

# Learning English outside School - English is Everywhere

Trista Liu Tsoi Lam

## Go to the Mass Media!

Reading newspapers is a great way to improve your reading skill and enrich your vocabulary. There may be lots of complicated words which you don't understand, but don't give up. Guess what they mean according to the context, instead of looking them up in the dictionary without thinking. When you learn new words from newspapers, you should jot them down in your vocabulary book, and note the meanings, the part of speech and quotes. (S6A Darren Lai Tsz Fung)

Watching TV is one of the ways you will find effective to hone English skills. And here are some steps suggested to learn English through TV shows:

- 1) Find a subject, genre, theme or plot line you are interested in. Learning English can be exhausting and difficult; so try to learn from videos and programmes that you find interesting.
- 2) Watch it with or without subtitles depending on your English level.
- 3) Make it a habit to follow the audio to speak. Some native speakers have a tendency to cut short their sentences and they also love to roll on the words or combine them as one. Don't be afraid and discouraged. Practise more and you will find it easier to speak English than before.
- 4) Learn the words and sentence structures. Listen carefully to the vocabulary, record the ones you do not know and pay attention to the sentence structures. Guess what the dialogue is about and why certain information is relevant to the story. Once you miss anything, replay and listen to it again and again.
- 5) After you finish watching a programme, you may go through your vocabulary list and look up the words you didn't know. Write the definition and pronunciation next to the words. Remember the context in which the word was used, and make sure you understand why the word was used in that way.
- 6) Repeat the above steps
- N) Keep going as learning never ends! (S6A Alan Chiu Wing Sui)

## Create a Vocabulary Book!

Another way of learning English is to create a vocabulary book.

As you improve your understanding of English, you will discover that building up your vocabulary is the key to becoming an excellent speaker of English. Therefore, creating a vocabulary book is the most direct way to achieve that final goal.

This method brings you the convenience of studying vocabulary anywhere such as on the bus, while taking rest, or even while having meals.

Here are the steps for making your own vocabulary book.

- 1) Get a small book that you can easily carry with you.
- 2) Try to read something that challenges your vocabulary, e.g. magazines, newspaper, Internet pages.
- 3) Write down the words you don't know.
- 4) Review the words at least once a day.

You should also write down the part of speech, a sample sentence and the Chinese meaning of the word, as it tells you how to use the words. A vocabulary book should be small and easy to carry around. Otherwise you will find it inconvenient and soon give it up. (S6A Adam Law Ka Fai)

## Make New Friends!

Going on an overseas exchange is a precious opportunity to learn English. If you stay in a foreign country, you must speak English. You can learn English in the day time if you want to live in a foreign country because there will be no one who speaks Cantonese. You may make friends in the country and stay with them. Communication in English is very efficient to improve your speaking. Even if you have not enough money to go on an overseas exchange, there are other ways. Practise your English by writing letters to a pen friend. Today, with the Internet, this is very easy. You can exchange letters by email. To find a pen friend from anywhere in the world does not require any money. (S7A Trista Liu Tsoi Lam)

## Check out the BBC!

Going to the BBC website is one of the most effective ways we should follow in pursuit of better English. With just a few clicks, you can get access to the BBC website and listen to the BBC radio. If you feel you might be confused by the British accent and the 'intolerable' speed of the reporters, why don't you try to read some relevant news articles which can familiarize you with the content of the news and the related vocabulary? After you read the news and look the words up in the dictionary (put them in your vocabulary book), then it would be easier for you to listen and understand the words of the reporters. Once you cultivate the habit of listening to the radio every day, your listening ability can be well improved. Some students may say that listening to the BBC radio is a formidable mission for them. So it is suggested that students can go to 'BBC Learning English' to look for various materials for learning English. Not only does it provide you with vocabulary pertaining to the news and exercises to hone in your skills, but it also includes a part that lets you know more about pronunciation and intonation. If you want to know more about it, just go to this link. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/>. (S6A Bill Wu Ying Piu)

# Let's Meet Our New English Teacher!

## Ms Katherine Leung

Hi readers from TCCS!

I am so happy to meet you at the beginning of the year and I am glad that I get to share a little bit about myself my first year teaching in TCCS and my students call me here. It's Ms Katherine Leung. I teach Forms Three and Four English. I am a mother of two children- Jean Alexander and Cadence Joy. My son is a little over two years old, and my daughter just turned one in mid December. My husband is also a teacher just like myself. And just like most of you, we are residents of Tung Chung too. I play tennis, and I enjoy cooking, reading and writing. I look forward to meeting more students from TCCS and I wish you a great start of the year!



Hi there! I'm Polly. My students call me Miss Lam or Miss Polly. It's so nice to have a chance to share with you all on this platform. As you know, I'm a new teacher to this school, and hence you may not know very MUCH about me. Anyway, allow me to introduce myself here. Officially, I started my teaching career last year. I taught English in Project Yijin at a post-secondary institution. A year later, I continued my teaching in this secondary school. Therefore, strictly speaking, this is my first year to be in a secondary school. To me, it was really a big challenge in the beginning because I had never taught any students of junior forms. As time goes by, I'm getting used to it. I do enjoy teaching here because my students are very passionate, energetic and heart-warming. I hope that I can work better with my students in the second term. And to all "Tung Teens", do cherish the time here - the time in secondary school is absolutely the best in your lifetime. Don't waste it!

## Ms Polly Lam



# 「東天人熱話」(舊物有情)

## 舊物有情

林晏桑 (中五信)

每天早上起床的時候都會感受到一束陽光赤裸裸地灑在枕邊，然後不得不起身，扯了扯凌亂了的被褥，再伸個懶腰，又是一天。我很喜歡坐在窗邊看樓下，然後手上拿上一張紙，一把筆，恍惚惚地就會寫出一些句子。大部分都不痛不癢，只是充斥著文藝氣息，然後就能讓我沾沾自喜良久。經過房門我家人總是很無奈地睨了我一眼，「又自戀，你含蓄點行不行！」

猶記得初中那所學校的公告區前，有一棵榕樹。不知道有多少歲，印象中，比我們都大。

剛入學那會兒，都很天真，還帶著沒褪盡的稚嫩和傻氣，穿著嶄新的白色襯衫，笑得那麼多麼無憂。一股莫名的興奮就這麼從胸口湧了出來，很深刻。那棵榕樹茂盛得很，或許因為那時還只是初秋。也或許我記錯了，誰知道呢？

說深刻的吧！在那段生活裡我記憶猶新的是綽號。中學時期，誰沒有個充滿青春氣息，還帶著些譏嘲的綽號？曾經極力掩飾，卻還是廣為流傳的恥辱。現在想起來，也只是從指縫流過的沙，留下的不過是擦過指間窸窣的感覺。

小傻其實不叫小傻，她原名是小橙，其間的演變記憶已經承載不了。歲月蹉跎，小傻的微博名叫橙小傻。誰曾在意？

牛牛之前叫崽崽，過程，初中生懶不怕虎吧。如此牽強，可在十三歲的世界裡，有何不妥？

綽號或許很無聊，但是他們確實成了我年華裡絢爛的一筆。我記得有次牛牛說，「企鵝，好巧啊！你和小企是同一天生日的耶！」

我知道當時我沒按捺住給了他一對富有感動的白眼是我衝動，然後我想說的是，雙生子同一天出世很奇怪嗎？但曉得比腦快，我說：「真的好巧呢！你沒發現你爸爸媽媽是同一結婚的嗎！」

這是個冷笑話，我知道。

其實我也不知道我們哪來的樂觀，哪來的自信，可以三年里追著一棵榕樹長大。它四季不變的一抹綠，我們的白色襯衫卻已經不經意地從筆挺洗成了遍佈褶皺，深藍色的校服也褪去了原有的深沉。

然後走到了末端。我還是為我的樂觀感到驕傲，因為太樂觀，所以在不得不離開的時候，我還是能笑得很傻。離開我成長了十幾年的地方是什麼感覺，其實我忘了。離開的最後一天，在學校裡辦著剩下的手續，我經過那棵榕樹很多次，它沒變過，依舊四季如夏般的雨風長青，可我們的白色襯衫卻染不上半點綠意，依舊純色，逆著風鼓起……我轉了轉手中的筆，在一行行橫線之間寫著。

其實一件白色襯衫，一片樹影，足夠讓我想起很多。例如，年華裡面，那些你。



謝穎琪 (中四信)

## 鞦韆

# 《舊物有情》

黎敏玲 (中七望)

傍晚時分，街上的路人漸漸減少。由於學業的忙碌，我身心疲憊的踏上回家的路途。歸家的路上，途經一個在我小時候常常玩耍的一個小公園，在內心的驅使下，決定重遊舊地。慢慢靠近，這裡的一草一木無不勾起我的童年回憶，向前看便發現到兒時經常盪的鞦韆。仔細的看，都要抬起頭才能看到鞦韆。現在，我與它只有半個頭的差距，我亦不用再抬起頭看。年月飛逝，想不到一瞬間我已變成了一位大人了，再也找不到回當年的天真爛漫。原來嶄新的鞦韆早已變得破舊，金屬鏈在月光溫柔地照耀下閃閃發光，但仍蓋不到因歲月流逝而造成的疤痕。耀目的鮮紅色鞦韆則褪色了不少，到處佈滿了生鏽的痕跡，因而變得暗淡無光。換個角度看，這受小孩歡迎的鞦韆又像畫家筆下的殘舊文物。

看到這兒，突然心血來潮，想再一次盪鞦韆，於是便除下沉重的書包，坐上舒適自在的鞦韆開始盪著。起初我一如以往一樣慢慢地盪，專注前方，小時候看見綠油油的山林、藍天白雲，就像一幅美輪美奐的山水畫一樣，但是現在全部消失得無影無蹤，可能他們想跟大家玩捉迷藏吧？如今四處都是佈得密密麻麻的高樓大廈，彷彿一一尊尊嚴肅的石膏像。我一直的盪著，不禁令我想起童年的快樂。小時候，媽媽常常帶我來盪鞦韆，我每次都快樂地坐在蔚藍的天空中翱翔，再看這個充滿希望的世界，內心的不安和恐懼都會無疾而終。而且，我會認為這是上天給我克服困難的機會，總要勇闖每次的難關，從而學會堅強。

這一次，我已不再是小孩了，媽媽亦不在我身後，慢慢地盪著，微風輕輕一拂，揚起了我的頭髮，更把學習上的壓力統統都吹走了。我重拾小時候的無憂無慮和輕鬆，亦是最平凡的快樂。我長大了後，由於每天的生活都十分忙碌，從前的那份勇氣早已遺失，經常把事情想得負面，更忘記什麼是快樂。我發現自己不再那麼樂觀和失去了從前的那份勇氣，但是，鞦韆再次喚醒了我，令我回想起以往的堅強。無論如何，現在的我也要做好自己的本份，繼續努力地朝我的夢想進發。鞦韆緩緩停下，我重新打起那沉重的書包，再一次看看這個令人懷緬的鞦韆。這次，它喚起我的童年，喚起了曾經失去的快樂，亦鼓勵了我。我抬頭看看皎潔的月亮，耀眼的光照亮了昏暗大街的去向，帶予我希望，讓我繼續踏上回家的路途。



「一心，廚房裡有媽媽煮好的晚飯，記得加熱後才吃，知道嗎？」我拿著電話，聽著從嘈雜人群中傳來媽媽柔柔的嗓音，眼睛卻緊盯著一間沖洗店門外的老照片上的舊藤椅，然後心不在焉的回了句：「媽，我想買一張藤椅。」

記得小時候家裡有張老藤椅，顏色土黃土黃的，像變了霉一樣，搖起來會發出一「啣啣啣」的聲音。從我有記憶開始，我就在這藤椅上，儲起屬於我和母親的回憶。

我對家裡那張老藤椅有很深的眷戀，從以前起，就不愛離開它，所以每逢吃飯，母親都會捧著一個盛著飯菜的小碗，靠在藤椅旁，一口一口地餵著死活不肯離開藤椅的我。記得某年生日，母親問我，為什麼這麼喜歡那張老藤椅。那時我只是笑了笑，沒有回答。

有沒有人知道呢？坐在藤椅裡看到的世界是多麼的不一樣！

那時我坐在藤椅上，看著母親溫柔的臉孔，總是彎著的眼睛，一邊聽著我瞎扯，一邊輕輕地把飯菜吹涼，送到我口中。我想，她大概不會明白，一個小孩坐在藤椅上，望著平日總得仰高頭看的母親，變得能在與母親平視的時刻裡，看見她含著笑、明亮的眼眸中，只有自己唯一的倒影時的滿足感和安全感；我想，她大概不會明白，在小孩的世界裡，看見母親眼裡不會分別的愛，是多麼幸福的。

我也很喜歡在藤椅上睡午覺。那時候在上幼稚園，放學後，吃過午飯，我會順著一波波、輕輕的搖曳，在藤椅上聽母親說故事。

有沒有人說過呢？藤椅很像母親的懷抱。每次我在藤椅上聽母親說故事，都會覺得自己仍是個胚胎，在毫無壓迫與煩惱下，只是單純的、聽著母親那把柔柔的聲音，然後在她為我建造的童話世界裡甜甜的睡去，再幸福地醒來。

後來，在我上四年級的那個聖誕，藤椅終於受不了我的重量，壞掉了！而自那張藤椅被丟到垃圾場後，我開始投進了唸書的世界，為考上的中學拚命，為接睡而來的挑戰努力。而母親，亦從專責的家庭主婦，成為了身兼兩職、需要外出工作的大忙人。

沒有了藤椅，我的視線裡，母親那雙含著笑，只有我的倒影的眼眸，變成了為工作而疲憊的雙目；沒有了藤椅，母親那把為我建造童話世界的溫柔嗓音，變成了從機械中、夾帶著電波雜音的蒼老聲音。

所以，我想買一張藤椅，因為我想在與母親平視的時刻裡，看到已經長大的我能為她帶來幸福；我想買一張藤椅，因為我想一邊為她梳理白頭髮，一邊跟她分享我的生活；我想買一張藤椅，因為我想讓她在藤椅上幸福地睡午覺，然後滿足地醒過來。媽，我想買一張藤椅給你。