

桃園市 115 年度英語比賽朗讀題目
【國小組】 {序號 1}

The Anteater and the Turtle

Let me tell you an interesting story. Long ago, Anteater and Turtle were great friends. Anteater did not have any spines on her back, and Turtle did not have a shell on his back. They simply had no need for them.

One day, Anteater was hungry and needed to go out hunting for food. She asked her friend Turtle to look after her baby while she was gone.

"It'll be a pleasure," said Turtle. And he did look after the baby very well indeed until he too began to be hungry. Because Turtle could not leave the baby to look for food, he tried not to think about how hungry he was. But Anteater was gone a long, long time, so Turtle did what seemed the best thing. He ate Anteater's baby.

Of course, when Anteater came back, she asked, "Where's my baby?"

Turtle didn't say a word. He looked at the sky. He looked at the bush. He looked at his own claws. Anteater realized with horror what had happened.

Poor Anteater could hardly take in what had happened. In her fury and grief, she picked up a stone and hurled it at Turtle. She threw stone after stone at her one-time friend, and some of them stuck in his back.

Turtle rushed off as quickly as he could and grabbed his spears. One by one, he threw them at Anteater. Some fell off, but most of them stuck in her back and stayed there.

Well, those spears are still in Anteater's back to this day, but they have become her spines. And the stones are still on Turtle's back and form his shell.

Neither Anteater nor Turtle has much to fear from enemies these days, but then, they do not have many friends either.

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【國小組】 {序號 2}

The Frog in the Well

Once there was a little frog who lived at the bottom of a deep, deep well. He had cool water to drink. He had insects to eat. By day, he could see the blue sky above. By night, he could see the stars and the silvery moon. He was very happy with his life.

But sometimes, birds flying overhead would call down to the frog. “Won’t you come up here and see what the wide world is like? It is bigger and more beautiful than you can imagine.”

“No, thank you,” the frog would reply. “I am quite happy down here. Why don’t you come down and see how nice it is?”

But no one ever wanted to visit the little frog’s dark home, and they soon got fed up of his refusal to explore the world.

One day, a little yellow bird decided she must take the frog under her wing. She flew down into the well, scooped up the surprised frog, and carried him off on her back.

“Ow!” cried the little frog. “It is so bright out here, I can’t see! Oh, but wait a minute, what’s that big blue thing? What’s that tall white thing? What are all these shimmering shapes of green?”

“Those are leaves!” laughed the bird.

“And that is the sea and that is a mountain.

Aren’t they big? Aren’t they beautiful?”

“Let me down!” cried the little frog, and he hopped off to see the world for himself. Of course, it was bigger and more beautiful than he could imagine. He found a deep blue pool with lilies and lived there happily ever after. And, although he had once believed himself happy in his old, dark well, he never went back to it again.

桃園市 115 年度英語比賽朗讀題目
【國小組】 {序號 3}

The Tiger and the Toad

One day, a tiger fell into a pit and found he was trapped. He roared and raved but he could not get out.

Just then, a traveler passed by. He felt sorry for the tiger, but he was a little wary of helping such a ferocious animal.

"Just put a branch down into the pit and I will be able to jump out," said the tiger. "I promise I won't harm you."

So, the traveler did as the tiger asked.

Out leapt the tiger, showing his sharp teeth.

"Silly man! I'm hungry now and my dinner will be ... YOU!" growled the tiger.

"That's not fair!" the man protested.

At that moment, a croaky voice was heard from a nearby stone. It was a toad.

"What a noise!" he said. "Show me what exactly happened. I don't understand."

"Well," grunted the tiger, "I was in the pit... like this." He jumped back in.

"Only," said the traveler thoughtfully, "this wasn't here then." And he took out the big branch he had placed in the pit.

"I see." said the toad. "Well, I suggest that we leave matters exactly as they are now. Go on your way, my man, and try to think before you act in the future."

The traveler gratefully hurried off, while the tiger growled and spat in the pit.

The toad peered over the edge. "That's quite enough from you, ungrateful creature," he said. "A promise is a promise, and you must learn to keep yours!"