

宜蘭縣國小英語朗讀比賽篇章

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01-The Giving Tree

Once, there was a tree. She loved a little boy. Every day the boy would come and play. He would climb up her trunk and swing from her branches and eat apples. They would play hide-and-go-seek. When he was tired, he would sleep in her shade. The boy loved the tree very much and the tree was happy.

But time went by, and the boy grew older. The tree was often alone. One day, the boy came to the tree and the tree shook with joy,

She said, "Boy, come and climb up my trunk, and swing from my branches, and eat apples, and play in my shade, and be happy."

"I am too busy to climb trees," said the boy. "I want a house to keep my family warm", he said. "Can you give me a house?"

"I have no house", said the tree. "The forest is my house," said the tree. "But you may cut off my branches and build a house. Then you will be happy."

So the boy cut off her branches and carried them away to build his house. The tree was happy.

But the boy stayed away for a long time...When he came back, the tree was so happy she could hardly speak.

"Come, Boy" she whispered, "Come and play."

"I am too old and sad to play," said the boy. "I want a boat that will take me away from here. Can you give me a boat?"

"Cut down my trunk and make a boat," said the tree. "Then you can sail away... and be happy."

So the boy cut down her trunk and made a boat and sailed away. The tree was happy... But not really.

After a long time, the boy came back again.

"I am sorry," sighed the tree. "I wish that I could give you something... But I have nothing left. I am just an old stump. I am sorry..."

"I don't need very much now," said the boy. "Just a quiet place to sit and rest. I am very tired."

“Well,” said the tree, “an old stump is good for sitting and resting. Come, Boy, sit down... Sit down and rest.”

The boy did, and the tree was happy.

02-Milo and the Rain

Milo is a little boy. He lives with his mother and father in the countryside. From his house, Milo sees fields of rice and trees swaying in the breeze.

Milo is a happy boy, except for one thing: he hates the rain.

Rain makes Milo's socks wet and his fingers cold. When it rains, Milo and his friends can't play basketball behind his school.

It seemed like it was always raining. Milo thought of his cousins who lived in a big city. When it rained there, they went to the movie theater or played video games. "Why can't I live in the city?" thought Milo. He was feeling very sad.

"Milo," said his mother, "stop looking so sad! Put on your boots and raincoat and go play outside."

"But Mom..." said Milo.

"No complaining! Go outside right now!" replied his mother.

So, Milo put on his boots and jacket and went outside. Without any other ideas, he decided to walk to the river. At the river, he saw a woman in a field of long grass. The woman was bent over picking something.

Milo wanted to know what she was looking at.

The woman, who was old, looked up and said "Hello!! What's your name?"

"Milo," Milo said. "Hi. What are you doing out here in the rain?"

"Why, I'm looking after my plants!" said the old woman.

She wore a big hat and had a scarf around her neck.

In the brown dirt, Milo saw rows of small green plants. The old woman told Milo that some plants would grow to be large, sweet melons.....and some would grow to be delicious green onions.

"You know, we're lucky we get so much rain here," said the old woman.

"Without the rain, I couldn't grow so much food."

Milo said goodbye to the old woman and started to walk back home.

“Maybe the rain isn’t so bad,” thought Milo.

“Rain makes puddles that I can splash in!

Rain makes raindrops that I can catch in my mouth!

And rain helps grow food for the old woman.

Soon, Milo stopped hating the rain. In fact, he started loving it!

Whenever raindrops started to fall from the sky, Milo put on his raincoat and boots and walked to the river. Now he was helping the old woman by looking after the plants that needed care.

Milo also had fun – he splashed in every puddle and caught many raindrops in his mouth. Milo didn’t want to go to the movies or play video games, because he had two new best friends: the old woman and the rain.

03-The Legend of Turtle Island

A long time ago, off the coast of Taiwan...under the sea, there lived a Sea Dragon King in his Sea Dragon Kingdom.

The Sea Dragon King had only one daughter, the beautiful Kavalan Princess.

The sea Dragon King loved his only daughter and wanted her to be happy. He wanted his daughter to marry the Dragon Prince. The Dragon Prince was rich and smart, but he was often angry. So, the Kavalan Princess could not love the Dragon Prince.

Instead, she loved her father's General, the Tortoise. And the Tortoise also loved the Kavalan Princess. They were elementary school classmates and often played together in the ocean waves.

So one night, the Kavalan Princess and the Tortoise General snuck out of the Sea Dragon Kingdom, up to the surface of the waves, and onto the shore of Taiwan. There they began a quiet life on the Yilan Plain.

They went fishing in the ocean for food, played in the mountains for fun, and made lots of friends.

But the Sea Dragon King was so sad. He promised to find his daughter and kill the Tortoise General. After two years, the Sea Dragon King found them. He was so angry that he made a huge thunderstorm and a great flood.

The Tortoise General and the Kavalan Princess tried to stay together, but the water was too strong and the Tortoise General was washed out to sea. The sea Dragon King saw that his daughter was very sad. He didn't kill the Tortoise General, but he didn't let him come back to Yilan either.

The Tortoise General had to live the rest of his life on a small island off the coast of Yilan, on Turtle Island. The Kavalan Princess had to spend the rest of her life on the Yilan Plain.

They are both still there today. Perhaps you've wondered why there is so much rain in Yilan. The rain that falls in Yilan is the Kavalan Princess's tears. She cries because she can see her husband but knows that they can never be together again.

04-The Monster in the Barn

As Bobby was getting ready for bed, he heard a loud screeching coming from the barn outside. Bobby did not know what was making such a loud noise, and he had trouble falling asleep that night. He was scared that there might be a monster in the barn. When Bobby woke up the next morning, he went to discover what would make such noise. That night after dinner, Bobby got a flashlight and headed out to the barn.

“Where are you going?” Bobby’s father asked.

“I’m going to find the monster in the barn that made so much noise last night,” Bobby replied.

“If you are going to look for a monster, you might need some company,” Bobby’s dad said, and he walked with Bobby out to the barn.

Bobby shined his flashlight into the dark barn but did not see anything. Bobby called out but nothing answered. He walked into the barn but still did not see a monster.

“What did this monster sound like?” Bobby’s dad asked.

“It was a loud screeching noise,” Bobby said, “and it was coming from the barn.”

Bobby’s dad began to laugh and he took the flashlight from Bobby. Shining the flashlight up at the roof of the barn, Bobby and his dad saw a small brown owl in the rafters of the roof.

“It was only a barn owl that you heard last night,” Bobby’s dad said. “They are night-time hunters, so that is why you only heard him at night.”

Bobby was happy that it wasn’t a monster, and he thanked his dad as they walked back to the house. Just then they heard a loud screech and looked up to see the barn owl flying away into the night sky.

05-Lady and the Garden Hose

The Lee family had a new puppy named Lady. She was a playful puppy. She especially liked playing with the garden hose. She loved to watch the hose wiggle like a snake when she chewed on it. One day Mr. Lee saw Lady drag the garden hose across the yard. "Not again!" he said as he hung the hose on the hook that was on the side of the house.

It was the fifth time this week that Lady had taken the hose down from its hook. Mr. Lee had tried to teach her not to do it. He pointed to the hose each time and said with a stern voice, "No, Lady! Don't play with the hose!" It hadn't helped.

The next day Mr. Lee went outside to water his vegetable garden. Once again he found the hose stretched across the yard. Lady playfully picked it up in her teeth when she saw him.

Manuel came outside. "Hi, Dad," he said. "May I help water the garden?" Manuel picked up the hose, and Mr. Lee turned on the water. Only a few drops of water fell on the plants. They saw water springing up from tiny holes all along the hose.

Manuel looked at Lady. "Your sharp teeth made those holes, Lady. You turned our hose into a fountain," he said. Lady wagged her tail proudly. Manuel and his father took the hose to the garage. They used rubber glue to mend it. "I don't know how to teach Lady to leave the hose alone," said Mr. Lee once they had repaired the hose. "Do you have any ideas?"

"I know what we can do," said Manuel. He wrapped the hose around the hook again. Then he brought two chairs from the yard. He turned them on their sides and leaned them against the house. The chairs formed a cage around the hose.

Lady walked over to the hose. She stuck her paw between the chairs. She poked the chairs with her nose and cried. She tried and tried, but she couldn't reach the hose. Manuel's idea was working. "You're probably unhappy about this," Manuel said to his puppy, "but Dad and I don't want to fix that hose every day!"

06-Are You Ready, Sam?

The clouds hung low in the gray sky. The chirping of the bluebirds woke me from my restful sleep. As I slowly woke, I got a funny feeling in my stomach. Today was the day. Today, I had to do something I have been afraid to do for a long time. Breakfast was normal and I began to relax.

Mom came into the kitchen asking, "Are you ready, Sam?"

"Yes," I answered quietly. I wasn't really!

The school bus came on time, and I sat with my friend, Billy. We chatted about baseball and school; I could feel my heart beating. My hands were starting to sweat. I hated this!

I entered Mrs. Owens' class. She was smiling, and saying hello to all her students as she did every morning.

"Hi, Sam," she said as I walked in.

"Hi," I said and quickly sat in my seat. We said the pledge, and then took our spelling test. I looked at the clock. The time was near. I hope I am not first! Mrs. Owens said it was time to begin our special day. Special day? That's a joke.

Mrs. Owens announced, "Sam, you'll be the first."

I got up slowly, looking at the ground as I walked to the front of the room. I looked up, and everyone was staring at me. Mrs. Owens must have known I was nervous because she came by me, and put her hand on my back.

She said to the class, "Sam has worked very hard on his report, and I know it is very interesting." Then she turned to me and asked, "Sam, what did you like best about your report on Hawaii?"

I nervously addressed my class saying "aloha." Then, I thought about the fun things I had read about surfing, volcanoes, and pineapples, and I started to talk. Before I knew it, I was telling the class about everything I had learned. I talked in front of the whole class, and it was fun. It wasn't scary after all. The class clapped as I finished and Mrs. Owens was smiling. I was proud of myself.