his eyes through the eye-holes of his wedding suit. They were small mean eyes.

'Hello, Kate, ' he said.

My father said, 'Her name is Hummingbird. '

'I know, I know, ' Buff said.

'How did you find me? ' I asked Buff.

'I had a small camera, ' he answered. 'I took a photo of your eyes. Did you know that everybody's eyes are different? Nobody has eyes like yours. '

I turned to my father. 'Listen to him! Can't you see how horrible he is? Please don't make me marry him. '

My father didn't say anything. He couldn't help me.

You can say no if a man asks you to marry him on Remembering Night. But you must have a very special reason. A reason that the Star Council will accept. If you are doing work that is important for the Galaxy, the Council will usually accept that as a good reason.

I couldn't think of anything like that. But it was something to hope for...if I could escape.

I was afraid. I didn't want to run away and never see my family again.

Some neighbours arrived, and the wedding began immediately.

Buff stood next to me and held my hand. His hand was large and a little wet. How I hated him!

My father picked up the Book of Remembering. He read, 'In the beginning there were millions of planets in the Galaxy but there was only life on one. That was the planet Earth. People and animals lived together. But people polluted Earth. It became too hot for animals to live. They died. All the animals died. So people left Earth and never returned to that planet. Their hearts were empty when they left Earth, empty today, empty forever...'

Buff was still holding my hand.

My father spoke again. 'Buffalo, will you take my daughter Hummingbird to be your wife for one year, in the name of Earth and the animals? '

Buff answered, 'I will. '

My father turned to me. 'Hummingbird, will you take this man Buffalo to be your husband for one year, in the name of Earth and the animals? '

That's when I ran.

I let the wedding dress fall off me. I ran fast. They ran after me but I could run

much faster without the wedding dress. I got to our robot spaceship, jumped into it and said, 'Take off. '

'Why are people running towards us? 'the spaceship asked.

'Take off now! 'I shouted. 'It's life or death! '

The spaceship couldn't argue. It took off.

Just Like Home was green all over—fields of wheat everywhere. I was out in space looking back at my planet. All around me were stars.

The millions of stars in the Galaxy—that's where I could hide!

2 A spaceship made of plastic

I couldn't believe what I'd done. I'd run away—me!

I'm not very brave and I love my parents very much. I never thought I could ever disobey them.

I was afraid. And I felt sad for my parents. Poor mother and father!

But I had to live my own life. I couldn't get married to a horrible old man like Buffalo!

I knew they would follow me quickly so I told the spaceship to take me to a very quiet part of the Galaxy, a long way from any planets with people on.

The spaceship went.

How can a spaceship travel across the Galaxy in no time at all?

Well, I learnt the answer to that in school. There are a lot of little black holes in space. They are about as big as a potato. A spaceship goes into one black hole and comes out of another black hole on the other side of the Galaxy.

Don't ask me how a big thing like a spaceship can go into a thing as small as a potato. I was probably asleep when the robot teacher told me the answer to that!

Nobody could find me now. I was in the middle of the Galaxy in empty space.

There were stars above my head, stars below my feet, stars on my left hand, stars on my right hand.

Strange. I knew all these stars were a long, long way away but they didn't look far away. They looked very close; I wanted to reach out my hand and touch them.

And the silence. So very, very, very quiet.

The Book of Remembering says how I felt: 'Their hearts were empty. '

My heart was empty. I saw millions of stars but there was no life in the Galaxy except us humans. Well, there are potatoes and wheat and rice but you can't talk to vegetables.

We are alone.

The Book of Remembering says we did it. We polluted Earth and so killed all the animals. We ran away from Earth and we're still running. That was twenty thousand years ago and we still can't forget.

The Book of Remembering gives names for thousands of animals. Fantastic! Could there really be thousands of animals? The idea of animals is so strange. What did they look like? The Book of Remembering has no pictures, but says there are birds that fly, and fish that swim. There are animals with no legs, and animals with

lots of legs—ugh! What a horrible idea!

Can anybody believe stories like that?

And now I was running away too. Perhaps I was wrong to run away.

Suddenly the spaceship went 'PING! '

'Yes, what is it? ' I asked.

'There is something near us. '

'Oh! ' I said. 'I thought we were a long way from anything out here. Take me closer. '

We moved closer, but I couldn't see anything.

Then one star disappeared, then another star, and another. It was too dark to see what the thing was. It was just a big black shape between me and the stars.

It was probably just a big old rock, which had broken off a moon or a planet.

Well, perhaps it contained gold or something. Then I could show the Star Council I was doing important work. Perhaps that would be a good reason not to marry Buff.

I said, 'Find out what it is made of. '

The spaceship shot a laser at the thing and said, 'It is not natural. It may be a spaceship, although it is moving too slowly to arrive at a star. It is made of plastic. '

A spaceship made of plastic? You can't make spaceships out of plastic! And spaceships don't travel slowly.

I was a little afraid, but this was something really important; nobody could make me get married after I had discovered something as strange as this. I was afraid but also excited. Most girls just get married once a year and have another baby. That's enough excitement for them. Not me!

I was going to visit this spaceship and meet...the people inside it.

'Show me this plastic spaceship, ' I said.

My spaceship shone out light. The thing was big, big, BIG. Who would build a spaceship so big? The plastic was full of holes and the spaceship looked old and dead. Would anybody be left alive inside? I didn't think so.

The spaceship was round like a ball. It turned slowly, which made things inside just heavy enough to stay on the ground.

I saw a door on it and said, 'Land there. '

My spaceship landed. I put on a spacesuit, went outside and moved to the big round door. I pulled and pushed and hit it. At last something moved and the door opened.

Inside, there was a tunnel. A long black tunnel. I climbed in and the door closed behind me.

3 Monsters

There was a door at the other end of the tunnel. I went through and...

I was dreaming! I saw big things that grew out of the ground. They were much taller than me with long brown arms covered with green leaves.

I was very frightened as I remembered something in the Book of Remembering:
'In those days there were trees...'

Trees !

I never thought a living thing could be so big . I covered my eyes with my hands. I was afraid to look...but I was afraid not to look.

After a time I took my hands away from my eyes. The trees were still there. They weren't moving.

I suddenly understood that the trees couldn't move . They were plants , like potatoes or rice. I was safe standing under them.

But I didn't feel safe.

The computer inside my spacesuit was checking the air for me . After a few seconds the red lights on my suit turned to green . The air here was safe for humans. So I took off my spacesuit.

Now I could touch and smell things . There was a soft wind . It was cool . I smelt...strange new smells . I smelt living things . Was I smelling the trees...or something else ?

I heard a sound of crying . Then I thought I heard something moving in the trees—just behind one big tree.

Was something hiding behind the tree ? I was frightened but I wanted to see , so I walked slowly towards the tree .

There was light in this place but there were shadows in the trees . I looked round the tree...

I was frightened almost out of my mind . I fell down and my body started shaking.

A grey thing came out from behind the tree and came towards me . It was big but it wasn't tall because it walked on four feet . It had no hands.

But the thing had teeth . Yes , it had a mouth full of teeth , yellow , shiny teeth . It had yellow eyes and grey hair all over its body . I could smell it...

Its mouth came towards my face . I closed my eyes and waited to die.

There was hot air on my face . I wanted to scream and scream but I was too frightened . I couldn't scream.

My mind exploded . I went crazy . I suddenly hit the grey thing and it fell back against the tree . I hit it again , as hard as I could.

I wanted to destroy the grey thing and I was screaming . Suddenly it was gone.

Then I saw another monster . This one was very small with grey fur all over its body . It was holding on to the tree but I pulled it off . I could destroy this one !

I pulled its short legs hard . The small monster bit me . Its teeth went right into my finger . The pain was terrible .

But my mind was exploding . I wanted to destroy it and I didn't care about the pain . I just wanted to kill it .

Then the big grey monster ran back through the trees , jumped at me and knocked me down . As I fell , I dropped the little monster and it escaped .

My head banged on a rock and everything went black .

4 More monsters

There was a long black nose in front of my face. It was smelling me.

At first I couldn't understand what was happening. Then I remembered. The monster with teeth!

I tried to hit the nose but my arm didn't move. Something was wrong with me. My body felt empty and I was hot inside, like a fire. My body ached and my skin was wet all over.

The big grey monster sat in front of me and it looked at me.

Then I saw the small monster too. It was lying on the ground. It was hurt. It was very small, just a little bigger than my hand. It had a beautiful soft tail and it made a sad sound: 'Eee-eee! '

I felt two different things at the same time. I wanted to destroy it...but I also felt sorry for it. It was feeling pain, like me.

I didn't know what to do so I started to cry.

The big monster lay down next to me with its fur against my skin. I hated the feeling of its fur but my body couldn't move.

The fur made my skin dry and I began to feel better. I suddenly felt very tired and I was soon asleep.

I woke up feeling better. I wasn't hot inside and I could move again.

The big monster sat down with me. I hit it with my hand but I still wasn't strong. I didn't hurt it.

Then the monster opened its mouth and called: 'Hoo-woo! '

Some time passed. Then more monsters came. More and more. Most of the monsters walked on four legs. A very big one licked me with its tongue. It was a hard tongue, not like my soft tongue. But I felt better afterwards. That monster made a noise like this: 'Hee-haw! '

There was a very small monster that could fly. It had wings and a long hard mouth. It made a noise like this: 'Cheepcheep! '

It cleaned my finger where Eee-Eee had bitten me. CheepCheep's hard little mouth was good at that.

I must tell the truth. I wanted to take a laser gun and kill all those monsters. They weren't hurting me. They were helping me. They were nice.

But something in my mind hated them. I didn't want to have to think about them.

But I didn't have a laser gun so I couldn't destroy them.

One monster brought me water. Another monster gave me some fruit to eat. A few monsters lay against my body and made me warm. They helped me in many ways but there was something sick in my mind. I still hated them. I will try to explain. For twenty thousand years the Galaxy had belonged to humans. Everything in the Galaxy belonged to us.

When a new baby comes into a family, the first child hates the baby. The first child wants to be the most important, and to keep everything for itself. It is afraid the

baby will take things away from it.

It was like that with me. I wanted to fight these monsters. I didn't want them living with me, in my Galaxy.

One day two humans came through the trees. I stood up. I was stronger now. 'Oh, thank Earth-and-animals!' I said and ran towards them.

The humans looked at me with big round eyes. One human was a man with long hair. He said, 'Gug-gug-gug! '

Then he went down on the ground on his hands and knees, like a baby. He ran round me, smelling me.

The woman said, 'Yee-yee-yee! 'she jumped up on a branch of a tree.

They were humans but they were just like the monsters. They couldn't talk to me.

I started to feel miserable. The monsters tried to give me food but I didn't care about eating.

The monster that said 'Hee-haw! ' carried me on its back and we went to a little river. Hee—Haw dropped me into the water. I didn't care if I was clean or dirty, but Hee—Haw kicked water over me and washed me.

The big grey monster that said 'Hoo-woo! ' was worried about me. I didn't eat very much and I didn't wash myself. I just sat.

One day Hoo-Woo came with Hee-Haw. Hee-Haw carried me through the trees and the three of us travelled a long way. Finally we came to a high plastic wall.

Hoo-Woo pushed open a door in the wall and we went through. On the other side the air was hot and wet and the trees were bigger. There were monsters but they were different.

Hee-Haw carried me a long way through this forest. In the end we arrived at another plastic wall where there was another door.

Hoo—Woo opened the door and we entered a long tunnel. At the end of the tunnel was another door. At first Hoo-Woo waited outside this door, looking worried. I looked at the door. What was on the other side? Why was Hoo-Woo so worried? In the end he opened the door.

I saw a small round room just for a second. Then a terrible bright light came out. After that I couldn't see inside any more; it was too bright. I was very frightened. I felt this fear deep inside me.

Hee-Haw's head touched the ground. Hoo—Woo's head touched the ground too. I understood. This was their God! I understood because I felt the same fear as they did.

Hoo-Woo pushed me towards the light.

5 Waiting for fifteen thousand years

'It's too bright in here,' I said. 'I can't see. '

The light suddenly wasn't so bright and I could see again. I was in a round room, which was empty except for a large square computer.

The computer didn't look like the modern computers we have.

'You are't God! 'I said. 'You're just a computer! Just a strange old computer! '

A voice came from it. 'Yes, this is computer. Who are you? '

Oh, the computer still worked! I was surprised as it looked so very old. It didn't speak in a natural way as modern computers do.

'I'm Hummingbird, 'I answered.

'You are not a hummingbird. Hummingbirds fly in the forests here, in Star Zoo. You are human. You are not a child of Star Zoo. Computer is happy. '

I listened but I didn't understand. 'Hummingbird' was just my name—and the name of one of the animals in the Book of Remembering. Why was this place called the Star Zoo? What was a 'zoo'? I had so many questions to ask!

'Computer, 'I said, 'where do you come from? I never heard of a spaceship as big as this! You speak my language but it sounds different. Why do Hee-Haw and Hoo-Woo think you're God? '

'Who is Hee-Haw? Who is Hoo-Woo? 'the computer asked.

'The two monsters that brought me here, 'I answered.

'Yes. Donkey. Wolf. All animals believe computer is God. Computer makes ultrasonic sound. Ultrasonics make fear. '

'Animals? 'I said slowly. Animals were only a story in the Book of Remembering. There were no animals alive today. What was the computer talking about? 'Animals...like EeeEee and Cheep-Cheep? '

'Eee—Eee is a squirrel, 'the computer said. 'Cheep-Cheep is a bird. Animals take care of you. '

I was very afraid. Donkey, wolf, squirrel, and bird were all animals named in the Book of Remembering.

'Where did these animals come from? 'I asked.

'Star Zoo came from Earth, 'the computer answered. 'Star Zoo left Earth. Earth was hot. '

I suddenly couldn't stand. I fell down and my mind exploded again. This time I wasn't angry. I was sad, empty, afraid, and a little crazy. This was the Book of Remembering come to life!

Earth hot? That was the Burning! We made the Earth too hot and all life except humans died. And we humans did it!

'Not necessary to fall down, 'the computer said. 'Computer is not God. Computer wants to talk to humans. Computer is sad that humans have not spoken for fifteen thousand years. '

I stood up slowly. The Book of Remembering was for remembering the animals but they had been dead for twenty thousand years.

But the animals were here! Yes, here in the Star Zoo, after travelling between stars for twenty thousand years!

'Why did you leave Earth? What happened? 'I asked.

The computer answered, 'Humans polluted Earth. Earth was hot. Animals died.'

'Yes, 'I said. 'I know that. '

The computer continued, 'Humans made zoo in space. No money. Used plastic

bottles. '

'What? ' I said. I didn't understand.

'Collected old plastic bottles. Made zoo with plastic bottles. Cheap. Made big zoo with many rooms. '

'Why are there different rooms? ' I asked.

'Animals and plants live in different ways, ' the computer said. 'Hot, cold, wet, dry. Impossible to keep all animals and all plants in one room. Need different things. Difficult work to get everything right. Necessary to have big computer. No money. Got old computer from army. '

'So that's you? ' I said. 'You're an old army computer from Earth? '

'Computer works and never stops. '

'I understand! ' I said. 'A group of people made this Star Zoo. They knew that Earth was dying. They wanted to save the animals. They sent the Star Zoo away from Earth. '

'Star Zoo went, ' the computer said. 'No money. Went slowly. '

'Very slowly, ' I agreed. 'But What happened to the humans inside the Star Zoo? '

'Five thousand years humans gave orders. Computer worked. Computer mended walls. Computer kept Star Zoo alive and safe. Star Zoo worked well. No problems. Humans stopped giving orders. Not necessary to talk. Humans enjoyed eating, playing, sleeping. Computer can do work. For fifteen thousand years computer has worked, thought, learnt, grown. Now you have come. Computer is happy. '

I was happy too and I wasn't afraid. It was wonderful news. The Galaxy wasn't empty! Animals could live on all the worlds and all humans could be happy again.

Humans were lonely without animals. Humans needed animals.

'The animals must leave the Star Zoo, ' I said to the computer. 'We have planets where they can live. Do you agree? '

'Star Zoo is not strong, ' the computer said. 'Holes in walls lose air and water. Animals need planets. Can have more animals on planets. '

'Then I must go home, ' I said. 'I will come back with spaceships. We will take the animals to different planets. Planets everywhere in the Galaxy. '

'Computer will choose planets for different animals, ' it said. 'First plants will grow. Animals will follow. '

'You can tell us what to do, ' I said. 'This is wonderful.

I want to leave now. Is Hee-Haw waiting? '

'Donkey waits. ' the computer made a noise that was like crying. 'Donkey has waited for a few minutes. Computer has waited for fifteen thousand years. You come back. Computer is sad and afraid. '

6 They don't believe me

Where was my spacesuit?

Eee-Eee found it up in a tree where another squirrel was living in it. Eee-Eee told

the squirrel to get out of my spacesuit.

I was happy to wear the spacesuit. Hoo-Woo took me to the door where I first came in.

Hoo-Woo made his noise: 'Hoo-woo!' as I opened the door. He was sad that I was going.

I said, 'I'm coming back, ' and I went out to my spaceship.

I got in and said, 'Take me home. '

The stars changed suddenly. I saw my world in space, all green and beautiful. A few minutes later the spaceship landed and I was home.

My father ran from the house shouting, 'Hummy! '

I kissed my father.

My mother was angry with me. 'I didn't know if you were dead or alive! ' she cried. 'It's been a week! '

A week! It felt like months to me.

'I've got some very exciting news for you, ' I said.

'OK, ' my mother said. 'Let's sit in the wheat and talk there. Oh yes, ' she said to my father, 'why don't you go to the house and bring us something to drink? '

Strange. Robots usually bring the drinks. But I just thought my mother wanted to be specially nice to me.

I told my mother what had happened. When my father came with drinks, I told my story again.

Telling my story, I looked at the green fields of wheat moving in the wind. The wheat went on for thousands of miles, looking just the same everywhere.

How different it was in the Star Zoo! Every time you turned your head, you saw something new. That had frightened me at first but now I thought the Star Zoo was wonderful.

I explained that feeling to my parents.

'Yes, yes, Hummy, ' my mother said, looking quickly at my father.

I saw a spaceship land near the house. 'Who's coming? ' I asked.

My mother and father looked at each other. Then I knew.

'It's Buff, isn't it? ' I said. 'You called him when you were getting the drinks! ' I said to my father. I was really angry. 'How could you? Wait! You don't believe me, do you? '

'Your head is full of dreams, Hummy, ' my father said. 'You must be married to Buff, but only for a year. Then you can get married to someone you like. '

I jumped up. 'I hate you! Why did I come back? Why didn't I go straight to the Star Council? '

Buff walked up to us. 'Hello again, Kate, ' he said. 'I still remember the first name you told me. '

I had an idea. 'Listen to what happened to me, ' I said, and I told my story a third time.

Buff laughed. 'What a story! You can tell me stories like that every night. '

'So you don't believe me? ' I smiled.

He just laughed.

'OK, Buff,' I said. 'Come with me. I'll show you the Star Zoo. If it's only a story, I'll marry you. I'll even get married for five years if you want. OK? '

'Why not?' Buff said. 'I'll bring a robot to see what's really there. Robots never lie.'

Buff borrowed one of our family robots and we took off. My father watched us go with a worried face.

It was black in the empty space far between stars and we couldn't see anything. Buff was surprised when we landed on the Star Zoo.

We put on spacesuits and went out. Buff looked at the door, very surprised. We went in.

After we went through the second door, Buff stood without moving and he looked at the trees and didn't say anything. The robot closed the door behind us.

Hoo-Woo ran out of the trees to meet me. I was happy to see him and happy to be back in the Star Zoo again. I wasn't afraid at all.

I looked round at Buff and my heart stopped. Buff's face was full of hate and he was holding a laser gun. The gun was pointing at Hoo-Woo.

7 The answer is robots

I pushed Buff as he tried to shoot Hoo-Woo. The laser gun burnt a hole in the plastic wall, but it didn't hit Hoo-Woo.

Buff was screaming and the whites of his eyes were showing. He fell on the ground and water ran out of his mouth. He was crazy. I remembered the way I had gone crazy when I first came into the Star Zoo. It was seeing the animals. It was the Book of Remembering coming to life. It made people go crazy.

I hid Buff's laser gun and used some long plants to tie him up. Hee-Haw sat on him while I did it. A bell was ringing and all the animals started looking for something. What were they looking for?

A bird found it. It was the hole where the laser had burnt through the wall. The Star Zoo was losing air. I could hear the air escaping.

It was the computer's job to check for damage like that. Then it rang the bell. But how could the animals mend the hole?

Eee-Eee went to a pipe on the wall and waited. Warm wet plastic came out of the end of the pipe. The squirrel held little bits of the plastic and ran quickly up the wall. She put the soft plastic over the hole and ran down to get more plastic from the pipe.

In one minute the hole was covered. Eee-Eee went on working until the bell stopped ringing.

The computer and the animals worked together to mend the Star Zoo. After fifteen thousand years they were very good at it!

Buff had crazy eyes. The animals didn't want to go near him so I took care of him. I hoped he would get better soon.

But he didn't get better. Three days later he still wanted to kill and destroy every

animal that he saw. He thought I was an animal too.

He never spoke. Perhaps he had forgotten how to speak. He wouldn't touch food or water.

I didn't know what to do. In the end I went to see the computer with Hee-Haw and the robot.

There was the same terrible light and the fear. But I knew it was ultrasonics that made me afraid. The robot didn't have any feelings, of course. The robot and I went into the computer room but Hee-Haw stayed outside.

The ultrasonics stopped and the light went soft.

'Hummingbird, ' the computer said. 'You have come back. Computer is happy. Who is the other human? '

'This isn't a human, ' I explained. 'This is just a family robot. '

'Not human? Looks very human. '

'I know, ' I said. 'But that's not important. Everything's gone crazy! 'What is the problem? ' the computer asked.

I told the computer about visiting my parents and that they didn't believe me. I explained about Buff and said, 'But he's gone crazy. I know I went crazy at first but I got better. Buff isn't getting better. '

'Why? ' the computer said. 'You are human. Buff is human. What is different? '

'I don't know, ' I answered. 'I'm younger than Buff. Perhaps people's minds get hard like rock as they get older. They can't change how they think. '

'When will Buff get better? ' the computer asked.

'Never...I think, ' I said. 'Buff's too old. '

There was silence. After a long time the computer said slowly, 'Computer is old. '

'Oh, that's different, ' I said. 'I think you are growing very, very slowly. I think you're still young, like me. You're still growing and changing. Not like Buff. '

Another silence. Then, 'Hummingbird is friend. '

I felt wonderful. The computer was twenty thousand years old and it wanted to be friends with me!

'Yes, I'm your friend, computer, ' I said. 'I'll be your friend all my life, but my life isn't long like yours. Perhaps my children and grandchildren can be your friends too. '

'Computer is happy. '

'Oh, computer, everything's finished! ' I said. 'I thought Buff could learn to accept the animals like me, but he can't. He can't change how he thinks. And I think most people in the Galaxy are like him. They can't change. If they find the Star Zoo, they'll destroy all the animals. So it's impossible! We can't put the animals on different planets. The animals will have to stay in the Star Zoo. One day the Star Zoo will die. After that there will be no life in the Galaxy except humans. Forever.

The computer said, 'Computer will find answer to problem. Wait. '

I waited. And waited. I couldn't understand it. Computers think so fast! Why wasn't the computer telling me the answer?

At last it spoke. 'Computer has answer to problem. The answer is robots. Your robot looks very human. You will make a robot like an animal Humans will know it is a robot, not an animal. Humans will not go crazy. Humans will learn about animals. After some time humans will meet animals. Humans will not go crazy. '

'I think I understand,' I said. 'People have to spend a long time with robot animals first. When they are not afraid, they can meet the real animals and accept them. Yes, it's a wonderful idea, computer! I could kiss you! '

'Nobody has kissed computer. Computer is interested. '

So I kissed the computer and I think it kissed me.

8 An animal is made

A robot can do many different things from taking care of a baby to building a spaceship. It can do anything except think. The Star Zoo computer was the only one that could think.

Well, our family robot could build a robot animal, easily. That was no problem.

First we had to choose what animal to make, so we went round the Star Zoo to look at all the animals. Hee-Haw carried me and Hoo-Woo came with us. The robot followed.

I don't know how many rooms the Star Zoo had; I couldn't count them all. Some rooms were filled with water where there were big fish and small fish. There were horrible monsters walking under the water and I felt a little afraid again.

Some rooms were covered in snow and all the animals there had white fur. There were dry rooms, hot wet rooms, forest rooms...And animals and birds and trees and flowers!

There were more living things than I had ever dreamt of!

I sat on Hee-Haw's back as the donkey walked on. We went through a door into a room full of strange life, then we went through another door and into another room. It was like a dream. In a dream, things change suddenly, without reason. It was like that.

We went back to the computer. I didn't know which animal to choose and neither did the robot. Hee-Haw and Hoo-Woo didn't understand the problem; they weren't intelligent in the human way.

So I asked the computer.

'Watch humans,' the computer said. 'Humans enjoy playing with animals. Find an animal which enjoys playing with humans. '

So we went to see the humans.

The humans in the Star Zoo couldn't speak. I sat down and watched them while the humans played up in the trees, swam in the pool and played games in the grass. They played all the time.

Most other animals didn't play with the humans. But finally I saw one animal come through the grass to play. It liked playing with humans!

The humans played with the animal for an hour. The animal and the humans enjoyed playing together.

'That's the animal you must make,' I told the robot.

The robot watched the animal and touched it and measured everything. In the end it was ready to build a robot just like that animal.

'What do you need to build it?' I asked.

'Plastic,' the robot answered. 'I will use real fur on the outside. But I need some metal. Where can I find metal?'

There was only one thing in the Star Zoo made of metal—the computer!

The computer told the robot to take off two small pieces of metal from its back.

The robot worked fast. Sometimes it needed a special tool. Then it opened its stomach because the tools were kept inside the body there.

First, the robot made a plastic body which it covered with soft plastic, like a skin. Then it used fur to cover the skin.

I left before the robot finished because I was worried about Buff. I didn't want him to die.

Buff still wouldn't eat or drink. But the worst thing was, he was still crazy. His mind wasn't getting better...

If Buff stays in the Star Zoo, I thought, he'll die.

I talked to him but he didn't answer. I knew he wanted to kill me. He wanted to kill all living things.

The robot finished its work and showed me a little animal. It looked, and sounded, and played like the real animal. I took it to the computer.

'Yes, it looks just like the animal,' the computer said. 'It's very small—a baby animal.' the computer told me its name. It checked the animal, then said to the robot, 'Make it warm.'

The little animal was cold.

So the robot made the baby animal warm, like the real animal. We were ready.

The robot put Buff to sleep, then put the spacesuit on him and carried him to the spaceship.

I was leaving the Star Zoo for the second time. Would our plan succeed, I wondered? Before I went through the door, I looked back at all the life that existed only here in the Star Zoo, and in no other place in all the Galaxy!

9 An animal is destroyed

Buff was asleep. I told the spaceship to take us to New Earth, the planet of the Star Council. I wasn't going back to my parents. I wanted to go to the top people.

A few minutes later the spaceship was falling towards a planet covered with tall buildings. Many of the buildings touched the clouds. I'd never been to New Earth before. I was just a young girl from a small planet and I felt very unimportant here.

We landed. I could see a lot of people walking quickly. They didn't stand and talk. They were too busy. Who was going to stop and talk to a young girl like me?

Everybody was wearing very expensive, fashionable clothes too ! I felt stupid with just my old clothes with my name 'Hummingbird' on. I said to the robot, 'Make a special dress for me. I want to look more important. '

A minute later I had the dress. It didn't look very good. It was grey and just like an old bag.

I put on the dress and it suddenly came to life. It moved over me, full of changing colours .When I looked in a mirror, I couldn't believe it. I looked fantastic !

When I got out of the spaceship, I wasn't afraid of anybody.

At first I thought the Star Council buildings were the high ones, up in the clouds . They weren't. I had to go below ground to an office where I spoke to a policeman. He didn't believe my story about the Star Zoo...until the robot told him it was all true. Robots can't lie.

The policeman looked at me for a long time. In the end he called a Star Council official.

He and the policeman took me to a lift and we went down many floors. Then they put me in a room and asked me questions. They wanted to see the robot animal but I said no. I said only the Star Council could see the robot animal.

Three hours later they were still asking me questions and I couldn't keep my eyes open. I was so tired. My dress had lost its colours. It was just grey again. I didn't feel important. I felt like a child.

But I didn't show them the robot animal.

The official said, ' I don't believe you. There are no animals in the Galaxy now. Perhaps there never were any animals. They're only stories in the Book of Remembering. '

'Well, why are you asking me so many questions? 'I said.

'Because your robot tells the same story. Because you have a crazy man in you spaceship-he's in hospital now. '

Suddenly the official got up and took me to the lift. We went down, down, down, very fast.

We came out into a room in the shape of a star. I felt frightened because I knew this was the Star Room where the Star Council met.

The Council men and women came in and took their places at the Star Table. The official told them my story, which my robot repeated.

Everybody looked at me, waiting for me to show them the robot animal.

The President of the Star Council said, 'Where is this animal? '

'It's not an animal, 'I said. ' It's a robot. But it looks just the same as a real animal. "Where is it? '

I touched the robot's stomach. 'In there, 'I answered.

'Bring it out. We want to see it, 'the President said.

'Yes, sir, 'I said. I looked round at all the Councillors. I was afraid to speak to these important people but I had to tell them about the danger. 'When Buff saw an animal, he went crazy. I went crazy at first, too. '

'We heard your story. '

'Please listen,' I said. 'This is a robot. Please remember it's not a real animal. I don't want anybody here to go crazy.'

'Don't try to frighten us, girl. Bring out the animal.'

I told the robot to open its stomach, and it opened. The little robot animal jumped on to the Star Table.

It looked so alive! It opened its mouth and made the special noise of that animal. It had small sharp white teeth.

The mouth of every Councillor fell open at the same moment.

There was a sudden bright light. The little animal exploded. It was gone. There was nothing left except a little wet plastic on the Star Table and a smell of burning hair.

The Star Council official had destroyed it with his laser gun.

The Councillors were getting up and shouting. Their faces were full of hate. They had the same crazy eyes as Buff. Perhaps not as bad as Buff, because the animal had only been there for a second or two and I had told them it was a robot. But, like Buff, they wanted to kill and destroy.

Things got worse and worse. They started breaking chairs. Some of them used broken chairs to hit people. They were going crazy, just like Buff.

The plan had failed. The Star Council had gone crazy. I was very frightened. What had I done?

10 Two of everything

It was a strange prison with no doors and no police to watch me. Well, I didn't know the special number for making the lifts work, so I couldn't escape by the lifts. There were stairs but it was ten kilometres straight up to get to the surface.

I couldn't get out.

I found food and water. Nobody came to see me for three days.

Finally a soldier arrived and took me back to the Star Room.

An old man with a very straight back sat at the Star Table. He was alone and looked tired. 'Hummingbird,' he said and then stopped.

'Who are you, please?' I asked. I hadn't seen him before.

'I'm the new President,' he said, but he didn't sound happy about it.

'So the President and the Councillors are still...'

'Still crazy- yes,' the old man said. 'I think many of them will get better. They saw the animal only for a very short time.'

'It wasn't a real animal,' I said quickly.

'That didn't make any difference. You asked me who I am. I'm just one of the Star Councillors, but I wasn't in the Star Room when you showed them the animal. I was lucky. Now listen, Hummingbird. There is something I must tell you. Something difficult.'

'Is it about my family?' I asked, feeling afraid.

'No, Hummingbird. You are the only person in the Galaxy who knows where the

Star Zoo is. If other people know about the Star Zoo, there will be killing. People will be killed. The Star Zoo will be destroyed. It is very important to keep the Star Zoo alive and so it is necessary to keep it secret. I'm sorry, Hummingbird. You must stay here, ten kilometres down, all your life. I know you're a young girl and I'm sorry. '

'All my life?' I said. I couldn't believe it.

'Yes,' the old man said. 'This is the planet of the Star Council so there is always work here you can do. I'm sorry.'

'What kind of work?' I asked.

'Well, everything is going crazy now. For example, we have some little children down here that nobody is taking care of. A robot is doing the job now—but little children need real humans. Would you like to try taking care of them?'

'OK,' I said. It was something to do.

I went to see the children, who were playing quietly with a robot. I laughed, because the robot was our family robot. I thought this robot and I would do something wonderful. But we could only take care of little children!

I sat on the floor and played with the children. They were all less than four years old.

They needed somebody. A few of the children were crying. They needed loving. Robots can sing and play games, but they can't love.

Only the Star Zoo computer can love.

Soon one little boy was sitting on my stomach and another boy was running round and round me. A little girl was pulling my hair and another girl was biting my finger. There was a lot of noise.

These children were more trouble than any animal in the Star Zoo!

'These girls and boys aren't going to be afraid of animals,' I said to the robot. 'I can show them a robot animal and they won't go crazy. I just wish I had one.'

'You have,' the robot answered. 'Shall I take out the other one?'

'What!' I shouted. The little boy fell off my stomach and began screaming. I picked him up and kissed him until the screaming changed to crying. I said, 'Another robot animal?'

'Yes,' the robot said, touching its stomach.

Of course the robot had another! Robots always make two of everything. You don't have to tell them. They do it automatically.

The robot opened its stomach and the second robot animal jumped out. It was just like the first one.

The little boy stopped crying. He looked at the robot animal with big, round eyes. All the other children were looking, too.

The animal began to play. It tried to bite its tail and fell over its own feet. It was a funny, sweet animal. After one minute the children were round it in a circle, laughing and playing with it, just like the humans in the Star Zoo.

I watched them. This was very important. These children hadn't learnt to be afraid of animals because they had never heard of Earth, the Burning, or the Book of Remembering.

I watched and thought. I spoke softly to my robot: 'If these children go on playing with this robot animal, they will never become afraid of animals. They won't go crazy. I thought some more, and said, 'But if their parents see the animal, the parents will go crazy.'

I thought carefully. Yes, there must be a special room in every house. A room which parents couldn't go in. A room for children only. Then children could play with robot animals in that room.

'That's it!' I said. 'The children will still be happy to be with animals when they are parents. It might take twenty, thirty, forty years, but then—'

I heard the sound of somebody coming. I shouted to the robot, 'Hide that animal, quick! '

The robot opened its stomach and the animal went inside.

All the children began crying. They wanted to have their wonderful animal back again!

It was the President. He looked round at all the crying children. 'Did I do this?' he asked.

'No,' I answered. 'Please stay. I have fantastic news for you. Listen to what just happened.'

The old man listened. First he was angry, then he was surprised but in the end he became very excited.

'Hummingbird,' the President said, 'I must not see that robot animal. I don't want to go crazy. Your idea is...interesting. I think it will work. We must be very careful. We can begin with just one family and can learn from our mistakes. I think we can let you go free, Hummingbird.'

'You can see the animal again soon,' I promised the children, and kissed the ones that were still crying. 'So the little children really liked this animal!' the President said. 'What kind of animal was it? Does the Book of Remembering talk about it?'

'The Book of Remembering talks about cats,' I answered. 'This is a baby cat. I can't remember what the computer called it. Oh yes I do—it's called a kitten.'