

桃園市立會稽國中外國語文競賽朗讀題目

編號 Counting Chickens

It was Mary's birthday. She **received** a letter from her uncle, who was a farmer.

"Dear Mary," the letter said.

"Happy Birthday. I am sending you some chickens. They will arrive tomorrow. I hope you like them. **Best wishes**, Uncle Toby."

Mary was very pleased. She liked eating eggs and she liked eating chicken. "I can keep the chickens for their eggs or eat them," she thought.

When the chickens arrived the next day, they were in a box.

Mary was very **excited**. She took the box off the back of the truck and began to carry it back to her house.

However, the box of chickens was heavy and she **dropped** it.

The box fell to the ground and broke. The chickens all ran out.

They ran everywhere — into neighbors' gardens, into the road, into shops, even into the next street. Mary spent hours trying to find them and take them back to her garden.

A few days later her uncle came to visit her.

"Did the chickens arrive safely?" he asked Mary.

"Yes, Uncle Toby," Mary said. "But I had a lot of trouble with them. I dropped the box. It broke open and the chickens ran everywhere. I spent the whole morning looking for them."

"Did you find them all?" her uncle asked.

"I hope so," Mary **replied**. "I caught eleven of them."

"That's very interesting," her uncle said with a smile, "because I only sent you six."

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編號: A Fishy Story

Barry Parker was a very **successful businessman**. He lived in a large house and drove a big car. He wore expensive clothes and ate his meals in famous restaurants. His name was often in the newspapers.

One day a newspaper reporter asked him, "What is the **secret** of your **success**?"

Barry thought for a few moments and said, "I eat a **special** kind of fish."

"You eat a special kind of fish!" the reporter said. "What does that do?"

"It makes my **brain** work better," Barry said.

"What kind of fish is it?" the reporter asked.

"Give me fifty dollars and come back tomorrow. I'll have some for you."

The reporter gave Barry fifty dollars and returned the next day.

"Have you got my special fish?" she asked.

"Yes. Come into the house. It's in the refrigerator."

Barry took the reporter into his kitchen. He opened the refrigerator and took out a very small fish. "Here you are. Have this for dinner."

The next day the reporter called on Barry again.

"Did you eat the fish?" Barry asked her.

"Yes, I fried it."

"Good. Do you feel different today?"

"No, I don't. And I think that fifty dollars was a lot to pay for such a small fish."

"Well done!" Barry said. "You see, the fish is working. You're using your brain now."

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編號 Kids' Talk

Have you ever listened to young children talking in the **playground**? They are always **boasting**. They say things like, "My Dad's car is bigger than your Dad's," and "My Mom is **smarter** than yours." They **particularly** like to boast about their families.

There were three little boys, Harry, Ted and Gavin, who were always boasting. Gavin was the **worst**. Everything about his family was always the best or the biggest or the most expensive. Whatever the others said, he could always go one better.

One day when they were walking to school Harry said, "My father takes a bath twice a week."

Ted spoke next. "That's nothing," he said. "Taking a bath twice a week is dirty. My father takes a bath every day, sometimes twice a day."

Ted looked at Gavin. Now it was his turn. But what could he say?

"This time," Ted thought, "I'm going to win."

Gavin didn't know what to say. He couldn't say that his father took a bath three times a day. That was **silly**.

He walked on in **silence**.

Ted smiled at Harry, and Harry smiled back. They were sure that for once they had beaten Gavin.

They reached the school gates. Still Gavin said nothing.

They went into class. Morning break, lunchtime, and afternoon break all passed. Still Gavin said nothing.

"We've won," Ted said to Harry, but he spoke too soon. On the way home, Gavin said, "My Dad's so clean he doesn't have to bathe at all."