南投縣 106 年英語文競賽朗讀篇目◎國小組

1. Two Stories

The Wolf and the Stork

A long, long time ago, the wolf and the stork were friends. One day, the wolf asked the stork to come to his house to eat.

When the stork arrived at the wolf's house, the wolf put two bowls of soup on the table. He ate his soup quickly, and when he finished, he asked the stork, "Did you like my soup?" But the stork was angry because he couldn't eat the soup. His beak was too long! When the stork went home, he was still hungry. The wolf laughed and laughed.

But the stork had an idea. He asked the wolf to come to his house for dinner. He filled two tall pitchers with good food. They began to eat. When the stork finished eating, he asked the wolf if he wanted more to eat. But the wolf was angry. His mouth was so big that he couldn't get into the pitcher. The wolf went home hungry, and the stork laughed and laughed.

Two Friends and the Bear

Tom and John were two friends. One day they were passing through a dense forest. John said, "Friend, I am afraid there are wild animals in this forest. What will we do if a wild animal attacks us?"

"Don't be afraid, John," said Tom, "I will stand by your side if any danger comes. We will fight together and save ourselves." So, they went on their journey.

But suddenly, they saw a bear coming towards them. Tom at once got up the nearest tree. He did not think about what his friend would do. John did not know how to climb a tree. He had no way to escape. He was helpless.

But soon he had a plan. He fell flat on the ground like a dead man. The bear came up to John. It smelled his nose, ears, and eyes. It thought he was dead and went away.

Then Tom came down from the tree. He said to John, "What did the bear whisper in your ear?" John said, "The bear told me, 'Do not trust a friend who leaves his friend in danger.'"

2. So Quiet

The house was so loud. Mother sat down and said, “I can’t do my work. It’s too loud!” She went to see Grandpa. “Grandpa, my house is too loud. The boys are yelling. The girls are crying. Father is pounding. What can I do?” Grandpa looked up. “No problem,” he said. “Bring the cat and the dog into the house.”

Mother went home and called the cat and the dog into the house. The boys, girls and Father were still noisy, and now the dog was barking at the cat. “I can’t do my work,” Mother sighed. “It’s too loud.” She went back to Grandpa and asked for help. Grandpa nodded. “No problem,” he said. “Bring the rooster and the cow into the house.”

Mother walked home and pulled the rooster and the cow into the house. The boys, girls and Father were still making annoying sounds. The dog was barking at the cat. The cow was mooing, and the rooster was crowing. “I can’t do my work,” Mother cried. “It’s too loud.” She went back to Grandpa and told him that. Grandpa smiled. “No problem,” he said. “The cat and the dog and the cow and the rooster must go back outside.”

Mother took the animals outside. The boys were still yelling. The girls were still crying. Father was still pounding. Mother smiled. “Now, I can do my work! It’s so quiet.”

3. The Monkeys Who Wanted to Build a House

Each animal in the forest had a house except the monkeys. They ate, played, and swung happily among trees every day. Someone suggested they should build a house to keep away from wind and rain. One of the monkeys said, "Why should we have a house? Can we play in a house? We'd rather play all day long." Suddenly, dark clouds came together and thunder rolled loudly. Then, the rain poured down. The monkeys couldn't find any shelter from the rain. "My God! It's raining cats and dogs. We should have built a house!" "You bet! Let's build a house tomorrow." "That's right! We shouldn't waste time anymore!" So, in the rain, those wetted and cold monkeys had a lively discussion about the house.

The rain stopped at the next dawn. When the sun cast warm light through the gaps of trees, the monkeys got warmer and warmer, and then they smiled at each other. They dried their bodies under the sun, played as usual, and didn't think about building a house at all. At night, it rained again, and they swore again to build a house the next day. But, when they awoke with the sunlight the next day, what they remembered was to play and eat as before but not to build a house. It is said that until now, the lazy monkeys still don't have a house and get a wetting in rain every day.