

113 年屏大附小校內語文競賽四年級英語朗讀文章 01

Cats and Roosters

Once upon a time in Africa, roosters ruled over cats. The cats worked hard all day and at night had to bring all they gathered to the roosters.

The king of the roosters took all the food for himself and the other roosters.

The roosters loved to eat ants, so each cat had a purse around its neck, filled with ants for the king.

The cats did not like this. They wanted to keep the food they gathered but were afraid of the roosters. The roosters told the cats that their combs were made of fire and would burn anyone who disobeyed them. The cats believed them and worked from early morning until night for the roosters.

One night, the fire in Mrs. Cat's house went out. She told her kitten, Fluffy, to bring some fire from Mr. Rooster's house. When Fluffy went into the rooster's house, she saw that Mr. Rooster was fast asleep, his stomach full of ants.

Fluffy was afraid to wake him, so she went home and told her mother.

Mrs. Cat said, "Now that the rooster is asleep, gather some dry twigs and place them near his comb. When the twigs catch fire, bring them home." Fluffy gathered dry twigs and took them to the rooster's house. He was still asleep.

Fluffy put the twigs near the rooster's comb, but they did not catch fire. Mrs. Cat tried too, but the twigs did not catch fire. Then, shaking with fear, she touched the rooster's comb. It was not hot. It was cold and just red-colored.

Mrs. Cat realized the roosters had lied. She told the other cats about the rooster's trick. From that day on, the cats no longer worked for the roosters. The king of the roosters was very angry and said, "I will burn all your houses if you do not work for me!"

But the cats replied, "Your comb is not made of fire. It is just the color of fire. We touched it when you were asleep. You lied to us." When the king of the roosters found out that the cats knew the truth, he ran away. Now, whenever roosters see a cat, they run away because they are still afraid of cats.

<Adapted from 100 Moral Stories Akramulla Syed Islamic
<http://www.islamicoccasions.com>>

113 年屏大附小校內語文競賽四年級英語朗讀文章 02

The boy and the Apple Tree

A long time ago, there was a huge apple tree. A little boy loved to play around it every day. He climbed to the treetop, ate apples, and napped under its shadow. The tree loved him.

As time passed, the boy grew up and stopped playing around the tree. One day, he returned. The tree asked him to play, but the boy said he needed money for toys. The tree offered its apples to sell, and the boy left happily. He didn't return for a long time.

Years later, the boy returned as a man. The tree asked him to play, but he needed a house instead. The tree offered its branches. The man cut all the branches and left. The tree was happy for him but felt lonely.

On a hot summer day, the man came back. The tree was happy and asked him to play. The man needed a boat to relax. The tree offered its trunk. The man cut the trunk and went sailing, not returning for a long time.

Finally, the man came back after many years. The tree said it had nothing left to give. The man, now old, said he only needed a place to rest. The tree, now just roots, invited him to rest.

Years went by, and the man often visited the tree. He would sit by the roots and tell the tree stories about his life. He talked about his children, work, and adventures. The tree loved to listen.

One day, the man brought his children to the tree. They played around it, just like he did when he was young. The tree was very happy to see new children playing and laughing.

As the man got older, he visited the tree less often. But every time he did, he felt peaceful and happy. The tree, now just roots, always welcomed him with love.

The tree's love and the man's gratitude showed a special bond. Even though the tree had nothing left to give, it still provided comfort.

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