

S.1 & S.2  
5 February 2009  
Day F Moral Reading

The Young Thief and His Mother

A young man had been caught after he had stolen something. He was sentenced to death. He said that he wanted to see his mother and to talk with her before he died. When his mother came to him, he said, "I want to whisper to you." And when she brought her ear near him, he nearly bit it off.

All the people were horrified and asked him why he was so cruel to his mother. 'It is to punish her,' he said. 'When I was young, I began to steal little things. I brought them home to my mother. Instead of blaming and punishing me, she laughed and said, "It will not be noticed." It is because of her that I am here today.'

'He is right, woman,' said the priest. 'The Lord has said, "Train up a child in the way he should go. And when he is old, he will not do evil things."'

Vocabulary

|           |      |             |
|-----------|------|-------------|
| whisper   | v    | 輕聲說話        |
| bit...off | v    | 咬斷          |
| horrified | adj. | 恐懼          |
| cruel     | adj. | 殘忍的、冷酷的、野蠻的 |
| stealing  | n    | 偷竊          |
| blaming   | v    | 指責、訓斥       |
| punishing | v    | 懲罰          |

***For the following question, write your answer on p.39-40 of your 'Reading Journal' (悅讀手冊).***

Do you think your parents have a strong influence (影響) on your character (性格)? Would you blame your parents if they do not take good care of you? Why or why not?



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The Wolf and the Lamb

Once upon a time, when a wolf was running around a spring on a hillside, he saw a lamb just beginning to drink a little water. "There's my dinner," thought he, "if only I can find some excuse to get it." Then he called out to the lamb, "How dare you make the water that I am drinking become dirty?"

"No, master," said the lamb. "I cannot make the water become dirty because the water runs down from you to me."

"Well, then," said the wolf, "Why did you call me bad names this time last year?"

"That cannot be," said the lamb; "I am only six months old."

"I don't care," said the wolf angrily. "If it was not you, it was your father;" and with that he rushed upon the poor little lamb and ate her up. But before she died, she said,

"Any excuse will serve a tyrant."

暴君總能找到藉口

Vocabulary

a spring

n

泉水

excuse

n

藉口

dare

v

敢、竟敢

bad names

n

不好的名聲

tyrant

n

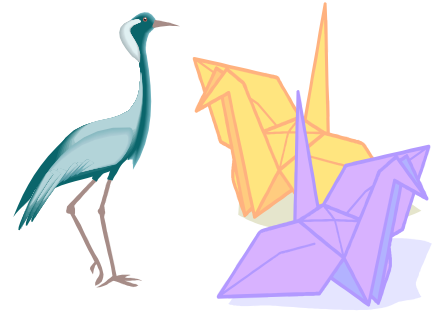
暴君、專制君主





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The Wolf and the Crane



A wolf was swallowing an animal he had killed when suddenly a small bone in the meat stuck in his throat. He soon felt terrible pain in his throat. He ran up and down, groaning and seeking for something to relieve the pain. He tried to ask everyone he met to remove the bone.

"I would give anything," said he, "if you would take it out."

At last the crane agreed to try. He told the wolf to lie on his side and open his mouth as wide as he could. Then the crane put its long neck down the wolf's throat. It took the bone out of the wolf's throat.

"Will you kindly give me the reward you have promised?" said the crane.

The wolf showed his teeth and said: "You have put your head inside a wolf's mouth and taken it out again safely. That should be rewarding enough for you."

Gratitude and greed do not go together.

貪婪者絕不會有感恩圖報之心。

Vocabulary

|            |     |          |
|------------|-----|----------|
| swallowing | v.  | 吞        |
| bone       | n   | 骨頭       |
| stuck      | v.  | 阻塞       |
| terrible   | adj | 極度的      |
| pain       | n   | 痛、疼痛、痛苦  |
| throat     | n.  | 咽喉、喉嚨    |
| groaning   | v.  | 呻吟聲      |
| relieve    | v   | 緩和、減輕、解除 |
| remove     | v   | 移動、搬開    |
| greed      | n.  | 貪心、貪婪    |

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The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse

Once upon a time, a town mouse went on a visit to his cousin in the country. His cousin loved him so much and gave a warm welcome. He treated the town mouse all the food he had. The town mouse rather turned up his long nose and said, "I cannot understand, my cousin, how you can put up with such poor food as this, I will show you how to live. When you have been in town for a week, you will wonder how you could ever have stood such a poor country life."

No sooner said than done, the two mice set off for the town and arrived at the town mouse's home late at night. "You will want some food after our long trip," said the polite town mouse. He took his friend into the grand dining-room. There they found the food of a nice feast. Soon the two mice were eating up jellies and cakes.

Suddenly they heard some barking. "What is that?" said the country mouse. "It is only the dogs of the house," answered the town mouse. "I do not like that music at my dinner," said the country mouse.

Just at that moment the door flew open, in came two huge dogs, and the two mice had to run off. "Good-bye, cousin," said the country mouse. "What! Going so soon?" said the town mouse. "Yes," the country mouse replied.

"Better beans and bacon in peace than cakes and ale in fear."

寧可安安心心地吃蠶豆和鹹肉,也不願膽戰心驚地享用糕餅和麥芽酒。

Vocabulary

|        |      |     |
|--------|------|-----|
| wonder | v    | 想知道 |
| grand  | adj. | 堂皇的 |
| feast  | n    | 盛宴  |

