

附件

美洲華語課本第十冊

課文/故事英文翻譯

Text Translation

Lesson 1 Text Lesson Taking the Driver License Test in Chinese

Learning to drive is an important milestone in the life of a teenager. It means from that point on a teenager is able to be on their own, without troubling others to drive them around for things such as going to school, meeting friends, shopping, watching a movie, taking art and performance classes and participating in all kinds of extracurricular activities.

Many US states stipulate that anyone over the age of fifteen and half may take a written exam at the Department of Motor Vehicles after completing an online driving course. After passing a written exam, one may start to learn to drive in the driver's seat.

It is a good thing for teenagers to drive themselves. Many teens are careless drivers, often speeding, running red lights, drinking drunk, getting themselves in car accidents or getting ticketed by the police. Based on the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) statistics, sixteen to nineteen year olds top the number of deaths and serious injuries caused by collisions as well as that of traffic violations every year. Many parents actually prefer being busy chauffeuring their kids around all day as opposed to sitting at home worrying themselves sick.

Zhong-zhong has always loved cars since he was little, especially motorcycles. He completed the online driving course before the summer, but his mother did not approve of him taking the written exam any time soon. It just so happened that his aunt was coming to the US for holiday, and she planned to take the written exam in Chinese. Zhong-zhong thought it was such a neat idea that he also wanted to give it a try. After thinking it over, his mother agreed.

Zhong-zhong read the Chinese drivers' handbook alongside the English version; he asked his aunt about whatever he didn't understand and finished it in a few days. A bit nervous on the exam day, Zhong-zhong worried that the Chinese might be too difficult, and it would be a disaster if he didn't understand it. To his surprise, the exam in Chinese was mostly about traffic signs and he actually understood all the questions. As a result, Zhong-zhong got a full score, surprising everyone! Feeling ecstatic, Zhong-zhong breathed a sigh of relief, as he could finally learn to drive!

Dad drove his old Ford that was in the garage to the gas station for a safety check and oil change. He planned to teach Zhong-zhong how to drive himself. Zhong-zhong often heard from friends that when parents teach their kids to drive, it usually results in family discord. Zhong-zhong wrote to his older brother, asking for his opinion. Below is his brother's reply.

Zhong-zhong,

Congratulations on getting your learner's permit. I am very happy for you!

Dad also taught me how to drive. I think it's OK as long as children grasp two points when they learn to drive from their parents:

1. Keep the atmosphere relaxing and friendly – Have gratitude when learning to drive from a parent. Sometimes a parent has a bad tone of voice because they are nervous. At these times, remain calm, with an even temper and good humor; pretend that they are the road test officer and patiently wait for their instructions. Never talk back, put up a long face or get angry.
2. Pay attention to safety at all times – If children pay attention to safety at all times while learning to drive, it puts the parent sitting next to you at ease. Zhong-zhong, the first thing to do after you get in the car is to fasten the seat belt. Before turning on the engine, make

sure that you let Dad see you adjust the rearview mirror and both side-view mirrors. When you drive, you need to hold on to the steering wheel with both hands, make sure to signal before making a turn, a U-turn, switching lanes, or parking at road side. If you want to back up or switch lanes, don't forget to turn around and look carefully. Be extra careful when you step on the brake or the accelerator ... anyways, remember at all times: safety first.

Regarding your plan to start saving money to buy a motorcycle, I don't agree with it. Although motorcycle is fast, fuel efficient and cool, it is very unsafe to ride. Half a year ago, my friend Joe collided with a truck on a motorcycle, got thrown off a good distance, became seriously injured and remains unconscious till this day. His parents are devastated. What a tragedy!

Talk to you next time, stay healthy and happy!

Your Big Bro

Lesson 2 Text Who discovered America?

On Columbus Day, the second Monday of each October, there are lots of celebrations everywhere. The big parades in New York City and San Francisco attract large crowds every year, making them very festive.

However, Columbus Day is not a day of universal celebration, as American Indians (Native Americans) protest against this holiday every year. This is because after landing in America and discovering the Indians were less civilized, Columbus invaded and occupied their lands, seized their properties and shipped them back to Europe. The brutal and savage means that Columbus used to enslave and murder Indians created a precedent for discriminating and persecuting the Indians, resulting in centuries of suffering by Indian tribes. For this reason, many localities in the US do not celebrate Columbus Day or change it to "Native American Day".

This year Qing Qing took AP American History and planned to write a research paper on "Columbus Day" for the term. When she searched material online, she discovered a best seller titled *1421 The Year China Discovered the America*. The main idea of this book is: Before the Chinese fleet landed in America, they had already journeyed through Indian Ocean, circled around Cape of Good Hope, then followed the northbound current of the Atlantic Ocean and reached the eastern coast of America. Qing Qing thought this was an intriguing idea, and asked the teacher for advice during history class.

The teacher said, "That's a great question." She then pulled a very thick book from the book shelf and said, "This is the book, which has been translated into 19 languages. The author, Gavin Menzies, a British man, was very interested in marine navigation ever since he was a child, entered the Royal Naval Academy at age 14, and got promoted at a young age to an officer of the British Royal Navy and a submarine commander. He traveled throughout oceans and harbors of the world, accumulating abundant nautical experience and knowledge. After retirement, Menzies put his whole heart into studying the navigational history of the world.

When he was looking at an ancient map of the Atlantic Ocean in the library of University of Minnesota, a map drawn by the European cartographer Pizzigano in 1424, Menzies was astonished to see America on this map, because Columbus wasn't even born in 1424, so how could he have discovered America?

In order to solve this puzzle, Menzies extensively research this topic, traveling to more than a hundred countries and harbors, looking for historical remains and evidence and interviewing relevant people. He visited 900 museums and libraries, collecting pictures and information. He researched and investigated for 14 years, and finally found the answer. In 2002, Menzies announced the conclusion in London that shocked the world: Chinese navigator Zheng He discovered America in 1421, 71 years earlier than Columbus." The teacher continued, "At the moment, many countries have set up academic institutions for the study of Zheng He, specializing in researching his nautical feats." All the students listened with keen interest.

At this time, someone raised his hand and asked, "Teacher, may I ask, who is Zheng He?" The teacher said, "Zheng He was a great navigator, adventurer and diplomat. He was born during China's Ming Dynasty, more than 600 years ago. At that time, China had a vast territory, including all the islands and reefs in the South China Sea and East China Sea. In 1405, Ming Emperor Yong Le decided to expand to the oceans, and assigned Zheng He to open up navigation lines to connect with other coastal countries.

Zheng He's fleet had more than 200 ships, over 20,000 crew members, and it took more than 2 to 3 years each time he went on a trip before he could return. Zheng He first opened up the route to Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Vietnam and Thailand along the South China Sea. He wiped out a strong pirate bloc of more than 5,000 pirates, and kept the trade on the ocean secure and open. Later on, he traveled along India's coast and reached Arabia and Africa, passed on the advanced technology from China to overseas. The locals were very grateful and built temples to honor him. Zheng He sailed seven times in 28 years; at the time, more than 30 countries established friendly relationships with China." The teacher continued, "More than 600 years ago, the Chinese could build wooden ships half the size of a football field, coordinate a fleet of more than 200 ships to navigate the oceans, and solve the problem of daily living of more than 10,000 crew for extended periods of time on board. It is impossible not to admire them!"

Qing Qing said, "Too bad Zheng He didn't sail to the east, otherwise he would have crossed the Pacific and reach the west coast of America." Another classmate said, "That is so true! It only took Magellan 109 days sailing from South America to the Philippines with four ships and substandard equipment. Had Zheng He crossed the Pacific directly from East China Sea to America, he could have done it in less than 3 months!" Yet another classmate said, "Should Asia and America have had direct contact via the Pacific more than 600 years ago, American civilization would have started from the west coast, then how would history have evolved?" Everybody started to engage in a heated discussion and the teacher was delighted. She adjusted the class schedule on the spot, set aside time to allow everyone to discuss this topic, until the class was dismissed.

Lesson 3 Text Three News Reports

News Report #1

National pet expense over \$50 billion every year! [by Reporter Shi Qingqing, Washington DC, on the 6th]

The American public loves keeping pets as it spent \$50.8 billion on them last year. Do you have any idea how much \$50 billion is? It can give relief to billions in poverty around the world, saving them from hunger, illness and death. Isn't saving human lives more important than owning pets?

Let's look at how we spend it. According to the statistics from the American Pet Products Association (APPA), the largest expense (65%) is food, healthcare, medicine and medical treatment, including: regular check-ups, vaccines, neutering and spaying, vision correction, etc. Next (35%) is payment to services and purchase of daily essentials. Services include cosmetology, grooming, boarding, insurance, and hourly pay for pet care and dog walking; daily essentials include clothing, furniture, toys and educational games, etc.

Experts point out that the expenditure on pets will only increase every year, because modern life is too stressful, too busy, too lonely, whereas pets can bring people intimacy, joy and comfort!

News Report #2

Beautiful vet "sent off" stray dogs from her arms [by Reporter Lin Liru, Xinwu Village, Taoyuan, Taiwan on the 7th]

In recent years, more and more pets have been sent to the suburban "Animal Protection Park Shelter" of our city. If nobody adopts these abandoned pets within a certain time limit, they will be euthanized.

In the past two years, Jian Zhicheng, a young veterinarian of 27 years of age, has personally "sent off" more than 700 stray dogs. She said with sadness, "I always watched them 'depart' from my arms."

When it comes to the day to administer euthanasia, Dr. Jian will take the dog for a walk, give it a meal, talk to it in her arms, and insert the needle at the moment when the dog would be the calmest. Dr. Jian said several times, the dog would gently quiver out of fear and dug its head into her arms. She really doesn't have the heart to let those smart and healthy dogs to "depart" in such a way, and always finds every possible way to have them adopted. Dr. Jian said it's preferable to adopt a pet than to buy one, because saving a pet's life is also a charitable deed.

News Report #3

Who is Charlie?

According to the statistics of the school's student union, the school's most popular topic in October is "Charlie". Who is Charlie? He is a coyote! There are more than 30,000 browsing hits on his website (www.dailycoyote.net) every day.

Coyotes have always been regarded as a detestable wild animal: they often enter farms near a valley to look for food, killing cats, dogs, chickens, pigs, sheep and even harming humans. There are an increasing amount of coyotes in North America, and some regions hold coyote hunting contests every year.

Many would ask, why do people like Charlie? The tale started from a little suburban town in Wyoming ... On a dark and windy night, a pair of coyotes sneaked into a farm to steal some food, and as a result they were fatally shot. The next day, someone found a new born pup in the den, and the little orphan apparently would soon starve to death without its parents. A young teacher, a new arrival from NYC, learned about it and didn't have the heart to walk away, so she quietly adopted the pup, planning to return it to the wild after it grew up.

Shreve Stockton, the teacher, only had two members in her household, she and her cat Eli. She named the coyote "Charlie". Eli was very fond of this little "orphan" his owner brought home. They played together by day and slept on Stockton's big bed at night. Under Stockton's tender loving care, Charlie grew up day by day. He was mild in temperament, smart and playful. Whenever they went on the street, he would let his owner put on a muzzle and leash without a fuss. Not long after, Stockton adopted another dog to keep the two pets company, and the three animals became intimate with one another. She wrote a journal for them every day, and posted online the details of their daily life, funny stories and pictures.

This news stirred up quite a sensation in the little town. Many were curious about their lives, but many others had their reservations. After all, Charlie was a coyote, what if he hurt somebody?

A great idea came to Stockton, who started an online newsletter, a blog called "The Daily Coyote", publicizing the daily life of her household for all to browse. Stockton was a gifted writer. Her reports were funny and amusing, attracting tens of thousands online friends to browse and subscribe. Now a celebrity, Charlie's pictures and calendars even became a hot commodity.

Charlie is living a good life now. Had his parents known this from the grave, they would have felt comforted!

Lesson 4 Text Touring Nanjing: Solving riddles at Lantern Festival, visiting the Memorial Hall, watching a Peking Opera

It has been more than a year since Cheng Wen's mother moved to Shanghai to work. Her good friend Annie lives in Nanjing. Annie's residence is rather unique: a traditional Chinese courtyard house (a compound with buildings surrounding a courtyard; a quadrangle), with her in-laws living in the main house, Annie and husband Wang Li and their children in the east wing, and Wang Li's younger sister in the west wing. Multigenerational household is the Chinese traditional way of living. Although a foreigner, Annie feels three generations living together not only builds closer family ties, but also makes it easier to look after one another, and saves a lot of daily expenditure.

The 15th of the first month of the Chinese lunar calendar is the Lantern Festival. Every year the Wang family would invite relatives and friends to their house for sticky rice dumplings, hot pot and the Lantern Riddle game. Each guest would bring a lantern with riddle written on it as a gift for the host. This year, Cheng Wen designed a snail lantern, on which she wrote a riddle: "If you say he is a bull, he cannot pull a cart. If you say he is a weakling, he carries a house on his back. – guess an animal". She hoped everyone would get it.

In the afternoon of the Lantern Festival, Cheng Wen and her mom took high-speed rail to Nanjing with Cheng Wen's lantern. Mom told her, "Your grandfather's ancestral home was in Nanjing but he later moved to Taiwan. Before 1949, Nanjing was the capital of the Republic of China, where its founder Dr. Sun Yat-sen's mausoleum, Zhong-Shan Ling, was located." Because there were many scenic and historical sites in Nanjing, mother and daughter decided to spend an extra day there, to stroll around all these places.

The ride on the high-speed rail only took a bit over an hour as Nanjing is not far from Shanghai. Annie and her family welcomed them warmly. Soon the other guests arrived one after another with their lanterns. After Wang Li hung them up in the surrounding corridors, the colorful lanterns decorated the courtyard house with festive joy. The guests walked around the corridors,

appreciating the lanterns in all varieties while trying to solve the riddles. Cheng Wen figured out quite a few, which made her very happy.

Because it didn't snow on Lantern Festival this year, they had the dinner in the courtyard. Everyone sat around three big round tables, eating, talking and laughing. More than 10 hot pots steamed, the air filled with delicious smells of the meal, and everyone wore a happy smile. At the end, the hosts brought out four different kinds of rice dumplings: sesame seed, peanut, red bean and date paste. Grandpa Wang stood up and proposed a toast, "Family and friends, on behalf of the Wang family, I wish each and every one of you happiness, prosperity, health and joy forever." The guests also stood up and raised their cups, thanking the host's hospitality. After dinner, everyone gathered around the TV in the main hall to watch the live broadcast of the festival, where it was a sea of lanterns in front of the Confucius Temple. According to the news report, watching and shopping for lanterns at the Confucius Temple was the traditional way to celebrate the Lantern Festival during Chinese New Year for Nanjing residents, with an estimated total visits of at least 3 million.

The next day, Cheng Wen and her mother visited several famous scenic and historical sites, with the deepest impression from the "Memorial Hall of Nanjing Massacre". "Nanjing Massacre" refers to the event of the senseless massacre and torture of the Chinese by the Japanese troops after they captured Nanjing on December 13, 1937. Cheng Wen grew up in the US and only learned about the Holocaust where Hitler slaughtered the Jews. She didn't know the history of Nanjing Holocaust until after she read *The Rape of Nanking* by Iris Chang. A Chinese American author specialized in biography, the 29 years old Iris Chang became famous overnight when her book caused an instant sensation upon publication. Invited to give talks all over the country, she reminded her audiences: we cannot forget the tragedy of history, otherwise it will repeat itself.

Cheng Wen and her mother looked closely at every exhibit with a heavy heart: the piles of bodies and skeletons, pictures after pictures of the massacre, records after records of the survivors' accounts ... The Japanese soldiers were so savage that they did not even spare the elderly, women and children. Cheng Wen and her mother were so somber that they couldn't speak for a very, very long time after they walked out of the Memorial Hall.

That afternoon, Annie treated them to a Peking opera: *The Legend of the White Snake*. Cheng Wen thought Peking opera was very similar to Western opera (from Europe), the only difference being the stories, languages, costumes, and the methods of singing. Mom was captivated, while Cheng Wen applauded with the audience with only a vague idea of what was going on. It was almost midnight when the two of them got home after the show.

Lying in bed, Cheng Wen reflected on her experience of the last two days. She deeply felt the blessing of peace and stability, and the horror of war and turmoil. She remembered the historian Santayana's saying, "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." Indeed, the tragedy of history cannot be forgotten. We must not let those horrible events happen again, not anywhere. This is the responsibility of everyone; we all must do something ... She fell deeply asleep with these thoughts.

Lesson 5 Text Watching Football, Talking about Space

Today is the Super Bowl, a major annual American sports event, and a group of guests come to You-you's house to watch the live broadcast together and have some fun.

Football is the quintessential American ball game. There are two leagues in the nation, with more than ten teams in each league. All the teams in the same league first play one another to win the league champion. The two league champions then face off each other in the Super Bowl to win the ultimate championship. The Super Bowl game is intense and the half time performance by pop stars is particularly wonderful, thus attracting hundreds of millions to gather in front of the TV, chomping chicken wings while watching the broadcast, rooting for their favorite team.

Newspapers estimate 1.23 billion chicken wings will be consumed during this year's Super Bowl weekend. Every year, You-you's mom personally cooks her specialty wings: braised, sweet and sour fried, salty boiled, hot and spicy, along with five spice dried tofu, etc. as snacks, and prepares such drinks as beer and juices for her guests.

You-you is following this year's Super Bowl with particular interest, because NASA is going to transmit the live broadcasted game to the space station, so that the six astronauts in the spaceship can also watch it live. As there is no gravity in the spaceship, if the astronauts yell and holler, pump their fists and stomp their feet, just like the audience on earth, what kind of sight will it be? You-you is very curious.

Ever since childhood, You-you has yearned for the space. As a boy, he was envious of Chang E who flew to the moon, and was fascinated by such space related movies and fictions as ET, Star Wars and the like. You-you was ecstatic when Grandpa gave him a telescope for his eighth birthday. Since then, the two of them often sat in the backyard stargazing and chatting. Soon You-you became familiar with the location of the seven planets: Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune. Gradually You-you accumulated a lot of knowledge about astronomy. He knows that the Chinese call the universe「宇宙」,「宇」, meaning above, below and four directions.「宙」 means the past, present and future; the universe is a combination of space and time. He also knows that the ancient Chinese invented such instruments as the sundial and the armillary sphere to measure the movement of the sun and moon and the locations of constellations, which led to the invention of the lunar calendar and the drawing of the astrological chart. He is extremely interested in galaxies, nebulas, the Big Bang and black holes. In short, he would carefully read each word of any news concerning outer space, for example, reports of certain country launching a satellite, rocket or spacecraft, of certain region sighting a UFO, space alien or meteor. Sometimes his friends would joke around and call him a freak, yet he didn't mind at all.

Since the 21st century, human space development has progressed in great strides, and the European Space Agency recently announced that they would cooperate with a British construction company, using robots to construct a permanent living base on the moon, estimated to complete in 2040. The University of Edinburgh offered a course in "Introduction of Space Biology & the Search for Extraterrestrial Life". Thus it could all become reality one day that human would travel to or live in space, or even have encounters with aliens.

This summer, You-you is going to Houston to attend a summer camp designed by NASA for high school students. NASA is a US federal agency which is in charge of American's space programs. Whether it's landing on the moon, flights in space, space exploration, protection of the earth, the search for extraterrestrial life, etc. these are all their essential tasks. These are all You-you's interests.

You-you is waiting with abated breath for the arrival of summer.

Lesson 6 Text Yes, I am a Victim of School Bullying

In recent years, there have been frequent news reports of school bullying, shooting and suicides. According to the reports, many offenders have been bullied themselves so they have also been victims. Every time I read such a report, I feel a stabbing pain in my heart. Yes, I have been a victim of school bullying and have lived with the feelings of inferiority, humiliation and fear. Because of the psychological effect of hatred and retaliation, I could have also become a bully myself.

It happened during the last year of middle school That summer, my family moved. I had no choice but to leave the familiar school, teachers and friends and transfer to another school. I was rather unhappy in this foreign environment. Not long after school started, some students started to whisper, spread rumors, saying I was a delinquent, dismissed by another school, and certain boys liked me These false rumors made me angry and anxious, but I didn't know who were spreading the rumors or what to do about the situation. I started to be ostracized; as soon as I approached a group of students talking and laughing among themselves, they would immediately disperse. Schoolmates often looked at me out of the corners of their eyes, with a look of ridicule, prejudice and discrimination, which made me deeply worried and anxious all day long.

I was very lonely and a group of students started to bully me. Between classes, in the corridors with students rushing to and fro, I was often bumped, shoved, and stomped on. On the fields, I would be inexplicably hit by balls. Once, in the bathroom, someone stuffed me a bundle of toilet tissue, inside was wrapped a big dead black poisonous spider! Scared to death of even going to the bathroom, I often held it in to avoid going to the toilet.

The days went by. No one dared to be my friend because whoever got close to me would be asking for trouble, as they would be singled out by that group. One day, a male student called me out of the classroom, pointed to the dark area in a distance and said someone was looking for me. I wasn't stupid enough to ask for trouble. Seeing that I wasn't going, he grabbed me tightly, trying to drag me there no matter what it took! At that moment, a big tall boy bravely pulled me away and he saved me. All of a sudden, I felt so lucky that I had helped him with some homework.

If it were unsafe outside the classroom, it wasn't any better inside it. During class, I had to endure rubber bands or spitballs shot from behind at any time. I knew it was useless to report to teachers, because no one would dare to be a witness, which would humiliate me even more. I didn't dare to tell my parents and my family, because I was afraid they would be worried, but I was even more fearful that they would tell the school, which would not only be ineffective but also worsen the bullying for me.

In those painful days, other than working really hard at school, I kept company with my little dog, telling her everything on my mind and making her my best friend.

Thank goodness, I finally graduated! The first day of entering high school, I told myself to have a new beginning. I swore, "Should anyone bite me once, I would kill their entire family!"

Looking back, I was very fortunate, because that high school really cared about the moral character of the students. I made good friends in high school, participated in community service by volunteering at the senior center, and my heart was no longer filled with hatred and revenge. Otherwise, that horrific oath would have followed me my entire life and, who knew, one day I could've done something horrific myself.

Although I am now a mother of a three year old, sometimes I still wake up screaming from those nightmares. If I could go back to the past, I would've immediately informed my parents and reported to the school, sought out all the people or organizations that could've helped me, bravely confronted the problem and solved it. Everyone who has been bullied wants to do everything they can to forget the painful days, never to touch it again. I summoned up my courage to write it, in the hope that everyone could see how painful it is to be bullied, and how difficult it is to break free from the pain.

Bullying others is not a game or even a joke, and stopping bullying behavior is everyone's responsibility. Everyone should have a sense of justice, with the courage to say, "No! Stop! You can't do that!" because everyone suffers from the evil consequence of bullying.
(Original: "Yes, I have been a Victim of School Bullying", author Delphine Hung)

Story Translation

Lesson 1 Story Several Brief Driving Jokes

Joke #1

One day, Tom went on a joy ride on the mountain road in the new car he just bought. At this time, a small truck came from the opposite direction, the guy rolled down his window and shouted at Tom, "Pig!" before driving by. Tom was furious, he turned and yelled back, "You are the pig! Pig! Pig!" Ban! Oh no! Tom's car crashed into a pig!

Joke #2

One day, a man was pushing his car on the shoulder of a highway, huffing and puffing. A traffic cop stopped by and asked, "Sir, is there anything wrong with your car?" "The car is fine, but I forgot to bring my driver's license. Since I can't drive, all I can do is push it along."

Joke #3

On a foggy night, a car was tailgating another car on the road. All of a sudden, the car in the front stopped. The driver in the back didn't have time to brake, so he hit the first car.

The guy in the back rolled down his window and yelled, "The fog is so dense. How can you brake like this?" The first guy said, "Ridiculous! This is my garage, what are you doing here?"

Joke #4

One day, Jack was driving when his wife called, "Jack, I just heard on the radio, there is a car driving northbound on the southbound lane of Highway 5, do be careful!" Jack said, "Yes I see that. It's not just one car, there are over ten cars driving the wrong way. Oh good, the police car is here!"

Joke #5

A motorcyclist liked to wear his jacket backward, so that it could block the wind. One day, he collided with a truck and was tossed on the roadside. The police rushed over... one cop said, "Yikes! The helmet is all flattened and his face has been knocked to the other side." The other cop said, "Well, he's still breathing, let's turn his head around!"... Crack, oh no! He stopped breathing.

Joke #6

A sleep deprived man was driving in a daze and constantly ran over the yellow line. The police thought he was drunk and pulled him over to check him. He was found to not have been drinking,

the police wrote the report while telling him, "OK, you can go now!" He wormed into the car in a hurry, turned on the engine and drove all the way home. Soon the police came knocking on his door with a long face and asked, "Where's the car?" He answered, "In the garage." The police made him open the garage. Oh no! It turned out he drove the police car home, and even forgot to turn off the engine!

Joke #7

A police flagged down a sports car on the street and said to the driver, "You ran three red lights in a row while speeding. I'm going to give you two tickets." The man said impatiently, "Red light, green light, they were constantly changing. Who can see them clearly?"

His wife cut in, "Sir, never mind him, he's babbling because he drank too much." The police took out the handcuffs and said to the man, "You are now under arrest for driving while drunk, come with me."

Lesson 2 Story The Treasure Fleet of Zheng He, East China Sea, and South China Sea

1. China is a major country in Asia and the Pacific Ocean lies between America and China. If you start from San Diego, CA, and sail straight westward, you'll arrive at Shanghai after crossing the Pacific.

2. The Pacific waters off the coast of China are respectively (from north to south) called Bo Sea, Yellow Sea, East China Sea and South China Sea. They have been part of China's territorial waters since ancient times, where Chinese fishermen living on the coast have always used them for fishing, transport and navigation.

3. The Chinese invented the compass very early and also possessed advanced shipbuilding technology. That's why it took Zheng He only 14 months to get everything ready, when the Ming Emperor Yong Le appointed him to the long expedition over 600 years ago. Zheng He built more than 200 ships of various functions: horse-ships for transportation, battleships for self-defense, cabin ships for soldiers to live on, provision ships for storing food, water ships for storing fresh water, and the Treasure Ship to house the commanders and VIPs.

4. Zheng He's crew numbered 20,000 to 30,000, and major departments included planning, management, supply, medical affairs, maintenance, meteorology, military, security, trade, diplomacy and translation, etc.

5. It was a spectacular sight when Zheng He took his first voyage in 1405. More than 200 ships were fully loaded with food, merchandize, weapons and over 20,000 crew members, arranged in a swallow formation, with Zheng He on the Treasure Ship, right at the center of the fleet.

6. Zheng He's first voyage took two years, where he first stopped at Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia, and then to Ceylon and India. He established friendly relationship with all the countries. Emperor Yong Le was very pleased and encouraged Zheng to continue with the voyages. Zheng He introduced ceramic, porcelain and silk, as well as China's advanced technologies overseas. Kings or envoys from over 30 countries paid visits to China, bringing with them African giraffe, leopard, ostrich as well as many kinds of spices.

7. In 28 years, Zheng He expanded nautical trade routes from China to Southeast Asia, Arabia and Africa, while advancing maritime traffic between South China Sea, Arabian Sea and Indian Ocean. On his 7th voyage, Zheng He died in India from illness.

8. Later on, the new emperor of Ming Dynasty thought the maritime expenses were too high, and China was too advanced to need to have dealings with other countries. He thus burned all the ships, closed all the harbors and prohibited all maritime activities. This policy led to the regression of China's navigation and shipbuilding technologies; as a result, by 1524, European shipbuilding technology far surpassed that of China.
9. The Chinese battleships were still made of wood during the Opium War in 1840; British and French battleships easily defeated China. After the Opium War, country after country attacked China from sea, invaded and occupied her land and property. It was not until 1945, after the end of WWII, that foreign powers finally withdrew from China, and Hong Kong was also returned to China in 1997.
10. Through the painful lessons of more than 100 years, Chinese people, whether from Taiwan, the Republic of China, or Mainland, the People's Republic of China, are deeply determined not to back down from any territorial claims. Therefore they stood firm when Japan tried to occupy the Diaoyu Islands (the Senkaku Islands) that belong to Taiwan, yet the Japanese would not give up, thus resulting in tense situations in the East China Sea.
11. The situation in South China Sea is also not relaxed, because in addition to bountiful seafood, it has oil, natural gas and methane clathrate (or methane hydrate or fire ice) at the bottom of the sea, thus the nations in the region are all fighting over the islands in South China Sea. Will there be wars in East and South China Seas? People in the world are watching closely!

Lesson 3 Story A coyote and a vulture

A narrative of the coyote (picture 1-6)

1. I am a coyote. When I was little, I lived happily with my mother and little brother. Mom often told me tenderly, "Remember, no matter what happens, you must keep on living."
2. One evening at dusk, mom didn't return after going out to look for food. I went down the hill with my brother to look for her, but she was killed, hung from a pole on a farm. Scared to death, I turned around, ran and ran with all my might. Suddenly I came to the edge of a cliff. My whole body trembling, I cried out loud in despair, "My mommy is dead! Mommy!"
3. I didn't know when it was that a vulture flew by. He kept circling above me, comforting me with tender calls, ... he left only after I gradually calmed down. From then on, every day, no matter where I was, he would find me and look after me.
4. After mom died, my brother and I went to live with a pack of coyotes. One day, my brother came running to me, "Follow me, bro, there's food, hurry up!" Everyone heard it and ran after him. Far away, there was a vulture lying on the ground. Oh God! No! I rushed over and cried out, "Don't you eat it!" My brother said, "Are you out of your mind?"
5. Everyone surrounded me, tried to scratch me, bite me, and chase me away. Suddenly I heard a vulture's call from the sky. I looked up, ah, it's him! I breathed a sigh of relief and ran up the cliff.
6. He was already standing on a boulder on the cliff, combing his feather while singing. I lay down beneath the tree, licking my wound. We kept each other company until the sun went down. I felt so blessed! Mom's words echoed in my ears, "You must keep on living..."

A narrative of the vulture (picture 7-12)

7. I am a vulture. One day, I saw a big coyote killed by the people on the farm, and the little coyote was howling sadly toward the valley. Poor baby, I flew around him in circles and kept him company.

8. From then on, that little guy followed other coyotes roaming in the valley looking for food. Every day, I flew around him in circles, keeping him company. He often looked up at me and winked playfully.

9. Winter came, food was hard to find and coyotes often starved to death in the snow. One evening at dusk, somebody from the farm came out of the house and dumped the leftovers into the trash can. Disregarding the danger, the coyotes keeping watch in the distant woods sneaked close, toppled over the trash can and started to devour. They were just starved!

10. Bang! Bang! Bang! The farmer started to shoot, the coyotes all ran for their lives; they ran and ran. Oh No! My little coyote suddenly fell on the ground, covered in blood. What should I do? What could I do?

11. I immediately landed right next to him. Badly hurt, he saw me coming, tried very hard to wink at me. I held back my tears, circled around him and sang to him. I kept on singing, singing, and singing ..., he slowly closed his eyes.

12. At this time, other starving animals started to slowly surround us. I knew that before little coyote stopped breathing, they would not dare to touch him. Oh well, that's good enough. I told little coyote softly, "Don't be afraid! I will be with you, I will carry your soul to the sky!"

Lesson 4 Story Legend of the White Snake (or Madame White Snake)

1. A long, long time ago, a man was walking by a lake and saw an eagle ready to dive kill a little white snake. He drove the eagle away and spared the snake's life. A thousand years later, the white snake and her good friend, the little green fish, had gained magical powers and become immortals after practicing Taoist training and cultivation. In this life, the eagle has incarnated as Fahai Monk and the man as Xu Xian, a handsome young man

2. One day, white snake and green fish were playing in the waters of the West Lake just as Xu Xian was passing by. White snake recognized he was the savior of her life. She turned herself into a beautiful young woman, Bai Suzhen, and borrowed an umbrella from him in the rain. The two fell in love at first sight.

3.& 4. Not long after, they were married. One day, they went sightseeing at Fahai Monk's Jinshan Temple. With his magical powers, Fahai instantly recognized that this Madam Bai was a snake. He hurriedly pulled Xu Xian over to the side and said, "Your wife is transformed from a snake. At Duanwu (Dragon Boat) Festival, invite her to have some realgar wine, wait till she is drunk and she will show her original form." Sure enough, Madam Bai turned into a boa constrictor, and Xu Xian was shocked to unconsciousness.

5. When Madam Bai sobered up and discovered Xu Xian unconscious from shock, she became deeply sorrowed. Although she was pregnant, in order to save Xu Xian, she ignored the danger and went to heaven to pick the magic herb. As a result, she was chased and beaten by the heavenly guards, her entire body injured, but she got the magic herb.

6. Xu Xian was revived. He told Fahai that Madam Bai loved her very much. Fahai said, "What would you do if she returned to her original form and ate you?" Xu Xian became afraid again, not

daring to return home. Several days later, Madam Bai paid a visit to Fahai. She wanted to bring Xu Xian home because she was going to give birth to a baby. Fahai said no and they started a fight.

7. After fighting for three days and three nights, Madam Bai's belly started to hurt. She used magical powers to make heaven pour down torrential rain and the waters submerged Jinshan Temple. She rescued Xu Xian out of the temple.

8. Madam Bai gave birth to a son. Xu Xian finally realized he had made a mess of things because he didn't trust his wife.

9. The days went by fast. On the baby's one-month birthday, Fahai showed up unexpectedly. He said to Madam Bai, "You submerged Jinshan Temple and the surrounding families, killing many lives and destroying many houses. You will be punished. The Jade Emperor ordered me to deal with this."

Fahai kept Madam Bai underneath the Leifeng Pagoda near the West Lake. Fahai said, "You will not be able to get out until the waters of the West Lake dry up and Leifeng Pagoda topples over." Madam Bai was despaired.

10. But Xu Xian did not get discouraged. He painstakingly brought up his son and educated him. Twenty years later, his son went to the capital for the palace exam and got the top score, which was a great honor.

11. The son rushed to Leifeng Pagoda to inform his mother, crying out loud when he thought of the suffering of his mother. His honoring of his mother moved heaven and earth. All of a sudden, the waters in the West Lake dried up, Leifeng Pagoda toppled, and Madam Bai was rescued from underneath. The three in the family finally reunited.

12. "Legend of the White Snake" had been passed down through folklore for nearly 1,000 years. The performance of "Legend of the White Snake" permeated through Peking opera, various regional performing arts, even modern stage plays, dance and modern operas. The ancient Leifeng Pagoda was built in 975 AD but it did topple over in 1924. The current Leifeng Pagoda was rebuilt in 2002.

Lesson 5 Story Stargazing in Hawaii: A Journal Entry

1. During this year's spring break, Mom and Dad went to Hawaii to attend an academic conference. I took the opportunity to tag along for a vacation. Of the many scenic sights on the island, I was most impressed by the world renowned Mauna Kea Observatory.

2. Mauna Kea is a volcano rising from the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean to 13,803 feet above sea level. The atmospheric pressure and oxygen at the summit are only 40% of those on the flat land. Yet it is only a two hour car ride from the scorching coast to the snow-capped peak.

3. The summit of Mauna Kea has the clearest, driest, calmest and darkest nights and the most beautiful skies! Here you don't need to raise your head or look up, as countless stars in the entire sky are right in front of your eyes, which is quite spectacular!

4. Eleven countries have set up astronomic observatories on Mauna Kea summit. Giant astronomical telescopes are inside white or silver domes. Each dome is as high as a building several stories high. The only observatory open to the public is the U.S. Keck Observatory.

5. Visitors can visit the Keck Observatory by entering the building at the bottom. In the small glass building next to the corridor, one can see the two largest visible/infrared (IR) telescopes in the world.
6. The lens surface of the telescope is made up of 36 hexagon shaped lenses, with a diameter of 10 meters. At a distance of 85 meters apart, these two telescopes, when started, are equivalent to one giant binocular with a diameter of 85 meters.
7. The air is very thin on the summit, easily inducing such high altitude sickness as vomiting, dizziness and headaches. Thus pregnant women, those with high blood pressure and those under 16 of age can only stay at the 9,400 ft high Visitor Center and not come up here.
8. I was lucky to be celebrating my 16th birthday today. I came up here to see the Observatory, and climbed to the summit with Mom and Dad. Yeah! This is the day I was the closest to the universe: I said, "Hello, ET, where are you?"
9. The sun gradually went down west, the sky was clear and blue, and the setting sun cast a golden hue on all the domes as far as the eye could see. They looked as if golden balls had scattered on the red earth. Such a beautiful sight! For a moment one could not tell whether it was in heaven or on earth. After the sun went down, the summit got even colder, and we drove back to the Visitor Center in a hurry.
10. Volunteers set up several telescopes outdoors for the visitors to use. In order not to interfere with stargazing, they only used dark red lighting here. It was the first day of a Chinese lunar month, there was no moon, but lots of visitors showed up for stargazing.
11. The sky got darker and darker, countless stars gradually showed up in the sky. Everyone became very quiet, staring straight ahead into the most precious sight without a word. With the instructions from the volunteers, I got to know many constellations, galaxies, nebulas, and the satellites that revolve around the earth.
12. Compared to the universe, man is smaller than a dust spectacle, yet I could stand here to observe and get to know the universe – what a wonder this was! How lucky I was! It got even colder and we had to leave Mauna Kea. Goodbye, I would be back again!

Lesson 6 Story Mother's Day Festival and Chinese Culture

1. This year's Mother's Day Festival at Yuan Lin City will feature Chinese culture as the main theme. As the general public is not only unfamiliar with, but may even have prejudice towards, Chinese culture, the sponsor organization is holding an information session to familiarize the public with the contents of the festival.
2. There are three sections for the festival: gourmet food, culture and activity. The gourmet food section features regional dim sum, with many booths selling delicacies such as spring rolls, zongzi (a pyramid-shaped mass of glutinous rice, with stuffing, wrapped in bamboo leaves), glutinous rice stirred fried in oil, steamed buns with pork and vegetables, beef noodle soup, preserved tofu, shaved ice and pearl milk tea, etc.
3. The theme of the culture booths feature folk arts, including signet (seal) carvings, tea tasting, brush calligraphy, brush paintings, Peking opera masks, musical instruments, toys, chess, Chinese classical music and modern popular music, etc.

4. The seal booth will exhibit all kinds of different seals and will carve seals for visitors. Since ancient times, the Chinese have used the seal in place of one's handwritten signature, and nearly everyone had their own seal.
5. At the Chinese brush calligraphy booth, there will be calligraphy artists demonstrating the art on the spot. Brush calligraphy is the best way to showcase the beauty and meaning of Chinese characters. Chinese people often hang mounted and framed calligraphy of their family teaching, personal motto or poetry on the wall.
6. Done in black ink or color inks on fine calligraphy paper, Chinese brush painting can be grouped into three major categories – portraiture, mountains & waters (scenery), and flowers and birds. After a painting is done, masthead or poetry is written on the margins and a seal is stamped on the paper, before it can be considered complete.
7. The drinking and toasting with tea is part of Chinese everyday customs and ceremony. There are many kinds of tea, but mainly in three major categories – black tea, green tea, and Oolong tea. On the day of the festival, the visitors will have a chance to taste all kinds of teas and enjoy the performance of tea ceremony.
- 8.& 9. Peking opera is the hallmark of Chinese culture. It is a performing art infused of opera, dialog, dance, martial arts with the playing of instruments. Every Peking opera is a historical or folklore story with educational meaning. The libretto (lyrics) and the movements in Peking opera are graceful, while a Peking opera mask represents the character of its role, for example, red represents a loyal and brave character, black represents an upright and honest one, white represents an evil character, etc. The Peking opera booth will sell DVDs, and teach visitors how to paint masks.
10. The theme of the Activity section is to pay our love back to mothers. The Chinese say, "Filial piety is the first virtue among all virtues" and Chinese culture emphasizes honoring one's parents and grandparents. The activities include offering tea to and washing the feet of elders, dedicating a song to them through karaoke, etc. The public is welcome to register to participate in these activities.
11. In addition, there is a "Human Library" in the Activity section. Fifty ethnic Chinese, Korean and Jewish mothers volunteer to be "human books" for the public to borrow and read, with each session lasting 40 minutes. The book "borrower" can listen to the "human book" talk about her experience in educating her children and answer questions.
12. "Human Library" has become very popular in Europe. It has helped a great deal in eliminating prejudice and promoting social harmony. This information session has been very successful and satisfactorily concluded with the standing ovation of the entire audience.