

113 年屏大附小校內語文競賽五年級英語朗讀文章 01

(1) The Twelve Weavers

In a faraway town, there lived twelve weavers. They were good friends who always looked out for one another. One day, they decided to take on a grand adventure around the world. Before they set off, they crossed the river with a friendly boatman's help. Thanking him warmly, they said goodbye to him and continued on. Their journey echoed with laughter as they explored one city after another. They saw lots of amazing sights, some of which they had never seen before.

Finally, it was time to head back home. Returning to the river's edge once again, they looked around, but neither the boatman nor his boat could be seen anywhere.

"What shall we do?" asked one of the weavers.

"Let's wait for the boatman," said another.

"Oh, no! I'm eager to see my family. Let's swim across," said the third one.

"But there's a risk of someone drowning," cried the fourth one.

"Yes, let's wait!" warned the fifth one, "the boatman will surely bring someone from the other side. Then we can return together."

"I can't wait," shouted the sixth one, "I have so much to share and we are so close to home. Let's give it a try. We've traveled so far together and I'm confident we can manage to swim across."

They argued for a while until they all agreed it was safe to swim across. "The river seems shallow. We can actually wade for most of the way," they nodded, wading into the river with their bags held high.

When they reached the opposite shore, one weaver said, "Let's make sure everyone made it across the river safely. Everyone stands in line while I count." The rest quickly formed a line while the first weaver began counting. "One, two, ...eight, nine, ten, eleven. Oh dear! One of us is missing!"

They took turns counting, each growing more sure that one of them had drowned in the river. The group continued their journey and soon arrived back in town. They cried loudly about losing their friend, when they met one of the townspeople. "What seems to be the trouble? Why do you weep so loudly?" he asked.

"We started our journey as twelve, but we returned as eleven. We lost a friend as we crossed the river. He drowned," said the weeping men, their voices heavy with grief. By this time, a crowd had gathered around them. "It's impossible," cried the crowd in amazement, "most of the river is so shallow that you can easily wade across. How can anybody drown?"

One man came forward. "You've been very foolish! I'll show you that none of you has drowned," he said. He went up to the first man and shouted 'ONE'! Then he went to the second man and called out 'TWO'! He walked from one weaver to the next and counted. "THREE, FOUR, ...TEN, ELEVEN, TWELVE!" Each of you counted, but no one remembered to count themselves.

"You've gone around the world, seen amazing wonders, but don't seem to have come back any wiser," the townspeople agreed, then laughed at the irony. The twelve weavers returned home, relieved to be safe but wishing that they had not made such fools of themselves.

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(2) The Lottery

"It's a secret. Promise you won't tell anyone," Tina whispered.

Maya nodded eagerly, crossing her heart. "I swear. I won't say a word. What's the secret?"

Tina looked around carefully. Leaning in close, she whispered to Maya so softly that only Maya could hear. "My parents won the lottery. We're so rich now!" Tina was full of excitement as she shared the news with her closest friend.

Tina and Maya then talked about how different her life would be.

"I guess I'll travel around the world first. And get new sneakers. These are falling apart." Tina looked down at her worn-out shoes, and then kicked them off.

"I'm sure that now we have money, my mother won't complain if I just throw these old sneakers away." Tina added with a grin, feeling excited about getting rid of her old stuff.

As the evening passed, they said goodbye and returned to their homes. Tina couldn't wait for dinner, hoping her parents would share the news about winning the lottery. She imagined a life of fancy things and luxury. But dinner was still the same old food, rice and chicken wings. Her parents didn't talk about their wealth.

Meanwhile, Maya met her sister on the porch, bursting with excitement to share the juicy gossip. "I've got news, but you have to swear not to tell anyone." Then she said, "Tina's rich. Her parents won the lottery." Her sister's eyes widened in disbelief. Maya's sister wasn't able to contain her excitement. She busted through the door and yelled, "Tina's family won the lottery!" It was loud enough for all the neighbors to hear. Tina's heart sank as she realized their carefully guarded secret had been laid out. Their secret was no longer a secret.

There had been talk around town for days about the winning of lottery, stirring up gossip and guesses among everyone. The winner had not yet come forward to claim the prize. So everyone was guessing about who it could be. They talked about it

all the time, wanting to know who it was.

One evening, as Tina's father washed dishes, the neighbors started to come in, each asking for money.

"Excuse me," Mrs. Hanley said, "we are having some trouble with rent this month. Could you lend me \$100?"

Confused, Tina's dad looked at his wife with a puzzled expression as more people poured in asking for help.

"My car is broken down. Could you maybe help me get it fixed?" asked one.

"We need just \$50," said another. "Just enough for a bus ticket, please."

Before they knew it, their house was filled with neighbors asking for help, believing Tina's family to be very rich. All of them needed something.

"We would love to help, but what makes you think we are so rich to help everyone of you?" Tina's parents spoke their confusion. One by one, they spoke about the winning of the lottery. Tina's mom thought for a while. "I did win a lottery," she said, "but, at my work. It was a drawing to see who would get next Saturday off." Tina felt really embarrassed because she realized she made a mistake without knowing everything. She was sorry about her quick words.

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(3) The Unfaithful Helper

In a dense forest, there was a pond hidden among the trees that drew all kinds of animals with its cool, clear water. The pond was not just a place for animals to drink—it also filled with fish. In this lively picture, there lived a crab next to a graceful swan. They were best friends, enjoying the peace of their neighborhood until one day, a snake made its home near the pond and caused trouble. Every day, the swan laid an egg, but the snake ate it right away.

"I have to find a way to save my eggs," thought the swan.

"I beg you, my dear friend, please help me protect my eggs from the sneaky snake," pleaded the swan, her eyes filled with worry.

The clever crab thought for a bit, then came up with an idea. "I've got it! Let's catch some fish from the pond and drop them from the snake's house to the mongoose's house."

The mongoose lived in a nearby tree. Together, the crab and the swan caught some fish, tempting the mongoose with a path of fish that led to the snake's home. They hid behind a tree and watched as the mongoose, drawn in by the surprise meal, appeared.

"What a nice surprise! Fish right outside my own house!" cried the mongoose, enjoying every bite of fish as he followed the trail to the snake's home. Peering from their hiding spot behind the trees, the crab and the swan watched and followed after the mongoose.

When the snake saw the mongoose, it got ready to fight. The snake quickly slithered toward the mongoose with its mouth wide open, looking scary. They got into a savage battle, twisting and turning in a fierce struggle. Their hisses and growls filled the forest. After some time, the mongoose killed the snake.

Watching from behind the tree, the swan and the crab let out a sigh of relief.

However, their joy didn't last long because the next day, the mongoose, looking for more fish, came upon the swan's nest. There the mongoose found the eggs of the swan. He ate all of them right away. The swan and the crab now felt helpless. They had brought this new threat upon themselves. They did not know that the mongoose was the dangerous helper.

As the golden light of the setting sun faded and the darkness spread over the forest, the swan and the crab sat close together. Their hearts heavy with sadness over the loss of the eggs. They felt worried and wished they had not teamed up with the mongoose. They looked at what was left of the snake, their minds filled with fear. The crab and the swan exchanged worried looks, knowing the mongoose could return at any moment. They realized that their actions had carelessly brought a new threat upon themselves. Full of regret and wishing they could turn back time, they agreed they were wrong. But by then, it was all too late to fix what they had done.

"Our carelessness has brought us a new enemy. Even more dangerous than the last," cried the two friends.