



Fiction

Group 2

The Reflection

ESF Quarry Bay School, Baweja, Meher – 10

I woke up to the sound of Chinese music playing softly. I ran downstairs and saw my dad looking at a pamphlet and drinking tea. “Good morning Jade!” my dad said. He had never been so cheerful lately. Ever since my mother died he barely smiled.

The week had flown by so fast that I lost track of what day it was. I ran back upstairs and rummaged through my drawer to find my calendar. It was Friday already! My fingers ran across the dates in February, it had been a year since my mother died. I still could not believe it.

I went back downstairs and saw my dad on the phone. He was talking about travelling to Huangshan. Dad turned around and asked me to get ready to take a short trip over the weekend. I went to his almirah and found an old backpack. I packed all the things I needed and we left early the next day.

The bus to Huangshan was very stuffy and the ride was a few hours. Luckily I had a seat by the window and there were many beautiful sights and views as the bus snaked its way up the mountains. When we arrived at our bus stop, a sign read Xin Guo Xian Huangshan Scenic Area Bus Station, I looked up and saw five, very tall, sharp peaks standing before me.

I raced off the bus to see the beautiful view and breathe in some fresh air. Dad paid the porter 50 RMB to carry our bags to the forest lodge where we would be staying. Meanwhile, we decided to head into the mountains. The trek started at a beautiful canopy of trees, the light was shapeshifting as the leaves moved with the wind. As the clouds floated over the high peaks, the gentle sound of rustling leaves was drowned by the footsteps of others.

We walked for an hour or so, with me mostly ahead of dad. When I arrived at a split where there were two paths, I took the wrong path by accident and it led me far away from my father. Turning back would be hard now since a fog had started to drift in. I continued to walk and came across a pond. It was pristine blue and looked very deep. The lotuses and lily pads looked so beautiful that I reached to pick one but it moved away from me. I was starting to walk away but a faint reflection appeared and seemed to be talking to me. The voice sounded a lot like my mother’s and was asking me to do something. The voice said it would help me find my way out of sadness and find a way to be happy. There was a floating village close by where they needed help.

There were 2,000 steps that I had to climb to reach the village. On the way, there were beautiful bridges and creaks, where I stopped to take a break but an uncanny sound broke the silence. There was no time to investigate now as the clouds had engulfed the mountains and soon would make it difficult to find my way.

After an hour of walking, I reached a small, ancient looking village lined with pine trees and ornate houses. I walked up to an old lady and started a conversation by telling her that I had got lost and separated from my father. The scent of hot pork soup boiling in one of the houses made me realise that I was exhausted and hadn’t eaten in hours. The sun was setting and it was starting to get dark. The lady offered me soup and sesame sticky rice cakes with red bean paste and told me to rest in the village for the night. We continued talking and I asked her how the village was doing and how long she had been living here. She said that it had been a very peaceful village until they started living in fear because of disturbing sounds from the forest.

In the morning I thanked the lady and set off to discover who was making the noises. I continued walking through the mountains until I reached a rocky cave. It was cold and dark inside but my torch gave it a faint light that brought a tingle of warmth. As I walked inside, the fog started flowing in and my torch was no longer useful. I stumbled on a rock and found a small bag lying next to me.

I untied the knot and peeked inside. The glistening light of emerald jewels blinded me. This light was perfect for... “Rooaar”. There it was again. Reluctantly, I ran forward and hit a few curves in the cave when I saw the most horrifying creature ever. Its scales were a deep red, almost like maroon. Gold encrusted Chinese characters were traced along its back. Steam was coming out of its nostrils. I was about to make a run for it but when I saw an open scar on its forehead I somehow knew what to do. I rustled through the bag and picked out the scar shaped emerald. Beckoning him to come forward I placed the jewel upon his head. A beam of flashing light hit the cave and the dragon suddenly seemed to calm down, drifting off into a deep sleep. I had done it!

Quietly I left the cave and found my way back to the village, where I saw my dad waiting for me. “Jade! I’m so glad I found you! I was worried.” he exclaimed. “Dad!” I gushed, “I’ve learnt something”, “No matter how sad you are, you can always find ways to be happy by helping others”.

The next day, as we rode down the mountains in the cable car, I saw an image of my mother riding a peaceful dragon. I smiled. “Tell me what happened”, dad whispered.

Until the Next Dawn

ESF Quarry Bay School, Chan, Becky – 10

A wave of pitch black surrounded me. I opened my eyes. Tall, enchanting mountains loomed over me. I looked around, seeing if anybody was there.

“Hello?” I asked, desperate for help.

“Hello, are you lost?” A voice came behind me. I jumped and slowly turned around. A lion with azure blue eyes, beige soft fur and sharp teeth stood behind me. He had a warm smile, and a gentle voice.

“May I help you?” He asked.

“I don’t know where I am.” I said.

“Well, I live in a cosy cave not far from here, it is warm and has food.” The lion said, “Please, follow me.” I hesitated at first, but finally gave in.

“Thank you,” I said. We followed a path leading to a little cave.

“This is it!” The lion said, opening the door. The cave was very cosy, a yellow light illuminated the room and there were a lot of books. In the corner, there was a tiny kitchen. I took a seat, and the lion made two cups of tea.

“Sugar?” The lion asked, drinking his tea. I nodded and took a sip. “So, where are you from?” He asked.

“Isn’t this somewhere in America?” I asked.

“Oh heavens no, this is China – China’s magical mountains to be exact!” The lion said, unsure whether he should have told me.

“And who are you?” I asked.

“Leon” The lion replied.

“Oh, is there a way out of here, cause I’m not sure if I’m supposed to be here.” I said.

“I didn’t think you were, if you were, you wouldn’t be wandering around here!” Leon said, “But, if you would like to find a way out, I swear I have a book about it!” He crawled over to the bookshelf and pulled out an emerald book. Leon began reading. “If you wish to get out, or in China’s magical mountains, you must reach the peak of the tallest mountain, until the next dawn. You will need these four items: The branch from the oldest tree watered by the Chinese mountain’s sea, the salt of a salt grinding windmill that in the sea it stays which grinds salt into the sea every day and finally, a bowl with the purest water from a lake, guarded by the massive serpent snake. Leon stopped.

“So we go to the tallest mountain, and collect those items!” I finished.

“We’ll start tomorrow, we better get a good sleep.” Leon suggested.

“Wait –What does it mean by the next dawn?” I asked curiously.

“Oh, don’t worry about that, it only turns dawn every week.” The lion reassured me. He blew out the candle and gave me a blanket. Even though I was really sleepy, I couldn’t sleep a wink. I was worried and confused as ever. The next morning, we set off on our journey. We packed some rolls and fruit. Leon grabbed the book and tossed a knife into a bag. Then we headed out. “I know a path that we could use, it would take us to China’s tallest mountain!” Leon suggested.

“Great,” I said “By the way, why did you put a knife in the bag?”

“Child, these mountains are very majestic, but also very dangerous. Not all creatures are kind.” Leon said. We followed the path for hours, taking a few breaks on the way. Then, we saw a lustrous aquamarine lake, in the middle stood a stupendous tree.

“I guess this is where we are supposed to get the branch” I said, trying to get one.

“That won’t work,” said Leon. He threw a rock at the tree and the branches came tumbling down. He collected one and put it in his bag.

“Wow!” I said

Leon shrugged. “Should we find the next thing then?” I nodded.

“The salt of a salt grinding windmill that in the sea it stays which grinds salt into the sea every day.” he read. After minutes of thinking, we couldn’t find anything.

“Where are we going to find a salt windmill?” I asked.

“I know,” He said in deep thought, “There’s a lake, not far from here, that is called the salt lake, maybe there used to be a salt windmill?” I nodded. We crossed the river and continued our journey. Suddenly, I heard water sounds. We ran and ran, following where the sound led us. Through the trees, I saw a blue colour, glistening in the sun. I ran next to the lake and collected some rocks of salt.

“Time for the last ingredient!” I said enthusiastically “Do you know any more lakes?” I asked. Leon shook his head.

“Are you—” I stopped. A hissing sound interrupted me. A snake crawled out of the water. His skin was dark green with streaks of brown. He hissed as he looked at us with his blood—red eyes. Fear descended down my spine. I gulped loudly. Leon growled, trying to intimidate the beast. But the snake just got more angry by Leon’s growling. The snake suddenly jolted his head to me, as if looking at my soul.

“Leon!” I shrieked. But he wasn’t there.

” Leon! Leon!” I screamed as loud as I ever did in my whole entire life. But there was no reply. The only sound I heard was the sound of the hissing snake approaching me. I was frozen in horror. Suddenly the snake stopped to a halt. The snake screeched away with a look of extreme pain. I gasped. Leon floated in the water, blood dripping out of his mouth. I watched as he sunk in...

The Archaeologist

ESF Quarry Bay School, Chiu, Ambrose – 10

Busy workers scurried around the hard concrete floor, reconstructing prehistoric creatures from fossil bones found on Huangshan. Gary, the new archaeologist hired to work at the museum dashed around as he prepared for his first ever trip up to the middle of Huangshan to dig for some new dinosaur bones. He could barely contain his excitement!

“What do you need all these things for?” Pip asked.

She was a fellow workmate, who also recently got hired.

“I thought we were going there for three days?” Gary replied.

“Oh yeah! I forgot!” She rushed off to finish packing.

The car dropped them off, leaving them to stare at the tall, intimidating Huangshan towering over them.

“Is this your first time?” Gary asked.

Pip nodded and gulped nervously, and then they went up. Rocky crevices lined the uneven paths, making them trip. Bog sucked at their feet. At one point Gary fell and almost face planted into a tree, which was the only source of entertainment in a while. They were off to a great start.

After about four hours of exploring, they stumbled into some sort of cave in the mountain.

“What’s this?” Pip asked.

“I... I... Don’t know!” Gary said.

“OOF!” Was Pip’s reply.

She had tripped over a gigantic white rock that jutted out of the earth at an awkward angle.

“BONE!” Gary screamed.

They immediately dug it out, which led to another one being uncovered, and another one. They just kept digging and mining, until they’d uncovered half a dinosaur.

“If there’s so much of a dinosaur skeleton here, then why don’t we go further in?” Pip suggested.

Sure enough, there was a trail of bones.

The bones were small and shattered, with dried marrow congealed around the floor.

“These aren’t dinosaur bones!” Gary shrieked.

He bent down to examine them. After further inspection they realized that the bones were actually from humans. An unholy screech ran through the cavern, but it wasn’t from them. Pip and Gary’s ears rang, and before they could do anything, their only exit rumbled and was collapsed. Stomps crunched towards them. Pip began to hyperventilate, and stomps got nearer and nearer to them.

A small dinosaur baby popped up, but it didn’t look like what the scientists had imagined. The baby dinosaur was much more vivid than the usual dull greens and greys. It’s neon blue fur stood up on its ends as it reared back and tried for a growl, baring its sharpened teeth. Instead what came out was a timid squeak. It seemed to notice, and shuffled uncomfortably as it tried to blend into the shadows.

Gary gently picked it up, thinking they could use the sharp teeth to their advantage. He held the baby dinosaur up, letting him chew on the rocks. Soon they saw daylight, but wondered if they’d still have enough resources to go back down. The baby dinosaur squeaked again, struggling to get back down on to the ground. Pip clambered out first and passed the dinosaur they had now named “Scythe” after its sharp claws. When Scythe was put on the ground he went berserk and ran off. Gary and Pip chased after him, unknowing to the fact that he was, in fact, leading them back down to the museum. Within minutes they were half-dead with exhaustion but arrived at the museum.

“We... We... Found...” Gary panted.

“Di... Dinosaur...” Pip finished.

Somebody dropped a microscope as they finished telling their story.

Scythe suddenly grew twice his size, and had to be restrained inside a glass box so he wouldn’t go on a frenzy and eat people, like what happened with their last experiment, which involved a missing arm, two prosthetic legs and a mutated tortoise. The scientists immediately got to work researching and sketching down the dinosaur. Scythe pounded around the glass and started knocking over the setups. He let out a mighty roar, shaking all the displays.

“Wow!” They grow up fast!” Pip noted.

The same night, Scythe went missing. Gary woke up in the middle of the night to hear a loud roar. Gary rushed to the kitchen, and in the doorway, was Scythe.

But that happened years ago. Now he stays in the museum, for people to stare at, with Gary and Pip inside the box doing tricks with him. Who knew one accident could cause such a great event to happen?

China's Magical Mountains

ESF Quarry Bay School, Ng, Alicia Athene – 9

Kathryn was a carefree and energetic eleven year old girl who loved Chinese culture and history. Her best friend was an astute and sharp-mouthed girl called Scarlett. Although Scarlett and Kathryn were best friends, they always fought over small things. That Easter, Kathryn's mother took her to join a tour to Huangshan, Anhui, China, which was where Kathryn's grandmother used to live. After her trip to Huangshan, she had a new perspective towards friendship.

It was Kathryn's first time traveling to China. Before the plane landed, Kathryn peered out the window and saw the mythical Huangshan. The mist was nestled like baby birds in between the majestic mountains. Clouds were strewn across the mountains like pieces of floating confetti. The magnificent snow-capped mountains stood tall and calm like soldiers guarding a castle, overshadowing everything that stood in view of it. Willow trees hung lopsided like an old man's beard, and ivy ran up the trunks of trees. Kathryn's eyes were glued to the view. She was awestruck.

When Kathryn, her mother and the tour group landed at the base of Huangshan, they hiked for a while before coming to a clearing where they would set up their tents. While the group were busy settling down, Kathryn decided to take a stroll around the tranquil, quiet mountain. She saw rope bridges hanging in between the jagged, sawtooth mountains, and wooden stairs with bamboo sticks as handrails ascended to different pointy mountains. Kathryn saw nature all around, wherever she looked. She saw an adorable squirrel and decided to follow it. She chased the squirrel around the mountain until it jumped into a stream and disappeared beneath the water. Kathryn looked at the water's surface and realised that it wasn't her reflection in the water. It was an old man's face, with many wrinkles and deep creases under his trusting brown eyes. He had long, silver hair with a greying beard and black robes with intricate gold lining on them. The old man looked weary and worn out, but still wore a gentle smile on his wrinkled, tired face.

Feeling stunned, Kathryn exclaimed wildly, "Who are you?" "I'm Li Bai." the old man replied, smiling at Kathryn. "Li Bai? The poet? Why're you here?" Kathryn asked, looking taken aback. She was bursting with questions. "Come and touch the water's surface first, I'll tell you afterwards." he responded. She did as she was told, and got sucked into the water.

"Why are you still living?" Kathryn asked curiously. Li Bai explained pensively, "When we died, our spirits landed in different areas of the mountain, and only magical people can enter our resting places. Your grandmother was a magical woman, so she was able to enter here. I know you, because you are the spitting image of your grandmother. I give the magical people a poem to deliver to my friend Du Fu, because we never see each other." Li Bai then read out the poem. Although Kathryn's Chinese wasn't very good, she could tell that the poem was about respect, life, hope and eternal friendship.

Li Bai requested Kathryn to deliver the poem to Du Fu and described where she could find him. Kathryn agreed. Li Bai said, "Before you leave, I want you to have this." He showed her two pieces of marbled orange and blue stones. "These are blue amber fragments. Give the other half to your friend. Don't forget this: Friendship is more precious than any treasure." Li Bai said wisely, giving her a knowing, mystique smile. Kathryn rose from the water, her clothes magically dried, still thinking about Li Bai's last words to her.

The next morning, the group woke up early so they could continue the hike up to the summit of Huangshan. The long hike was exhausting, so the group took a break midway. Kathryn decided to see whether she could find Du Fu. She found an opening in the forest walls. Kathryn pushed open the ivy curtain, and went in. She was in a damp, craggy cave with sharp, uneven stalagmites hanging from the ceiling and a withered tree with crumpled vintage leaves lay in one corner. Large bats with black wings hung upside down from the sawtooth, barbed stalagmites. Her surroundings were exactly what Li Bai had described. A voice asked, "Are you looking for me?" Kathryn turned around. In the corner of the cave stood Du Fu.

Du Fu was tall, had grey hair and a long beard. His pale face was sharp and angular, with a bony nose and skinny fingers. He had bright emerald robes with eyes full of compassion. Kathryn said timidly, "Hi, are you Du Fu? My

name is Kathryn and here's the letter from Li Bai." Du Fu beamed at Kathryn, and took the letter. He remarked in a deep, rumbling voice, "It's been very long since I received a poem from my dearest friend. So many people take friendship for granted." He sighed, then gave a grunt of disapproval. Kathryn nodded, but inside she knew that she had taken Scarlett's friendship for granted. She watched him unroll the letter. He read it, smiling at Li Bai's words, his eyes brimming with tears. He rolled back the parchment and gave a sigh. "I wish I could meet Li Bai in person and write poems together again." Du Fu said softly. After saying thank you to Kathryn for sending the poem, he muttered some inaudible words and Kathryn was sent back to her mother.

When they went home, she met up with Scarlett, who was angry over their last argument. After Kathryn apologised sincerely, gave her one fragment of the gemstone, shared her story of Li Bai and Du Fu. Scarlett's cold face contorted into a grin. "I'm sorry, too." she smiled. Kathryn suggested, "We'll make a pledge to be kind, gentle and caring to each other, and also to treasure our friendship." Scarlett nodded, and together, holding the stone in their clasped hands, they walked off into the distance.

Mountain : A Journey for a Cure

ESF Quarry Bay School, Sudeshwaran, Carissa – 10

If you look at the title, you may get an idea what this is about. I know what you're thinking. And yes, it is slightly real... Except for the part when there is a syringe in a mountain that is a few thousand years old and more. That's all you basically need to know!

This family is weird. And by weird... very. The mother has a sky high paying job. While the dad is... the TOTAL opposite and if that is not weird enough, the twins come from different mothers.

The Happy-go-lucky twin questioned the cowardly twin the most awkward thing ever, "Should we go to the magic Chinese mountains? Hesitantly they said "No thanks", then spontaneously, she replied "Yes" eagerly. Just to find the cure of the pandemic, they have to go under something familiar, quarantine.

Whilst the girls are under quarantine near the mountains, their parents are wondering why they never called them. The twins best friend, Alison, knows where the cure is... Inside the Temple on the highest mountain in China.

Exhausted, the girls heard a buzzing sound underneath the bushes. It was a bite sized sprite. She was trying to ask for help but never had the nerve to till she did. The fairy flew near. Alison Broke the staple-size fairies left and right leg, nothing on her body but a head and arms and broken legs.

When they reached the top, and by top, the tip. Stubborn Alison and Happy-Go-Lucky Andra fell from the mountain and they you know... Anyways, Felicia the coward met the fairy again and she questioned "Can I hop on? Sure could use a pair of legs now." Once hesitant, always hesitant. Yep, that saying is true. Thought for a while, "Yes" Felicia responded. The fairy whispered that they are on the wrong mountain.

The mountain's temple is home to the cure of the pandemic COVID-19... The Vaccine! (Not Literally), the vaccine is surrounded by 7 foot lengthwise Dragons. Thus they cannot get it unless they get a stick of bamboo and they do get the ingredient after all.

When they came back with the vaccine, they gave it to the health organization. When it struck 7, a Limousine collected Felicia and took her to The Nobel peace awards. And she won. Ever since, Felicia visited the fairies home. She is always welcome to the hazy mountains.

Chinese Zodiac: What if a Duck Swam By?

French International School, Cheung, Cheuk Nam Ronson – 10

A long time ago, there were no Chinese Zodiacs. But then the Jade Emperor had this idea to have animals as guards, and 12 would be selected. 13 animals wanted to be part of the guards: they were the cat, the rat, the ox, the tiger, the rabbit, the dragon, the snake, the horse, the goat, the monkey, the rooster, the dog, and the pig. So they all got ready and started the race. The horse galloped and was in the first place; The dog battled the cat, so they were in the last place; The tiger was closing up on the horse, but then it had to cross the river. Ox, Tiger, Dragon, Horse, Goat, Monkey, and Pig crossed the river with no problem, but Dog, Cat, Rooster, Rat, Snake, and Rabbit struggled. A duck and a large fish that can breathe on land swam by, so they got on to the other side and continued to race. While Cat and Dog were still battling, the places were now: 1. Horse 2. Tiger 3. Ox 4. Dragon 5. Pig 6. Monkey 7. Goat 8. Rabbit 9. Rooster 10. Rat 11. Snake 12. Dog 13. Cat.

So they raced and the spots changed. The pig was now at the last place, the Rabbit was at 5th, and so on. The Horse was killed by the tiger, and the mouse was eaten shortly after the dog, who was injured and lost. Ox smashed the goat, Snake fell off the bridge and was eliminated as well. So when 5 of them were out of the race, the tiger was the 5th one and chased the horse. The winner was Rabbit second was Cat, then the Ox, Dragon, Goat, Rooster, Monkey, and finally Pig. The remaining spots were given to the Duck, the fish that can breathe on land, an anteater, a shark that can walk on land, and a turtle from another race after that the turtle lost.

Then they lived happily ever after.

Or did they?

The dragon was not very happy when the rabbit won so at night he consumed the white-furred rabbit whole. The rabbit was no more. The shark's instinct sharpened, he wanted to eat the goat, the pig, and the rooster. Then the same night, the shark ate them.

The remaining animals were the Cat, Ox, Dragon, Monkey, Duck, Fish, Anteater, and the Shark. The next morning the Jade Emperor was mad because the Shark and the Dragon ate some of them, but then the Dragon and the Shark disappeared

Then they disappeared...

"Where did they go?" the animals said

The Jade Emperor chose 8 more animals:

A Parrot,

A Cow,

A Bee,

A Fox,

A Lion,

A Swan,

An Elephant,

A Dingo

So the new ones are Cat, Ox, Monkey, Duck, Fish, Anteater, Parrot, Cow, Bee, Fox, Lion, Swan, Elephant and Dingo. But the Jade Emperor was allergic to the Bee so they kicked the Bee out.

They were thinking about what to do about the 13th animal and who to kick out. Among the Zodiac guards they had a little chat :

Duck said, "Who should we kick out"

Cat said, "How about the Elephant?"

Jade Emperor, "All in favor of the Elephant."

Everyone raised their hand.

"Bye-bye" Everyone said.

Then they took off.

After that they slept, then suddenly the jade Emperor disappeared.

The next day they woke up and guarded the palace without knowing the Emperor disappeared then that same afternoon they checked on the Emperor that's when they knew that the Emperor disappeared so they set out and tried to find the Emperor, but little did they know that he was on vacation but they didn't know that so they panicked and they split up.

They met up and gave up so they all went back but they were devastated when they saw that the kingdom was destroyed they walked around the ghost town and saw a poster that said the emperor will be back in. After that they walked around town for the last time and left.

China's Magical Mountains

French International School, Ip, Leila – 9

Long ago in Ancient China, there lived a young girl called Zee Zatara and her older brother Jackstone. Although they were really wealthy, Zee Zatara thought her name was too long so she decided to change it to Zata for short. Both Jackstone's and Zata's favorite activity was to do sports and exercise every single day.

One day, Jackstone and Zata were at French International school (FIS). They were being told by the school guard to wear school uniforms. He asked Zata to remove her rubber band for letting her hair down. However, he asked Jackstone to tie his hair up! Jackstone said "sir, but...my hair is really short and how am I supposed to tie it up?" "Fine!" said the guard. Both of them felt really crazy and silly because they thought the guard was being unreasonable.

"OMG!" cried Zata excitedly, "the school is huge! "

"It is not huge, Zata, you should say it is ENORMOUSE instead," Jackstone interrupted. "Stop saying enormouse just because you like cheese, duh!" said Zata grumpily. She was slightly annoyed because Jackstone said the wrong thing again and he interrupted when she was expressing how huge the school was.

During class.....'Urgh, I am bored!' Zata moaned because she didn't know what to do. She then asked her teacher, Miss Leila, 'Miss, what is the topic about?' Miss Leila said excitedly "The topic is about camping and we get to camp today!" Kristy grumbled "Oh no! I have to walk! What a punishment! Humpf!" because she was not sporty so didn't like to walk or camp at all. 'Zata!' shouted Jackstone with excitement, "the topic is about camping! Wooh-hooh-yay!"

"Hey, Zatapool!" said Kristy rudely, "you looked so ugly today, I even look better than you, as usual." "Stop being a bully by saying that to Zata!" shouted Jackstone ferociously. 'You're hurting her feelings!' he added. "Stop arguing and better start walking, Jackstone and Kristy" said Miss Leila. "Hehe," smirked Kristy.

"Teacher," asked Zata, "why are we stopping here?" The teacher replied patiently, "Zata, we're stopping here because we have to build a tent." Afterwards, Miss Leila helped all the children to set the tent quickly and efficiently. That night, when everyone was asleep, Jackstone and Zata couldn't sleep and wanted to go outside and have a walk in the deep dark mountains.

That night, Zata and Jackstone went out and found a cave, a really spooky one. "Zata," asked Jackstone, "it is not even Halloween, then why is there a spooky cave?" Zata exclaimed, "I think it is not a spooky cave instead, I guessed it is a dragon's cave!" The children were horrified and said, "then... run ah ah ah ah ah!" "Don't go yet," said a mysterious voice. "You are right, indeed, I am a dragon," echoed the dragon, "I have got a mission for both of you. I would like you to ask the Yellow Emperor three questions and he will answer them accordingly. However, you must ask mine before asking others." The dragon continued, "I have always wanted to fly in the blue skies but I couldn't, please help me ask why I couldn't fly?" After speaking to the dragon, Zata and Jackstone went back to the camp.

The next day during class, Zata asked Kristy, "what question do you have, Kristy?" "Oh, really? Can I ask one? Kristy responded, "why do I only have one friend?" she added. Zata promised Kristy and wrote it down on a piece of paper immediately. At the same time, Jackstone asked their teacher, "what's your question, Miss Leila?" "Oh, yes please! "Can you ask why I can't teach Kristy?" Miss Leila replied. Jackstone agreed and said "okay!" Jackstone and Zata remembered the questions of the dragon, Kristy and Miss Leila and set off their journey to the deep mountains in the middle of nowhere.

Although it took them miles and miles to reach the Yellow Emperor's palace, they were not tired at all because they were distracted by the breathtaking scenery of the Huang Shan mountains. They were really energetic and thought the walk was a piece of cake.

They walked and walked and finally reached the top of the ten-thousand-staired breathtakingly beautiful mountain, also known as Huang Shan. Suddenly, it was raining cats and dogs. The rain was so big, and even an umbrella could not hold that long, so the children decided to go to find a shelter.

Eventually, Zata and Jackstone found a bright yellow imperial palace. They were astonished by the decoration, it was so pulchritudinous and every single person was jealous of the Yellow's Emperor's amazing imperial palace.

Afterwards, Zata and Jackstone went inside the palace of the Yellow Emperor. As promised, they asked him the three questions raised by the dragon for not being able to fly, the reason why Miss Leila could not teach Kristy, and why Kristy only had one friend.

The Emperor answered patiently, “first, the dragon could not fly because his wings are too small to support his flying. Second, Kristy only has one friend because she is really mean so no one wants to be friends with her.” Lastly, the teacher could not teach Kristy because she is naughty and not paying attention. Zata and Jackstone thanked the Emperor and left the place.

They first went to the dragon's cave during the return of their journey. Zata and Jackstone told the dragon, “your wings are too small so you cannot fly”. Although they really wanted to help the dragon, they didn't have any idea what to do. But still, the dragon was relieved and grateful to the children for knowing the reason. Zata and Jackstone waved goodbye to the dragon and left.

Afterwards, they went back to the tent and Zata told Kristy, “Kristy, you have no friend because you are a bully.” Kristy was a bit sad because of Zata's response but nobody knew whether Kristy would change.

At last, Jackstone found Miss Leila in the tent and said to her, “you can't teach Kristy because she doesn't listen to you and hardly pays attention during the lesson.” Miss Leila felt angry but there was nothing for her to do about it.

Ancient China Through the Eyes of a Young Girl

French International School, Yin, Cecilia – 8

A long time ago, there was a girl from ancient China. Her name was Nanna, she was 8 years old and hated having her feet bound. She also has a little brother too! His name is Sandy and he loves telling jokes.

Every morning, she saw boys going to school, but she and her brother couldn't, her glittering tears fell off. Every Time she saw them, she thought herself was useless. Her heart is crying like a lost kid.

In the very early morning her mom would wake her and him up and make them do their work, she was busy like a bee.

While Sandy was telling awful jokes, she was thinking about her future, will she be still a farmer or a different person?

One day, Nanna had enough, so she started to complain with anger to her mama, but mama said, "It's no use if you complain, I am not an Empire!" Just after she said that, There was news from the radio. It said: " Emergency!

Emergency! Our empire dies!!" Nanna completely didn't understand..... Why is it an emergency? We should celebrate! The next day, the city had a party. There was dancing, singing, eating and drinking ! Everything is out of control!

While Nana was wandering in the city corner she found a gold bottle, on a piece of paper it wrote: Make a wish. So Nana makes a wish. She wishes to let the girls go to school and no foot binding.

Then, the loud speaker said, " Make room for the Empire! Make room for the Empire!" Everyone was shocked. There was whispering, gasping and chattering.

The Empire's first rule is to take off foot binding, girls can go to school. Nana's dream comes true! Nana is a great student too! Now her family has money too!

But her brother Sandy cannot go to school because the family cannot afford it, so Nanna felt sad for him. She decided after school before she did homework, she taught the whole family what she learned that day.

Everyone loved this empire and everyone loved Nanna who loved her family.

The River Panda and Mui Wen

French International School, Zylinderberg, Keylan – 10

Once upon a time, in the vast mountain ranges of China was a little girl called Mui Wen. Mui Wen loved nature from every point of view, she loved the smell of the dirt as it gently rubbed against her arm, and the gentle and relaxing river sound. she loved the sense of rain when it prickled gently on her skin. But that's not what her father thought. All her father thought counted was academic excellence (although he was a hunter in the middle of nowhere in China). She understood why her father didn't want her to become like him, but in return she wanted him to understand nature, not just ruin it by killing everything inside its ecosystem.

One day Mui Wen's Dad came back with a big bag. At first, Mui Wen was not interested in it, but when she saw the bag moving, she got so scared that she ran away. But she became obsessed by it, torn between her fear and her curiosity... She wondered day and night what was inside that moving bag. One day when she came back from school her curiosity exploded, she couldn't resist being not able to see it, so she quietly opened the door and crept in. She almost jumped out of her skin at the sight of the huge black and white creature, it had a very dry face and looked very old. Mui Wen was about to leave when suddenly the big panda spoke – his voice was like the voice of an old homeless man:

“Please, bring me back home” he said weakly...

Mui Wen wasn't sure what to say because she was still starstruck by the sight of the mysterious speaking panda. She didn't want to make him wait, so she replied unsurely of what to say “ umm... where is that ... sir? ” she said; down there in the shixiao river ”, he replied even more weakly this time, well I'll try to do my best she replied to the panda, picking him up (he was as light as a garbage bag, as he had not eaten for a long time) and putting him in her dad's old rusty cart. The wheels squeaked sourly and thumped unevenly on the steep hill when the rusty wheels screeched to a halt, behind the bamboo forest was an average-sized man in-between his 40 and 45 years. Mui Wen knew who it was, it was her father. She sprinted back to her home as quick as she could, leaving the big panda all alone.

The next day, she came back thinking the panda would have been taken away by her father – again – but no, the panda was still there lying down on the trolley. When Mui Wen came back, she directly lifted his cold body and gently put him in the river. After ten minutes, Mui Wen lost all faith, she inaudibly got up and put on her shoes, when suddenly the panda spoke in a weak voice and then spoke back to normal he started laughing crazy in a very hoarse voice. Mui Wen was shocked that the panda was faking this whole time. Mui Wen eventually told her dad where he was and the dad relieved, happily sold him to the zoo. Now Mui Wen doesn't ever go into the woods, she just studied every day, day and night until her father was pleased with her excessive amount of work.

The Ring of the Mystic Mountains

Harrow Beijing International School, Deng, Leshan – 10

If you ever dreamed of the place you could you can steal rings from mountains and never get caught, the place you can get a cheese doughnut from one dollar. Then New Mouse City is the perfect place or you.

It was another adventurous day as usual I was causing terror as I ran past the sandy road, the guards were chasing me just for stealing a necklace made from pure diamond. Okay that was a little too over the top, but anyway I was preoccupied by my haste.

Suddenly, the woman that I never dreamed of appeared. Holy cheese crackers! That was Bella Wang the most beautiful rodent in the world! Ok I admit I am just Matt Qian a mouse that stunk like rotten cheese, and she is the legendary Bella Wang she had a legendary emerald eye with emerald rings on her paws. I had dreamy eyes, but the only problem is I get my tongue tied in front of prepossessing female rodents.

Oh, how I wish I had my swiss cheese milkshake with me I am Loki publicized right now. I sped to her as fast as my paws could carry me. I saw her blush, but I was blushing even more. I think, she loved me a little and when I say a little, I mean a lot! I found out by just having a little conversation with her, wait a second when I say a little conversation, I mean an extended conversation!

I must have my heavy bones in the relaxing bar and get a cheese cake or two, after I gossiped to the world's most beautiful female rodent, I was red from the tip of my whiskers to the tip of my tail!

I was worn out after the exhausting journey to the mozzarella cheese bar, I could not even make it to Golden Cheese park which is only meters away. I went in and ordered a cheese cake and a cheesy cheese doughnut. Have you ever tried the fabumouse Saucy Le Paws fabumouse treats! It is the most whisker licking good bar in New Mouse City!

After I planted myself on a chair, I overheard mice chit chatting about a ring that has magical powers, and that nobody has ever came out alive pilfering the ring, one says that this ring has a special button on it. But this is the part they disagree. I ordered popcorn so that I could sit here all-day long and listen to their mouserific debate.

One chimed in and blurted out “it could control time”

Another argues “it could turn you into a god”

I was willing to stay, but if I sit here and observe the performance all day long, it will be boring. So, I figured if I journey to the mystic bright mountains it would be much more enthusiastic.

To reach there I traveled for ten hundred thousand years. Okay well not that long but it was depleting! Plus, along the way I met fantastical creatures of every kind including those as small as gnomes, as large as giants, as kind as fairies, as wicked as witches, as mysterious as unicorns, as joking as sprites, as stinky as trolls, as frightening as ogres, and as dumb as Falkor the luck dragon. What a depleting journey!

I twirled my tail with curiosity, there was 3 doors in front of me on the top. One leads to a rodent eating zombie, another leads to a blanket of fog, finally the last one open on to a sensitive rock that falls on anything that it senses. Rancid rat hairs! I was trapped like a mouse stuck in the claws of the terrifying Nasty tail. What was I going to do? I thought for a prolonged period. I finally decided I would go into the zombie's and race to the pitch-black room and, wait till the zombie get crushed by sensitive rock, but what if the brainless creature come into the coal black room. I would be doomed. Wait a second I reflected on my word BRAINLESS the zombie will think I'm in the sensitive rock room because there is light, so I followed my gallant plan!

Fortunately, I succeed but unfortunately, I had 3 other doors waiting for me! One lead to a killer joker who kills anyone who sets paw, the second one opens to a lion that have not eaten for years! Finally, the third leads to a raging fire. I chose the second door because the lion must be dead after not eating for years! I survived and purloined the ring. I really wanted to show off but I need Bella Wang to admire what I done!

Just then, a terrible dragon rose from the location which should been holding the ring, I am too fond of my fur. I watched in terror as it rose. Just as I thought it was over a sword appeared out of nowhere, I wasted no time I started attacking with my ferocious sword, but every time I attacked the dragon whipped my attack away with his long scaly tail like swiss cheese slices. I knew it was hard for me, he was as giant as a great big boulder, and I am as small as a rat, well probably because I am a rat.

Just when things could not get worser I saw a glowing red ball in the core of the dragon. I stabbed it with my sword so hard I vanquished the dragon!

This ring is impossible to defeat it can give you anything in every type of situation. I was accelerated. I cannot wait to boast about my adventurous day, I cannot wait to prove Bella I was not a scaredy mouse. Bouncing cheese balls, thinking about her made me homesick. How I wished I were home relaxing on my favorite armchair eating my favorite cheese and watching my favorite show.

Tales from China's Magical Mountains

Harrow Beijing International School, Gao, Yuqing – 11

It was a disaster. Humanity was gone. The buildings and parks turned in to desert.

Since that it was a long time ago, after all the living creatures has did except the girl named Alex. Alex is a very smart girl, who live on a very tall mountain

“How do I use this stuff?” Alex thought, holding a tiny seed. She went out of her little house, to check her potatoes in her garden; Suddenly an idea came to her mind” How about I plant the seed in to the ground just like flowers and potatoes!” She asked herself. The man told me that this seed is the only hope, to bring back everybody.

She held the hope in her outstretched hands. Kneeling gently on the ground, she prepared herself for what she knew she must do, Plan the magical seed would be a new beginning.

Felling the excitement course through her quivering body, she lowered the seed in to the small hole she had prepared. It was the time for Alex to wait for the miracle to happen.

The seed grew and grew until it turned to a gigantic tree, the symbol of life. Alex waited and waited, but nothing happened at all. “I knew it.” Said Alex sadly stomping her foot on the ground. She was so upset about the tree didn’t bring her family and friend back.

The next morning, Alex put on her clothes, came out side, and she gasped. There was a huge door on the tree. She walked closer and looked at the tree. The door was still there. She was curious about what might be in side the tree. So she went in to the door!

Wind cut through Alex’s ears. Her mind was blank and she couldn’t remember anything. Suddenly, everything around her has gone and left only was endless darkness. It was so quiet she could even hear her own heartbeat. Then, everything was still, absolutely still. Alex stand up slowly while patting dust on her clothes. It was very dark and quite in there, Alex could even hear her own heartbeat. She sensed something around her, the shiver run down her spin and her hands started to sweat, Alex heard a very small Tip–Tap sound, tiny but fast. A spider! A very loud sound ran throw her mind. Alex fainted every thing was gone only the darkness that would never end.

Suddenly, a very strong voice appered in Alex’s mind like a thunder,
“ The key that brings back life was only around one person who isn’t afraid of any thing to use, and that person is you, but you need to have your last lesson. And now is the time to over come your lasted fear; The spider. Come over here and let me help you.”

“What?” asked Alex

“ASPRO” Shouted the god, golden light shone from his eyes.

Memories flash through Alex’s eye like waves in the ocean, the first time she read a letter, the first time she read a word, two years old first time she walk three step, first time she hug her mommy, 3,4,5,5,6,7,8,9,10 years old... but wait a minute, daddy? This character never even exist in her child hood and even her life? Daddy where is my daddy? Suddenly, her mind got blank, “11 years old why is this part of my memory... nothing?”

“I know!” said the god softly, and put his hand on Alex’s head gently, a flash light in the scary, endless darkness shine in to Alex’s head it was a beautiful land with all those tress and flowers the only that are not peaceful thing is that there are a lot of soldiers beside a lake on a tall mountain and those soldiers Aren’t normal each one of them are as tall as a tree and each of them are all wearing armors made by gold!

At the other side of that river all those solders are wearing all black. Bo and swords in their hand reflect there angry face underneath the sun shine. Some of the warriors are riding horse but some of them are riding tigers, lions even wolves! Alex was shocked, she never imagine this kind of seen even in her dream! She look around quickly, she was on a tall mountain just like she can almost grab the hot light ball in the sky. Alex felt silence for a second and she said some thing unbelievable.

“You are one of them right!”

“Yes I am, and about your father, his name is Fan and you Alex your real name is Yu and the mountain you see is the mountain of Hua, the army wearing gold is Jade emperor’s army and the other one is monster Chi’s solder. You Alex, you are Jade emperor’s doter!”

Silence... There was no more time for Alex to think or ask any thing the thunder sound all ready fade away...

“Alex! Wake up!” Shouted her mum. Alex opened her eyes. Warm sunlight shone on her beautiful face.
“Every thing is back.” Shouted Alex with great excitement on her face. She looked out the window, desert turned back to high buildings, cars running on the street. She quickly put on her clothes and run down the street.

“Where are you going, Alex?” Asked her mum.

“I will be back in a minute.” Answered Alex.

She ran all the way to the garden. There was no sing of the tree, but a boy was standing there and he said in a soft voice

“Thank you for bringing us back, Alex”

A pair of green wings appeared behind him and he flew away and never came back.

Chinas Magical Mountain—Mount Huang

Harrow Beijing International School, Jin, Yuxin – 10

Mount Huang was a very magnificent, famous, precious mountain of China; the mountain was 1864.8 meters high, surviving stubbornly in a city called Huangshan. In my opinion, Mount Huang was a paradise over the clouds.

When you are at the feet of the mountain, you can't see the top over there. It will make you feel that the brooding mountain is a jeopardizing passage to the palace of gods and goddess; but when you reach the middle of the mountain, you will feel loads of tiredness: your legs will wobble like a jelly; your throat screaming for more water and your body will melt like an ice cream in a microwave. But you will just see a minute area of the city; But when you reach the top of the mountain, you will feel extremely proud and relief of yourself. What you have seen from the top is the silhouette of the whole city. If you are fortunate, you can even observe your own house staring at you, smiling of joy with its friends. And definitely, Mount Huang was a magical spirit.

From an objective point of view, when people stood at different stages of the Mount Huang, they received different sights. This was the same as I practiced Latin dance.

I have danced Latin for almost 5 years and I really got my interest in it. I practiced iron hearted enough for my first race of my life but unfortunately, I lost my chance of being a champion in 2018.

I had locked myself up in my room for the rest of the day until supper. I felt I was in a gigantic hole, the hole of shame and helplessness. I struggled more and more like a sparrow, but I just went deeper and deeper, helpless to get out. I could only see my friends getting champions, reaching the top but what I could do was to stand at the bottom of the mountain, helpless. But then, my mom asked me if I wanted to keep learning Latin dance and if I wanted to keep this hobby, if I wanted to treat it as a hobby or held it as an important class and wanted to compete with others still. I chose to treat it an important class and still wanted to challenge the competitions. After that, I worked harder, sweating more and more in lessons, although I was tired; I kept my ambitious heart going until I got a cup of champion. Perhaps, I could attempt my goal one day, who knows what will happen in the future? I have to keep trying until I know the result.

I was shocked by my fourth race of my life; perhaps the God was moved by my efforts and diligence; I had got my first cup of my life. I was over the moon to hear that result, but I could work better: I had won the sixth place! I progressed so much that my Latin dance teacher got a surprise! It only had been several months before I made it! The wish of the champion lingered in my body, and now, I could see the town down the mountain, but although tired, I wanted to keep moving, my goal was waving at me, smiling elatedly. I can do this!

Two years passed like a speed of light; it came to 2020's Beijing Blackpool Latin Competition which was held at the 28th of November. The result was unbelievable! I had finally reached my goal! I won a first place, a second place, a fourth place and a fifth place. I won 4 cups!!! In fact, I was even top of all of my friends. The fabulous result spread like a lightning over my class and my family; people have been congratulating me, cheering me up. I finally saw the scene on top of the mountain; I had finally saw the fancy paradise!

I was extremely proud and that was the point where normal people can't saw. The magnificent city was as clear as daylight to me, my heart missed a beat when I heard it; now, I have gained all top six cups in my life. But I will not be arrogant, I have to make more progress and I will never sleep. I was like a lion that had just woken up, my next goal is to be at top of the elite group; although it was challenging, in my self –consciousness, I knew I had to progress myself, I could see a more magnificent scene I would admire next time. A genius wasn't just a gift, but how others drove him, persuaded him, he would not change his mind.

The next inspiring goal was waving at me, calling me. I couldn't give up Latin for the rest of my lives; for me, it wasn't just a hobby; it was a knowledge; it was something I love; it was a thing that I could progress and change my own life. It persuaded me to keep climbing, so that I could watch a more incredible site that others could not. Latin was a hobby that triggered my soul; I had reached the paradise; I was admiring the whole city! This was the result that I had been waiting for 4 years.

Mount Huang was a spirit, a spirit for every thing and every person; when you succeed, you could see things that normal people couldn't see!

Magical Mountains

Harrow Beijing International School, Kong, Jacob – 11

The mist is dancing through the sky which you can't even figure out which is the sky, or which is mist. Below a thousand meters, you will see the magical mountain covering the whole surface area like there's no end just like a bit of magic.

Two adults were walking briskly down the mountain with their big bags of Emerald diamonds. They didn't know that if they steal the emerald diamonds, then the trolls will get angry, and they will start eating people and conquer other places in China. Just then, at the opposite of the mountain, there were three teenagers which got lost in the Magical Mountain. They were Jack, Charlotte, and Rollin. Jack is a 14 year's old boy with black fluffy hair and with a pair of green eyes just like an emerald. Charlotte is a 14 year's old girl which likes to travel and likes to read about History. Rollin is a 13 year's old boy which loves bird and be able to talk to the bird

(They are now on their way back to camp)

'Where are we now?' ask Rollin sleepily

'Just hold on a second, we are nearly there' replied Charlotte with a serious look.

As soon as they walk, there was a light stumping sound.

'Did you fart?' asked Charlotte to Jack

'No, I didn't. Why's that' Jack answered with a weird look.

Five seconds later, Charlotte heard another stumping sound. She was annoyed by it.

'Seriously' said Charlotte. 'If you did fart, then tell the truth. I wouldn't mind'

'Oh gosh, shut-up' said Jack greedily.

For a second later, Jack and Charlotte were quiet. But the stumping noise kept repeating for an every-single second. Suddenly, a greenish thing starts to come out of the cave in front of them. It's a TROLL! The troll is tall and gigantic.

'It's a TROLL' Rollin screamed. But the word that is saying from his mouth didn't sound it out. As the troll look around, he saw three tiny humans, but without any seconds, Jack, Charlotte, and Rollin running down like a hurry chicken. The troll chased them like the speed of an eagle, but because that Rollin is running too slow and he is sleepily so then the troll still got him in his hand. Then, the troll put Rollin in front of his mouth. Rollin was screaming the loudest voice which he ever tried, but before the troll put Rollin in his mouth, Charlotte looks up at the troll and yelled 'You hideous ugly monster. Get away from my friends' Then, the troll threw Rollin down the edge. 'No, you idiot' shouted Jack.

Jack was so angry that he threw a brick at the troll's head. Soon, the troll starts chasing them. But as they ran Charlotte is out of energy, so Charlotte stopped beside a camp. The camp was the same color as the three teenager's camp but is not the same place.

'There must be a reason that you're chasing after us' Charlotte asked bravely.

'Ye, what's the reason?' added Jack.

'Ima laaking far me diamonds' response the Troll

'You're looking for a diamond?' Charlotte asked.

'What color is it?' Jack asked so excitedly.

'Isa grannish colooooor' The troll said

'Oh, an emerald diamond' Charlotte figured out. 'Then let's start looking for it.'

As they walk, Jack was crying and tears were bursting out because Rollin had fallen from the edge. Plus, Rollin is always one of his best friends, so he can't stop crying until Rollin is back.

‘Anyway, why do you even need a diamond’ Charlotte asks with curiosity on her face.

‘Because a long time ago, trolls are looking for a nice mountain with caves. By the time we got here, our troll leader said that this is the home for us. But 130 years later, a human comes to conquer the land and killed the baby trolls. 1 year later, the humans and our troll leader start to make a deal is that if trolls don’t disturb them, then the humans will give us 152 emerald diamonds. But if the humans stole it, then the trolls will start eating the humans.’ The troll answered.

‘Oh, okay, I understand now’ replied Charlotte with a strange expression on her face.

[ON THE OTHER SIDE]

After the troll threw Rollin down the edge, Rollin didn’t die! When he fell, a bird just came and caught him.

‘Thank goodness’ Rollin answered with his heartbeat normal. ‘And thank you birdy’

‘Yaaa–kee’ The bird answered.

‘Let’s go then’ Rollin said. hugging her wings

After the departure, Rollin found two adults walking down the mountain. As the bird went near–by, Rollin heard their conversation.

‘How are we going to get back to our camp?’ A person with blond hair asked

‘I have no clues’ the brown one answered.

‘I can help, where is your camp?’ Rollin asked happily.

‘Oh, well.. Thank you’ The blond answered with a smile on his face.

‘No problems’ Rollin replied.

As they set–off the two adults guide Rollin to the way to their camp. Soon as they arrive there, Rollin was surprised because he saw a troll and his friend.

‘Here you go’ Rollin answered.

‘Thanks, kiddo’ The two adults replied at the same time.

‘Rollin!’ Jack shouted and hugged him

‘Rollin’ Charlotte screamed. ‘I’ll never leave you behind’

‘Who are the two adults’ Charlotte asked with a dark looking face to the adults.

‘Well, they are lost on the way back to their camp, so they guide me and now I meet you guys.’

After the adults thanked Rollin, Jack saw something strange. ‘Hold on a second!’ Jack said. ‘Where did you get the diamonds.’

After Jack finished his sentence, the two adults ran away.

‘We’ve got to stop them!’ Charlotte said. ‘If you don’t get them, then you don’t have the chance to get it back’

The troll listened to Charlotte, and quickly grabbed the two adults.

‘Swing them down the edge’ Jack said with a violence voice

And so, the troll did what he said. He swung them down with a smiley face. ‘Goosh Byeee’ The troll said.

‘YOU DID IT!’ Three of them shouted!

As the sun goes down, it’s time for Jack, Charlotte, and Rollin to go back to the camp. ‘See you later’ Rollin cried.

‘Ye, see ya’ Charlotte said, and then dip her head crying so loud.

Suddenly, the troll got an idea! ‘Hoo about yuuuu shleep wuth us?’ The troll requests them with an excitement

‘SURE!’ They all answered. Soon they arrived, they have a party with the trolls.

Tales from China's Magical Mountains

Harrow Beijing International School, Lui, Kitty – 11

In a mist covering mountains, a man called Alan was walking confidently in the steep mountains. He was wearing a military uniform, on it was a body armor. By seeing that, we could know that he is an soldier.

It's all started when Alan was patrolling with his army, but suddenly a strong wind blow him away. By the time he woke up he was lying on a grass covered stone. So, he decided to find a way out.

In Alan's surprise, he found a dark and spooky building. But when he got closer, he found out that it's an old and kind of abandoned warfare building. In no choices, he used all of his strengths and pushed open the heavy, old door. Inside, there was full of old, dusty things. Just when Alan was wondering, he accidentally stepped on a click which is hiding on the cold brick floor. At that time, a thousands of arrows and dangerous weapons flew quickly across everywhere in different directions. Alan have to move as quickly as he could to avoid them.

Unfortunately, Alan cannot find the way out, either finding his army. He decided to made a dinner for himself, and after ate a fine dinner, he slept until the next morning. After slept, he climbed up the mountains hoping to find his way back. But unluckily, his leg was trapped in a sharp, twisted tree branch. After bearded all his pain, he finally pulled his leg out. There, he could saw, a long, bloody wound. He quickly use a cloth to wrapped up. Then, trying to forget the pain, Alan limp away. While Alan was going, he caught up with a big, cold rain. He still keep limping no matter what. After the sky became sunny, Alan's clothes was wet and watery.

Soon the sky became dark, the night sky was full of stars. Alan lied down on his hand made bed, watching the shinny, beautiful stars. Suddenly, he heard a sharp, loud howling sound, he quickly got up and looked around. There was a dark shadow standing on the top of a high hill, and when looking carefully, it was a wolf! When Alan packed up and began to leave, he saw a circle of wolfs was around him, they were all with eyes glittering with evil, and their sharp claws stood strongly on the floor. Alan turned and grabbed a piece of wood with fierceful fire burning brightly on it, he waved it violently at the wolfs. Not long, Alan won the fight with the wolfs, even when he got a hurtful leg.

After some difficult days on the greenish mountains, Alan survived to the 7th day. But his clothes were all tattered and ripped. On his body, there was a lot of wounds, some were new, some were old. But until when it was 30th day when Alan survived in the mountains, he was already with beard covered face, dirty and tattered clothes, hurtful wounds. Just at that time, the sky came dark, and a strong wind came again.

By the time Alan woke up, he was in his military hospital. There was his comrade-in-arms and his captain around him. This time Alan felt warm and happy, because he was not alone and not in the mountains.

Tales from China's Magical Mountains

Harrow Beijing International School, Quaita, Catherine – 11

Once upon a time a girl named Elisabeth went on a road trip with her best friend Emily. Emily was the grumpy one and did not like waking up or she liked to was to eat, sleep, horse ride. And in the other hand Elisabeth liked to eat, run, horse ride “Repeat “
They put the horses in to the trailer.
So on the Sunday they headed off to the mysterious mountain to stay for a couple days.
On our way to black horse mountains we stopped for a little snack we were there for about 1 hour or so just exploring the field then we went on a trail ride with the horses and found 2 stray dogs
With 5 puppies that were struggling to keep alive so we took the stray dogs and helped them.

Chapter 2

Once we sorted out the puppies, mama and dad dog we named the dogs Luna, Bryce, Nova, Noah and Carlos.
Then we carried on with our journey with all 7 dogs and 2 horses

1 million years later...

We eventually arrived at black horse mountains and we checked in at the hotel and settled the dogs in and set off to adventure the black mountain caves with mine and Emily's horse

We went exploring and saw many creatures like my other side of the family and I seriously hated them I hated them because they are so rude to me and Emily they call me ugly they say I am a disappointment I could go on for ages but I will make you bored.

Chapter 3

So we had another encounter with me and my worst enemies other half of the family because if I did not tell you my parents are divorced anyway we spent 3 days at black horse mountain

And it was now time to go home and find the puppies a new home.

Tales from China's Magical Mountains

Harrow Beijing International School, Xiao, Chun Yen – 10

Athena was woken up by the noise of fighting and shouting for the 9574 times.

She sat up and she turned to her 8 brothers and sisters. They were all sleeping. Then, Athena's little brother, Richard, awoke.

"Morning, Richard." Athena whispers.

"Morning Athene." Richard replied.

"Did I wake you up?"

He yawned. "No, I just woke by myself."

"So...do you want to get some more sleep? You're just 7yearsold, remember?"

"It's ok, I'm awake."

"Ok then," Athena sighed, "I'll check outside."

"Be careful!"

"Kay." Athena walked out of their tent. The gray sky hugged her with its gray, cold arms. And yes, the group had found food, and all the people were racing towards to the man who had half a cookie in his hands. He tried to eat it before anybody could snatch it away, but nothing in the world was faster than a group of hungry, selfish humans. Before he could even blink, the cookie got broke into tiny cracks. Athena's mom got a big piece of it and ran to her home as fast as she could. Athena followed her mom. Back in their tent, all the brothers and sisters were awake, waiting for their mom to feed them something can eat so they won't die. Athena's mom cracked the cookie apart, and the kids were licking on the ground for cookie shrubs. Mom gave every kid a little piece of cookie, including Athena. She noticed that her mom didn't have even a crack of cookie, so she broke hers apart and give half to her mom. Her mom looked at Athena, then the cookie, then Athena again. Finally, she took the piece of cookie with her trembling hands and put it in her mouth. She closed her eyes, tasting the sweet flavor.

After she finished it, she licked her fingers with joy. Richard walked over to Athena.

"Full?" He asked. "In this world, you will never be full unless you're at the top of the mountains. You'll only be hungrier."

Suddenly, the world shook. The ground cracked. And suddenly...people realized that their lives were going to end.

"RUN!" Mother roared. All the people were running for their lives. But they didn't know where they should go, and they carried a whole body of bones with no energy. Some of them had fainted with hunger, some of them fell in to the never-ending crevice, some of them stopped and faced the crack, which looked like a giant snake. Athena ran with Richard, their hands locked to each other's like an unbreakable chain. They ran to the bold-head forest which they never did before because monsters would appear there at night. They ran and ran...finally, they stopped, and lied on the dust ground.

"Where are the others?" Richard asked.

"I don't know, but I think the earthquake had ended." Athena replied.

They walked back to the group, but there was no one at all.

"Where are they?" Richard seemed to be horrified.

"I don't know, but I think the earthquake had end." Athena replied. We walk back to the group, but there were no people at all..." where are they?" Richard seemed to be terrified. "I... I don't know." Athena whispered. "Athene..." suddenly a shaking voice appeared in their ears. They turn their body around, and they see their mother lying on the ground! "Mom! Your alive!" Athena and Richard raced forward to their poor mother, they find out that their mother is stuck underneath a big rock, and they both know that their mother can't live long. They both knees down beside their mother, head dropping like a dead flower. They are going to stay beside their mother for her last few minutes. "Listen my kids," their mother says, "all the people from the group is dead. Now, only you two can survive, what I hope is that you two can look for the five mountain tops. Only there, can live with no fear but joy.... all you need is to go through the bold-head forest, and you will see a cave at the bottom of the mountain that will be in front of you at that time...." after telling the road, she got tears on her yellow cheek." Also remember to drink my tears after I died, maybe this is the only clean water in the world..." after that, her mother never talks. They lick their mother's cheeks carefully, they tried to control from their tears running down, but they failed, they hug together and cried out loud, they are crying out their unfair feelings and their complicated feelings.

They cry for a long time, they buried their mother and start to walk into the bold-head forest, they must get to the mountain before dawn.

“Athene?”

“yes?”

“what should we do when we arrive the mountain?”

“well.... we need to find a place where we can sleep...and live.”

“oh...do you think that we can find a perfect home like that?”

“well, I suppose that.”

“yea, I believe you.”

“thanks.” the sky is darker and darker, there's no more time for them. If the night arrives, they might not survive from the monster's claw. They start to run, and they did it! They arrive the mountain before dawn. But they are too tiered that they barely can walk. They accidently find's a cave, they settle down at the middle of the cave. They are so tired that they barely can talk, all quiet in the dark cave.... The next morning, when Athena opens her eyes, she found out that she was not at the dark cave anymore, it's a colorful place, she stands up and look for Richard, “Richard? Richard!” she shouts, then, she finds Richard was also awake sitting up. They find out that they are standing in a place where there is blue sky, green ground, and trees in groups.....they are already at the mountain!!! They screamed and hugged together. They live in joy for all rest of their life.

Tales from China's Magical Mountains

Harrow International School Hong Kong, Chan, Annette – 10

The mountains. Magical mountains. If the earth had a pulse it rose through the mountains, creating their bold silhouette. To my eye, their peaks are the green line of a doctor's graph. I saw those rocks at dawn, those slopes that give home to so much life, a foundation for trees and shrubs, grass and ferns. With blue above and below, in the sky and lake, ever lightening as the sun rose, I knew it would be a good day... I just knew.

In the mountains, there is a feeling of calm and tranquillity only those with experience truly understand. I see green bushes situated on the jagged edges of the mystic mountains like a swirling, twirling, curving, spinning, never-ending spiral staircase leading up to an emerald tower. I hear the soft, comforting rustle of the gentle leaves nestled upon the mahogany branches of the viridescent trees. I smell lichen and moss, a very wet aroma and pine bark. I conceive it tastes like pineapple. Sometimes it smells more like butterscotch or vanilla. I taste the glacé flavour of bonbons in the fruit trees and a bittersweet scent of rocky mountains. It's a blessing, isn't it? The beauty of nature.

"Honey, there's a special guest waiting for you downstairs!" Mum called. I hollered back, "Coming!" My heartbeat flowed rapidly in my chest. THUMP. THUMP. THUMP. "Where is it, where is it, come on..." I muttered frustratedly. My brows scrunched up in concentration as I squinted at the minuscule letters on the spine of each book. They were bound by several thick layers of old, worn leather and the pages were yellowed and faded. Must have come from one of those antique shops Mum loves, I thought. Nonetheless, I had not found what I wanted. Patience. Persistence. Determination. My three most prodigious virtues. Well, at least, any time but then.

Desperately, I yanked open various drawers and rummaged through them in an attempt to obtain my heart's desire at that moment. I winced. Looking down, I caught a glimpse of the wine red blood slowly trickling down my right arm before I jerked it away from the drawer I was currently fishing through. Though not before I gasped. "Ouch!"

"Bella, what are you doing?" Mum shrieked. I'd been caught. Gritting my teeth and grinding the edges so violently I was sure my teeth would crack in half, I feebly managed a 'Yes, I'm coming down now, Mum'. Rushing down the stairs at the swiftest speed possible, I wheezed and panted with a few raspy breaths.

I strolled along the dark, narrow hallway, lightly stroking the walls lined with thousands of portraits and ancient heirlooms. There it was. What I had been waiting for all along, what my ancestors had hoped to find for years, none successful. But I had been omitted from the lines of failure.

Grief. An old man sat, perched atop a golden painting in the Gallery of Ancients. Sporting jewels hidden among the intricate drawings, it was a priceless antique masterpiece. Should be delightful, no? For t'was those tears, minuscule, delicate drops of pale blue topaz, shimmering with opalescent colours like gleaming daggers. Unexplained deaths have enveloped the rumours of the crying man. Hundreds, thousands, maybe even millions of blood-chilling tales encircled the unearthly painting...

I scrutinized the frame of the painting for such an achingly long time I felt my eyeballs ready to burst through my skin. For what it felt like a thousand years, I stared and stared and stared. At long last, I found it. Daedalian runes were etched upon the golden edges, and as I read aloud the first words, the letters shifted, morphing into the phrase: "Et obscuratus". Softly, I whispered, "Eclipse,".

Without warning, the depths of my mind were stirred by memories floating throughout the hall. But those memories weren't mine. Visions of dark days flashed before me, followed by delightful times that were once the present. Flashes of the past appeared, and my mind was flooded with the fuzzy memory...

It is a war. Commoners are frantically running for their lives, medics ushering them away to safety. BANG! BANG! BANG! An explosion fires out. Without looking back, Eclipse and his comrade Ben run for it, shoving soldiers, victims, and citizens alike out of their way. Firmly pressing their backs against the cold stone wall, Eclipse motions for Ben to peek around the corner to see if the coast is clear. Unexpectedly, the enemy's voice eerily rings in his ears.

"You shall pay for this, Eclipse Song. You will regret your actions. See if you don't,". The ghostly figure vanishes.

"Don't, please don't," a voice croaks. To Eclipse, it seems oddly familiar.

"Once in a blue moon will I ever let go!" another shrieks between raspy breaths. "And now, Benny, I shall have yer heart 'n' liver out," it finishes.

“Ben!” screamed Eclipse, who dare not look up. Tears stream down his face, soaking his army uniform with wet stains. Rushing for his friend’s fallen body, Eclipse wipes his everlasting tears on his sleeve, soon drenching Ben’s clothes too. Clinging onto Ben’s arm, he leans on Ben’s tear-stained shoulders. “Please, don’t die. Don’t leave me. Not yet,” Eclipse begs, sobbing into the warmth of his old friend’s arms. Ben’s chest is now heaving for air, and as Eclipse clutches him tightly, he whispers into Ben’s ear, “You can’t leave me like this. You just can’t—” With his last breath, he says, “I am proud of you, Eclipse. Go, not too late, end this war, and lead our country to victory, in honour of my dearly made sacrifice.”

Eclipse pleads, “Stay strong, please! I can’t bear the thought of you—” his voice cuts off. Ben gasps for air, then stops. Nothing. Nothing at all. Nothing like the void of dark nothingness.

“Bella. BELLA! Come and meet Uncle Song from Mount Huangshan. He’s Grandpa Benjamin’s best friend,” Mum added. At last, realisation dawned. Uncle Song. Eclipse Song.

The Dragon of the Mountain

Harrow International School Hong Kong, Ho, Jenson – 1

I knew I had made a mistake when I got on that plane. I chose to go on the expedition to China's magical mountains. Halfway there, the plane started making some jittery strange noises. I spamed the assistance button on my seat but nobody came. When the attendant finally came, I fired some rapid questions leaping out of my seat.

”Why is the plane shaking!? Is there something wrong with the engine?”

The air crew tried to reassure us that this was normal but they were astonished and worried when the plane plummeted like a stone.

After a long time, the pilot announced that we had leveled again but we would need to make an emergency landing in the airport close by. Luckily that was just next to the mountains.

Over the speakers, the pilot announced “Welcome to Huangshan airport.”

When the plane finally touched down on the runway, I jumped out of my seat and charged out of the plane. I couldn't believe what I saw! Taller than skyscrapers, the mountains stretched towards the cyan sky. Fluffy white snow capped the tip of the mountains covering the summit like a furry blanket settling over the horizon.

I was just walking out of the airport when my foot stepped on something. I looked down and saw a piece of paper . I bent down to pick it up and read it.

It said,

“In China's magical mountains a treasure lies.

North of the sleeping dragon's cave south of the peak.

A treasure that was lost 300 years ago.

Opens the ancient portal to get you back home.”

“Oh my!” I exclaimed, I had found a clue to some treasure! Without giving it another thought, I dashed into the mountains.

After a few hours, I was hopelessly lost. The battery on my phone was dead so I couldn't use Google Maps to find my way out. Even when it was working, it said that it didn't recognise where I was and told me to connect to wifi.

The hard stone path seemed to wind on forever and it was ice cold. I looked around myself and saw a cave.

“What on earth! There is a cave in a steep mountain slope!?” I muttered to myself. But nonetheless I scurried into the cave without a second thought. When I sat down on the warm floor, I noticed something wrong. Why was the floor warm? And then I heard a thunderous snore...

“What was that!?” I exclaimed. I was so shocked that I accidentally dropped that piece of paper.

That old yellowed piece of paper floated in front of my eyes. It reminded me of the clues. A sleeping dragon's cave... I was about to jump up yelling to get out of there but I realised that I would probably wake whatever was sleeping

I quickly read over the paper again and looked at the clues, “North of the dragon's cave. South of the peak.” The portal was north of the cave but south of the peak!

“That's all!?” I admitted I was disappointed that the paper and clues were so short. It was getting dark and the sun was setting. The sky was painted red and gold like a piece of art. I should begin to go north, I thought. So I began to walk outwards, then I remembered the dragon, so I dashed out of the cave as fast as I could as another thunderous roar shook the cliff face.

I was walking for a while when I saw the peak of the mountain. I finally knew that the treasure was near. All of a sudden, mist rose from cracks in the ground. The cold air warmth like a blast from a furnace, then it stopped. Now I saw what had caused it.

A colossal figure was rising out of the ground. Streaks of gold and crimson scales rushed past me. A dragon more than 30 meters high was looking down at me. It blinked once. I still remember those large black eyes. I was awed by the sight and only gaped at what I saw. The dragon reared backwards, its body turning red, its scales, horns, arms, legs then it looked right down at me and streaked off into the atmosphere.

I felt something that I had forgotten. The portal! I looked into the chasm the dragon had created and without thinking jumped right in. I fell for what seemed like hours until a purple glow illuminated the hole. The sun was smaller than an ant from my view. I stepped forwards and saw it. The portal! I stepped into it and all of a sudden I was sitting at home. A calendar fell off the wall. I looked at the date. It was the year of the Dragon. Was it a coincidence? I don't know but on the calendar there was a picture of my dragon friend.

Where Your Enchanted Mountain Turns to Life

Harrow International School Hong Kong, Lee, Ein – 10

Far far away, along the Huai river, there was once a black mountain that cut in the sky like a jagged piece of rough metal. The villagers called it the Bloomless Mountain because nothing ever happened. Crowded in a corner of where Bloomless Mountain and the Huai river met was a village that was a shade of light brown from where all the crops grew and where every family worked tooth and nail to harvest the crops. To coax rice out of the stubborn land, the fields had to be flooded with water. The villagers had to tramp in the mud, bending and stooping and planting day after day. Working in the mud so much made it spread everywhere and the hot sun dried it onto their clothes and hair and homes. Over time, everything in the village had become the dull color of dried mud.

In one of the smallest houses in the village lived a young girl called Moon Lin. Moon was the only child in her family. Moon was not brown and dull like the whole village, she was bright and cheerful, always putting on a smile on everybody's face. She had glossy black hair with pink cheeks, her shining eyes were always eager for adventure. Whenever someone saw her, they would think 'Moon Lin is the spirit of the whole village.' Moon was determined to make Bloomless Mountain blooming again. Nothing could be possibly worse than now, right?

One day, like all the other days, Moon's parents went to work early in the morning, leaving a bowl of rice for breakfast for Moon Lin. But today, something didn't feel right when Moon Lin woke up. She went out of her tiny bedroom, there was nothing on the dining table. No rice and no chopsticks. She went outside with her pyjamas, her parents were not on the crop field! Before she could even think twice about what to do, there was a deafening roar and booming footsteps. Terrified, Moon looked around and ran back into the house for cover. She quickly peeked through the curtains and there was a DRAGON! She was frightened, she had to warn the other villagers who were cluelessly walking around, not being able to hear the dragon!

Moon hurriedly packed a few things into a plastic bag that a goldfish seller gave her and ran out of the house.

"Xing Huang!! There's a dragon coming by! We have to leave right now!"

Moon Lin shrieked on the top of her lungs.

Xing Huang, stared at Moon Lin for half a second and then started to pack his own life essentials.

Soon, most of the villagers were flooding out of Bloomless Mountain. With a heavy heart, they walked for days in the scorching heat left with not much food and water. Until one day, it was pouring with rain and thunder, they were having a contest of who could 'BOOM!' the loudest. Quickly, Moon, her family and a few friends came upon a cave for shelter. Moon couldn't sleep that night. She tossed and turned around while thinking of something to get her to sleep. A deep sense of insecurities fastened on her. As soon as her eyelids started fluttering, she heard yet another booming roar in her lifetime. She screamed, hoping to catch someone's attention. Yes, now everyone was clambering out of the cave. Moon Lin was the last one out but before her little feet could even make it out of the cave, a soft voice made her stop,

"Please, don't leave me. I am not harmful. I only wanted a friend or two. I have been alone for my entire life because no one ever dares to come into my cave." explained the dragon.

"Are you sure you won't hurt me?" Moon asked, her voice trembling.

"I am sure. My name is Typhon." Typhon answered, reassuringly

"Well, I guess I was sort of overreacting. My name is Moon Lin."

"Why are you in my cave?"

"It was raining and I thought this was a shelter for my friends, family and I. I didn't know it was your home."

"That's alright. I knew you came here accidentally. Would you like to hear a story?"

"Alright but it better be quick because I have to catch up with the others."

"Ok, I'll make it quick."

When I was born, I was alone in the forest, with no friends, family or a home. I roamed the forest with a heavy heart. I was overwhelmed with sadness, I was slowly falling apart. One day, I found a den. At first I thought it was a rabbit's hole so I dug my hand into the den but I couldn't feel any rabbits. I put my hand deeper into the hole and then I felt a vicious mouth biting on my hand. I screamed and I ran as quickly as I could until I found this cave. I have lived here ever since.
And that's why I have this scar on my hand."

"Whoa! That's cool! I mean not that you got bitten but your story. I really should go now. I'll visit soon!"

Moon quickly ran out of the cave to catch up with the others but she couldn't find them. A few days later, Moon had no choice but to go back to the village.

In the village, it seemed quiet. She went back to her house, that seemed quiet too. She opened her bag and started unpacking the things she had packed before. When she thought the bag was empty, she found a crystal ball in her bag. It had left a note as well.

It read:

Dear Moon Lin,

This is the crystal ball I had carved myself and I hope it brings good luck to your family.

Your friend,

Typhon

Moon closed her eyes and wished that she could be back with Ma and Ba and make Bloomless Mountain bloom again.

A Journey to the Chagori Mountain

Harrow International School Hong Kong, Li, Barton – 11

The craggy, alpine mountains of death stood ominously, swaying entrancingly, as if enchanted by the mystical eeriness of the night. Fumes, vapours draped from the sky billowed and swirled intoxicatedly. They unveiled boulders tumbling down a mountain, with a sickening *crunch* as they disintegrated to the ground, only leaving a trail of dust. That was the Chagori Mountain, infamously known across the globe as the ‘Deathly Heavens’. The three razor-sharp, jagged peaks were filled with dead bodies, with leeches and maggots swarming over them. You could still see the gaunt, haunted looks of the lacklustre, deceased corpses. And the vacant, blank eyes, peering emotionlessly to the sky. Blood spilt would always vanish into the ground, making its barren deserted structure filling more dread and mystique into people’s soul.

There was a person that was daring, but was an outcast to his family, an embarrassment, you might say. He had the courage to try to beat the ominous Chagori Mountain, to prove that he was better than his siblings. His name was Emilios. Emilios Wong.

It was three in the morning, too early for anyone in the village of Chagori to be awake— everyone except for Emilios. He tiptoed down the stairs, which were full with holes worn with age, careful not to disturb anyone. He relished the thought that only he could see the beautiful sunrise, which would soon gleam radiantly. Strolling down the pedestrian lane, he whistled a tune that his grandfather taught him.

His heart filled with sorrow as he remembered watching his grandfather’s coffin and corpse being lifted onto the table. He recalled the time when his eyes were filled with tears, as he looked at his grandfather’s familiar face, wrinkled and serene, for the last time— his grandfather was the only person who cared for him.

When he got to the end of the lane, he saw something unusual and peculiar. It was the Chagori mountain. Even the name sent shivers down the villagers’ spine. Rumbling rocks came tumbling down from the towering peak, looming over every village in the distance, and grasping the citizens of the village in an unyielding clench of fear and trepidation. More rocks came crashing down— into the village. Dust and fumes spread everywhere, making the once scenic village hard to see. Emilios coughed, his eyes stung, his breath turned raspy and shallow, Emilios’ pace began to quicken. He was always allergic to dust, which was one of the main reasons why his family disowned him— they despised the weak.

After approximately ten hours following the unfortunate incident where Emilios fell unconscious due to the allergy, two fishermen found him, the men who tried unsuccessfully to trade shark fins to the villagers. One of them questioningly cocked his head at the other one, wondering why an unconscious body was laying on the outskirts of the perfectly safe village. One of the fishermen took initiative and caught hold of Emilios’ wrist. Together, they dragged him into a cave. Hollow, but wide, with a bed for two, a lamplight, and frayed curtains that draped over a bucket filled with water and shampoo, looking as if they had tried to make it cosy, although the shallow cave showed little privacy.

Emilios, finally coming to his senses, sat up groggily, as he took in his surroundings. It definitely wasn’t home— too shallow. Not his friend’s home— too little furniture and decors. Then what was it?

That was when the two fishermen, straggly and weary because of the fishing, lumbered into the cave.

Emilios screamed, thrashing in fear, and cowered under the blanket. The fishermen, who did not expect such a scene, quickly scrambled away in surprise. Both fishermen and Emilios began eyeing one another curiously. Silence fell upon them. Not knowing what to say, Emilios began to look away uncomfortably, just as one of the fishermen began asking what Emilios’ name was. ‘Emilios. Emilios Wong,’ whispered Emilios.

Every day, the fishermen gave food and water to Emilios, who sat down on the bed, wondering if his family missed him.

One day, Emilios began to feel impatient. It was nice that the fishermen gave him water and supplies, but what they didn’t let him do was venture outside.

The night was settling down, owls hooted screechily, and the wind whistled so furiously that you'd have thought you were in a tornado. Emilios cautiously tiptoed towards the cave entrance. Then he ran, not caring if he awakened the fishermans. His feet started throbbing, and his chest heaved up and down.

After resting for what felt like hours, he took in his surroundings. That was when he realized that he was stranded, scared... and under the foot of the Chagori Mountain.

Emilios sighed, downcast. His choices weren't very varied— either die now, or start the climb onto the hazardous mountain and die later. He knew which one to pick.

The sun was rising, Emilios' face beaded with sweat, his eyes inscribed with fierce determination, even though he knew the consequences of scaling the mountain of the world's most feared pinnacle. His hands were callused and raw, his muscles ached as he ascended. Every instinct told him not to let go, nor to look down, for every child in the nursery in his village was taught not to peer down from an astounding height.

Raindrops began pouring down, pattering onto Emilios' head. He felt his hands starting to slip, his feet dangled and started to sway to and fro. The chasm beneath his feet gaped wide open, engulfing mist and haze. Emilios trembled with fear, his hands shook worriedly— he was nearing his death.

A rumble echoed through the Chagori Mountain. It began to get louder, to a point where Emilios couldn't bear to hear it. He shut his eyes.

He opened his eyes— the boulder was rumbling towards him. Everything seemed to proceed slower, the boulder bumping into Emilios, his eyes widening in shock, tumbling into the abyss, and him being enveloped in fog and vapour, forever gone.

The Falling Huang Shan

Harrow International School Hong Kong, Oakes, Olwyn – 9

Once in the cloudy village of Tsi La lived a playful girl named Terra. Terra had milk chocolate hair, with a tint of yellow and orange on the tips. Her lips were as red as blood and her eyes had a spark of amber. Terra loved playing with her friend Willow. Willow had chestnut brown hair and pale skin as white as the misty fog that came down from the mountain at dawn. Her eyes were turquoise and she always wore an amethyst amulet around her neck. Terra lived in a small hut next to the carrot and rice fields, which provided the only food they had, and every day they had to water and tend the crops. Sometimes the crops did not survive due to the steep mountain of Huang Shan blocking the weak sunshine. Terra helped clean the house, gather the food and make dinner. She enjoyed finding glow dust butterflies and liebies (mysterious, luminous rabbits that lurk in the shallow bottoms of Huang Shan).

Chapter 1: The Crack in the Mountain

One day, Terra and Willow were looking for liebies when Terra noticed a disturbingly large crack in the mountain.

“Is that a crack?” pondered Terra. “Wow! It's quite big!” exclaimed Willow. Suddenly, the crack made a deafening noise grew even larger.

“Let's go tell my mum,” whispered Terra, petrified. Terra's mother and father, Mr. and Mrs. Firma were kind, gentle people, they loved each other and Terra very dearly and always listened to her.

“Mother, we found a huge crack in the mountain whilst we were searching for liebies and glow dust butterflies.”

“Why, that's not good!” Terra's mother replied, “If Huang Shan collapsed it would land on Tsi La!”

“Land on Tsi La?” screamed the girls, “What do we do?”

“Well, first let's go check it then we should probably tell Pa Pi,” said Mrs. Firma. Pa Pi was the chief of Tsi La and Terra's grandfather.

“What do you think Grandpa Pa Pi will do?” cried Terra.

“We will see when we tell him about the crack in Huang Shan.”

Chapter 2: Guong Zhi

They followed the pebbled path where Terra and Willow had been playing,

“It *is* big,” said Mrs. Firma, with fascination. She looked at the sky, it was getting orange as the sun started to set.

“It's getting dark, we should head off now if we want to see Pa Pi,” said Mrs. Firma

Suddenly, a loud gong echoed through all of Tsi La.

“Oh no!” cried Mrs. Firma, “The Griffon Temple is closing! Quick girls, RUN!” They were about to run when they saw a large chunk of rock from the mountain top falling, about to smash into them.

They yelled in shock and Willow screamed,

“Dodge!” They tripped out of the way as the rock smashed into a million pieces, inches from them.

“NO TIME TO BREATHE, JUST RUN!” shouted Terra. They rushed to the Griffon Temple, stumbling as they ran. Just as the golden gates were about to close, they sneaked through. They collapsed to the floor, finally catching a breath as they crawled to the temple.

“Grand Pa Pi!” yelled Terra,

“Terra?” chuckled Pa Pi, “What are you doing here?”

“There was a crack and it went BOOM! And it's going to land on Tsi La!” panted Terra. “Do you mean the mountain?” questioned Pa Pi in a soft voice.

“Yes, father,” Mrs. Firma whispered, looking to the dusty floor, “A huge chunk of rock almost landed on us.”

“Well, we have to warn the village,” said Pa Pi in a more panicked tone. “Do we have to move?” sniffled Terra, her eyes starting to water,

“I'm afraid so,” sighed Pa Pi, “RING THE GONG!”

The Gong of Wisdom chimed twice. In minutes, everyone in Tsi La was at the closed gates of the Griffon Temple, Terra and Willow's friends, teachers and neighbours.

“Huang Shan is collapsing! Unfortunately, we will have to move to our wealthy next-door village, Guong Zhi,” announced Pa Pi in a loud voice.

Everybody started murmuring.

“Do not worry,” Pa Pi continued, “Guong Zhi will provide us with food, jobs, shelter and a good environment. We move tomorrow, so I recommend you start packing tonight.”

“This is all my fault,” groaned Terra.

“No, it's not,” said Willow reassuringly, “If you hadn't told your mum, Tsi La would be squashed!”

“I guess so, but when we move to Guong Zhi, Tsi La will still be squashed!” complained Terra. “Thank you, stupid crack in the mountain!”.

Everyone was quiet for a minute.

“Well, I guess we should go home and start packing,” Terra said quietly.

“See you in an hour,” said Willow.

Terra ran home, tears rolling down her cheeks and falling into the dust.

Chapter 3: The Escape from Tsi La

Terra packed as swiftly as she could. She got ready to go and walked to Willow's house, knocking on the door.

“Hello, can I speak to Willow, please?” asked Terra.

Willow opened the door.

“Hi Terra, are you ready to go?” replied Willow.

“Yeah, but let's cheer up, our friends will still be in Guong Zhi, right?” asked Terra encouragingly.

“I guess so,” said Willow.

“Everybody listen!” yelled Pa Pi, “We will be moving right now!” Suddenly, the mountain started shaking.

“EVERYBODY EVACUATE!” screamed Pa Pi.

Everybody started running in a panic. A few seconds passed. Without any warning, a boulder landed on Willow's leg.

“TERRA! HELP ME PLEASE!” howled Willow. Terra ran to Willow. “SOMEBODY HELP ME LIFT THE BOULDER!” wailed Terra, “QUICK!”

Everybody heaved and heaved until finally, Willow could crawl out from under the boulder. Her bone was shattered. They all dashed to the road apart from Willow, who limped with the help of her friend. Willow and Terra howled as they watched the yellow mountain destroy their beloved village. It was heart-crushing but they realized no matter what, they would always have each other.

Tales from China's Magical Mountains

Harrow International School Hong Kong, Sui, Mikko – 10

I'm Tara (Ming Hao). The magical mountains seemed to be calling me. But no! I wasn't allowed out. So distant, so far away. It wanted to lure me away from my home, even though my village was in the same mountains. Even in my fear, curiosity brought me to face the call. When I thought no-one was looking, I climbed the brick wall, then jumped down friskily. Now I was in the unknown! Birds chirped cheerfully, monkeys chattered with each other like old friends having a reunion. I decided to venture into the magical mountains.

Eventually, I found a spot carved into the rocky mountains. It had grass, flowers and trees, a tiny waterfall with a pond and lots of planks of wood. Suddenly, I got an idea. I could build a home here! I began to get to work. Of course, building a house is harder than living in one. I worked on it all day, also building a wall. By the time I was done, the structure was steady and stable, and it also looked good, too. Seeds were scattered everywhere, around the garden, so my own food would be ready in a while. I made myself a loom, and many other survival objects.

All of a sudden, the ground started shaking tremendously and I heard a loud roar, followed by the sound of a fight. I climbed over the wall, sneaked across the rocks, and peaked at the plain where the shouts were coming from. A giant lava-dragon was terrorising a village. My old village! Where I first saw these magical mountains. Slowly, I crept across the quarter-burned-down-to-ground-village, then I scaled the dragon. The dragon seemed to notice me there, though he didn't seem to care about what would happen to me. Then all of a sudden, he turned on me, and bellowed,

“WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS?”

I continued to try to climb up on his slippery but dry scales. When I reached his head, I grasped his horns so hard that they broke off in my little hands. The dragon howled with fury and pain, and began spitting out lava in all kinds of directions. Uh-oh, I thought hastily. Without hesitating, I jumped off the lava-dragon and ran for my life. He could chase me anywhere, it seemed. Peculiarly, I came to a tall stall with baskets that looked like the giant vases that could fit somebody inside. With a last burst of energy, I threw myself in the basket that fit my size the most, held my breath, and waited for what would happen next.

I exhaled, then looked through the woven basket, I could still see the lava-dragon rampaging around the village, much to the horror of the villagers. It's not my fault, it's not. It just went on an inane tantrum, I consoled myself. But when I saw the fear on the villagers' faces, it felt hard to feel. I knew the snarky villagers, though they were mean. So, I decided, I would stop the dragon and leave those pesky villagers to rebuild their village. Inside the warm basket, next to me, leaning on me, was a Chuí, (Chinese metal melee weapon). I picked up the heavy weapon, then I started to get hot. Did holding a Chuí make you hot? I pondered. Then I saw it, the basket was on fire! I exploded out of the burning basket, and almost dropped the hefty Chuí on my foot. The Chuí was made of metal, so of course, if something around was hot, it would be quite hot, too. I catapulted myself towards the dragon, ready for me to end up in death, fate or live.

Turns out, the Chuí was pretty good use on the lava-dragon. He retreated more and more back, while I became steps more closer to succeeding in getting rid of him. He opened his enormous mouth, about to ready his lava blast, but he was unlucky. Oh, very unlucky. The reason why was because I literally threw the Chuí at his gaping mouth before he spat out the piping hot lava. His eyes went as wide as the moon, and he began to collapse. He shrank back away from me, he downed as realisation dawned petrifyingly on his terrified face. At the end, all that was left were the corpse of his shrivelled body.

I glared accusingly at the snippety villagers, who were still cowering against each other, shoving others forward concernedly. I wandered away from them sedately, and returned to my lounge.

Tales from China's Magical Mountains

Heep Yunn Primary School, Cheung, Bernice – 11

Once, there were two friends called Li Bai and Du Fu. They loved drinking wine until they were drunk and often wrote poems together. No one has ever heard or appreciated their poems before, but they still find joy in creating them.

One day, to Du Fu's surprise, Li Bai sent an invitation to invite Du Fu over to his. Du Fu was ecstatic but when he thought of how long he would have to walk and about the big, black, scaly dragon, he felt unsure about whether he should go. Since the two friends lived on a mountain, it was hard to reach each other, so Du Fu sent a letter to Li Bai by pigeon:

Dear Li Bai,

It's rather hard to reach you. I don't want to walk all across the mountain and that big, black, scaly dragon scares me too. Please think of a solution.

Yours Sincerely,
Du Fu

The other day, Du fu received Li Bai's reply, saying that they should meet at the centre of the mountain which they would all have to walk the same length to meet each other.

When they arrived, they greeted each other warmly and took out their picnic and wine. They were drunk after drinking so much, so they ran to the meadows and frolicked happily. 'Such a fine day! Let's lie down for a nap first.' Du Fu sighed.

But he saw Li Bai stroking a piece of jade the size of a football on the ground.' Ooh. Pretty.' Li Bai murmured .It was indeed a magnificent sight----it shone of seven colours, and it was polished like a mirror.

A pair of glowing eyes watched them from a distance, thinking they were trying to steal his jade, 'You pesky human, you really thought you could steal my jade? I've had enough of you! I shall end this little world of yours now!' A voice thundered as an ink-black dragon emerged from the shadows.

Li Bai called out, 'Oh my goodness! It's the great black lizard! I challenge you to a writing competition! Accept the challenge or shoo!' Du Fu nodded clumsily and hiccupped. They sat down and started scribbling.

They held up their work after a few minutes and announced, 'Done! Your turn.' The dragon wanted to get rid of them so he scratched on the floor with his nails, but all he got was 'I want to end the world but Tofu and Lipan are in my way.'

Though Du Fu and Li Bai were drunk, they were still raging mad that the dragon got their name wrong so they declared themselves winner.

Soon word of their victory spread, and people travelled from everywhere to see their works. They were overwhelmed with joy and were showered in fame and popularity, but they still went on with their simple and aesthetic life.

The Dragon of Inspiration

Heep Yunn Primary School, Cheung, Emma – 10

Poems of ancient China often depict the Mountain of the Yellow Emperor, but why is that? According to legend, it's because a creature called the Dragon of Inspiration lives there. As its name suggests, the dragon gives ideas to artists who've lost their inspiration. Many thought it was just a story told to children, but I know better. I was always fascinated by the legend, so one day, I decided to try to find the mythical creature.

I journeyed across the land until I reached the foot of the famous mountain. A farmer informed me that it took several days to reach the peak of the mountain, where the dragon supposedly lived. I was very surprised. The peak didn't look that far away. The farmer explained that for some strange reason, it took much longer to reach the top compared to other mountains with similar heights. He then lowered his voice and whispered that some thought the dragon was creating this phenomenon but he personally didn't believe those claims. I thanked the farmer and set off on the long trip to the top.

A few hours later, and I still wasn't any closer to the peak. I was beginning to worry I would be stuck on the mountain forever. Suddenly, I heard someone singing. I came across a girl sitting by a river. I asked her how much longer till I reached the top of the mountain. She told me it depended on my intentions. Then she disappeared in a bright flash. I was confused but decided to carry on. A few more hours later and the sky was gradually darkening. As I was setting up camp I heard a disembodied voice calling to me from the stars. I fearfully asked the voice who it was. The voice let out a chuckle, it said that it was the spirit of the stars. I noticed the voice sounded distinctly male. The spirit asked me what I was doing on the mountain at this time. I told it my plans. The spirit let out a loud laugh. It said that there was no way for me to reach the top by myself, but it was willing to help me if I kept it company for one night. I agreed, partly because I needed its help and partly because it sounded so lonely. The next morning, I continued my trek up the mountain, but now I had a new travel companion. The spirit kept muttering something the entire way, but I didn't mind. Suddenly, the spirit focused its attention on me. It started bombarding me with questions. I tried to answer them to the best of my abilities. The spirit seemed to know everything related to the Mountain of the Yellow Emperor, but was clueless about anything else. I questioned the spirit about it but it simply said it didn't go out much and told me to let it go. The following three days were uneventful. On the fourth day we reached the peak.

The place was completely deserted except for a small cottage. I walked up to the door but before I could knock, a man opened the door. I was about to greet him when the spirit happily introduced me to the legendary Dragon of Inspiration. The dragon had adopted a human form and had lived in the house for a hundred years. The man, or rather the dragon in disguise told me he knew why I was here, and proceeded to tell me the secrets of the Mountain of the Yellow Emperor. For years the dragon helped the poets find their inspiration, but he rarely interacted with them himself. Instead, he sent ideas in the form of mist, which was why the mountain was always shrouded in mist. The problem was that people reached the top too quickly, so he enchanted the path to keep travelers on it until the mist reached them. Over the years, the mist condensed into beings like the girl by the river and the spirit of the stars. Poets noticed that they always got ideas on the mountain, so some chose to move here. After the dragon finished his story, he ushered me out and told me to go home. I did what I was told. When I arrived home I realised what an amazing adventure I had. I decided to write a book about my travels. And that is what you have just finished reading.

The Untold Tale of Two Poets

Heep Yunn Primary School, Cho, Chloe – 10

‘Thirty-six strange peaks, immortals with black top knots. Morning sun strikes the treetops, here in this sky mountain world. For a thousand years cranes come and go. Far off I spy a firewood gatherer, plucking sticks from stone crevices.’ Li Bai said. Do you know what mountain he is talking of? It is the famous Yellow Mountains in China.

Once upon a time, a pair of poets, Li Bai and Du Fu, lived in the Yellow Mountains. They loved this magical and unearthly place. Because they were so majestic, people could get a panoramic view above the clouds that could instantly take your breath away. Although the two poets both resided in the Yellow Mountains, they had vastly contrasting characteristics and personalities. This brought individual life to their poems.

They merrily drank and wrote their passion on paper. One day, they decided to try a game of continuing a story with their poems and invited a friend of theirs to critique their work. After drinking some robust wine, Li Bai loudly and emotionally said, ‘The Yellow Mountains skyrocket hundreds of thousands of feet high, with numerous lotus-like seating peaks. Rock pillars shooting up to kiss empyrean roses, like so many lilies grown amidst a sea of gold.’

After hearing the poem written by Li Bai, the other two friends clapped, roared and screamed at the top of their lungs, ‘Brilliant!’. Now, it was Du Fu’s turn. He composed himself and took a deep breath, closed his eyes and out flowed, ‘To the layers of clouds I bare my breast, while from the corner of my eye, I catch the sight of flying birds. As I struggle to reach the top, and see all the small hills in one brief glance.’

‘Wow! You have really blown our minds!’ said Li Bai and the amiable friend. As they continued, Li Bai’s poems skilfully described how stunning and mysterious the Yellow Mountains were, while Du Fu’s poems focused more on the realistic world and his works effectively tied in a moral. In the end, the affable friend said, ‘Your poems are perfect. I can’t determine which one I enjoyed the most because I love them both!’

The friend then sat in complete silence; it was obvious that he had something on the tip of his tongue that needed to be said. The two men anxiously yearned for his response. Finally, as though on a stage in front of thousands of spectators, he announced, ‘Listen here! You cannot let me be the only man on Earth to hear such beautiful poems, the world truly deserves this!’ The men caught eyes and knew the friend’s comment was justified. News of the two poets quickly raced round the land. Their voices still echo to this day.

China's Magical and Mystical Mountains

Heep Yunn Primary School, Chung, Shanese – 10

Back in the fourth and fifth century, the Great Yellow Mountains were the most spectacular sight in the world, as it was known for during sunrise and sunset, the mountains and the clouds surrounding it would turn yellow, giving the mountain its name. At that time, no one knew about any other nations except the great dynasty of Tang, and no one intended to make contact with any outsiders. The secret of the Great Yellow Mountains was thus well sealed.

Li Bai and Du Fu were two of the many mysterious people living in the Great Yellow Mountains. Many others had ventured there to find out the secrets, but few had succeeded. There were many different rumours about it. Some said there was a six-headed dragon guarding the entrance, others said that there were gigantic man-eating plants. Some even believed the sky punished trespassers by pelting them with fire and lightning!

Eventually, someone managed to discover the secrets of the Great Yellow Mountains, and that person was Bai Fan. This is the journey General Fan went through many years ago, and not a single detail has changed.

Bai Fan had a calling to find the secret. He ventured for a whole year to reach the Great Yellow Mountains. When he finally arrived at his destination, he was exhausted, so he rested in a small hut before exploring further. The next day, he woke up and had no idea where he was. The ambience was completely unfamiliar to him. He looked around, then realised he was no longer at the foot of the Great Yellow Mountains. He remembered in his dreams he was transported by two men in white floaty robes who knew ‘qing gong’ (the skill to walk in the air) effortlessly. He thought he was just dreaming but was he? There was no way of not waking up if he, with a weight as heavy as a buffalo, was moved by someone without any tools. Was he drugged and kidnapped? He looked up and saw two old men looking down at him, dressed in white. They introduced themselves as Li Bai and Du Fu. Legend says that they spoke in riddles.

Li Bai said first, ‘If you wish to take the treasure, it’s all right, it’s our pleasure; only that our treasure is not yours to measure.’ Then Du Fu spoke, ‘To take our fortune away, danger will sway; desires for fame and immortality, next came destruction and self-pity.’ There was no mistake that hundreds of people before him pursuing the same quest eventually lost their lives in doing so, and now Bai Fan considered himself been thoroughly warned. But Bai Fan was not afraid. He would conquer the pursuit, no matter what.

The Great Yellow Mountains certainly lived up to its name. Bai Fan had to pass an array of carefully designed tests by the strong and the smart – a series of complicated checkers games, a test of physical strength, and finally, a duel with the Super Intelligent Cyclops. The Cyclops was the most fearful and merciless to their underdogs. A lot of the challengers had trained themselves to pass the first two tests, but there was no guarantee how to defeat the Cyclops.

In spite of the wonderfully enchanting music, mouth-watering food, and loads of amusing riddles Li Bai and Du Fu presented to Bai Fan during the checkers games, Bai Fan knew how to stay focus. He managed to win the game, though only by a hair.

Then, he was asked to roll a gigantic boulder up to the top of the Great Yellow Mountains, which would definitely rolled down the slope again and again like the punishment of a king faced from a god in a far-away kingdom. Instead of rolling it up which he knew would be a futile job, he used all his might to lift it and carry it on his shoulder. It was much harder to bear the weight and to stagger forward but he knew it was the only way to get to the top without having it slipping back. He gave more effort than anyone else and succeeded after labouring himself for two whole days!

It was time to face the Cyclops, which proved to be the scariest task of all as the Cyclops had hypnotising and brainwashing powers. The battle raged on for three days and three nights. The cunning Cyclops were trying to lure him into submitting himself to worshipping them so as to get all the riches buried in the underground vault, but the predecessors who had bowed their knees ended up getting a wisp of smoke when they set their hands on the glittery gems. Bai Fan was undeterred and remained true to himself. Finally, at six in the morning on the fourth day, the Cyclops were too tired to exert further. The gods of Justice and Fairness who were overlooking the whole voyage were utterly impressed by Bai Fan’s scholastic and undaunting virtues and took away all the Cyclops’ powers. Bai

Fan was declared an accomplisher! At that instant, Bai Fan had an enlightenment. He realized that if he set his goal, faced his fear unswervingly, he could overcome it and had peace of mind – a feeling he had never had before.

Bai Fan had not disclosed to anyone publicly about the treasure he got from the mystical Great Yellow Mountains, but something obviously had changed his appearance. He always had a glow around himself wherever he went. He later served his country and rose to his fame as the General Fan of all time.

People are wondering what secrets and what treasure General Fan got. We could only ponder, a life lesson maybe. Set a goal, find a reason to fight for, embrace our fear, live and grow as a person. Some people strive for wisdom, some for power, some for riches, and others an enlightenment. Just stay true to yourself and find your own glow.

The Magical Mountain

Heep Yunn Primary School, Ho, Elise – 11

Once upon a time, there was a mountain which lived a dozen people, including Li Bai and Du Fu. It wasn't any ordinary mountain, this mountain was full of magic and beauty. Although it was full of magic and beauty, no one outside the mountain knew about it. It was very peaceful, day and night. Until one day, something horrible happened...

One day, a cruel man called Wally Darkoak, a man who loves money more than anything else found out about the magical mountain. He told his friends excitedly, 'Hey fellas! I found something about a magical mountain!' All his friends burst out laughing, 'There is no such thing as magic except in your dream!' 'I am going to read more about it and make an army.' said Wally. 'Soon that place will be mine! Hahaha!' Still laughing, Wally's friends said, 'Whatever.' When Wally was searching in the library, he found it. 'All about magical mountains' 'Perfect!' he muttered under his breath. He silently read, 'There is only one magical mountain this universe.' He read more, 'The mountain contains very powerful magic that no one can dream of, even the most powerful man in the world can't get in.' The next day, he kidnapped hundreds of people and force them to join him. But if they did not agree, he would torture them until they agreed to help.

Two months later, Wally and his army were trained and ready. The army came near the mountains a few days later. Although the mountain entrance is hidden, Wally knew where to find it because he has read about it. But when they finally found the mountain entrance, they couldn't get in. The mountain has a protection that would knock out or kill anyone who tries to get near it. The protection killed everyone except Wally Darkoak. He did not want to end up like his followers so he had an idea. He decided to use his mini helicopter to get inside. The people inside were terrified, someone asked trembly, 'How did he get pass the protection?' 'Don't worry, we can handle this guy easily.' said Li Bai and Du Fu bravely. Together, they use their power to blast him out to space. Everyone clapped and cheered for them 'Hooray!' when Wally Darkoak dropped back to Earth, he landed in a crocodile's mouth. 'Snap!' the crocodile ate him in one bite. After that, everyone went back to their normal lives.

Tales from China's Magical Mountains

Heep Yunn Primary School, Lau, Sophie – 10

Once upon a time there was a greedy man called Li Bai. He went to the Yellow Mountain during his vacation. He wished to see the amazing view of the mountain and also wanted to find the legendary treasure which was hidden on the top of the mountain. He has already received a treasure map from his friend. He was ready for everything and started climbing the Yellow Mountain.

Two days later, he eventually arrived at the top of the mountain. He was very exhausted and tired. When he saw that there wasn't anything on the mountain, he felt disappointed. Suddenly, the mist which covered the mountain floated away and the breathtaking view was finally revealed. It was too beautiful that Li Bai couldn't believe what he saw at this moment.

The next day, he began to follow the treasure map and searched for the treasure. After a while, he found a cross on the ground which meant the treasure point. He stepped on it and a big hole suddenly opened. There was extremely hot lava in the hole and a treasure box full of gold and jewelleries on the path around the hole. Li Bai couldn't wait to get the treasure so he ran towards the treasure by the path. When he was trying to carry the treasure away, it was too heavy and made him lose balance. He fell down into the lava with the treasure.

This story brought us a message that we shouldn't be greedy or you will lose your life and get nothing at last. We must think carefully before doing anything.

Adventure Off the Beaten Path

Heep Yunn Primary School, Li, Charmaine – 11

Oh, this is really impossible! I received an email from the editor of Time magazine, inviting my friends and I for an interview about our unbelievable experience at Huangshan and sharing our adventure with the readers!

Huangshan is one of the most beautiful and mystical mountains in China. It is said that lots of strange things happened there. However, they are just legends to me until I had a mysterious encounter there last year.....

Last summer holiday, I went on an adventure to Huangshan with my friends, Andrea and Iris. We joined a tour group with fifteen people.

In the sun-soaked morning, we followed our tour guide and walked up the steep and misty mountain. We enjoyed the marvellous landscape and wonderful birds singing on the way. We were attracted by the brand new species of plants that we had never seen before. We were fascinated until we realized that we were separated from the tour guide and the other tour members! We were nervous and we tried to walk faster to catch up with others.

After walking for a long time, I was tired and dizzy with sweat dripping from my hair and wetted my clothes. While we were exhausted and stopped for a rest, we heard a loud and sharp cry. The yelling sound from a boy broke the silence, 'Help.....' The cry echoed through the mountains and valleys. It made me really scared. Yet we were curious and eager to help. Therefore we decided to change the direction and walk closer towards the source of the sound carefully.

As we moved on hand-in-hand, we saw a pair of small footprints and some potato chips on the ground. After a few metres, the small footprints were replaced by giant footprints which were as big as that of a beast. They were leading to a gloomy path. We were all astonished!

We followed these clues and quickly walked along the path. After a few minutes, we reached the end of the path and faintly saw a cottage hiding behind the crowded leaves of the tall trees. We exchanged a glance and gestured at each other to be quiet. Then we approached the cottage step-by-step.

Suddenly, we heard a deep and loud growl from the cottage. We were shocked that we jumped up and stepped back swiftly.

Eventually, we calmed down a bit. We hesitated whether we should proceed or run away. I was so worried about the boy who screamed. The growling and yelling sound stopped. Has he escaped from the beast? Or was he swallowed by the beast? We really wanted to help him! Therefore, we decided to enter the cottage.

Andrea pushed the door open courageously. The scene made us shocked— an enormous gorilla was grabbing a boy's neck and was about to eat him up!

At that juncture, I ran towards the boy and attempted to seize him from the gorilla. In a flash, the gorilla punched at my back. I thought that I was going to be seriously injured. Surprisingly, I was not hurt. I took a quick glance at the gorilla's paws. Oh.....both of its paws were stuck in plastic bottles. Before I asked my friends to stop and take a look of it, Iris and Andrea grabbed the barbecue forks on the floor of the cottage and poked them towards the gorilla. It was injured and we tied it up.

All of a sudden, the gorilla shouted angrily, 'Leave me alone!' We were all astonished. How could a gorilla talk in the language of humans!

'Wh...Why can you...talk?' Iris exclaimed, asking the question for us.

'I can speak the language of humans because I'm a mutant gorilla.' The gorilla explained. 'Mutation occurred in our ancestors because your ancestors polluted the water and air here.'

We understood in an instant. 'Are you living in this cottage with piles of rubbish? Why did you catch this poor little boy? Why are your paws stuck in plastic bottles?' Having realized that the gorilla was not so fierce, I fired my questions doubtfully.

'I have been living in Huangshan since birth. In recent ten years, more and more tourists have come to visit this mountain. Many of them were selfish. They spoil the environment and left rubbish here. Once, an ungrateful guy even pee under the tree. How horrible! It became so smelly that I moved to this cottage and ate the owner who lived here before. The rubbish here is all collected from the surrounding. You see, the plastic bottles, the plastic bags, the

barbecue forks..... were all left in the mountain by the tourists. I want to clear up the rubbish from the forest so that I can go back to live again. However, I can never finish collecting it!’

The gorilla turned to the boy and stared at him angrily. ‘I saw this boy throwing the plastic bag of chips onto the ground. I was furious! If you are not here, he has already become my lunch. He deserves this punishment!’

Finally I realized that the gorilla and the other animals were victims of pollution! We felt sorry for the gorilla. We released the gorilla and gave all the food in our backpacks to it. It ran away immediately with the food in its hands.

The little boy grinned at us, ‘Thank you very much! I would have been eaten by the gorilla without you! I went on a trip with my family. I was eating my potato chips and watching the flowers while I wanted to pee! After I pee behind a big tree, I couldn’t find my parents. I was very scared! As I was looking for the way to go back, the gorilla swooped towards me and pulled me to this cottage. I was really at a loss what to do!’

‘It’s our pleasure to help you! Please don’t throw rubbish onto the ground anymore.’ I replied with a deep smile.

After we joined our tour guide and the other tour members, we shared our experience with them. The story about the mutant gorilla quickly went viral through the internet and social media. The editor of Time magazine was also interested in our experience and asked us for an interview.

This trip was very meaningful to us. We had an enjoyable time of sightseeing. We also had an impressive lesson from this adventure — Protecting our environment is the responsibility of everybody. If we ignore it, the beautiful landscape, the precious species of plants and animals will gradually disappear!

We are looking forward to sharing this important message in the cover story of Time magazine!

My Visit to the Mysterious Huangshan

Heep Yunn Primary School, Li, Efa – 10

Mountains around the world are timeless. Among the many hills in the world, Huangshan is the most mysterious. Huangshan, which is called the “Yellow Mountains” by the Western, was formed one hundred million years ago. A legend says Huangshan is where the Yellow Emperor ascended to heaven. A legend also says Huangshan is where the Yellow Emperor refined pills of immortality. Be prepared as I am going to lead you to where all the secrets of Huangshan are buried.

Before my visit to the mysterious Huangshan, I was merely a plain human being. My whole life has changed because of that holly hill. I was thirty years old, I loved hiking and challenging myself to step out of the comfort zone. Therefore, I picked the most majestic mountain—— Huangshan as the venue where I started my adventure. Before I arrived at Anhui province, which is where the mountain is located, people around me kept saying that the journey of climbing up the mountain is very difficult. I did not take their advice in mind. “I am very experienced! I believe that it is only a piece of cake!” I thought at first. My idea completely changed when I saw a gigantic mountain loomed in far distance before my eyes. ‘By Jove! It is larger than I thought!’ I presumed Huangshan was only a mountain, turned out it consists of countless sky piercing hills.

The view was breathtaking but the journey was tremendously hard. “I’m worn out”, I cried loudly. After a while, there was finally a place where I can take a rest. I spotted some pink peach blossom trees and it seemed like a decent place to rest for a bit. I sat under the tree. After my rest, I continued my journey and arrived at the peak of Lianhua Feng, known as the Lotus Peak. It is the tallest peak in Huangshan. I accidentally slipped and fell into Taiping Lake. I was fainted. When I woke up, I heard someone speaking in distance. I was really surprised, there was a man wearing a bath robe, holding a wine cup, uttering some Chinese poetry “You ask O why I’ve chosen to live in the mountain green. I smiled without replying, my heart sedate, serene. Peach flowers on rivulets gambol, then ramble out of sight. Heaven and earth with a difference not of the world we had been.” “I recognized that poetry, the name is “Why in the mountains” composed by a famous Chinese poet— Li Bai. Why is this man wearing a bath robe? Is he okay?” I thought. I wanted to leave at once because I don’t want to deal with a lunatic, especially in the secret mountain. I briefly scanned that man’s face before I departed. I felt an electric shock landing on my head when I saw his face properly. “How in the world?” I know that man, his portrait is printed in every single textbook of primary and secondary students. He is Li Bai! ‘Isn’t he dead? Or am I dead?’ I was so shocked that I could barely blink my eyes, my legs were heavy like metal so that I could not move. After a few seconds, I regained my consciousness and I planned to flee the place. “Oh hello, young lady. Are you okay? You have fainted for a few days,” he suddenly turned his head and said. When I heard his voice, the hair behind my neck stood up instantly. ‘Oh! Why are you so scared? I am Li Bai! “Aren’t you dead? Or am I back to Tang Dynasty?” I asked. There was a smirk on Li Bai’s face, he said “So you don’t know the secret of Huangshan?”

Then, Li Bai took me to Guang Ming Ding, known as the Bright Peak. I met the Yellow Emperor there. He was refining Pills of immortality. It was really the Yellow Emperor in the legend! He told me that there was once a monster that attacked his country. One day, there was a fairy. She gave the Yellow Emperor a dragon. The dragon helped the Yellow Emperor. Finally, they managed to beat the monster and their country became peaceful. The fairy then praised him by letting him become a Shen Xian, which is a demigod. He learnt that one good deed deserves another. He also told me that my flesh was dead and my soul had ascended to the great heaven. In order to stay alive, I had to take the pill of immortality daily. There was no way that I could go back to the normal world! Li bai suggested to exchange our identities as he wanted to create more beautiful poetries in the 21st century. I had no choice but to stay in the great mountain. One full moon night, I raised my head to look at the moon and felt homesick. Then I wrote a poetry called “Quiet Night Thought”. It is the sadness of being separated from my friends, family and hometown. My life without phone, email and internet is boring. I miss my family and friends and my favorite tiramisu. Can I go back to 2020?

Tales from China's Magical Mountains

Heep Yunn Primary School, Yeung, Hazel – 10

Long before humans have ever existed, dragons have already roamed on earth. But everything changed when humans arrived. The kind hearted dragons took pity on the helpless little creatures so they taught humans how to create fire, build houses, communicate, hunt prey and fight. But little did they know, that was the mistake that cost them their untroubled lives.

As Humans began to hold power and leadership, they grew ambitious, they wanted to be the one and only specie to live on earth and create a new powerful empire. They dislike the dragons and plotted for a war to overthrow the dragons. Fortunately, a dragon overheard them and told the other dragons. The dragons were devastated to acknowledge that the creatures that they have taught and raised themselves have betrayed them. The dragons knew that if a war really broke out, human would drop like flies. Therefore, they used their magic and created a huge mountain as a barrier between the world of dragons and humans and that is the legendary misty mountains.

Just as the dragons thought their troubles were over, humans began to expand their territory, they built day and night, although the dragons were irritated by the noise they decided they didn't want to interfere with any human activities as long as they stayed on their side of the border. Within a century, thousands of houses have already been built across the mountain and into the dragon's territory. With this the dragons lost their cool. They swept through the mountain like a tornado and destroyed every single house in sight. Within a day, the village was in complete ruins. The anger they held in their stomach can no longer be kept under control. However, they decided to hide in caves and great mountains to protect the humans from themselves, hoping that one day they would come to truce.

The humans took it the wrong way from their perspective, all these years they just thought of keeping the dragons away and shielding themselves. Their soul never acknowledged the cruelty they hold. You might wonder, where are the dragons? Did they come to truce? The answer is no. The leaders of all kinds made it seem like dragons are the greatest villain of all, their pearl green eyes look poison but deep in holds the love they had. Of course, humans never took a break from attacking them and planning on revenge, humans never had forgiveness in mind. Millions of generations passed, wise or weak, they did not seek the path to the true story of the dragons from the Misty Mountains.

Tales from China's Magical Mountains

Heep Yunn Primary School, Yeung, Peony – 10

Up in the foggy sky in eastern China, faded into the clouds are the sharp peaks of Huangshan. The pine trees on the mountain, their bark chipping off on the grassy earth. There are humans there, yes, but little do they know, that there are creatures of the unknown living among the mountains.

Many think that magical creatures are fake, just a mere storytale, but there are beautiful creatures with silver fur and golden horns that are drifting around the misty peaks of Huangshan.

There are thousands, millions of these creatures in the peaks, but there is one that has the power to rise above them all—the silver ermine.

Hearing that a tiny critter is the ruler of the creatures in Huangshan must be strange, amusing, but this ermine is magical. He has antlers like a deer, but made out of bronze. He has claws as sharp as knives, able to cut wood as if it were butter. He has snow white fur, contrasting his gleaming black eyes. Lastly, he has the sharpest senses, he can hear just about anything. With these abilities, the ermine was able to defeat all his challengers and enemies. The creatures called him Captain and bowed to him as he roamed around the mountains.

Unlike other rulers, this ermine does not have a beautiful palace, but a huge cave on the highest peak of Huangshan, cleverly hidden with moss and leaves. Every day, the ermine would stand on the peak, and gaze at all the cheerful creatures living in the villages, the giant copper-scaled dragon flying with his fellow dragons, the pine spirits dancing with each other and all the humans visiting Huangshan, unaware of this civilization living right in front of their eyes.

Humans cannot see these creatures, for humans tend to think that they are the smartest on Earth, and will not likely accept some creatures that are powerful and immortal. The ermine has thought of that carefully and has not allowed the creatures of Huangshan to human civilization, in case of any accidents.

Rumor has it that the ermine was going to let the creatures down to human civilization, and allow humans to see them. The creatures are very excited, but who knows what will happen next?

The Four Beasts of Huangshan

HKUGA Primary School, Chan, Enoch – 11

Once upon a time, in a remote and mysterious village in Huangshan, there were four poor but ambitious children who liked exploring. The village was surrounded by sparkling waterfalls, and a sea of clouds as fluffy as marshmallows.

One day, when they were exploring they saw a cave and decided to explore it. However, Drake saw something rather peculiar after reaching the deepest part of the cave.

“Look! I see some strange stones, glimmering faintly!” he said, his voice echoing throughout the cave.

“If it is gold, we can sell them and make money.” exclaimed Blanca, excitement evident in her voice.

There were four stones—one golden, one red, one white, and one green. Drake took the golden one, Blanca palmed the white one, Blaze grabbed the red one, and Alexa collected the green one. But after they touched the stones, suddenly four legendary creatures appeared! There was a golden dragon, a flaming phoenix, a white tiger, and an emerald tortoise. The children were shocked and petrified so they ran back to the village as quick as lightning. Then, they asked the monks about the stones.

The monks stammered, “It ... can’t... be...”

“According to the scrolls, these are the stones that awaken the four beasts of Huangshan. They are the ones that will save the village when thugs try to harm us!” the monks said, their voices quivering.

The children were curious, so they went to the cave of Huangshan and held the pebbles. Immediately, rays of light shot out in a million directions and the four beasts appeared.

“Can you show us what you can do?” Blaze asked.”

“We helped your village to defend ruthless thugs.” the dragon boomed.

The other beasts nodded in reply.

From that day, the children visited the beasts every day and figured that they had secret powers. The dragon could shoot golden bolts out of its jaws, the phoenix could make a massive fireball, the tiger could leap across a football field without touching the ground, and the tortoise’s shell was hard as steel.

One day, when the children were playing in the mountains, they heard shouting in the village. They decided to swing by and see what was happening.

When they arrived, they couldn’t believe their eyes! There was a man who was dressed in clad black from head to toe, accompanied by a gigantic snake with menacing spikes, and his henchmen were robbing the village!

“I am Durai and I will be the conqueror of the world! I will take all your valuable objects, so you guys better cooperate, or you will meet your doom at Toxic’s jaws!” the man finished with an evil grin expanding from ear to ear.

With that, Toxic unleashed a river of poison at a house, and because of that, the house melted in a blink of an eye and vanished from sight! After witnessing the threat, the children were furious! They instantly called the four beasts to defend the snake and the thugs, but as they had no teamwork and the snake was so powerful, the defense was futile.

Meanwhile, Durai was over the moon, laughing, loudly. “Ha!” he said, “even the mighty beasts of Huangshan are in no place to stop me!”

After being knocked away by the powerful snake, Drake regrouped his team and said, “I think that the major problem is that we ain’t working as a team. Toxic might be strong, but it is no match for us if we strike at the same time. If we have teamwork, we will prevail!”

They all agreed and started to defend the village together. They emerged silently back into the battle, all on the ready. Firstly, the white tiger pounced and knocked Toxic flat, in return, the monstrous snake opened its massive jaws and tried to bite the tiger, but the flaming phoenix punctured a fireball into the snake’s mouth. Being wounded, it hissed and tried to escape the white tiger’s clutch, but without success. Afterwards, the emerald tortoise rammed Toxic with its steely shell. The wicked beast was hit so hard, it saw stars. Now, the golden dragon rose up into the sky. The snake shot a lot of poison, all targeted at the dragon, attempting to harm it. Yet, the golden dragon dodged the poison, focused all its energy, and shot a powerful golden bolt at the snake.

The bolt nailed Toxic in the eye! It squirmed and took its last breath of air. A second later, the monstrous snake was dead, slumped on the ground.

After the death of Toxic, Durai became powerless and was chained and locked up in the dungeon. The children were rewarded and became no longer poor. The people in the village became more united and they lived happily ever after.

The Siren Songs of Chained Gods

HKUGA Primary School, Ho, Zoe – 11

You are a traveler coming to visit the Huangshan Mountains, known for their natural beauty.
You wander a little too far into the mountains, and get lost.
The sun is setting. It will be nightfall soon.
You need to get out of here.
There is a book in front of you, its words written on yellowed paper and bound with leather.
Something tells you to pick it up. You do.

The Mountains of the Yellow Emperor. Huangshan.

These mountains have many names. Old as time itself, they have stood the test of wind and rain, tsunamis and earthquakes.

They have stood the test of time.

The terrain of the mountains itself is otherworldly in its beauty ---- and no, I don't just mean otherworldly as a metaphor, a figure of speech.

The mountains are magical. Huangshan mountain is a sacred place, one infused with enchantment and blessed with divine power.

"Is this a joke?" you wonder. Perhaps this is a prank someone put here.
Something in your heart tells you it isn't. That what the book tells you is true.

The mountains around you seem to whisper.

"Keep reading."

The winds that blow around the landscape urge you to keep flipping through the book.
You adhere to the whispers.

Your instincts, too, tell you to keep reading. Something tells you that this book is important, that the knowledge within it is something crucial you'll need.

The yellowish papers are thin. You brush your fingers against the cracked parchment gently, careful not to tear it, and turn to the next page.

There is a reason it is the namesake of a god.

You can feel it, the magic, should you ever pay a visit to these mountains.

You can see it in the way jagged cliffs rise over misty clouds, covered in leaves and moss of jade green. Maybe they'll seem normal at first glance, but take a moment more to observe them and you'll see nuances too detailed and edges too sharp to be natural. Take a longer look and you'll see the forms of gods and goddesses, bound to the earth by ancient magic so strong that even divine magic cannot break it.

"Free me."

They will whisper.

"Set me free, and I shall give you power. Break these chains that bind me to the mortal realm, and I shall grant thou unlimited strength."

*They will whisper siren songs in your ear, sing alluring promises of wealth and fame.
I'd advise you to ignore them. They were chained there for a reason, after all.*

But before you can even register the words, a loud sound comes from behind you.

Danger, a voice screams. *Run*.

You don't question it.

Breaking out into a sprint, you run down the stone stairs winding down the mountain, the book clutched in your hands tightly. You run until it feels like fire is spreading down your lungs and your legs buckle from underneath you.

Catching your breath, you lean over the edge of the railing, the night air blowing over you. You realize how dark it is ----- the only light come from the stars above you and you could only barely make out the silhouettes of the mountains beyond.

"Crap."

You mumble under your breath. Now you're stuck on a mountain, in the middle of the night unable to see anything, all because you read a book and got mind-controlled by it.

"Great day I'm having."

Sighing, you run a hand through your hair. You have to focus on a way out of here, but a little bit of rest couldn't hurt, right?

Resting your elbows on the railing, you look upwards to admire the stars. The mist of the clouds below float in a haze, further adding to the ethereal landscape you are in.

It really is a gorgeous night, if you have been in any kind of situation to admire it. You really should get going now. Taking your hands off the stone railing, you begin walking when you hear a voice.

Is it a voice? It's like there are multiple voices stacked on top of each other, echoing in a cacophony of sound. You can't hear a source from the sound, like it's coming from all around you, surrounding you in a chorus of sounds.

"Halt, traveler."

The voice booms.

You shake your head.
You must be going mad.

Continuing to tread down the stairs, you're stopped in your tracks once again.

"Halt."

You remember what the book said about gods.

Slowly turning around, you direct your gaze to the dark shapes of mountains looming beyond the horizon. Maybe it's your imagination, maybe it's the inky blackness of the night, but you swear you can see the peaks shifting around, almost like they're alive.

"We have been bound here by an ancient curse, inflicted upon us by a greed-filled mortal who craved power for himself. Free us, traveler. Free us, and you shall be rewarded with all the divine power."

The words the voices say are like siren songs, spinning a silky-smooth web of lies and false, alluring promises of power. It draws you in. Words are on the tip of your tongue, staining your lips and threatening to spill. Yes, you want to say. You want to agree. You are hungry for the power that these deities promise you.

But then you remember what the book says.

I'd advise you to ignore them. They were chained there for a reason, after all.

A shiver runs down your spine, like a drop of icy water is trailing down it.

"No."

You say, words reverberating in the endless void of silence.

"I won't help you."

"You dare defy our words?"

A boom of thunder strikes in the distance, disrupting the stillness of the night.

A jerk of fear strikes in your heart.

"You will learn your lesson."

The last thing you hear before your world goes dark and your heart stops beating is the roar of lightning.

The Whispering Mountains

International College Hong Kong Kindergarten and Primary, Baker, Hadley – 8

A long long time ago, the earth was created. It was huge, but still, it could not scare away a giant planet that was coming straight towards it. So, the planet crashed into it and left...The Nameless Mountains. These mountains were special, for they were formed from the lovely and beautiful Earth and the mysteries of the planet so brave and strong. So they were able to think and talk, but not to move. And then, the Nameless Mountains started looking for a name. They searched long, and they searched far. They were really, really, really impatient to get a name. They were always asking each other if any of them had an idea for a name. They asked the Tibetan Mountains and the Great Mountains and finally the Lower Mountain Range, and asked again. And again. And again. And this went on for years and years, so it will take pages and pages of And again stuff to tell you the whole thing. I will skip ahead of that part and tell you another interesting bit.

Once, the Lower Mountain Range heard the word Himalayas, meaning 'Above The Snow' from a bird chirping, and that bird heard it from a person describing the mountains and the Lower Mountain Range found it a good name for them, for they were so tall and above the snow on the ground below them. He whispered it to the Great Mountains, and she whispered it to the Tibetan Mountains. They whispered it back and forth and back and forth and back and forth, trying to see if they would like it to be their name or not, and just kept whispering it. They whispered it so much that it would take even more pages than it would with the 'And Again' stuff.

The people down below heard them whispering, for they were so big that their whispers were loud. So loud that their voices boomed and the ground shook when they whispered. The people down below liked that name for them and called them Himalayas to this very day.

How about the Himalayas? Well they didn't hear the people, for they were so big that the people were too far down below them. So, they still continue whispering 'Himalayas' to this very day, not knowing that far down below them, their name has already been chosen, and is known all over the world, Himalayas.

Rich, Yellow Mountains

International College Hong Kong Kindergarten and Primary, Cheng, Scarlett – 8

“Mr. Combra, what can we do to make our light-blue, big, cold planet very rich with shiny, golden, yellow coins? Tell me now or else!!!” shouted the big, furious alien boss impatiently to his one hundred percent scared and frightened but kind scientist.

“Wwwwell, the only thing is to steal the beautiful, yellow mountain that Emperor Richard made one year ago with all of his cool magic. Now he is 66 and a quarter. If we smash the yellow, wonderful mountain up and put in this special, alien liquid called Slimy that's very sticky on the shattered mountain, then it'll become shiny, glittery and wonderful coins!” answered Mr. Combra proudly. “Mwa ha ha ha!” cheered the big and fat alien boss.

The fat and strong servants started to build a super, fast flying saucer so that they could go to Earth.

It had 8 big juice refillers, 80 toilets, 5,000 seats and 4,999 windows (since the back seat belonged to a super old alien who really hated sunlight). It was the day when the aliens started to fly in their new super saucer..... zoom!!! They didn't know where Earth was.

So Mr. Combra told the amazing alien pilot with a loud microphone that it was a planet that is blue and green in colour because the sea (known as sog in alien language) was taking over the Earth.

They zoomed to Earth with their superb flying saucer but unfortunately all of Earth's strong and brave armies were on the mindful, yellow mountain fighting in World War III!

“YAAHHHHH!” yelled all of the world's angriest armies at the top of their lungs. “Who shall I help, whooo?” exclaimed Mr. Combra. “Shut up!!!!!!!!!!” shouted back the big, mad alien boss.

But the big alien boss did get a bit interested in fighting in the long battle. So the aliens tried to join in but the human beings got scared and ran away screaming their heads off.

“I thought this was going to be fun,” moaned a silly, old alien “boo hoo hoo!” “ENOUGH!” screamed the big alien boss in annoyance, “Let's steal the yellow mountain now!”

Suddenly, the alien boss nearly got hypnotized by the fresh smell of the swirling green mountain grass, the sound of the wind blowing calmly, and the view of the tall mountain. Even the feeling of getting blown softly and calmly by the wind on the very top of the yellow mountain was like he was being put under a spell.

Mr. Combra did also feel soothed but he did put his stinky feet on the soil and licked it gently. It tasted soo yucky that he vomited glittery and rainbow alien puke right on the top of the mindful yellow mountain. It just made all of the other aliens vomit too except for the big, fat, dreamy alien boss. Because he was ninety-nine percent hypnotized by the yellow mountain before someone madly interrupted him by shouting loudly...

“YAAHHH!!!” roared a rough voice. “Not soo fast you alien head!!!!!!” it bellowed again violently. Suddenly the big, giant alien boss saw the mysterious stranger who was very rudely staring at him. “Not soo fast for you too Mr. Boy Wearing A Yellow Dress!” cried the big and fat alien boss. He looked closer and realised it was the very powerful and nice emperor named Richard.

They stared at each other for a while. The alien boss was making sure that his massive eyes weren't playing tricks on him. “Do you mean the opposite of what you said???” asked the emperor very madly, expecting the alien boss to say yes and apologise kindly.

“Sorry sorry sorrrrr.....I beg you to not lock me up and never let me eat again and even unmmm nothing.....” begged the alien boss nervously. “Well well well, I don't understand the silly sentence that you just said but don't worry about what you just said. That is because I don't really care about small, little misunderstandings like thinking

I'll never whatever you said Mr. Alien Fat Head," whispered the super duper annoyed yellow costumed emperor. "I am a kind and peaceful emperor and I don't like to fight with funny looking strangers like you Mr. Ugly. You don't understand how kind I am so I'll give you the yellow mountain's golden, precious and sparkly seed. Keep it very safe and even water it everyday with sparkling and fresh orange juice. After thirty sunny and hot days it'll grow and then you are welcome Mr. Tell Me Your Stupid Name!"

The generous, kind emperor placed the precious, golden seed on the bossy, ugly alien's big, fat hand softly. "Thank you soo much Rich—ard my name is ummm.....sorry but I forgot," joked the big, funny and fat alien boss while all of the glad aliens waved goodbye for a minute and a half.

Even the big and fat boss waved goodbye before quickly zooming back to their cool and comfortable planet with their super saucer. The alien farmers grew the beautiful, charming and tall mountain.

There was even snow on the very top of the giant, light—yellow mountain. They accidently used unfresh, red, stinky vinegar juice.

But it was still as charming as it was before but a little bit stinky. That was okay because they washed it with clear water.

And it turns out the silly and rich emperor named Richard was joking when he said they needed sparkling and fresh orange juice. When the Yellow Mountain had finally grown to a massive size, they smashed it really hard with a giant and heavy racket. It became as small as sand and even they put some gooey, purple liquid in it called Slimy so that it became shiny and yellow coins .

They became rich and they had fun together (with many light—yellow, small and shiny coins). They used the coins for yummy and delicious food and showing—off by wearing cool clothes since they loved boasting and gloating.

The Crystals of Huangshan

International College Hong Kong Kindergarten and Primary, Cheung, Agatha – 10

There was a tale first told in the beginnings of Huangshan Village, a village in Anhui, the tale was set in the village, where a young explorer was going to go caving in the mountains. Upon his journey, he stumbled upon a cave of multi-coloured crystals. They were said to give the adventurer who touched them magical abilities according to colour. In the tale, the young adventurer gained invisibility, flight, fire to their touch, but during his fun he awoke a monster, and he was found dead in a river a thousand feet from the cave. The tale was called 'The Lost Caves of Huangshan'.

The tale changed over time, what powers he gained; what the monster was. Some people say it was a mutant tiger, some say it had gleaming red eyes with razor sharp claws, others say it was a simple gang of rabid dogs who tore him apart. But, the story that Yue Cheung heard was that he died to a dragon.

One day when Yue was coming home from school she heard news about the mountain she lived by. They said that it started shaking, normally that would mean an earthquake was coming, but the other conditions of an earthquake were low. Yue knew what everyone was thinking. The monster had awoken.

When Yue finally went home, she went up to her room where she found her pet fox, Huli, who was chewing on her telescope. Huli then ran into the closed door, BAM! Yue then realised something from that dumb scenario, she wanted to find the Lost caves of Huangshan. Why? You may have asked. Well it was because she thought that if she had found them she could fly and explore the world as she had never gone out of the boundaries of the mountain and her village.

She made a plan, on the night of September 3rd, she and Huli would venture out into the caves. She had already packed a bag for the night, inside was 3 bottles of water, some food, a rope, a blanket, a lighter, a flashlight and a pocket knife.

The days seemed to go by quickly and soon it was September 3rd. The whole day she was quiet because she was thinking about her plans of what would happen. Night came quick, she was prepared even though she was terrified of what would happen soon, in the caves.

It was time. Yue had waited for her parents to fall asleep, then she got her bag and got Huli and snuck out. It was really dark but she was a kid and would definitely be seen, luckily no one was there. She tiptoed into the trees, towards the mountains. She scaled up the wall as she had done in gym class, she climbed until she reached a hole in the wall and she pulled herself up and crawled in. She pulled Huli out of her backpack and put her on her lead, she also pulled out a flashlight and they walked and walked and walked. They walked until they reached a corner and she decided to sleep.

The next day she woke up early. Sleep was hard because she slept on rocks. Huli was already awake so she poured her some water and they ate breakfast. After they ate they sat up and again, started walking, walking, walking, walking...

They reached another corner. They were definitely on to something, normal caves didn't have corners. They drank some water and again, walking, walking, walking. They reached a door lit up by torches, now she was sure they found something. Yue silently opened the door and cautiously walked in...

"RARRAUAAAR!!!!!!" Something was with them in the cave. Yue grabbed Huli and bolted towards the door and quickly shut it. Her heart was pounding, they needed protection from the dragon. It surely was guarding the crystals. She needed a plan.

She thought and thought and thought, and finally thought of a plan, it was a dumb one but a plan. She found a cardboard box while thinking earlier, put it on top of her head and pushed open the door, the monster saw her at once, and she saw him too. The monster was huge and had purple scales, red claws, and long tongues that could smash a car. She threw some food on the ground and there was a sharp pain on her shoulder but she kept on running.

Relief, that was the first time she felt actual relief for the first time in her life but the journey wasn't over yet she stood up, OW! Her shoulder was in pain. She turned to treat it, but then she saw the crystals. She forgot about the pain and rushed to gather them. She took one of each colour and row and popped them into her backpack. Huli barked, she turned towards the door and the monster was there. Without any thought or hesitation, Yue grabbed Huli and jumped out of the cave...

"Huh? What, What happened?" Yue woke up in a hospital, a doctor walked past. Yue saw Huli in another bed and fell back asleep.

Magical Remedy From Huang Shan

International College Hong Kong Kindergarten and Primary, Lee, Nicholas – 10

John was sitting on the couch, feeling anxious. His hands trembled as he held up the envelope that was addressed to his mother from Shatin Prince Of Wales Hospital. His heart pounded faster and faster. His hands fumbled with the envelope seal. He eventually opened the envelope and took out the thin, crisp paper. On the paper were a few neatly lined words, “Mrs. CK Lee, diagnosis: CKD–MBD, urgent kidney transplant advised, suitable donor: low possibility.” John could not hold the heartbreak any longer and he fell to the floor in a dishevelled heap as his sadness poured out in a flood of uncontrollable tears. He was once bright, bubbly, and ambitious. His smile would brighten up the room. Yet after this moment, he stopped. Smiles rarely happened, and when they did, they were forced.

The days of misery rolled by; each bringing a new wave of sadness. John was reading a book when he stumbled across a few words, “野生天山雪蓮” (Wild Snow Lotus Flower). He kept reading, and learnt that it allegedly could cure CKD–MBD and could be found somewhere in Huang Shan. He knew he had to go. As there were travel restrictions during Covid–19, it was easier to book a tour via a travel agent and so that was what John did. He booked a tour to Anhui province in Central China with the intention of slipping away halfway through without others knowing.

In line with the travel guidelines, John had Covid–19 testing before leaving HK and when they arrived at Anhui Hefei Airport, John tested negative again. However John still had to undergo quarantine prior to commencing the tour. Once the quarantine was lifted, John boarded the tour bus. The tour bus took them to the foot of Huang Shan. An adventure was afoot...

John looked around him, he could see red and golden yellow leaves scattered all over the ground. He looked up and gasped as he saw the humongous mountain with a sprinkling of white on the peaks like icing sugar atop a cake. As the tour bus laboriously climbed up the mountain towards the lodge, John saw glorious and gnarly trees peppered with leaves swishing in the gentle breeze that swirled around the mountain. The grass was so tall, they would reach up to his thighs. They swayed in the gentle breeze as if they were performing a welcome dance for them. He could hear birds chirping all around him. When the tour bus stopped at a lay by for a convenience break, John found the perfect chance to sneak away. He quietly slipped away from the others with a small backpack.

After several hours of hiking, he set up his tent and started munching on his unappetizing tinned foods. He repeated his daily routines; searching the mountain side for the Snow Lotus Flower by day before setting up his tent at nightfall before plunging into the monotony of his tinned foods. After several days, he started to ration his foods not knowing how much longer it would take to find the Snow Lotus Flower.

After a few days of starving because of food rationing, John met a villager who strolled curiously past his tent. The villager was wearing a shirt made out of animal hind and stunk. John pleaded to the villager for food and shelter. Surprisingly, the villager imparted kindness on John and brought him to Tauchan Ancient Village. The village had houses with 1–2 storeys covered with slate roofs. John could also see many types of animals, including the renowned Golden Monkey and bears. The villager also welcomed John with Smelly Mandarin Fish, Mao Bean Curd, Stone Cake, Baked Yellow Crab Cake, and Wucheng Dried Bean Curd. Although John found the food disgusting, he ate them anyway as he was so hungry.

John took advantage of the villagers’ hospitality day by day as he continued his search. One day, John had to tell the villagers what he was looking for as they were becoming suspicious of his intentions. To John’s dismay, the villagers contradicted him and told John he was wasting his time. Unperturbed, John was eager and secretly set off to the different peaks regardless. He travelled to Bright Peak and Lotus Peak but there was no sign of any Snow Lotus Flower. Whilst travelling, John also saw many ancient ruins.

After many days of searching, John came across Celestial Peak. At first he only saw grass and trees until he reached the peak. The peak seemed gigantic from the bottom of the mountain, but now they seemed small on top of a sea of clouds. At the edge of the cliff, he eventually saw some Snow Lotus Flowers. He tried to reach for the flowers, but slipped off while grabbing them. He fell on a branch below and started panicking. He did not know what to do. Suddenly, a long, green vine came down. John grabbed the vine in a curious manner and started to climb. As John

was climbing up the vine, he saw golden monkeys, peacocks and bears pulling the vine. They were all coordinated. It seemed like a magician had waved a magic wand and influenced those animals to come to John's rescue. The larger Golden Monkey was the leader and coordinated John's rescue. John realised that this must have been the magic of Huang Shan.

John eventually returned to HK. He then went to the family's herbal medicine doctor. The doctor concocted medicine with the Snow Lotus Flowers and other herbs mixed together. John brought the medicine back to his mother to drink. After some twenty doses, his mother felt significantly better. Her doctor at Shatin Prince Of Wales Hospital was also astonished with her sudden recovery. This must have been the magical remedy from Huang Shan.

The Magical Mountains of China

International College Hong Kong Kindergarten and Primary, Poon, Dara – 10

I snuck into my parent's bedroom and smiled at the sight of them snoring loudly. They sounded like elephants with nasty colds, and I held back a giggle.

Suddenly, I felt my legs weaken and I plummeted to the ground with a yelp. I felt my parents gasp and leap out of their warm and comfortable bed. My mom gently shook me, and my dad ran off to call the hospital. I probably had a bump on my head. I tried to keep my eyes open, but at that moment, it almost seemed impossible. I heard my mom yell out to my dad "Tell them it's an emergency!"

I didn't hear anything after that, then suddenly my eyes popped open. I attempted to push myself up, but I didn't have the energy to do so. I felt green, wet grass tickling me and I glanced around at my surroundings. I saw a button and I cautiously pressed it, wondering what it did. Instantly, The ground began to rumble, louder and louder as it bellowed " Who dares to awaken me? Come to life everyone!"

I looked around. There wasn't anyone but us here. Who was the mountain talking to? Then I heard the melodious sound of a piano. I listened to it intently. The music was breathtaking. Then I heard a monkey scream at the top of his lungs "I'm coming for you!"

I ducked as the monkey leapt towards me. Then, a roar was heard. It was a lion. He boomed " Whoever dared to awaken the glorious mountain will have to face me. Show yourself!"

I timidly stepped in front of him. He stared down at me, licking his lips. He muttered " Finally! A good juicy fat meal for me!"

There was a bark and the dog next to me growled " What are you doing here?"

I replied with a shaking voice " I really don't know. If you help me get back home, I'll never bother you again. Ever!"

The lion frowned and said menacingly " I would really prefer a meal..."

The ground hollered to the lion " Just do something. I do not like human beings littering all over me!"

He was about to say something else but I cut him off with a protest " But I don't litter! Okay, I might have tossed a tissue on the ground once and there was also that one time and that time too..."

Then, a rooster came along with a shocked expression on his face as he demanded " How dare you litter all over mother nature! You pest!"

I whispered nervously " Err... Well, how about we make a deal. You let me go, and I won't litter again."

The lion tapped his foot impatiently. He then roared " Just let me eat her. Besides, we don't want to take any chances."

The ground rumbled again, as he bellowed " Decide quickly, and get this human off me!"

The lion said " Oh well, I guess she's going in here!" He gestured to his stomach.

The dog frowned and barked out " How about she becomes my best friend. This mountain is really boring."

The rooster screeched out “ Are you serious?!? Obviously, She’s becoming my servant!”

I looked for an escape route as the animals argued back and forth. Then, I saw it. The sea! I snuck quietly away from the group of yelling animals and climbed carefully into the sea. But I felt myself being fished out of the cold icy water by a hard muddy hand. It was the ground. He smirked at me and said smugly “ How are you going to escape now?”

I wriggled but couldn’t pull myself free. He threw me into a cave which was apparently his ear and locked me up there. I looked around. There was nothing but a small leaf lying there. I grabbed the leaf and held it close to my ear. I was sure it was telling me something, but I didn’t know what. Then, I understood. It was humming a song! Quietly, I hummed along with it. I had never heard the song before, but somehow, I just knew how it went. After humming for a while, I felt myself lift up from the ground. I could not believe it! I was flying. I flew higher and higher and looked down. I saw my parents down below me. I waved and called, but they didn’t hear or see me.

I felt as light as a feather. How was this possible? What was going on? A warm and reassuring voice told me “ Don’t worry, you will be safe up here. You don’t belong down there, where the people who are alive live anymore. You belong up here, to watch your friends and family down below, continuing their lives.”

My eyes filled with tears. Surely this was a dream. I pinched myself, to make sure. It hurt. The voice whispered gently “ It’s okay, but, for now, you should go watch your funeral.”

So I slowly drifted to my funeral. No one saw me, as I flew above them. I sighed and returned. I didn’t like the sight of my family and friends crying. My great grandmother poofed in front of me and I screamed. She grinned at me and said” Oh dear, I didn’t mean to scare you like this! But you are way too young to die. I have the stone! The stone! To give you back life! But you will live in the Chinese mountains... Oh well!”

She tossed the stone at me. It hit me. I stumbled backwards and fell! Right back onto the mountain! I groaned, but this time, the lion, the dog and the rooster bowed before me and said in unison “ Hello there, my queen.” I had come back here... but as the ruler of the mountains instead!

The Fallen Prince

Island Christian Academy, Decamps, Lucie – 9

Once upon a time, there was a prince named Lao Wu Shan. He was from East China. He lived on a high mountain, known as the Huang Shan, in his parents' palace. Lao Wu Shan was in fact a lonely boy though he was a prince. Exactly, how was he lonely? Well, he was lonely because his favourite animals were kitsune, wolves and dragons but these animals were bad. Why? They were highly toxic and dangerous because of the war. But Lao Wu Shan did know that there was a war because he was only 6 years old and his parents would not tell him. The war started because the humans that lived on these mountains were cutting down trees for the wood. The kitsune, wolves and dragons took their crops and sometimes put their houses on fire. Sadly kitsune, wolves and dragons are endangered now.

One cold day, Lao Wu Shan was sitting next to a magical pound and looked at the wishing fish. In those days, fish would give you wishes. Lao Wu Shan explained to the fish: "I want friends that won't tease me. I have been praying and worshiping buddha. Please, I beg you, offer me a wish. O please, do, magical fish." His mother caught sight of him. His Mother Ursa said "O there you are, son. I have been looking for you everywhere. It is almost time to go to the monks. Are you okay?" Lao Wu Shan did not respond. Ursa was very caring for him. "Did I do something wrong? Should I help him. Mmm.", thought Ursa. Ursa looked at the clock. It was time to go to the monks. At the Monks temple, Lao Wu Shan told the monks that whenever he prayed and worshiped buddha, nothing happened. One of the oldest monks said to him: "You have to mean it. If they do not respond to you, you must go to the spiritual mountain and go to Crystal Fountain, then talk to the Crystal God and the garden of the Crystal Gem, Krista". But his father Osia said with anger "No! You will not go there. You understand!"

One snowy day, Lao Wu Shan went to school. A boy named Zuko said, teasing him, "Here comes the ugly mean prince! Bahahaha!" Lao Wu Shan stared angrily at him. A teacher scolded Zuko and he was banned from the school. Lao Wu Shan only had one friend, his crush, Neon. Neon was gifted with a power, water. Neon said "Hi prince! Aka Lao Wu Shan. How are you doing mate?" Lao Wu Shan had a big smile on his face. After school, he asked Neon: "Do you want to come with me to go away from our mean home to see the crystal god and...: will be my...girlfriend?" Neon was shocked with surprise. "YES! I want to be your girlfriend. Are you sure you want to run away?" Lao Wu Shan nodded. That night they ran away to the crystal fountain without being noticed.

When they arrived, they saw a big fountain. Next, there was a girl praying to a gem." Hi were--".

"Shhh she's praying", whispered Neon.

"You decide to come here, haven't you?" said a voice. Neon was shocked by the voice. "So, why are you here? I thought that it was forbidden to go here and who are you. You should be aware of the kitsune, wolves and dragons. Oh, and I'm Krista.?" said Krista. "I'm waiting!"

Neon stuttered "MUM! You are a-l-i-v-e, ALIVE! Why do you have to leave me with dad? You made me worried sick." Lao Wu Shan was completely confused. "She is my mother." explained Neon. "Lao Wu Shan heard footsteps coming towards them. "You can come out Edora, Katara and Max. It is safe. I know it is hard being alone all day without your parents." said Krista. The crystal fountain started to glow. A kitsune, wolf and a dragon appeared, and they were babies. "Your parents did not tell you about the wars have not they Wu Shan? The war started by humans by hurting nature. These animals, kitsunes, wolves and dragons are endangered because they are fighting for their lives, there are only 6 of each of these animals." said Krista. Lao Wu Shan was shocked. "Why are the humans here, auntie?" said the kitsune Edora.

Krista responded "there here because---"

"We're here because we want to STOP the war and save lives!!!" shouted Lao Wu Shan.

"You really are here to save lives? Should we trust them?" said Max the dragon

"I guess so. You want to be friends and stop the war!" happily shouted Katara the wolf.

"YES!" replied Neon.

"THREE, TWO, ONE GO L.N.M.K.E TEAM!" shouted Lao Wu Shan. Krista smiled. After all they became friends.

One day Katara, Max, Edora, Neon and Lao Wu Shan were playing a game till they heard “roar” and “AAAAH.” What was that?”

“Oh—no there attacking, this is the only chance to stop the war!” said Edora.

“Okay let us plan this out me and Neon will tell the humans to stop and Katara, Edora and Max stop the animals.

Okay?” suggested Lao Wu Shan.

“Okay! Go, L.N.M.K.E” replied Neon.

So, they went to the village.” The time has finally come.” sighted Edora. Lao Wu Shan took a deep breath then said,

“Let’s do it!”. Lao Wu Shan and Neon ran to the humans and Katara, Max and Edora went to the animals. “Mum and dad, you don’t have to fight them!” shouted Katara.

“You have no proof to not fight them.” said Katara’s mum.

“You have been...hurting them if you continue. They will be no more wolves, they’ll be extinct!” replied Katara.

“Same thing with you mum” said Edora.

“And same thing with you mummy!” said Max.

“I... didn’t realise that—your right we have been mean to them!” said Edora’s mum. “We will stop.” Meanwhile, Mum and dad, you must stop the war!” said Lao Wu Shan.

“You have no proof!” said Ursa.

“You have been hurting nature and nature is important”, politely said Neon.

Osia replied “You are right, nature is important. We will stop.”

“We did it, HOORAY!” shouted L.N.M.K.E team.

After all they lived happily ever after!

Peace Between the Tribes

Island Christian Academy, Er, Kaitlyn – 10

Jasmine stood on an outcropping ridge, watching the sun rise as a red blob of light. She smoothed down the white kimono dress she was wearing. As the sun climbed higher and higher, Jasmine glanced back at the cosy little cottage she lived in with the famous Sun Master, Basho. He would be up soon. Both Jasmine's parents had died when they'd fallen off a cliff, leaving Jasmine to live with the wise old man. And although she had learnt a lot from Basho, Jasmine still wondered how life would be with her mother and father. So lost in her thoughts, Jasmine did not hear the cottage door open and close, and then footsteps thudding across the wooden bridge towards her.

It was only when a deep voice spoke when Jasmine jolted back to the present. "*Ohayo*, Jasmine." Basho often spoke Japanese. He taught Jasmine, too. Jasmine quickly brushed back a long lock of black hair that had fallen across her face. "*Ohayo*, Master Basho." she said, bowing. Basho bowed back. He was wearing a dark red kimono.

In his hand was a fine wooden staff that only very advanced Beamers, what Jasmine's people called those who could control the sun, had. Basho was one of them. In fact, he was so good, everyone called him the Sun Master. Jasmine was from two different Tribes. Her mother was a Cloud Spinner, also known as the Cloud Controllers. Her father was an Aqua Spirit from the Water Tribe. Other than the Sun, Water, and Cloud Tribes there was still one last Tribe: the Snow Tribe. But the Snow Tribe, known as the Snowdrops, had turned upon them years ago, and now lived high up the mountain with a dragon called Lumi to protect them. Jasmine turned to Basho. "Can you tell me the story of how the Snowdrops turned on us?" Basho raised his eyebrows. "*Again?* But you've heard it so many times!"

Jasmine looked pleadingly at him. "Pleaaase?" Basho heaved a sigh, then sat on the rock. "All right then. Sit." Jasmine sat. Basho cleared his throat. "A long time ago, Mother Earth gave birth to four children. Their names were Sun, Rain, Cloud, and Snow. These girls could each control what their names were, and for many years they grew in happy harmony. However, one day, Snow, the youngest, grew tired of all the attention her sisters got. Sun was capable of helping everyone with their laundry, and Rain could water crops. Shy Cloud could build mists and clouds so thick they prevented anyone from falling – but what about Snow?"

In the wintertime, when it was Snow's turn, everyone would shut themselves into their cottages! Snow grew angry, and though her sisters tried to console her Snow was not consolable. She built a barrier of ice so thick even Sun could not melt it, and shut herself away.

Many years passed, and soon all sisters had their own Tribes. The Sun Tribe, the Water Tribe, the Cloud Tribe, and the Snow Tribe. Soon, all sisters passed away. Sun, Rain, and Cloud had left commandments to be gentle and kind to every Tribe. Snow, however, had taught her people about how terrible her sisters were, and how they had pushed her away to gain attention. Before she'd died, Snow conjured up a beautiful white Snow Dragon, whom she'd named Lumi. Lumi, she knew, would protect her people and see that they'd come to no harm. Soon after that, Snow passed away, and the Snow Tribe moved up to the highest peak of Huangshan Mountains. And they still live there."

Basho finished his story and studied Jasmine. "I have been having this theory for a while," he told her. "May I see your necklace?" He was referring to the snowflake pendant that Jasmine had, of course, but before Jasmine could give it to him her best friend, Kimi, raced up, her light brown hair flying. She sank to the ground in a bow, then straightened and began to speak in rapid and fluent Japanese. Basho listened carefully, then rose. "Jasmine, quick." Jasmine scrambled to her feet. Basho's tone was tight. "W—what's going on?" Basho was already hurrying across the bridge. "The Weather Dynasty is in danger. The Snow Tribe is attacking!"

Jasmine, Basho, and Kimi reached the Weather Dynasty's heart to see Snowdrops, Beamers, Cloud Spinners, and Aqua Spirits fighting. Kimi, who was a superb Beamer, had already darted into the fray. Basho followed her, leaving Jasmine at the edge. But before Jasmine could decide what to do, a hand gripped her shoulder with such firmness Jasmine could not twist round to see who it was. Jasmine was led up a steep hill to the top. Suddenly a shadow fell across the ground. Jasmine looked up. A magnificent blue and white dragon was towering over her. "Lumi, please! Don't do this! You don't have to! We can make peace!" Jasmine begged. There was a long silence. Then Lumi said, "I must. It is my duty to protect the Snowdrops. I hate to harm your people, Jasmine, but I must." Jasmine took a deep breath. "Let's make peace within all four Tribes, Lumi. Please. I have a plan."

A few minutes later, Jasmine soared on Lumi to where the Tribes were still battling. "Stop!" she shouted. Nobody heard her. Lumi threw back his head and let out a huge roar. Silence fell as every eye landed on the dragon and

Jasmine. “We are all fighting,” Jasmine called. “But why can’t we all make peace and live happily together? Then no one needs to lose any lives. We can make friends.”

The Tribes looked at each other. Finally, one sank his sword into the ground. Others followed, until finally all the blades were in the mud. Then one by one, the Tribe leaders stepped forward and shook hands with the Snow Tribe’s leader.

Soon after, Jasmine knocked on Kimi’s door. It was opened immediately. Delta, the Snowdrop, was already there. Jasmine stepped inside, grinning. All was well.

The Adventure of Magic

Japanese International School, Akari, Haruna – 10

Chapter 1 The Mountains

One day, Caverna and Caelum's father told them that he was going for a trip. It didn't surprise them, it was normal! So, they waved as he got into the car and drove off.

The next day, Caverna and Caelum went to their Chinese school. It was an ordinary day, really. But, something happened on the way back...

"Hi, Caverna!" greeted Caelum, rushing to her sister, "let's get home quickly."

"Ok." agreed Caverna, "I'm glad the way home is short. Let's go by the mountain road."

As they were walking, they were suddenly surrounded by darkness. The two walked blindly and scared. However, the road went up, not down.

"Oh dear," thought Caverna, desperately,

But soon, they saw light ahead! They raced to the light.

But alas!

"It's only a clearing in these mountains!" said Caelum, "What shall we do?"

"Well..." considered Caverna, "Hey! What's that?"

They both rushed toward the thing Caverna pointed at, and what a surprise!

"Wow..." they breathed, "There are Chinese animals carved into the entrance of a CAVE!"

"And look! There is a word written here. Let's see...TREASURE CAVE!" shouted Caverna,

"Ooooh! Shall we go in?" asked Caelum, "I think we should!"

"Agreed!" said Caverna, "Have you got a torch?"

Caelum pulled out her torch from her bag and passed it to Caverna.

"Here I go!" said Caverna, "Steep low!"

They were soon in the narrow passage. After a long time, they came into a cave.

"Well, it's the end of that passage," said Caverna, "What should we do, I wonder?"

Chapter 2 Treasure Cave

They really didn't know what to do. So, they flashed the torch around. Caelum gasped.

"Caverna, *am* I dreaming?" she asked,

"No, unless *I* am dreaming, too." came the answer.

They were standing in the treasure cave! There were jewels of all kinds, and thick blocks of gold, in the shape of all the Chinese zodiac animals.

Suddenly, Caelum let out a shriek.

"Huh?" asked Caverna, puzzled,

Caelum pointed at another hole, in which they saw a dragon sleeping!

Caelum stepped a very small step towards the dragon.

She prodded him in the wings. The dragon moved a bit, grunting.

Then, poor Caverna let out a high-pitched scream. It echoed loudly.

The dragon shook his head and stared. Then it stretched its mouth into what seemed to be a grin. He offered one of his paws, which had a scroll of paper tied to it.

This time, Caverna reached the great beast, and untied the scroll. Finally, she unrolled it.

She read it aloud to Caelum and herself, and to the dragon.

"Dear note receiver,

I am Iter of Regno, China, and has stored this treasure,
according to Sire Princeps. The fortitudo was here to
save those who need them, and use them for others. Now,
this dragon. He is the Chinese Fireball, a type of the best
dragons. He is here with this wonder, to protect it until the
time has come. He can speak, fly, carry, and can also grant
thou one wish each. I hope you are willing to use this wonder

wisely. We all wait for China's happiness.

Iter of Regno, China"

The two girls stared at each other, then at the fiery red dragon. They now knew.

Chapter 3 Flying Through The Sky!

“So, ladies,” spoke the dragon, “I am Draco, a type of Black Thunder. May I give advice?”

The Caverna and Caelum were first a bit taken aback, but Caverna spoke.

“Sure.”

“Thank thou.” he spoke, “What I promote is this. You two ladies shall please store all this treasure into this little space. Then, please climb onto my back, and then, we will fly.”

“Could you do that, Draco?” asked Caelum, excited, “Thanks. C’mon Caverna!”

In a few minutes, they had stored the treasure into the space. They mounted the dragon, and Draco began to walk. Soon, they were in a clearing, and dazzled the girls and Draco.

But, they were ready for liftoff.

“Whoo, hooooooooo!!!” shrieked the girls with joy,

Draco laughed.

“Now, ladies, where exactly do you live?”

Caverna told him the long address.

Soon, they landed in their garden. They learned that no time had passed because of magic, and promised Draco to come back.

They disappeared into the house, feeling very happy.

Chapter 4 The Rich Fortitudo Family

“Hello, darlings, you’re back from school!” Mrs Fortitudo came over, “I just received a message. It is said there was a DRAGON flying somewhere near here! Can you believe it?”

“No, mother!” said Caelum, meekly, and Caverna nodded

“Well, come on, girls.” said Mrs. Fortitudo, “We’ll eat. Then, let’s wait for your father.”

“Hey!” exclaimed Caverna, “I didn’t know that he’s coming!”

“Then, surprise!” their mother replied, “He’ll be back around eight.”

“Hello, girls!” cried Mr Fortitudo, stepping out of the car, “I have presents for you. Caelum, a knife made out of the rocks. Caverna, a rope made out of plants!”

“Thank youuuuuu!” cried the girls.

The next day, the two girls went to the tree. Draco came out, giving them the valuable bag.

“Spend it wisely. See you soon!”

The girls waved as Draco soared up in the air.

“Come on!” said Caelum,

They heaved the sack onto the steps and called their parents.

“Yes, girls?” asked their father, “Oh, what’s that on the steps?”

“I don’t know!” lied Caverna, innocently, “That’s why we called you.”

“Well, let’s see...” Mr Fortitudo opened the bag, and gasped. “WHAT!?”

“Are you all right?” asked Mrs Fortitudo, “WHAT?”

“Ummm...” said Caelum, “Can we see?”

“Yes. What should we do, Citrea?” asked their father,

“Could we get the dragon you saw?” Caelum suggested,

“I don’t know.” he laughed, “ We’ll give the remains to charity. Agreed?”

“Yes!” said Mrs Fortitudo, “But I’m not sure about the dragon! Maybe a horse?”

Many years later, their descendants had an adventure, just like theirs... But it had all started from them, Caelum and Caverna Fortitudo.

Tubbo and the Bees

Japanese International School, Chan, Katie – 10

Prologue

Tubbo lived in the mystical Hong Kong mountains, with gigantic swaths of twisty redwood trees. On the mountain, there were very peculiar animals, such as mooblooms. These are cows, but they are not any ordinary cow, these cows have blooming flowers on their back, as they have flowers on their back, they are friends with bees, majestic glowing squids that lead your way to shore, the dolphins on the island can make you swim faster. Although there are many other friendly creatures, there are some hostile ones too, like the iceologer. They are blind, but their hearing senses are great, if you step on some leaves, the iceologers will come and attack you.

Tubbo's POV

Tubbo was taking a walk with Tommy through the path that he had made, they were just taking a walk, instead of heading right towards the waterfall, they headed left towards the flower field, where bees would be, and occasionally, there would be some mooblooms, they were Tubbo's favourite. "Alright we're here Tommy," Tubbo said cheerfully gazing at the flowers below them, as Tubbo motioned Tommy to sit on the bench with him. It was all peaceful until a bee came buzzing by. Tommy screamed as he ran away frightened, but Tubbo remained calm, he carefully scooped up the bee and put it back in the petal of the flower.

"Tommy! Where are you?" Tubbo yelled, he was starting to panic, he had never been on his own, he did not bring his phone and even if he did bring his phone, he would have no cell service, he kept on calling Tommy's name but no one responded. Tubbo heard something rustle in the leaves, as all of the bees went to it. Tubbo peeked and saw a herd of mooblooms, there were many different colors, Tubbo's favourite one was the light blue one, they had blue orchids and tulips on their backs. As they were very rare, he was glad he got to chance to encounter one, it would be a better experience with Tommy.

Tubbo heard a noise, a shuffling sound in the leaves and a hooded creature popped out. He wore a dark blue hood, he is blind and he had grey skin. Although he is blind his hearing senses are great. Because he is blind he feels the need to protect himself, as many people would attack him.

As Tubbo was easily scared, so he screamed in fear, the iceologer heard the voice immediately and he ran away, he went in all different directions, but as he kept running, he didn't recognise the place he was surrounded by, he was lost.

Tommy's POV

Tommy ran up the mountain and followed the path along the way, he heard Tubbo screaming, he knew that Tubbo wasn't very brave, and definitely wasn't intimidating as Tommy towered over him even though they are the same age, Tommy got home and called Tubbo, while calling, he heard some ringing, he went and noticed Tubbo's phone on the desk, so that's why he wasn't answering, Tommy thought.

Tommy laid on his bed thinking about what Tubbo had gone through, if only he hadn't ran away from those bees, Tommy thought, as he stared at the ceiling thinking what where Tubbo is. Tommy started to think about how much Tubbo meant to him, sure he was a bit clingy but he was the one that kept him company, without him he was very lonely

Tubbo's POV

Tubbo jumped into the lake with his boat that he carried everywhere, people would call him Tubboat for that reason, the iceologer threw a rock at the boat, as it broke the boat, Tubbo swam until he saw something glowing in the sea, a glow squid, the rarest squid on this island, they were almost extinct as people poached them for their glowing skin.

Tubbo followed it immediately, as he took a leap under the water, he followed the murky glow, a dolphin circled around Tubbo and that made both the squid and Tubbo faster, as they swam away from the angry iceologer, they swam to the other side of the lake, Tubbo had never been on this side of the mountain before, even though it was pretty small, he would usually just stay with Tommy.

Tubbo hopped out of the lake and looked behind him, surprisingly, the bees were attacking the iceologer, as it flailed its hand around, after that, the bees flew towards Tubbo, as he heard a familiar voice shouting his name echo across the forest, "TUBBO?" Tommy shouted loudly, Tubbo turned his head around to see an exhausted Tommy panting, with his hands on his knees.

"Tubbo I've been searching this whole area for you!" Tommy said angrily, as he gritted his teeth and clenched his fist tightly, "I know, I mean you ran away from me" Tubbo whispered as he looked at Tommy, then at the iceologer, still at the other side of the lake.

"Maybe we give that dude a chance?" Tommy spoke in a monotone voice, as he pointed at the iceologer. Tubbo hesitated, "I mean, he did just try to attack me but sure," Tubbo said as he nodded his head.

"Have you by any chance got another boat?" Tommy said unsurely, "Why yes, I have 2 more" Tubbo beamed, as he took both of them out from his backpack, Tommy eyeballed Tubbo and his boats. "You just carry that around with you? Really?" Tommy questioned Tubbo curiously, Tubbo nodded continuously, as he placed down the boat on the water and paddled down to the other side of the lake, waving to the dolphin and glow squid along the way.

"Hey you! Yes you! Do you want to have peace?" Tommy said jokingly, but surprisingly, the iceologer nodded, Tubbo helped the iceologer to the flower field back to the garden, as the bees followed behind them.

Tommy learned a lesson, bees aren't that scary and they can be helpful.

Clouded Leopards Journey

Japanese International School, Chatelier, Malachai – 10

I awoke with a start, stood up, looked out of my den, and saw the sun rising over mountains in the distance.

“Nothing,” I thought, “probably just a mouse”. Then I heard it again, a rustling in the bushes.

My name is Toko and I am a Clouded Leopard. I may be smaller than other leopards but that doesn’t matter.

The rustling sounded too big for a mouse. I stepped out, looked around. Suddenly, a Himalayan Wolf lunged from the bushes at me. It was small, but strong. It bit me on my leg. I felt a bone breaking under the pressure of its teeth. I tried to fight back, but the wolf overpowered me and took my den.

I had to find a new home, but there were few stable and small enough dens nearby. Dejected, I limped off through the bushes away from my perfect den.

“Great,” I thought, “now I will have to find a new home.” I could have traversed the mountains faster without the broken leg. I was fast and a talented jumper and climber. But I lacked the strength to leap from tree to tree or run with a broken leg.

But it was not the leg I was most concerned about, it was finding food and staying hidden from predators like bears and wolves, like the one that just attacked me.

My first instinct was to find shelter and hunt for food. Finding shelter was simple. I curled up inside a large, felled tree to rest.

My stomach groaned. I still needed to hunt for food but the pain in my leg was unbearable. Finally, I managed to catch two mice. I was relieved. Now I just needed to watch out for predators. I struggled back to my tree and devoured my two mice to the bones.

The sun was setting behind a mountain in the distance where all the good places to live were. With my broken leg it would take me 2–4 weeks to get there! But I had to get there if I wanted to have a decent home. I started to drift off as the sun bid farewell.

I awoke in the dead of night hearing an unusual sound. “Oh, no!” I thought, “another wolf.” But then I saw a bushy tail and a nut get snatched up. A harmless squirrel. “I could catch and eat it,” I thought. But it was too dark, and my leg needed rest. The squirrel would be too fast, so I went back to sleep.

The sun was barely up when I awoke. My leg was stiff. In fact, my whole body felt stiff. I got up, walked around a bit, then left my tree to start the journey. The Huangshan Mountains are beautiful and an amazing place to live.

I walked slowly through the bushes. I had to stop a few times because of the pain. After walking for what seemed days, but was three hours, I stopped by a stream to drink.

While I lapped up water, I noticed another Clouded Leopard emerge from behind a tree on my left. I glanced over at the Leopard, she was a female, she also looked pregnant. She glanced up, saw me looking at her, and sprung back into the bushes.

I limped over to find her. I looked through the bushes and saw her head poking out five meters ahead. I walked over. She backed away. I tried to walk fast to find her, but she vanished. I walked back to the stream and crossed over it. “I have to keep going,” I thought.

I limped off into the trees thinking about the leopard. I walked three hours more before stopping to find a place to rest. I found a big rock and slipped into the crack under it. It was a squeeze, but I managed to fit. I lay under the rock wondering whether I would make the journey. “I have to,” I thought, “I just have to.”

In the morning, I awoke with a squirrel beside me. I quickly swiped it and ate it. “That should be enough for a few days,” I thought. I renewed my journey. My leg not slowing me down as much now. I walked up the mountain at a faster pace.

As I walked, I heard something large moving around the area. In a clearing I came face-to-face with two small wild dogs. I could have beaten both if I did not have a broken leg. The wild dogs closed in on me, noticing I was injured.

Just as they were about to rip me apart the female Clouded Leopard jumped out and attacked the wild dogs! She clawed at one and bit the other. I watched as the two wild dogs tried to bite her. She kept dodging their snapping jaws. The fight continued for several minutes but in the end, she killed one of them and severely injured the other, which limped away, defeated. I walked over to the female Clouded Leopard and this time she let me.

I was chomping on some dog meat, while sitting next to Kien the leopard who saved me. We were so close to the mountain. It was beautiful, with outstanding rock shapes and lush green trees, surrounded by clouds. We set off early with our journey ending.

One hour later we were climbing up the mountain. Kien and I trekked through the mountain to find a perfect home. After a few minutes we finally found a den halfway up the mountain. It had grass inside and the rock formation was perfect. Kien sat down in our new home while I went hunting. As I was hunting, I thought about how Kien had had to slow down a lot recently. When I got back to our new den I knew why, there were two baby leopards curled up in tiny little balls next to Kien fast asleep.

Tales from China's Magical Mountains

Japanese International School, Fang, Heather – 8

Once upon a time in a magical land, there were tons and thousands of magical people who lived in the land. There were graceful trees with long green leaves and many beautiful white birds with yellow tipped wings. There were long magical rivers with blue clear water.

The people who lived there were really happy and nice. Each of them had their own dragon even the kids. Those people had pretty houses and rooms. They even have their own ponds and boats neatly floating on the clear water.

There was a boy named Huang li and his big brother Yu lei lived in a beautiful house.

One day, Huang li was playing outside with his brother with their dragons. But just then, Huang li felt the ground shaking. Then, the shaking became even bigger that houses began to shake. Then all of the mountains started to shake. Huang li told his parents about the situation. Their parents started to make posters and signs to warn everyone of that situation. "There's an earthquake! Everyone out, we have to leave the land!" Huang Li shouted outside. Lots and lots of people had to leave the land with their dragons to find another land but on the way, most of them got lost because the land kept on shaking. Trees were falling, and the sun was shining too bright. Some of the people tried to escape but instead, they got stuck in their houses because the doors and windows were blocked by the mountain rocks.

Huang li was really sad to leave but still he had to leave the beautiful land. He tried to let his parents gather people to guide everyone to another land. Some people volunteered to guide people, and the others decided to follow. All of the people had a meeting as quick as possible about how to run away. All of the people rode their dragons and flew out the old land following Huang li to many places but finally, they found a perfect place to live called The Land of Roar.

In The Land of Roar everything was shaped like a dragon. There were dragon shaped waterfalls, rivers, and rocks. The trees were greener, the waterfalls were bigger, and the lakes clearer. Huang li decided to tell his parents to tell the people that they were going live there. When all of the work was done the place was even better than the other places and they all lived happily ever after.

The Magical Cave in Mustang

Japanese International School, Lim, Joshua – 8

There were five mountain climbers and they brought their horses. These five climbers were all scientists, they wanted to discover the magical cave in mustang. During their mountain climbing they saw how beautiful and pleasant the mountain was. They saw really high trees and huge rocks in the mountain. Then they went for a long walk with their horses to mustang. They heard loud sounds from the bird and trees. When they started going inside the magical cave, they lit up their flashlight and saw what was inside the cave. Then they saw temples built in the cave. Then started taking photos and wrote all the things that they saw inside the caves. They were amazed at how wonderful the temple inside the cave was. They also found dinosaur bones and kept some in their bags. They saw a lot of human bodies and skeletons that were over 2,000 and 3,000 years old.

During the journey they felt tired and hungry. They rested and ate inside the magical cave. Then something bad happened, one of the mountain climbers was lost inside the cave. The four mountain climbers try to find him and then all of the five mountain climbers get separated in the cave. They all felt that they were lost in a maze because they didn't know how to get out from the cave. They thought they got trapped in the cave which is like a maze. They all started to use their compass and flashlight to find their friend. Some of the members put symbols in order for the other member to see and know which direction they need to follow. All the five mountain climbers were trapped inside the cave for 4 days. Some of them started to feel hopeless because they didn't know how to go out from the cave and they didn't have any more food supplies in their bags.

All the five mountain climbers started to pray for the god of the cave temple. After a few minutes of praying, a big thunderstorm hit the cave. There's a heavy rain and strong wind. All five mountain climbers notice all water flow in one direction. All these mountain climbers followed the water flow and finally they reached the main exit of the cave. All the five climbers survived in this journey. They were all happy and thankful that the god inside the cave temple

The Heart of the Mountain

Japanese International School, Shirabe, Yuha – 8

Once there was a village under a mountain. The mountain wasn't a regular mountain. It was a magical mountain. Nobody went on top of the mountain. A dragon named Dido lived in a cave on top of the mountain. Dido was a big, blue, dragon. His voice was very big that your ear will break! But Dido wasn't the problem people couldn't go on top of the mountain. The mountain's heart was the problem. The mountain's heart was a magical ball. The heart was red, small and had magical power. And Dido was protecting the heart.

One day Dido wanted to go outside of the mountain and take a look at the village. He thought and he thought and he thought, "maybe the mountain will protect itself!"

So Dido flew out of the mountain. While Dido had gone out a short boy came climbing the mountain. For some reason the boy could go on top of the mountain!

"Hahahaha! I have trained to be a perfect wizard for 10,000 years now. Nobody can beat me!"

Just then Dido arrived. But the wizard was too fast as a shooting star! The wizard flew away with the mountain's heart. "Oh no!!!! I should follow him!"

So Dido followed the wizard. Then at last Dido ended in a small house. It was made from wood. Dido peeked inside the window. The mountain's heart was beside the wizard. Then the wizard went into the bathroom. It was Dido's chance!

So Dido ran into the house and took the mountain's heart and when Dido was about to go home, FLUSH! Dido heard the sound of the wizard flushing the water. Then the wizard came out of the bathroom! The wizard said, "hey you! How dare you sneak into my house! And give me back my mountain's heart!"

Dido said, "it's not yours it's my honor to protect the heart! And goodbye!" Dido flew and broke the roof and got back to the mountain. Just when Dido put the heart where it belonged, Dido's mom and dad were there! Dido's mom was pink and bigger than Dido. And Dido's dad was a black scary dragon. Dido's dad was the biggest dragon in the world!

Dido said, "Mom! Dad! That wizard is trying to take the mountain's heart! Help me!"

Dido's mom and dad said, "ok, let's breath fire! One two three!" BOOM! Then a very big red fire was burning a lot! When the gas was out, the wizard wasn't there.

Dido said "I think he ran away! We won!"

The Magical Adventure of Huangshan

Kau Yan School, Chan, Lok Yan Annabel – 9

Stars twinkled in the night sky. The moon shone brightly. It seemed like there wasn't a sound, except from the moaning coming from a tent at the foot of Huangshan mountain.

"I'm boooooored!" moaned Gabrielle. "You're not the only one." grumbled Amber. "What shall we do?" asked Maria hopelessly. "I don't know. Why did our mums send us to camp here?" said Gabrielle, slumping back on her chair. Amber suddenly brightened up, "It's not that fun camping at the foot of the mountain, how about. CLIMBING it..."

"Yes, let's do it!" The next day, they set off excitedly. They looked up and saw the magnificent Huangshan mountains towering over them like a gigantic beast. They walked up along a steep cliffside path, taking each step carefully. Veils of mist drifted past them. When the mist floated away, their jaws dropped. In front of them, the moving blanket of mist uncovered a cliff, then there was more mist floating in. After the mist cleared away, the golden rays of the sun shined through and the mountains looked spectacular. They continued walking the narrow path. Suddenly, the silence was broken by the sound of footsteps. A shiver went down the girls' spine. Who was that?

Scared but curious, they stepped forward nervously. They not saw any monster or a ghost but a beautiful young girl, humming softly to herself and picking wild flowers. The girl was dressed in a plain blouse and loose trousers. Her hair was tied up in two neat buns. The young girl turned around and raised her eyebrows. Without thinking, Amber said "Don't worry, we're not dangerous!" The young girl looked doubtful but she whispered "Who are you? My name is Changguang." Amber whispered back, "My name is Amber, and this is Gabrielle and Maria." Changguang's tone became less tense. "Nice to meet you... It's getting dark now, do you want to come to my home?" "Of course!" And they followed Changguang through a wood and finally they reached a small hut. They were all tired and entered Changguang's house in relief. Changguang served her guests with Oolong tea and some buns, the girls were fascinated by her stories of Huangshan. Changguang invited them to stay for the night. In the morning, Changguang offered to accompany them on the climb. The girls were happy to say yes, but asked her why. Changguang hesitated, then said "Yes, Huangshan is beautiful, but its mystery also means that there could also be very strange things, like umm... dragons. I know the way here better than you." Gabrielle and Maria looked at each other. What strange things, what dragon? The girls felt curious and suggested to set off.

Changguang was a very good mountain climber. She scaled the heights and pulled the others up, she took them to the best places to see the view. A waterfall tumbled down at great force. They were overwhelmed by the nature's power and beauty.

They climbed a bit more. Suddenly the peace was broken by a sharp shake of the ground. The girls trembled and their faces turned white. They were all thinking, WHO WAS THAT? Changguang muttered, "No, don't come now..." Amber breathed in, "You mean the dragon?" Then a rock rolled down and shattered into pieces. Then smoke billowed next to the remains of the rock. The girls screamed and ran away as fast as they could. But Changguang pulled them back. "What do you think you're doing?" "It might sound strange to you, but this dragon is the pet of Taishanglaojun." Changguang whispered in a rush then ran off. "Taishanglao – what?" Gabrielle was confused. A thundery roar from the dragon shocked them. "HIDE!" yelled Amber, pulling her into a dark cave. Suddenly the rock covering the cave cracked. the girls were in great danger. The rock could crush them any moment. But in that split second, a shadowy figure, as fast as lightning, pulled all of them out of that dangerous zone. Barely one second had passed when the huge rock collapsed on the cave. The shadowy figure disappeared as quickly as it came. The girls were now face to face with the dragon. The dragon's tail slashed wildly around, uprooting trees and crushing boulders. The girls were terrified. The dragon turned, saw them and then bellowed. The blast of wind nearly sent them flying! The dragon looked at them with his deep red eyes dangerously. When it seemed like there was no hope, then a cloud of mist floated towards the dragon. A ghostly figure of an old man and another glowing figure appeared. The ghostly figure stepped forward and said in a stern voice "Dilong, what do you think you're doing, get back!" All the fierceness suddenly escaped from the dragon, then it bowed his head and flew back to his

master's side. The glowing figure jumped down from the clouds. It was Changguang! The three girls looked in amazement, the old man put the dragon on a glowing leash and then floated down, said "You did exceptionally well, my student!" The three girls looked at Changguang curiously. Changguang smiled, "Yes I am his student. My teacher is one of the most worshipped immortals, Taishanglaojun, aka, the Very High Lord. The Very High Lord stroked his beard and nodded, "You have passed your first test of bravery, Changguang."

Gabrielle looked amazed, "You mean the person who stayed with us for the whole time is an immortal too?" Changguang nodded. The Very High Lord spoke up, "You're late for class. Now hop on the dragon!" Changguang hopped on and then waved "Goodbye, it was a pleasure to meet you guys! Have a safe journey down!" Then the girls waved back, "You too!" They waved until the dragon and the cloud carrying the immortals disappeared into the orange tinted sky. Maria beamed, "I am sure that the mountains never look the same to us after this!" as they descended down the mountain in the sunset.

Tales of China's Magical Mountain

Kau Yan School, Ng, Hector – 9

Henry lived in the deep Mountains along the mighty Yangtze, everyday he would go out and take a deep breath of the fresh mountain air, but suddenly on a Saturday, he heard something, at first he thought “It's just a animal that loves to shout, maybe it just shout louder than usual.” But then he heard something way more different than he just did, he heard something like “Hi? Anybody?” He felt he wanted to investigate, and so he did.

He climbed through the mountains and he finally reached the voice, there was a man with a map, but when he wanted to take him back the little cottage that he live in, then Henry noticed a a bunch of people with ninja style outfit took him and disappeared and he noticed a whole lot of smoke came out at the other end of the mountains, so he went to investigate, at the middle of his route to the smoke place, he found a big eagle, even bigger than himself, so he asked the eagle can it take him to the smoke place, the eagle answered yes, when he arrived, he said thank you for its ride.

He took a peek into the building, when suddenly a shout “where is the jewel mine thing that your talking?” burst out of a man with a suit, Henry sneaked in and he found himself in a jewel mining company, he was shocked and made a little noise and when he wanted to go, the man with the suit called guards and he ran and screamed and he saw a window and the second he nearly got caught, he ran away, he told himself “I need to tell the mountains association” and on Sunday, he was ready and confident, and the mountains association got them neither Henry or the mountains association got the man with the suit

This time Henry learned that when you hit any trouble, just call someone you can rely on

Lexie's Adventure To The Yellow Mountain

Kau Yan School, Sie, Sheung – 9

Lexie was a nine years girl who loved reading.

One afternoon, Lexie was sitting on the couch reading her favorite

book, "The Guide To Great Powers" which talked about mythical places in the world. She flipped and flipped and flipped. Soon, she reached at the page where the Yellow Mountain stood. Then she noticed something that she had never seen before, a little book-clip. The clip looked delicate. It had a picture of a mountain on it. She took the clip to examine it. But as she took the clip, she felt being whirled in a whirlpool.

She landed on the ground. Lexie looked around where she landed. She could hear birds tweeting softly. Lexie could see a little forest and a cloud staircase. Where was she? She decided to climb up the cloud staircase. There must be somebody who lives there, Lexie thought.

The cloud staircase was fluffy, but Lexie didn't sink. At the top of the staircase, Lexie saw a beautiful village.

Lexie looked around the village. She walked further into the village until Lexie saw a girl. She was carrying a silky object. After a while, the girl spotted Lexie. The girl walked closer to her.

The girl then said, "Who are you?"

Lexie turned to the girl. "I am Lexie," she gulped, her heart hammering inside her chest, "Where am I?"

The girl smiled, her blue eyes darting. She replied, "I am Corianna, and this is the Yellow Mountain."

Lexie gasped. She replied, "Hi, Corianna, and... I am lost. Do you know the way back to Earth?"

Corianna shook her head. "No," she said, "But I know who might know"

Lexie begged her, "Please bring me to that person, please!!!"

Corianna nodded, and then she dropped the silky object.

Lexie coughed loudly and closed her eyes due to a cluster of dust flying around her. The dust soon sank into the clouds and arrows formed in the mid-air.

"This thing is a Vemonele. It guides you to where you want to go once you throw it onto the ground." Corianna said, before following the arrows to a house.

Corianna knocked on the door before an elf lady held the door for her.

"Who is with you?" The elf asked.

Corianna replied, "Mom, meet my human friend, Lexie. I'm helping her return back to Earth." Corianna's mum nodded.

Corianna guided Lexie to a room, where Corianna burst with Lexie behind her.

An elf boy was sitting on a chair, behind a desk.

"What's the matter??" said the elf boy.

Corianna replied, "Eustace, do you know how to teleport humans back to Earth?"

Eustace looked at Corianna, then took a book from a bookshelf.

Eustace opened the book and flipped the book to a page and read. Then, he replied "No, only goblins can."

Corianna nodded "thanks Eustace, then led Lexie out of the house.

"Not the goblins!!" Corianna mumbled, looked worry.

Lexie frowned. "What's wrong with goblins??"

Corianna sighed and said, "We never get along with them. They are edgy and kind of cunning."

Lexie was puzzled. She braced herself as Corianna pulled out her Vemonele and crashed it onto the ground. The dust flew around her again, and soon the blue arrows were there. The arrows led Lexie and Corianna to the entrance of a beautiful forest.

They walked for ten minutes, before arriving at a big tree with a door.

Corianna knocked on the door and a short goblin with a scold opened the door.

"What do you want?" He asked furiously.

Corianna bowed, "Sir, my friend, a human who dropped here from a book. We need your help. Can you tell us how to teleport her back to Earth."

The goblin looked at her, then Lexie with mistrustful eyes.

"How do I know if this is a plan to know our secrets? I do not trust you," said the goblin.

Lexie curtsied before saying, "We would not do such things and I need your help, please, Sir, I need to return to Earth. There is no other place better than home. Please!"

Waited for ten seconds and saw the goblin was moved, because he was also seeking his home for all his life but not yet found it.

"Okay then, the step is easy. You just have to convince the Mighty Dragon to give you some of his tears, then rub it on human skin. Then you would transfer back to the human world. But please don't tell anyone about this."

Two of them nodded together. Then they walked out of the forest.

"Tell me a bit about the Dragon," demanded Lexie.

Corianna sighed, "We just know he is Mighty and that he can produce the immortal potion."

Lexie looked surprised. "Hmm, can we go now?" She urged.

Corianna threw the Vemonele on the ground. This time, it led them to a lake.

Corianna and Lexie entered and saw a great, red dragon. It was spitting out something.

"Hello Mr Dragon...."Corianna began nervously.

"Could you give me some of your tears? I need it to teleport myself back to Earth." Lexie finished.

The Mighty Dragon looked at her, half suspicious, half concerned. Suddenly, he tore a tooth out of his mouth. He cried. He then put the tears in a flask, gave it to Lexie and said, "Good luck, human."

Corianna and Lexie thanked the Mighty Dragon. They went outside. Lexie then held the flask uncertainly before saying, "Bye, Corianna, thanks for helping me find the way to return home. I would always remember you."

Corianna sniffed, "I will miss you, Lexie, I would remember you forever."

The both embraced. Corianna watched Lexie as she rubbed the tears in her skin. Lexie then felt as if a tornado was about to swallow her.

Lexie had arrived back home. The book clip lying innocently on the table.

She smiled. It was an unexpected but great adventure.

The Tales of the Chinese Mountains

Kau Yan School, Sin, Yan Yu – 12

Once upon a time, a poor young man of ancient China wanted to find a medicine of longevity, and he could cure the emperor and the capital from a deadly plague. He was one of the lucky ones who wasn't infected, yet he was determined and dedicated to saving the infected people. So, he started the quest to find the medication.

It was not a pleasant journey. It rained most of the time, and there weren't any shelters nearby. Each time when it was a rainy day, the young man would be soaking wet. Apart from that, there were tons of bugs and small creatures wandering around. The young man disliked animals. He was scared of them, so sometimes he stayed awake all night to keep watch of those fetishes around.

Days later, the sun was shining. When he was sleeping soundly under a tree, a beautiful fairy with a white silk dress said, "Come with me. I know that there are medical pills up this mountain. Let me guide your way there." The man nodded with excitement and went along with the fairy.

The prince followed her until they came to the foot of the cliff. The fairy raised her wand three times and muttered some charms. Then it split open, revealing a deep yet dark cave. "Go ahead," she said, leading him the way. The man was scared because he did not know what to expect. "Will you go as well?" He asked. "Yes, I will. But I can't go far because us immortals are forbidden in there," the fairy retorted. The man took a deep breath and wandered into the cave.

In the cave, the young man saw blue, malevolent eyes staring at him. He was scared of them, hated the darkness of the cave so much, and wanted to leave, but his determination to save the entire capital motivated him to keep going.

After a while, the fairy had a headache. The fairy's feet went numb then dropped to the ground. The man was flabbergasted. There was a glimmer of light then the fairy vanished out of sight.

Though the fairy was gone, her voice was still there. "I can't go that far, but I'll guide your way to the metaphysical pills." The man saw bugs crawling everywhere and his blood ran cold. He panicked and he headed towards the exit, but the fairy said, "The blessings don't seek you, you'll have to find them yourself."

So once again, the man slowly yet cautiously, continued walking until he found two secret rooms. One is not safe, yet one will take him a step forward to medicine that can heal severe sickness.

"There are two doors. One of them is safe on the journey and the other is not. There is a text in between both doors." The fairy's voice broke the silence.

Now imagine that you are walking down a path and come to two doors. One of the doors leads to a life of prosperity and happiness, and the other door leads to a life of misery and sorrow. You don't know which door is which. In front of the door is ONE man. You know that this man either always tells lies, or always tells the truth, but you don't know which. You are allowed to ask the man ONE yes-or-no question to figure out which door to go through. To make things more sophisticated, the man is very self-centered, so you are only allowed to ask him a question about what he thinks or knows. What question would you ask to ensure you go through the safe door?

Even though the young man was not wealthy and he was kicked out of school because he didn't have money to pay for the fee, he spent a lot of time and effort learning new things.

The man studied the text for a while and said, "You should ask: 'If I asked you if the safe door is on the left, would you say yes?' Notice that this is subtly different from asking if the good door on the left?, in that you are asking him IF he would say yes to that question, not what his answer to the question would be. And you are asking a question about a question, and if it ends up being the liar you are talking to, this will cause him to lie about a lie and tell the

truth. The four possible causes are: The man is a truth-teller and the good door is on the left, he will say yes. The man is a truth-teller and the good door is on the right, he will say no. The man is a liar and the good door is on the left. So I will go to the left door!" He opened the left door and it was a safe one.

In the room, there was a monk. "Congrats on passing this task. What do you want?" "I want the pill of longevity. There's a serious sickness in my capital, so I want to heal the infected people." "Don't you want some money and gold instead?" "No, I just want the pills to thank you. Money is not important to me. I'm sure I can make a change to the world with these pills." The monk was indeed impressed with the young man's answers, "and since you are ambitious and determined to save the country, I shall give you a blessing for the future."

Soon, this disease was healed. Everyone praised the young man for helping them and made him the next king.

He served his country well and helped the needy. The whole kingdom was pleased.

Unfortunately, many years later, the king got killed. The monk who lived in the cave took pity on the young man and buried him next to the mountain, to preserve his soul. The people can now remember his contributions to the kingdom and his people.

The Legend of the Sky Dragon

Kau Yan School, Wan, Kalysta – 10

"Let's go, we're going to miss the bus to grandpa's village!" my sister Jane yelled. We ran towards the bus stop just in time and boarded the bus to Huangshan.

This was our first time going to Huangshan. The sturdy mountains were looming over us as if they wanted to tell us a secret. The clouds floated through the lanky trees like a graceful swimmer. It was majestic, beautiful and breathtaking. The symphonic swallows were singing skillfully as we began our exhausting climb to the village of Xidi where our grandpa lived. We arrived at the ancient village by sundown. We were immediately engulfed in a ginormous hug from grandpa. He was of course overjoyed to see us and after dinner asked us "do you want to hear about the dragon that lives in Tiandu Peak?" Jane immediately exclaimed, "yes!" as she was brave and courageous. I, on the other hand, wasn't sure.

Grandpa began his story. "It was told that there was a pool of invincibility in the heart of Huangshan called The Pool of Power. Many evil spirits wanted to conquer it and harness its unstoppable power. The Pool of Power grew huge spikes of stone to protect itself, making the Huangshan we see today. However, some spirits still found a way to sneak through the ginormous needles to sip from the mystical water. When the sky saw the pool struggling to defend itself from the nasty beasts, he sent his loyal pet the Sky Dragon to protect the Pool of Power. Years passed and no one had seen or heard of the Sky Dragon, but the village of Xidi believed that it was still alive and hidden somewhere in the caves of Huangshan protecting the Pool of Power until the end of eternity."

"Wow! This is a wonderful story," Jane softly said. I trembled and asked grandpa, "is the Sky Dragon real?" Grandpa thought for a while and said, "if you believe it to be real, then it will be real." "I believe it," whispered Jane. "Well, you girls had better be going to bed, we have a lot of exploring to do tomorrow!" I bid grandpa goodnight and followed Jane to the guest room.

"Roar...roar!" I sat up with a jolt. "It must be the wind," I muttered to myself. "Roar...roar!" "A ghost!" I screamed waking up Jane. "Let's go check it out!" Said Jane. And before I knew it, she was dragging me out of the front door and into the forest. Following the sound, we went into a small cave which was hidden by thick vines. A beautiful sight to behold, a crystal cave with sparkling walls and a smooth quartz path that led further into the cave. For once, I forgot about my fears and followed Jane further into the cave.

We walked on the never-ending trail for an infinite amount of time until Jane suddenly yelled, "Look! What is that?" At the end of the path was a glowing pool filled with bright blue liquid. Out of curiosity, I ran towards the pool and brushed my hand over the smooth and silky surface. It was icy but the pool seemed to be steaming. "ROAR...WHO GOES THERE!" Came a voice, so deep that it couldn't possibly be human. We froze in fear.

Then, from the depths of the pool came a dragon. The dragon was azure, white spikes decorated his back and silver horns stuck out of his head. "The Sky Dragon," I murmured. The Sky Dragon asked us, "WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE! IF YOU ARE HERE TO SIP FROM THE POOL OF POWER THEN BE GONE!!!!!"

"W—we don't mean any harm; we were just trying to figure out where the strange noise came from" I stuttered.

The Sky Dragon sighed, he seemed to be debating with himself if he should tell these strangers his problem. He decided to trust them and responded, "How lucky am I to have two adventurous children to help me!" "Why do you need help?" Asked a curious Jane. "The Pool of Power needs to be recharged. The only way for that to happen is to combine the pool ore with the ore in the Emerald Cave in the North. Unfortunately, I can't go there as it's too much of a risk, I might be seen!" Exclaimed the dragon. Suddenly, an idea popped into my head, "why not let us do the combining! We can get the ores for you..." "Yes! We can bring back the ores!" Agreed an overexcited Jane while jumping up and down, "Good luck children!" Boomed the dragon. "Thanks," we replied before heading to the North.

The journey was easier than I assumed, I bet the Sky Dragon was making it less challenging for us. First, we had to avoid arrows that appeared out of nowhere. Then, we got lost in a maze. After that, we had to outrun a colossal cave spider who thought we wanted to get his diamonds. At last, we arrived at a glowing chamber which held the Emerald ore. Although the mission was exhausting, it was all worth it to see the Pool of Power return to full strength.

"Thank you for saving the Pool of Power, I shall grant you one wish, choose anything!" acknowledged the Sky Dragon. Jane thought for a while then said, "a souvenir will be good to remember this special adventure." "I shall give you a dragon scale soaked in the Pool of Power; it will give you strength." He replied. The sun was rising. "Children, it's time to go home," whispered the Sky Dragon his voice fading.

There was a bright flash of light.

It was morning and we were in our beds. "Was it a dream?" Asked Jane from next to me. "No," I said, glancing at the table next to my bed and spotting a shiny and smooth scale. The sisters promised to keep the secret so the Sky Dragon could remain a legend.

The Tale of Huangshan

Kau Yan School, Yu, Yuet Magdalene – 11

2681B.C., China.

Huangdi sighed with disappointment softly, and sat down on a wooden bench, wiping sweat from his forehead. Huangdi was a tall man with silver hair and ebony eyes. He was talented, his skills varying from literature to combat. He was the Yellow Emperor of China with a kind heart. He had given up the throne for making the pill of immortality, which could make him live forever to everlastingly serve the country and let his people live happily.

It had been three years since Huangdi gave the throne to his grandson, yet he had not found the right place to start making the pill, which could let people become immortal. But, wherever Huangdi traveled, it was rowdy and noisy and full of people. "How can I possibly concentrate in places like this?" He thought, giving yet another long sigh. Just then, out of the corner of his eye, he noticed a blackish-green rocky, desolate mountain. Its seventy-two peaks speared through the clouds, and mist wove around the jagged barren rocks below. He vaguely remembered it was called Huangshan. Its mystical aura, far from intimidating him, attracted him somehow. "Could this be what I have been looking for?" His heart pounding, he hurriedly headed for Huangshan and climbed it.

After seven days, Huangdi finally reached the tallest peak. Panting, he took in a big deep breath of the crisp mountain air and looked around. The peak was surrounded by many other small peaks, forming the shape of a thriving lotus. It was the Lotus Peak. A sea of rippling clouds engulfed the scenery below. On the way to the top, there were four large stone caves. He spotted inscriptions on the cliff left by ancient people. A noise of movement startled him as a flock of birds burst out of a tree. It was the perfect place he had been seeking for years. "Now, let's get to work," he thought grimly, stretching his aching arms and setting off again. To make the pill of immortality, Huangdi needed ninety-nine sprigs of ganoderma lucidum, ninety-nine ginseng roots, ninety-nine Haworthia Cooperi, ninety-nine red pine trees, and ninety-nine drops of magical nectar dew. Quite sure he had seen some of these rare ingredients on his way up the peak, he decided it was an ideal place to start collecting some.

In a forest of emerald green pine and cypress trees, Huangdi unearthed a large clump of ganoderma lucidum, and buried in the mist of the clouds were the ginseng roots. Next to a rock shaped rather like a monkey, he discovered a huge quantity of Haworthia Cooperi. Unbelievably, he even found the red pine trees at the waist of the peak. Only the magical nectar dew, which was not really dew but a rare sort of water cold and sweet, was left.

Six years passed. Huangdi was exhausted and despaired by his search for the magical nectar dew among the seventy-two peaks. He finally doubled back to the Lotus Peak and laid down to rest on a large, smooth rock. Half asleep, he seemed to hear a soft, unworldly music. He opened his eyes and saw an old man followed by two graceful cranes riding a sika deer towards him. Knowing this person was no ordinary old man, he quickly got up. He bowed down with awe and asked respectfully, "Sir, do you know where to find the magical nectar dew?" The old man gazed at him kindly, and gave him a smile. Without answering, he threw down a piece of cloth and left. Giving a soft silvery glow, the cloth slowly floated down onto the rock, and the word "dig" was written on it. His heart was filled with joy, but yet suddenly, he felt something cold and hard against his back and woke with a start.

It was a dream. Huangdi shouted excitedly, "I am so lucky! The dream must have been an immortal guiding me!" The thought that the immortals were giving guidance powered Huangdi, and he started digging where the cloth had fallen. The rock he laid on was hard and the digging progress was extremely slow, but Huangdi persisted. He dug and dug and finally made a crack. Almost immediately, water spurted out, and it never stopped flowing out as the trickle of water grew into a large waterfall. Huangdi suddenly noticed the water was strangely shiny and scooped some up. It was cold and sweet as honey, and Huangdi leapt with joy, his face pink with elation, for it was indeed the magical nectar dew he had been seeking.

Huangdi had finally gotten all the ingredients for the pill of immortality! He quickly stoked a fire and poured into a cauldron all the ingredients. The pill he had been working on for almost a decade was going to be finished! His hand trembled with excitement as he stirred the ingredients together. The fire underneath roared and suddenly leapt so high that its tongues licked at Huangdi's sleeves. Smokes and fumes of different colours rose from the cauldron, and the mixture slowly turned from bright red to orange, then to yellow. Suddenly, thousands of rays of golden light streamed out, illuminating the entire mountain. As the light faded away, Huangdi peeked into it. In it laid a golden pill emitting dazzling rays.

Shivering ever so slightly, Huangdi picked the pill up and swallowed it. Huangdi was immediately refreshed, every single trace of pain and weariness removed from his mortal body. He had succeeded by persisting with his good will! He went to heaven, the kingdom of immortals, with the slightest leap. As he went up, he silently blessed Huangshan to be forever uninvaded by evil forces, and famous men in the future would come here and receive its blessing to bring the people good days too.

Huangdi smiled at Huangshan, the place where he gained his immortality, before fading through the clouds.

A Tale from China's Magical Mountains

Kiangsu and Chekiang Primary School, International Section, Lau, Curtis – 9

A young boy named Aaron, who is very cautious, but helpful has decided to embark on a journey with his friends and Madelyn Skye. Madelyn is a girl who loves acrobatics, whom Aaron hates a lot not so much for loving acrobatics. Rather at the age of 10, Aaron hates generally all belong to the opposite gender, but somehow his friends convinced him to let her join on this epic quest which might just fail because of Madelyn. Aaron thought. His friend Keenan Skye, a smart boy who is the big brother of Madelyn was the reason why Madelyn was there. Apart from Keenan, this journey also included Aaron's other friends, Noir Anemia, a natural fighter, Martial Arts expert, the big brother of Blanco Anemia and a friend of Aaron. And finally, Blanco Anemia, a Natural Ninja, a Martial Arts expert as well and a friend of Aaron as well.

"Magic is nonsense." Aaron said as he walked down a slippery path to the hotel they were staying in. "Whatever, it seems fun to me." Keenan, his friend said as he patted Aaron on his shoulder. "Still, it seems pointless to go hike on a mountain without getting anything in return." Aaron said as he looked down at his shoes. "Let's talk about this later, I want to see what our hotel rooms are going to look like." Keenan replied. They were going to stay at a hotel near the mountains. Well as close as they could.

As they entered the hotel which was made out of wood and only one story tall, so it was more of a shack, we decided to choose rooms and eventually all the rooms were worked out and Aaron and Blanco were Sharing a room and Aaron was both nervous and excited at the same time. He didn't know what to expect from a boy as mysterious as a white tiger coming out of the forest. He could be messy and ruthless or Clean and gentle. Who knows? As a few minutes went by, Aaron said to Blanco that he was leaving to see Keenan and talk about something. During this time he heard a few weird noises such as kicking, punching and jumping in Negro's room, but Aaron decided not to question it. But he quickly did all the chores he needed to do and went to bed, since he was also scared of Blanco a lot more than before.

The next day, they all set out for the mountain. "It will be a fun journey for all of us including you, Madelyn." Keenan said as he put on his seat belt getting ready to drive up the mountain. "Yeah I guess so..." Madelyn said quietly as both Blanco and Negro suddenly they said in synchronization: "I would rather hike up the mountain alone." they mumbled as they left the bus and jumped on the walls of the mountains and doing stunts to impress each other as they raced to the top and disappeared from sight as Keenan shouted after them. Keenan then raced behind them and vanished too. And then suddenly Aaron got absorbed into thinking, which made him only be able to see black as if hallucination while he felt worried about his friends.

As he returned to his senses, Madelyn was so happy and relieved; otherwise she would be left alone. To suppress her nervousness and worries especially about her brother, she kept asking Aaron questions such as "What do you think about the Bus ride? Have you seen the hotel rooms? They look so cool. What is your favourite color? How do you...." Madelyn said as Aaron slowly walked to the front as Madelyn followed him, asking him questions constantly. As they walked up the mountain, Madelyn kept on asking Aaron questions while he just ignored her when suddenly..... An avalanche!! Madelyn and Aaron were almost hit by the gigantic snowballs headed their way. When Aaron suddenly went to the "Void Dimension" again. This time he was in a totally different world, there were floating islands and Phoenixes flying his way and trees that have leaves that are white and blue. And then suddenly, he reappeared in the real world at the same time and same place, he closed his eyes and flew up in to the sky and grew black horns of a devil and white wings of an angel. Now Aaron realized whenever he sink into deep thought or hallucination, he could have the power of changing his human form into an mythical and powerful creature.

And he stopped time with a click of his finger and made the snowballs disappear, while doing this, Madelyn was able to see what happened and was amazed. Aaron quickly hid away his wings and horns started to fall. Before Aaron and Madelyn fell to the ground, they were lucky enough to get caught by a gigantic bird which was actually a white and blue dragon with hints of gold.

As he started to calm down about being on a dragon, he realized that Madelyn could have been hurt during the whole process. But luckily, she was safe by hiding beside a small rock. He rescued her by asking the dragon to help her go back down to safety. Eventually both of them rode the dragon and safely descended to the bottom of the mountain. As a result of this adventure, Aaron and Madelyn became good friends and whenever they met, they would always talk about that occasion, no matter what. They all reunited with their friends at the bottom of the mountain and they became an undefeated team ever since.

China's Magical Mountains

Kiangsu and Chekiang Primary School, International Section, Wong, Sheung Yu Henry – 9

Shin, a 10-year-old boy who was born at the bottom of Huang Shan, loved to go hiking with his family because of the scenery. Huang Shan is the tallest and most beautiful mountain in Eastern China with deep ravines, rocky cliffs, flowers blooming and more. Sometimes, they would observe monkeys swinging by on the trees or delicate woodpeckers pecking wood.

One afternoon, Shin and his family went hiking again. This time, they went on a trail they had never gone on before. The trail seemed to be regular but after a while it split into two. They chose the right path since the plants were very colourful, but the first step on that path, walls appeared that blocked the family from the path. “WHAT? HOW DID THAT HAPPEN, IS A WITCH DOING THIS? AHHH!” The family screamed. After they calmed down, they started to walk on the left path. On that path, all the flowers had died and looked deserted. 500 metres high, they found a bench to rest on.

Suddenly, the bench cracked and fell backwards, they fell. The entire family closed their eyes while screaming as they fell. After a few seconds they realised, they were not falling anymore. They opened their eyes and saw that they were sitting on nothing but air. Out of nowhere a mysterious voice spoke “Hello, I am the invisible dragon, Guardian of Mountains that roams around the sky. Your family has just gone through the Hell’s Path and I suspect that an evil spirit must have led you there. In case you see this evil spirit again, I want you to take this book of chants that it will protect you from any evil. I have just saved your lives so in order to repay me; I want you to help 100 people within a week. Now I will hover you back to the ground, goodbye.”

The family was bewildered. They had never seen or heard of an invisible dragon and had also never been that close to death. After they had finally set their feet on the ground. They headed home and started to brainstorm ideas to help 100 people.

At home, they discussed ideas and looked at the holy book that the dragon had given them. “Woah, there are so many different chants and spells, how do we know which one to use when we are in danger?” Asked Shin while looking at the book. “Just choose one.” Shin’s mom suggested. There was a long pause before Shin’s dad said “I have a simple solution, we have only 3 people in this household but, if we ask our friends to help, then we can achieve the target. If we have 7 friends that are volunteering to help, each of us only must help 10 people. We need to get hold of a carriage for this.” “That is a good plan, I will also handle all the clothes and food. But where will we go to help 100 people? I know for sure there are not many people who needed help in our village.” Shin’s mom replied. “I know, we can go to the village a few miles away!” Shin replied. The family agreed on that plan. So then Shin and his father went to get the horse carriage.

Halfway there, a mound appeared that suddenly rocketed up. It was a giant blockage on a street that made Shin and his father unable to get to the horse carriage stable. “What? That was the only way to get to the stable and now it’s blocked? What are we supposed to do now?” Shin aggressively asked. The mound was not too tall, so Shin started to climb it. After a bit, the mound had been scaled by Shin. “Shin! You go without me!” Shin’s father yelled. After hearing that, Shin went ahead. He quickly sprinted towards the stable and got the horse. When Shin was getting the lead for the horse, Shin’s father somehow caught up and helped Shin. “We also need some tools, because the blacksmith was super close, so we borrowed some pickaxes.” Shin’s father said. Four days passed and Shin’s family and team started to leave for the other village.

The village looked abandoned and there were lots of people on the streets. In the middle of the village, a strangely spherical mound of grass was moving. It suddenly spoke when Shin walked over to it. “I am an evil spirit that has possessed this mound. I live here and make this village suffer because I do not like people being happy. You guys are trying to make the people here happy and that is unacceptable. I will give you 10 seconds to get out of here. Or else I must do this the hard way.” Shin panicked, he had to stay otherwise the village had to suffer. “What do I do now?” Shin thought. Then it hit him. “The holy book!”. He took out the Holy book from his pocket and started to read it out loud. Using his heart, Shin read it as if he read this daily. After he had read one page, the mound was unpossessed. “Wow, it worked! That is amazing!” Then the family proceeded to help 100 people there.

The next day, the mayor showed up at Shin's home to appreciate what the family had done. "That village is now a great place and all thanks to you guys! Thank you for helping that village and, I have established an annual day to help 100 people." After that, Shin felt that he had made a huge impact on the future of the village and will always strive to help people. In his mind, he had thanked the dragon, for making all this possible.

The Chinese Mountains

Kiangsu and Chekiang Primary School, International Section, Yeung, Kylie – 10

250 million years ago, three mountains were formed to separate the earth from the heavens. One was to be chosen to be a ladder for mortals to reach the heavenly plane. However, the Jade Mountain was not tall enough and the Buzhou Mountain was damaged by the mischievous serpent Gonggong. This only left Kunlun to be the ladder to the sky.

Around 150 million years later, four rivers began their lives. At the time of this story, three of them had decided to slip into comas, and only one remained conscious, the Ruoshui River.

The flowing of the rivers eroded parts of the Mountains, creating the Moving Sands. Together, these are known as the Eight Pillars. They have existed for many millennia, but the threat of mankind's greed was growing. Rivers were becoming polluted; air quality was diminishing and the earth was slowly dying. Due to global warming, the Mountains were being eroded which caused the Moving Sands to expand. The Mountains decided that they had to do something.

Present Day:

"I'm so fed up with these humans! They are jeopardizing everything!", Bouzhou raged, "Look, I'm a volcano, why don't I just wipe them all out?". "You've been an extinct volcano for over a millennia", Kunlun replied drily, "besides, it's not possible to wipe out the whole world and anyway, its not the ones closest to us that are causing the problems. It's the City people". "Well, I'm close to you, Kunlun, I can wipe YOU out!". "You two, act your age! and anyway we don't need to wipe them all out, we just need to teach them a lesson!", snapped Jade, "to do this effectively, we need to include the Moving Sands and Ruoshui". "Not Sandy!" Buzhou screamed, "that little mite annoys me!" Kunlun and Jade both shook their heads. "Sandy might me a 'mite' but he's the most wide-spread", answered Kunlun, sounding amused.

The three Mountains went back and forth for weeks, trying to figure out a solution, to no avail. Eventually, they reached out to Ruoshui River, who was amazed that they had been debating it for so long. Afterall, mountains are stagnant and only moved about an inch a century, while rivers move much more rapidly.

Buzhou, as was his nature, wanted to reign fire and brimstone, and destroy everybody. Kunlun thought that the people should be forcefully educated about the damage that they were doing to the environment. Jade thought that that plan would take too long but destroying everything wasn't a solution either. Ruoshui preached for a more peaceful method.

Sandy, having overheard this discussion, approached them petulantly, whining that he hadn't been included in the discussion. They others tried to placate him, explaining that they had planned to eventually. Sandy's plan was to get under everyone's skin, and irritate the world into stopping, or at least pausing, for a while.

The solution of a series of destructive earthquakes was reached as a compromise between Buzhou and Kunlun. Whilst the effects were devastating to some, on the whole, it didn't change anything. Next, they tried a tropical storm, but the problem was that the people that had been doing the most damage had not had their income or liberty affected.

Ruoshui thought a tsunami would be enough to teach them a lesson, and persuaded Jade to back her up. But once again, nobody who was in a position to bring about change, took any notice. And mankind continued its destructive path.

Kunlun suggested that in order to come up with an effective solution, they needed to write a list of the actions of mankind that needed to be curtailed. Together they decided that they three main problems were: pollution from factories, air-travel, and the wasting of natural resources. Sandy, in a rare moment of seriousness, went on to suggest that a big action, that affected a small amount of people, was never going to be the solution. He suggested that something small, even microscopic, that affected a large number of people, regardless of how much money, or power, they had, or where they lived, would be the tool to level the playing fields. He argued that sand, however small, if it got to the right areas, could cause great irritation.

The Mountains eventually agreed, and it was decided that Sandy and Ruoshui were the best placed to put this into action, as they were able to move throughout the land. Kunlun, remembering the Black Plague, suggested that a modern virus should be the ‘grains of sand’ from Sandy’s idea. They asked the animals if they knew of any viruses that mankind hadn’t faced before— and the rest is history.

Very quickly, the world stopped, or at least paused. Factories closed temporarily, planes stopped flying and people stopped wasting natural resources. People began reconsidering their priorities. Due to the fact that people started working from home, traffic slowed down, which led to cleaner air, which in turn led to cleaner rivers.

The Pillars were happy with the overall result, but slowly the guilt crept in. Even in this, the rich would afford health care, often surviving, without changing their behaviours, while the poor and the minorities bore the brunt. The people who could afford not to work for a while, were the ones whose jobs could be done at home. The ones who lived pay check—to-pay check: the waitresses, the shop assistants, the receptionists, found out that they were not so essential after all. Those who remained essential: the nurses, the cleaners, and the bus drivers were left unprotected from the virus.

The mountains learned that once again, those who had the power to effect change, were not learning their lesson. The Pillars despaired of bringing about lasting change. But slowly, step-by-step, the world started to modify to this new environment.

The Dragon's of the Chinese Mountains

Kiangsu and Chekiang Primary School, International Section, Yuet Ching, Low – 8

There once was a knight with blonde hair that shimmered in the sunlight and gold eyes the colour of liquid gold. He was muscular, tan, strong and also happened to be the King's most trusted advisor. He was almost as handsome on the inside as he was on the outside; but you see, every hero has a fatal flaw, a deadly imperfect part of your personality that if you do not learn how to control it... well they don't call it 'fatal' for nothing. The knight's (Sebastian was his name) fatal flaw was being overly loyal to his friends, and the King happened to be Sebastian's close friend. He would do the impossible for the King because of this flaw.

One day, the king sent Sebastian on a quest to kill the mythical "Chinese Dragon" because it was killing lots of soldiers, including some of the King's best ones. He set off on horseback right away.

Sebastian soon reached the Chinese Mountains, they were imposing, majestic, tall and above all, unwelcoming, they also had a strange mist hanging about them. He scaled the mountain and in no time at all, he was at the top. He soon spotted the Chinese Dragon, who was asleep in his cave. The cave was humongous and littered with all kinds of bones, human skulls, animal rib cages... You name it! The dragon itself was the height of four men, it's width the length of three women, it's skin was red in colour and it's teeth were the length of a five year old child and stained with a red liquid which Sebastian had a feeling was not ketchup. He raised his sword but, before he could even touch it, the dragon woke up and roared thunderously. The impact of the sound sent Sebastian flying through the air and landing on his bum. The dragon was about to pounce on him but Sebastian ran away. He leaped on his horse and set off back to the king's castle.

When he told the king about his failure the king flew into a rage and banished Sebastian and his mom Angelica to the Dark Forest. But, Sebastian, determined to regain the king's favor, set off with his mother's blessings to try to kill the dragon again.

On the way Sebastian spotted a rundown cottage which belonged to a witch, but he didn't know that, and because he was tired and hungry he knocked on the door. When the door didn't open, Sebastian, almost passing out with fatigue, opened it. Sebastian was too tired to notice details, just saw a sofa, crashed on it and passed out.

While he was sleeping the witch came back and seeing a stranger sleeping on her sofa decided to hang him on top of a fire and eat him for lunch.

When he woke up, he found himself suspended 5 feet in the air, on top of a fire, slowly being roasted. He also saw a girl suspended in the air beside him.

He unsheathed his sword and cut the girl's bonds first, she landed on the floor as gracefully as a cat. Then he cut his own bonds and landed heavily on the floor like a bear. After he was freed he surveyed the girl closely. She had shining silver eyes, midnight black hair and a fair face.

He asked the girl "Are you okay?"

The girl answered "Yes I am fine."

Sebastian said "That's good, by the way why were you hung up beside me just now?"

The girl replied "I am the witch's daughter, but unlike my mother I did not want to become evil, my mother was very angry and hung me up here. How about you?"

So Sebastian told her his story. When he finished the girl said "I want to come with you." Sebastian protested but the girl kept on pleading, so at last he agreed. He said "Well if you are coming with me then I suppose I'll have to know your name."

The girl said "Luna."

Sebastian said "Luna, let's check out those potions on the counter." They walked across and saw 3 potions. The first one was labeled 'healing', the second one 'poisoning' and the third one 'killing'. Sebastian took all three thinking they would come in handy. They then left the cottage and set off to the Chinese Mountains.

They soon came to the mythical Chinese Mountains, they looked exactly the same as he last saw them. Imposing, majestic.... Sebastian was about to use the killing potion on the dragon but Luna stopped him "Remember about that mist you saw the last time? It is still here! I think the mist is some kind of magic and it is affecting the dragon, making him evil! Why don't you use the healing potion? I think it can purify the dragon!"

Sebastian thought for a while and then took out the healing potion. He poured some of the potion on the dragon's hide and the dragon woke up, saw the blood from the soldiers on his teeth and looked bemused because he was a herbivore and didn't eat soldiers. The dragon went off to the field to graze, no longer eating soldiers. Sebastian and Luna beamed at each other, the task was done! Sebastian and Luna returned to the palace and told the tale to the king and queen. The king was impressed and let Sebastian and his mom go.

Sebastian lived a long and happy life as the king's guard and Luna served as the Queen's attendant. They stayed best friends for life.

The Broken Poem

Kingston International School, Fung, Derek – 8

“I wonder what happened to Huangshan Mountain...” a voice whispered from beneath the shadows.

It was the voice of a young boy named Feng who lived in the year 2161. As he read an ancient poem, “Dawn Vista On Huangshan”, Feng’s curiosity took hold of him. He scoured the web in search of how Huangshan Mountain was destroyed many years ago. He discovered a legend that all living things began to disappear when the Yellow Emperor’s enchanted staff went missing.

“I’ve got it!” Feng exclaimed, “I’ll travel back to when life on the mountain was beginning to vanish.”

Feng used a futuristic watch his inventive father had once given him to scan a 740-year-old painting of the mountain falling into ruins. The world went black.

Feng opened his eyes and found himself in a quaint village surrounded by the rocky and barren Huangshan Mountain.

Feng approached a villager and enquired, “The Yellow Emperor’s staff... Do you know where it is?”

The villager frowned, “Regrettably, I don’t. ‘Dawn Vista on Huangshan’ contains a cryptic code that can lead you to the staff. Everybody knows the first half of this prophetic poem, but the rest is too damaged to read.”

Feng sprinted into a gloomy alley, pressed a button on his watch and recited the first half of the poem under his breath. Lightning burst out of his watch and behind him was the whole poem. Another villager peeked into the alley and gaped. As Feng turned around, the villager fled.

Feng gasped at the words of the entire poem floating in the air. He memorised the second half. Then he snapped his fingers and the poem disappeared. Feng headed towards the first peak of Huangshan Mountain in search of the staff.

The villager was scampering towards the palace when soldiers leaped out and drew their swords.

“Please, I’m here to tell the prince about a magi—” OOF! The villager found himself in front of the infamous prince.

“What magical instrument belongs to ME?” he thundered.

“A young boy came to town wearing a mystifying wristband and it repaired the missing half of the prophecy.”

“I MUST HAVE IT! GUARDS, FOLLOW ME!”

Feng skipped towards the first of 36 peaks. Suddenly, his watch launched a cable with a claw that grabbed a soldier by his belt! Other soldiers jumped out, but Feng’s watch fired nets at them! The soldiers collapsed to the ground and were defeated. The prince was watching from a dark cave nearby. He transformed into a whiskered, treacherous dragon. His long, flexible body shot towards Feng. Feng dodged his attack. The prince was so enraged that fire erupted from his terrifying jaws! BRAGH! Feng was nearly caught by the dragon’s flames, but he leapt over the blast and survived.

The dragon snarled, “One day, I’ll be the king of the Ming Dynasty. So, hand me that wristband.”

Feng pointed his watch at the dragon and unleashed a laser beam that pierced his heart. Golden blood dripped out of the wound. Feng reached into his backpack and took out an empty glass bottle. He collected the golden blood before he continued walking to the peak.

Within minutes, Feng arrived. He recalled the first half of the poem:

“Thirty—six strange peaks,
Immortals with black top knots.
Morning sun strikes the tree tops,
Here in this sky mountain world.”

Feng found the fabled stone replica of the immortal Han Xiangzi on the peak. He clambered to the top of the statute and rested on its head. The sun suddenly illuminated the trees and he knew he was on the right track. A squawking sound in the sky reminded him of the other half of the poem:

“Chinese people, raise your faces!
For a thousand years cranes come and go.
Far off I spy a firewood gatherer,
Plucking sticks from stone crevices.”

Feng gazed into the sky and saw thousands of cranes flying in the same direction. Feng followed them to a peculiar old man gathering wood from narrow gaps between boulders. He had a long, wispy beard that touched the ground. Feng noticed a stick with a distinctive fiery pattern. As he grabbed it, a door opened beneath him. CRASH! Feng fell into a cave! Inside the cave, a glowing, golden staff lay on the bare floor.

There was a sign that stated, “Only one who pours the golden liquid over the staff can return it to its rightful place.” Feng poured the golden blood he had collected from the dragon onto the staff.

A strange voice came from the staff. It was the ancestor of all Han Chinese people, the Yellow Emperor. He rumbled, “You are destined to save Huangshan Mountain. Climb the ladder to find what you have been searching for, the rightful place in the monument.”

Feng climbed a ladder that reached out of the cave and high into the mist until a glorious monument was revealed. It had a golden roof with vines curled around it. The walls were covered with amazing paintings of mountains, which led Feng's eyes to a small wooden door. The door mysteriously creaked open by itself! As Feng crouched through the doorway, he was bathed in rays of shimmering light. In the centre of the floor was an imposing taijitu, the symbol of Yin and Yang representing balance.

Feng murmured, “This must be where the staff belongs.” Feng gently placed the staff on the taijitu. However, nothing happened. Feng was so disappointed that he threw his backpack and stormed outside.

But when he looked at Huangshan Mountain sprawled out below him, he gasped. He saw pine trees growing taller than ever, gorgeous golden monkeys soaking in hot springs, clouded leopards leaping from rock to rock and storks flying high in the blue ocean full of clouds. In the distance, he saw a rainbow arc surrounding a blurry figure.

Feng's eyes widened, “The Buddha's light.”

Now the mountain was back to what it used to be. The magnificent Huangshan Mountain.

The Magical Mountain

Korean International School, Chahar, Saanchi – 11

Once upon a time there was a village named Arendelle. The king of Arendelle, Christoph was very caring. One day the villagers complained to Christoph that their village was polluted, and they could not even breathe. I will sort it out said the king.

Christoph and his horse Sphen started on an adventure to find a solution to the problem. They reached the Valley of Flowers. Christoph asked Maya the bee, where are the trees and beautiful flowers? Maya replied that the humans had cut down trees, and never planted new ones.

Christoph and Sphen continued their journey. Then they reached the Ocean of Pearls. They asked Nemo the fish. Why is the water so dirty? Nemo said that the humans dispose of their waste and plastic into the sea.

They continued further and after a long sailing they reached a beautiful island, where they met The Mighty Eagle. Christoph asked the eagle, where are we? The eagle replied, welcome to Te-fiti! The Magical Mountain. Christoph asked, what is the secret of this beautiful mountain. The eagle replied, let us go and ask Te-fiti herself. Christoph and eagle climbed to the top of The Magical Mountain to meet Te-fiti.

Christoph told Te-fiti about his problem. Te-fiti said that the problem is manmade and Mother Nature is upset with people of Arendelle. Te-fiti asked Christoph to take care of Mother nature, plant new trees and recycle their waste. If the villagers take care of Mother Nature, happiness and good times will return to Arendelle.

Christoph returned to Arendelle and told the villagers about his adventure. The villagers realised their mistake and started recycling their waste, stopped using plastic and planted new trees. Arendelle returned to its past glory and the people were happy again.

China's Magical Mountains

Korean International School, Sharma, Kaira – 8

One beautiful morning Stephanie woke up in China's magical mountains. She was a scientist exploring new places and discovering new things. She was in that place because she heard that many scientists had found new species there.

She was also thinking about what she could find there, a dinosaur egg, maybe a new type of butterfly? Who knows what could be there! You just have to explore.

Blonde haired Stephanie was born in America 3 decades ago. As an inquisitive child she always wanted to be a scientist and wanted to know more about the world around her. Her logical brain always encouraged her to be curious and find answers to the unsolved mysteries.

One day she was dreaming about being a world famous scientist for discovering something amazing! At first she thought it was real, but then she realised it was just a dream. Her hopes went high to find something new, beautiful and amazing.

Another day passed by, she was breathing the fresh air of the highest mountain in the world. Fresh air, green mountains, serene environment, and chirping birds were making her feel relaxed and at one with nature. Two hours later, she heard an animal's voice. She was curious and curious. She went closer towards the animal, and guess what she discovered ... a shiny silver metallic tiger who was not harmful and very friendly unlike the other tigers in the world!

Chapter 2– Coming home with a discovery

After she discovered the harmless silver metallic tiger, she decided to give it a name. She named him Huangshan. A few days later she headed back home.

She went into her science lab and all her colleagues were scared and excited at the same time. She told them all about the tiger and how rare he was, his name and many more facts.

So, a few days later the other scientists hosted a party secretly without informing Stephanie, with the help of the Government to invite the whole city over there.

Chapter 3 – The party

The party was more of a celebration than a party, because they were celebrating a new addition to the beautiful Earth.

Stephanie's dream had come true, she was a world famous scientist.

Two years later Huanshan was the people's pet. And because it was such an amazing discovery, the mountains were named after the tiger – 'The Huangshan Mountains'.

Chapter 4 – A new job!

Five years later, she became a journalist. Now she wasn't a person who discovers things, now she explored new things around the world. She was doing a great job.

More years passed and she became the inventor of a never melting ice cream. And then you might know what she became! a scientist . As she got older she was getting grumpy because of all the work she had to do.

She was very stressed and always tired, day and night. Her family had to do something about it. She was always grumpy and tired.

Chapter 5– Fixing things up

Now her family thought of something rest and holidays, that's what she needs. The whole family agreed to the idea and they planned a day to ask her boss.

When they asked her boss if she could have a 1 week break. Her boss agreed! Everyone was very happy that her boss was able to give a one week holiday.

Chapter 6—SURPRISE!

When they told her about the holiday she felt ok. She was not happy or sad. Just in the middle. During the holidays she thought about if she needed to do so much work when she was older.

In the holidays she decided to not work and open an amusement park. So over the holidays she discussed the idea with her family. Her family thought it was a great idea and they all agreed to it.

Chapter 7 – The opening

So, when she said that she didn't want to work anymore, she started the amusement park. It had all the animals discovered from the Hounshang mountains and for a summer treat there was never—melting ice cream that was invented by her.

The Truth of Yellow Mountain

Korean International School, Shin, Jenny – 8

There is a magical mountain called Yellow Mountain in China. It's a very tall mountain that is surrounded by a lot of clouds. People in China believe at the top of the mountain, there are magical animals such as dragons or guardians. Many people studied about Yellow Mountain to get information about the mountain, but they could not find the truth of Yellow Mountain.

Once upon a time, there were twins named Marie and May who loved magic things and loved to make a deduction. One day, in the afternoon, Marie was lost in a deep thought. Since May saw Marie was thinking deeply, she went beside to her, and talked to her. "Why are you thinking so deeply?" "I was just thinking about how to fix the problem." Marie replied. "What do you mean?" May asked. "You know, these days, we have some big problems. For example, our country is losing its liveliness because somethings that is important is being gone! The citizens are believing it is happening because guardians are not thinking about our country, anymore! But I read a book about Yellow Mountain, and in the book, it says 'If you have a problem, you can solve the problem when you meet the lion guardian in Yellow Mountain'. So I am going to Yellow Mountain!" said Marie, proudly. May wanted to go to Yellow Mountain, too. "Can I go with you?" May asked. "Of course!" Marie replied. But our parents would not allow us to go ourselves. So we need to act very quickly and not get caught!" she whispered. "When will we go to Yellow Mountain?" May asked. "Tomorrow morning, of course!" Marie replied. Tomorrow morning, the twins woke up very early. Because they need to prepare to go to Yellow Mountain. They needed to woke up very early to not get caught from their parents . They took a note and put it on the table.

Dear mum and dad

We will go outside because we need to

know something in the Yellow mountain.

It'll take two days. Don't worry. Love you.

From. Marie & May

Marie and May was little bit sleepy and tired because they didn't sleep enough, but they headed to Yellow mountain. It was very hard to find Yellow Mountain, but Marie and May were very near to the mountain, so it didn't take a long time. When the twins arrived at Yellow Mountain, they were very scared because Yellow Mountain was very very high. But they thought about their country, and decided to climb the mountain to solve the problem. An hour later, Marie and May were so tired, therefore they rested by sitting on the big rock and eating some snacks. Suddenly, they heard something moving, and there was something on their back. They didn't want to rest anymore. All they wanted to do was find out what was that and wishing that is the guardian! They moved as fast as they could. Some hours later, they finally arrived at the top of Yellow Mountain. The sun setted already, so they could not see anything because of the dark. But Marie and May really wanted to help their country. So they waited patiently to meet the lion guardian. 30 minutes later, the twins were very hungry and bored, however they couldn't just go down the mountain because they didn't have any food, and it was too late. Suddenly, they found something moving. The twins became very patient and waited to get out of the bushes. They saw a giant creature that looked like a lion! But it seem very rare because it had 2 wings, big feet, and it did not have mane, at all! It was the lion guardian who is the strongest guardian that Marie saw it on the book! The guardian stared at the twins. Then he frowned. "Who are you?" he said. "I'm Marie and she's May. We came to here to meet you." Marie said. "Why?" said the lion guardian. "Let me tell the serious problem. Our country is losing its liveliness now! I don't know why, but people are believing that is happening because the guardians are not thinking and lead the country, anymore!" cried May. "I read a book about Yellow Mountain before. In the book, it said, 'If you have any problem, you can solve the problem by meeting the strongest guardian, lion guardian at Yellow Mountain'. So we hardly walked and climbed up this tall mountain to meet you!" Marie added. Marie and May saw the lion guardian's mood changing. First, he seem very annoying to the twins, but now, he seem worried. Finally, the guardian opened its mouth. "Fine. I will help you, girls." "HOOORRAY! HOOORRAY!" Marie and May shouted with excitement. "Thank you so much!" they cried. "So what should I do to help you?" The guardian asked to the twins, smiling. "Please make our citizens very healthy and make our country safe!" They said, together, wishing that would be available. Fortunately, the lion guardian accepted their wishes. "Alwaga gradias trocigo!" the guardian chanted a spell. And then BOOM! The

guardian was gone. And the twins were at their home. Everything was successful! HOORAY for everyone! The twins saves the country!

Ever since that day, China developed a lot and got stronger and stronger. That's how China became what it is now. The 15 years old twins saved the country!

The Battle of the Yellow Mountains

Korean International School, Tsang, Maurice – 11

Wang Bai-Long, a boy about eight years old, looked up to realize a white dragon standing on the hill-top. At least it looked like one. Its head fitted the descriptions of dragons that his grandad told him about, but its body was weird. It had swan's wings and two legs. It was gigantic, about 10 feet long, and was covered with feathers. It was not at all like the dragons that he had seen in the temples and in the ancestral halls. The dragon flew off, leaving Bai-Long dumbstruck. Then he ran back to his hut. He told his mom about the dragon thingy. She just told him to take care of the chickens.

Bai-Long's village was levitated 6,000 feet off the ground, on the top of Turtle Peak in the Yellow Mountains. From here, you could see Lotus Peak, the tallest peak in the Yellow Mountains. Once, the ancestor of the Chinese made an immortality drink out of a purple fungus on the mountain and a dragon came and flew him up to the heavens. Or so it was said. Bai-Long looked at Lotus Peak and sighed.

"If only they would believe me!" he thought. Then he saw the dragon thingy again, this time flying toward Lotus Peak.

"Okay," said Bai-Long, "I am definitely going to Lotus Peak."

The next day Bai-Long tried to get his parent's permission, to no avail. He told his classmates about it, but they said, "He's finally lost his marbles." So, by himself, Bai-Long went to Lotus Peak to find out what was going on.

After the long, agonizing trip to Lotus Peak, Bai-Long saw a smaller dragon thing flying down a cave in the mountain. The cave was barely big enough for Bai-Long to enter. He went down the cave and it led to a big room. It held five of those dragon thingies. And the fifth one was twice as large as the others and was sitting on a throne, which was actually a big stone. Bai-Long was so amazed that he tumbled down on top of one of the dragon things. He was immediately lifted by the collar in front of the biggest dragon.

"Who are you?" said the big dragon.

"Get off me, you dragons!!!!!!" yelled a terrified Bai-Long.

"Dragons?!" exclaimed the big not-dragon "We are ice-drakes. I am the Great Ice-drake, the lord of the Yellow Mountains!"

"But you look like dragons," said a confused Bai-Long, "By the way, my name is Bai-Long."

"Our main difference from dragons is that we only breath ice!" said the Great Ice-Drake excitedly as he let out a blast of frost and blasted a pool of water. The pool instantly froze.

Then, a tiny little ice-drake flew frantically to the Great Ice-Drake and whispered something to his ear, which was basically a hole in the side of the giant ice-drake's head. When the little ice-drake was done, the Great Ice-Drake's face was grim. He roared at the other ice drakes, which roared back. Then they flew out the door.

"What's happening?" asked Bai-Long.

"The wolves in the west side of the yellow mountains have declared war on us," the ice-drake answered, "They say we've killed a hundred of their wolf packs, even though we didn't do it. After all, we are supposed to be allies."

"How do you understand wolves?" screamed Bai-Long, "Are there even wolves in the Yellow Mountains?????"

"You'll see," said the ice-drake, as he picked up Bai-Long and flew him to the door. He flew through twisting corridors and into a large balcony. Up there, Bai-Long could see that there were wolves indeed, coming through the forest and down the mountains toward Lotus Peak.

The Great Ice-Drake roared loudly. Immediately thousands of ice-drakes came from the mountain and formed ranks, guarding the titanic gate. Most were clasped in bronze armour, and some larger ice-drakes had catapults and huge crossbows strapped to their backs! The bigger ice-drakes had shields strapped to their faces.

Soon enough, Wolves came down from the mountains, thousands strong. They howled and attacked the ice-drakes. The shielded ice-drakes formed a front line which the wolves could not break. After that the larger drakes fired their projectiles and crushed the wolves. In response, the alpha wolf barked and the wolves quickly used their teeth to cut down some trees and make a battering ram. The wolves bashed it to break the front line.

“Stop! The battle is pointless!” cried Bai-Long. “You are supposed to be allies. The Ice-Drakes are innocent! You are being tricked by another group.”

Soon enough, thousands of black stone-like dragons crashed into the battlefield.

“Stone dragons!” roared the Great Ice-Drake.

“What are stone dragons?” asked Bai-Long.

“They are evil ice-drakes, twisted by evil spirits until they were no longer Ice-drakes,” exclaimed the Great Ice-drake, “They come from Toad Peak.”

And so began the battle of the Yellow Mountains. The stone dragons had attacked too soon, and the once again allied wolves and ice-drakes slowly pushed back the stone dragons. Bai-Long helped the Great Ice-Drake to defeat the leader of the stone dragons by luring the leader to the pine trees, where it got stuck and was frozen by the Great Ice-Drake.

When they saw their leader was dead, the stone dragons were completely disorganized and panicked. So after the wolves and the ice-drakes completely flattened the enemy troops, they swarmed Toad Peak and drove out the remaining stone dragons there. Bai-Long helped by distracting the stone dragons by doing funny faces and dropping stones on their heads. After the battle, Bai-Long had a feast with the ice-drakes and wolves. Then he headed back to Turtle Peak.

Years later, Bai-Long told his children and their friends about the Ice-Drakes. They thought it was a great story, but they also believed it was made up. Bai-Long used the story to teach them this lesson: you should trust your friends and do not easily fall for tricks that affect your friendship.

From the Past and Back

Kowloon Junior School, Chan, Amelia – 10

Hello, this is the year 2102. My name is Mimi and I would like to tell you a story, one about an extraordinary event that happened on an ordinary day.

Our planet is a wasteland now, in case you're wondering. There are no plants, no other animals, nothing except us humans and man-made things, like meal pills, robot pets, artificial grass. The sky is so polluted and grey that you can barely see the Sun. Looks like our great-grandparents haven't done such a good job of looking after the world.

I was chatting with my cousins, Mia and Alvin, when I spotted a glowing lumpy shape that didn't look like it belonged here.

Mia had spotted it too. "Huh. That looks strange, lemme have a look."

We all ran over to the shape. Mia gasped.

"It's...It's..." Mia stuttered. "It's a... berry."

It was true. Five berries lay on the ground in the grass.

"Wait!" Alvin said, but it was too late, Mia popped a berry in her mouth.

"Well, what's the worst that could happen?" I said and ate a berry of my own.

Alvin grumbled, but his curiosity got him. He ate a berry as well.

"See? I told you—" Mia groaned and doubled over.

At first, I felt nothing. But then, I felt so tired, more than I ever felt before. Panic flared through my mind as my vision shut down and I collapsed onto the artificial grass floor. It was as if I was falling down a hole that would never end. My mind fuzzed over and I fell asleep.

An icy gust of wind blew at my face. I woke up to find myself under a brown column, on the top of a very rocky and tall mountain. I realised that wasn't a brown column. Columns don't have a bunch of sticks at the top with round green shapes at the end of it. It was a tree.

The rocky landscape was covered by a blanket of snow, it was dotted with splotches of greenery and had beautiful vibrant colors. A thick layer of fog obscured my vision. And the sky... for the first time in my entire life, it was a beautiful pristine light blue.

"Woah, guys, where are we?" I said to Mia and Alvin, who were laying flat in the snow.

"Umph. Our fire is dying! Quick, go get more wood! I will make sure it keeps going," an authoritative voice said.

We followed the voice to the strange man. We saw the man kneeling in front of a sputtering fire. He was wearing a robe—like a bathrobe, but it had a dragon embroidered on it. It was tied with a blue ribbon tied at the waist. The man's hair was tied up in a bun with a gold ribbon. He had a long beard that reached his neck.

“Hello there! My name is Emperor Huang, and this is Yishan. I’m trying to make the pills of immortality but the fire needed to make the pills is going out, so this absolutely cannot wait!” Emperor Huang said as he spotted and urgently gestured us to the fire.

“Yeah, I can see that, and I may have a solution for you,” Mia said as she reached into her pocket and pulled out a solar powered lighter.

“Oh, ” I whispered, “we traveled to the past somehow. Yishan got named Huangshan for this Emperor, and it was removed to make residences decades ago.”

Mia put the lighter to the firewood and got the fire roaring again.

“There. Keep the lighter,” Mia said triumphantly as she tossed the lighter to Emperor Huang, who caught it in surprise.

“Yes! My fire! Thank you very much!” Emperor Huang exclaimed, “Who are you anyway?”

“I’m Mia and this is Alvin and Mimi,” Mia pointed to us.

“Is there anything I can do to repay you? You have done me a great favour,” Emperor Huang said to us.

“Well, yes actually,” I said. “We are all from the future, we ate some berry—”

“A berry that I told you not to eat, by the way,” Alvin interjected.

“Yeah, right,” I rolled my eyes. “Anyways, we ate a berry and came here, and we really want to go back.”

“Hm...”Emperor Huang stroked his beard. “I’ve heard of a tale about a mysterious berry on the top of this mountain. It supposedly transports people to the future, but no one has ever seen it, for it would only appear for people who belong in the future.”

“Well, could you tell us how to get there?” I asked hopefully.

“Only one way,” Emperor Huang pointed to a path that sloped up.

We thanked Emperor Huang and started up the path.

We hiked for days and nights, following the path to our home. We saw many landmarks and passed many incredible sights, like the rock that Han Xiang Zi created, the replica of himself. The story goes that Han Xiang Zi was captivated by the view here, and he didn’t want to go to the gathering of the gods. He was eventually persuaded into going, but he created this rock to remind himself how to get back here. I get it, why he didn’t want to leave. This place was an amazing sight to see. Everywhere we looked, we saw snow, frost, trees, and the many things that we did not have at home. We saw many spectacular flowers and plants of many dazzling colors.

When we finally reached the top, our legs felt like they were going to fall off. It was all worth it though, when we saw the berries Emperor Huang was talking about.

On a small green bush were the blue glowing berries.

“Let’s go home,” Alvin said as we each grabbed a berry and popped it in our mouths.

Tales from China's Magical Mountains

Lingnan University Alumni Association (HK) Primary School, Chan, Hei Bubu

A long long time ago, at the time where dragons lived and slept in the majestic and stunning mountains of China, there was a royal dragon named Sakura. She was the daughter of the dragon queen, Alexandria, and the dragon king, Arthur. She was a very nice and friendly dragon, and had many friends, as well as being a stunningly beautiful one, for she had scales which were the colours of a rainbow. They were also paler than the normal colours to make them look dreamy and attracting, so Sakura's scales looked truly wonderful. She was unlike any *normal* royal young female dragon, for she liked to do all the things a young male dragon did. *Instead of* reading poetry by famous poets, sew lovely dresses, or practicing putting on makeup, she likes to do gymnastics with other princes whilst flying, or shooting arrows with her tail, and other athletics.

Time passed, and many of the dragons grew old and were very easily ill. Suddenly, a rare illness called "*Black Dragon*" broke out among dragons and many had to be brought back to their own world to be healed and given a potion called "*Forever Young*" to make them young forever, and another called "*Forever healthy*" to make sure that everyone will be healthy throughout their lives. The dragons in Dragon Land named the illness this, because the *only* bad and black dragon in Dragon Land first caught this illness while making some evil spells, then died because of the illness himself. This illness makes the dragon weak, and the dragon who caught it will start to age very quickly, it will make the dragon grow ten years older each hour, which is very worrying. The "*Black Dragon*" also makes the dragon's scales and skin peel off, which is painful for anyone, with scales and without. However, in just the nick of time Princess Sakura decided to stay alone with her friend Apollo and make sure that China in the "*Other World*" as they call our world, is safe for other creatures to live in, and also, they wanted to live in this world for as long as they lived.

While the dragons were struggling with the "*Black Dragon*" illness, Sakura and Apollo had the tiring job of cleaning the mountains so that other animals could survive in the stunning mountains, not that it was much use, for only dragons can catch the illness. One day, after endless hours of inspecting, out of the sky came a dragon messenger who was panting and trying to catch his breath for all he was worth. He was tired out, for presumably he came from the farthest parts of the kingdom. He was so exhausted, that he fainted halfway through his landing and fell with a gigantic *THUD* on the floor of the cottage Sakura and Apollo were resting in. The two dragons who were resting was so surprised, that they were not fast enough to catch the suddenly descending dragon. The messenger, by the name of Thor, groaned and slowly, and painfully, sat up." Greetings..." Then the poor dragon fainted again." Greetings your highness! The Queen told me to give you this message!" Then he began to talk so quickly, the two resting could hardly catch up with him! "*This is the Queen's message! Would you like me to read it for you, or shall you want to read it yourselves, for it is addressed to both of you.*" He spoke grandly and importantly, and it was clear that by the way that Thor talked, whatever message it was, it was very worrying and depressing." Read it to us please, Thor, for we are absolutely exhausted! Oh dear, I hope it is not bad news!" "*Well, it goes like this: My dears, things are getting bad in our own world. The "Black Dragon" virus has evolved so that anything or anyone can catch it. Therefore we are forced to make a very difficult decision: We either have to leave you two in the "Other World", or, you can come back to your own home. After you make your choice, I will have to seal the portal between the two worlds so that nothing, absolutely nothing can slip between them. Yes, I know this is a very hard choice to make, but unless you want the world you are in to be infected with illness that can be fatal, you have to do it, my dears, and I have to be firm about it. The situation here is very serious indeed, and we have to do all we can to stop it. Love, Your mother and your queen.*

The Mystery of Huangshan's Mist

Lingnan University Alumni Association (HK) Primary School, Chiu, Long Ernie

Once upon a time, there was a steep, high, huge mountain in China called Huangshan. The villagers underneath the mountain always wondered what was on the top of the mountain because it was very foggy, and the villagers could not see what was up there. They heard that if you want to climb up the hill and reach the top, there will be a lot of difficulties along the way. However, there were still many people wanted to get up there because they thought there might have some mysterious things.

Feilong was one of the people who wanted to get up there. Feilong was an adventurer who loved to explore around the empire. He brought a bag of stuff and started his journey at the village. The first obstacle that he met was a cliff that was as steep as a wall. Luckily, he knew that this wasn't an easy hill to climb and brought a rope to let him climb on them. He threw the rope up and it hooked around a trunk. When he climbed up the rope, a condor that lived on the tree bit the rope since it thought it was a worm and Feilong fall down. At this critical moment, Feilong took out his sword and stuck the sword into the rock just before it was too late. He noticed that there was a cave underneath the place he was hanging on. He jumped down and walked slowly into the cave.

It was hot in the cave and full of lava. Suddenly, a dragon came out of the lava! Feilong panicked and started grabbing random items from his bag. He took out an umbrella and opened it. The dragon spat out fireballs and the umbrella became ashes immediately. Then, Feilong felt a bottle in the bag. He didn't care what it was and splashed all the liquid out onto the dragon. Oh no! It's a bottle of wine! The fire burnt even stronger! But wait! The dragon kept swinging around.....it was drunken! Feilong picked out a big ham bone. The dragon smelled it and it was mouth watering. Feilong finally tamed the dragon!

Feilong rode the tamed dragon and it flew up to the top of the mountain. There was exactly where Feilong wanted to go and discover the mysteries. There was a big bowl of boiled water, which was steaming. The mist on Huangshan was actually not mist, but steam! Feilong finally found out the mystery. Guess what's his next destination?

Tales of Huang Shan

Lingnan University Alumni Association (HK) Primary School, Fu, Tsz Anson

Many people from different countries have watched the Avatar or Lord of the Rings. Have you been amazed by the stunning landscape? The Huang Shan of China brings you the same feeling.

Huang Shan is located at Anhui at east China, with 72 mountains, each one is unique and famous for rocky landscapes and springs in the hotels there.

The mountains are pure beauty with their sharp peaks with towering trees. You will also notice layers of rocky cliffs made of granite. It is also a hot spot for animals of different shapes and sizes.

You will also see a special rock shape like a macaque on the cliff edge, a group of stones that look like people playing chess, a person in heels, some rocks look like they are flying, some look like turtles lay piggyback.....there are just so many famous rocks and secrets out there (just say thanks to Mother Nature, she is just great at art!). You will also find Chinese writing from people at different times like Li Bai and Du Fu The granite varies from different places too.

Down the hill, people are making inkstones and Chinese “felt-tipp” brushes, Chinese rice paper, and ink – all of these take a year to make. Macaques jump around village house and their tree homes. They eat leaves and fruit, also they are smart too. (That’s great for pulling pranks.) They pick leaves from flower shops and steal fruit from the markets.

In spring time, flowers bloom, even the rare welcoming tree, a tree that looks like a person waves their hands. They are so rare, that it needs a special occupation for it. The tree guard looks after it for all the winter to make sure it is fine. The fields bloomed with crops and growing corn that covers the outskirts of the village yellow and green.

It is better to look for the “Avatar-style” view of summer, as it is the rainy season there. After the rain, the peaks have a lot of mist, creating an unearthly view.

In Autumn, Huang Shan stills has its beauty, a great place to see fall foliage, especially the rocky terrain is full of trees.

Winter is surely cold here, but the daytime is a wonderland, you see evergreen trees covered with snow. Just what you might see outside your winter window, but the unusual landscape makes everything special here.

Huang Shan is not only popular for tourists or macaques, it also attracts poets Du Fu and Li Bai, that chose to live in these expensive houses. (I want to live there too.) The fine limestone and the everchanging clouds just made a perfect piece of art for everyone to see. Du Fu and Li Bai could maybe also sense that feeling.

Huang Shan of An Hui is just pure beauty, the attraction of the view is truly great and it all seems just from fairy tales and the clouds form a view that is one of a kind and could only be found here.

Tales from China's Magical Mountains

Lingnan University Alumni Association (HK) Primary School, Pun, Kin Derek

The wind was gushing as the villagers were waiting for the beast, the villagers covered their exterior walls with red cloth and was ready to create noise and scare away the beast, then suddenly a red lion-like creature came out of the woods. It was walking slowly and was looking for food. The villagers acted quickly and started burning paper, along with using sticks to hit against metal they collected and generate a loud noise. The beast was terrified and ran away.

60 years later, Li Bai is working on his last project before he retires and is working with his friend and poet Du Fu. Li Bai is writing about an incident he experienced as child. As the event happened 60 years ago they went to where the incident happened, Li Bai's childhood village and wrote the poem there. "Bad memories?" asked Du Fu. "No....just tired" Li Bai replied. After walking for another hour down the path, they entered the village.

They stayed at Li Bai's childhood house and began writing their poem. "The mountains are rather beautiful don't you think?" Li Bai said with a calm voice. "That's the reason why poets live here, the terrain is easy to describe and it greets us with beautiful views no matter where you live in the mountains" Du Fu responded. They were planning to release this poem on New Year's Eve as they think it should go with the New Year's celebrations. In the poem, Li Bai was tasked to describe the beast that night and Du Fu was tasked to describe the village.

In the morning, they walked around the village and talked to the locals but half way through the village they found something peculiar. "Where does that stairway lead to?" Du Fu asked "I don't know, let's check it out." Li Bai replied with a weird suspicion. They walked up the stairway and at the end of the stairway was a cave with a bordered-up entrance. They looked at the cave and tried to find something all they found was a piece of red cloth next to the cave entrance but it was out of reach. They didn't think anything more of it and went back to the village.

It's two weeks before the deadline and Li Bai and Du Fu were working day and night but when Li Bai looked out the window, he saw locals putting up red cloth on their walls and gathering sticks, Li Bai thought it was a new New Year's tradition but it felt oddly familiar.

It's 2 days before the deadline, and there was a big storm, Li Bai and Du Fu were almost done with their poem and were taking a rest from all the work but something was bothering the locals. He heard people arguing so he decided look outside. All the red cloth was gone! He felt sorry for the locals as they couldn't celebrate their New Years with their traditional method.

It's the day of release, they were planning to give the poem to monk copyists but when they stepped out of the door, they saw the locals fleeing. "Where are you going?" asked Li Bai "We are fleeing from the Nian beast, our traditional method of using red cloth, creating noise and using fire to scare it away was unfortunately unusable due to the storm. We've needed to rebuild this village countless times due to accidents like these." the local replied, then Li Bai remembered the cloth in the cave. "How much red cloth would it take to scare it away" Li Bai asked "I don't know, but I don't think risking your life to answer your question would not be a good idea, but if you are interested, the beast comes out at night." the local answered. Li Bai went back to the house and told Du Fu the news "Du Fu.....after releasing the poem we should come back here." "Why?" Du Fu asked "the beast that my village scared away is coming back to terrorise this village again and I want to defend this village" Li Bai replied. Du Fu was in fear "Can't I go home?" Du Fu asked, Li Bai responded "I thought we were friends", "But, we're talking about life and death, I don't think our friendship is at the level where I can risk my life for you." Du Fu said straightforwardly. Li Bai saw his entire life flash before his eyes, but he thought that he has lived a well and long life and should risk it for his village. He and Du Fu released the poem. Li Bai came back to the village and walked up the stairs, then Li Bai used a stick to pull the cloth within reach and grabbed the red cloth. He burned sticks by using friction and waited for the beast.

A rumbling sound can be heard. Li Bai suddenly remembered the climax his village had with the beast when he was a child. A red lion-like creature with big and sharp daunting teeth came out of the woods with a torch. Li Bai threw all of his sticks into the fire and put the piece of red cloth onto a pole but it wasn't enough, the Nian was walking closer and closer to Li Bai but suddenly, Du Fu came out of the woods and started throwing red cloth against the Nian. Then he used a stick to hit against a piece of metal he brought and generated a loud noise. The Nian felt scared but it still wasn't enough so he used his torch to throw against the Nian. The Nian was terrified and ran away

The poem Li Bai and Du Fu released was a commercial success. The poem was eventually imported and altered into a children story in 19th century but is the reason why the Chinese respect the colour red today.

Evil Dragon? Friendly Dragon?

Lingnan University Alumni Association (HK) Primary School, Yu, Yan Minnie

Have you heard about Huangshan before? Do you know how it looked like one billion years ago? There was a historical mystery happened here before.

One billion years ago, the Emperor of Huangshan raised a valuable dragon. This dragon was magical. At midnight, it flew on top of Huangshan to spread negative energy. Gradually all the people turned into slothful and inactive people. They did not want to work or even take a bath.

When the Emperor realised that his pet dragon made the people very lazy, he shouted, 'Hey! You evil dragon!' At that moment, it was already too late. The people all fell asleep. Only the Emperor and his three knights were not affected. One knight was called Lucas. He was the wisest person in Huangshan. Also, there was a powerful knight called David. At last, there was a knight called Johnny. He wasn't as intelligent as Lucas or as strong as David. However, he had a pure heart and he was also nice to people.

Therefore, the Emperor ordered Lucas to work out a good plan for protecting themselves. For the mighty David, the Emperor wanted him to find many huge rocks to attack the evil dragon. How about Johnny? The Emperor said he ought to hang a lot of sausages on his body and attract the dragon to a vast, borderless forest. Then David would throw the huge rocks he had collected at the evil dragon. When Johnny heard that, he felt sorry for the dragon. 'Would it be too cruel for the dragon? Moreover, it's your pet dragon!' Johnny asked the Emperor with worry. The Emperor was furious and replied angrily, 'Though it is my pet, it does bad things!' Johnny agreed.

After a while, Johnny decided to find a way to make the dragon spread positive energy but not negative energy. Finally, he found an ancient scroll written ten billion years ago in the Emperor's castle. In the scroll Johnny spotted a secret that if the dragon drank the spring water from the highest mountain in Huangshan, it would become friendly and spread good energy to make others feeling good again.

Then Johnny set off to try to climb up the mountain which was as tall as heaven to find the magical spring water. He put some biscuits inside his packs with a carrying pole. Step by step, Johnny walked slowly on the trail to the mountain top. One day later, he reached the top of the mountain. 'There it is, the little creek with magical spring water!' he cried surprisingly. He took a deep breath of the fresh air and filled his bottle with the spring water. 'Yeah! How wonderful! My precious spring water.'

Next midnight, the Emperor commanded the three knights to carry out his plan. Johnny hung more than one hundred sausages on his back as the Emperor told him. He also put the bottle of spring water in his pack. Lucas was working hard to build a protection fence around the castle. David had collected many large rocks from Huangshan. He was prepared to attack the evil dragon with them.

Poor Johnny was crossing the forest with his sausages when he heard a loud, big voice behind him. He turned around and saw the big mouth of the dragon with saliva dripping down its teeth. He also saw many big rocks flying in the air at the dragon. In no time, Johnny pulled out his bottle of spring water and poured it at the dragon. The dragon narrowly escaped the flying rocks and immediately turned happy. The dragon sang, 'If you're happy and you know it clap your paws. If you're happy and you know ...' Then all the people in Huangshan woke up and sang together with the dragon, 'If you're happy and you know it clap your hands ...'

Thereafter, people in Huangshan live a joyful life forever!

The Secret of Mount Huangshan

Marymount Primary School, Chan, Abigail Denise – 12

Emmeranne stroked her little husky puppy, Blizzard, and followed her friends Marcello and Evelyn up Mount Huangshan.

“Since when did I agree to do this?” Marcello groaned. “This place is disgusting!”

Emmeranne brushed a fern off her hair. “An adventure. And if you want to impress girls...”

“Oh, fine.” Marcello grunted and hauled himself up the cliff. “Seriously, no climbing gear? We’re about to climb a cliff, guys.”

“I brought enough for all of us.” Evelyn replied calmly. She took out the climbing gear and led the way up the cliff easily. Marcello followed.

“What about Blizzard?” Emmeranne called. “I can’t just climb while carrying her, you know.”

“Here, let me help.” Evelyn jumped off the ledge and landed lightly on her feet. “I’m not an athlete for nothing, you know.” She picked Blizzard up and headed up the cliff again.

“Blizzard!” Emmeranne called worriedly. Her voice just bounced off and echoed all around her. “Where are you?”

It was sunset. They had climbed up two cliffs and rested on the peak when Caramel went missing.

“We should just stay here. I think I stuffed a deckchair in your backpack, Brooklyn.” Marcello walked towards Emmeranne, reaching for her bag.

“*What?* No wonder my bag was so...” Brooklyn started.

“*What was that?*” Evelyn trembled. “I heard—”

“A sound.” Marcelo jeered teasingly. “Maybe a twig.”

“I heard it as well, Marcello.” Emmeranne frowned. “I think it was a moan.”

“No, I heard a screech.” Evelyn disagreed. “This is weird. Let’s go home.” She started stuffing all her camping gear into her bag.

“What about Blizzard?” Emmeranne pleaded. “I’ll get her.”

“Wait!” Marcello objected. “It’s dangerous to go out there alone!”

Emmeranne sighed. “If it’s dangerous, then Blizzard can’t survive this. I have to get her.”

“We’ll come too. Safety comes in numbers.” Evelyn piped up. “And Marcello.”

“Thanks, guys.” Emmeranne smiled. “Let’s go! It’ll get dark soon.”

They hiked for a while, until it got too dark to see the way.

“I think we should camp here.” Marcello offered.

“Yeah. And go to sleep, Emmeranne.” Evelyn pulled her into her tent. “I’ll keep watch.”

Emmeranne couldn't sleep. She heard a distant whining in her head and got up quietly. She had made up her mind.

She crawled into a bush and waited until Evelyn was gone, and crept into the forest. The trees stretched out their branches like they wanted to grasp her and swallow her; the weeds tangled around her ankles once in a while, making

her trip over. *I did not think through this*, she thought. She didn't notice the gleaming eyes that seemed to follow her wherever she walked...

"Blizzard?" Emmeranne whispered as loudly as she dared. "Blizzard! Where are you?" she cried in frustration and desperation. Her stomach growled. She hadn't eaten in hours. Then a whimpering made her turn her head, and spot...

"Blizzard!" Emmeranne exclaimed. She cradled her dog in her arms and started to walk back out the forest, backtracking her steps. Blizzard started yapping frantically in Emmeranne's arms.

"Wha—" Emmeranne asked her, but she didn't get to finish as a creature emerged from the trees. It had eagle's claws, lion's body and a huge beak. "A griffin." Emmeranne whispered.

The griffin screeched and clawed at Emmeranne. "Ugh!" she grunted as a few drops of blood fell from her arm.

The griffin writhed around and tried to reach for Emmeranne again. "Stay away!" she screamed. She started running towards where she thought their camp was.

Emmeranne's dark blue hair snagged on a branch as she ran. She ripped it off, and ran until she hit a dead end and sank down, terrified. Blizzard began barking instead, and the griffin screeched again. It limped forward and Emmeranne saw a trickle of blood leak from its front talon.

Without thinking, Emmeranne grabbed a pile of cobwebs and leaves and walked forwards slowly, as if taming a lion. The griffin screeched again, shrinking to the other side.

"No—" Emmeranne gritted her teeth. She took the creature's talon and started cleaning it with the softest leaf she could find. Then, she wrapped the talon in cobwebs.

The griffin cannoned into Emmeranne suddenly, and started licking her grimy face.

Blizzard leaped onto Emmeranne and yipped happily. Emmeranne smiled. *Now we just have to get out of here*, she thought.

The griffin followed her as they trudged through the forest, the griffin trotted up behind her. Emmeranne stroked the creature's feathered head, and continued following her footsteps, tracking back the way she came.

As the fresh morning air awoke the forest around her, Emmeranne spotted the rock she had marked, and gazed back at the footprints she left behind her. She sighed. "Why are we walking in *circles*?" The griffin squawked and lifted its wings.

"Right, can you fly?" Emmeranne asked the griffin. It squawked again and flapped its powerful wings for emphasis.

"Okay." Emmeranne picked Blizzard up and climbed on the griffin. It stretched out its two-metre-long wings and took to the skies.

The light morning breeze ruffled the griffin's feathers and made Emmeranne's hair flutter around. She looked down to the forest again, a hundred metres down. Then her gaze swivelled to two dots just standing together, showered with the light of the horizon. The first's head rested on the second's shoulder, and the second dot seemed to lock eyes with the first's. *That must be Evelyn and Marcello!* Emmeranne realized, smiling to herself.

The suddenly, the griffin dived. Emmeranne held on to the griffin and clutched Blizzard to her chest. The griffin landed into the woods behind the two lovers, and Emmeranne sneaked back into her tent.

Snap! A twig crunched under her feet. Emmeranne quickly shoved the griffin back into the woods.

"Emmeranne..." Evelyn glanced up from Marcello's shoulder and glared at her. "Where have you been?"

"I... I found Blizzard!" Emmeranne changed the subject. "Now let's go home."

Evelyn shook her head. Smiling, hand in hand with Marcello, the trio headed down the mountain, home.

A Mysterious Adventure at the China's Magical Mountains, HuangShan

Marymount Primary School, Fung, Ching Yau Roselle – 10

I've been very interested in tales about China Mountains because my grandmother used to tell me the tales about HuangShan when I was very young. Recently I've been enjoying a book about HuangShan in bed before I slept.

My grandmother said that the mountain is misty and the soil is light black. There's also the Amazing Four, namely the Unusual Pine, Oceanic Cloud, Weird Stone and Hot Spring. HuangShan is also named as the Yellow Mountain due to its mysterious tale.

I learnt from grandmother that an ancient Chinese emperor, the Yellow Emperor, once lived in HuangShan. He lived in his palace for many years, he was getting old and sick. He didn't want to die and pass his throne to the prince. An old monk told him only if he would refine an incredible elixir and eat it, then he would never get old and live long forever. The best elixir would only be refined in a spiritual and remarkable mountain.

I was too curious about the untold story by grandmother. To find the answer, I borrowed a book about the tales of HuangShan and more mystery was unveiled. The Yellow Emperor discovered Huangshan with outstanding scenery where the symphony waterfall reflecting rainbow. He began to refine the elixir here but the process was uneasy. He needed ninety-nine of each of the following, the Ganoderma Lucidum, Ginseng, Cooperi, Fig, Chinese Red Pine, Ice Mint, Antelope Horn, Cinnabar and ninety-nine drops of Honeydews. Finding all these precious items for the elixir was so hard. So, the Emperor swore to himself, "If I cannot refine the elixir, I will never leave the mountain."

"Wow! I hope I can eat the elixir and stay young and beautiful forever....." I wished before I fallen asleep.

Suddenly, I heard the waterfall. I opened my eyes, and a beautiful sight was right in front of me! Greyish green hills looked like fingers of the witches, straight and gnarled red pines danced gracefully among the gentle but ceaseless wind. The black soil was watching the green lazy shrubs rolling everywhere whilst the glittering river under the sunshine swims steadily. The tall and narrow staircases bridging the cliff to the sharpest peak. All the way climbing up the grey staircases to the tip of the mountain surrounded by overcast layers of clouds, silver rails were circling the white snowy ground.

OH! I looked up and surprisingly I saw a panda practicing Chinese Kungfu on the staircase!

The big fat round Panda waved to me and greeted, "Hi!"

I was so shocked because I did not know a panda can talk! I asked the Panda nervously, "What are you doing and why are you here?"

"I am looking for my family and my origin. My Kungfu Master told me I was born with a mission with my Kungfu intelligent and my secret would be found in HuangShan" replied the panda.

"I want to go to HuangShan too to meet the Yellow Emperor and take the elixir. Let's go together." I said excitedly.

We passed through the gloomy pine forest, saw the famous oceanic clouds, climbed over the weird stones and swam across the hot spring and finally reached the twinkling waterfall. Through the waterfall was an altogether a different world. There was a hidden cave with sharp sparkling crystals hanging from the top. Reflected from the glimmering light was a huge grey bull!

The huge Bull with grey fur had sharp claws, his curved horns were pointing up the sky. He was muscular and looked very strong, his eyes were burning with fire. He discovered us and wanted to attack us.

"I will eat the elixir and I will control everyone and destroy this evil world!" bellowed the Bull.

“Why do you want to destroy the world?” I questioned him.

“When I was still a calf, I was ugly! I had floppy ears, flat nose, tiny feet, cracked skin and rough hair that scared all animals away. Everyone made fun of my body odor!

They took away my stool at school.

And shoot me with a tool!

They pushed me to the pool

And said I’m a foolish moo!

But I’m not a fool!

I will proof them I’m cool!

Who bullied the Bull

Will need to payback with their full!

I will fight with them and I will fight with you!”

Panda and I needed to stop him. I started to fight with the Bull in TaiChi. I punched him with fast TaiChi Chuan and he flew up into the air. The Bull then Karate chopped me, but I made a backflip to get away from him.

“Why are you so strong?” asked the Bull.

“Because my grandmother taught me Taichi. Having a balance flux of yin and yang made my body flexible and strong, regular meditation enriched me with a clear mind!”

At the same time, Panda rolled behind him and kicked his horns. The horns of the Bull were broken and all his energy gone. We had a landslide victory.

We left the cave and kept climbing up the rocky stairs and finally we arrived at a small village. Thousands of pandas came over to welcome us. They were all living in stony houses. Panda met his parents after all these hardships. Under the gentle ray of the sun, the green pines were growing straight, pink flowers were blossoming. Big and Small pandas were eating bamboo in the forest.

I asked the pandas, “Where can I find the Yellow Emperor?”

“He’s never existed here.”

I was so disappointing and upset. I started to miss my family. It is time for me to go home.

“Wake up! It’s time to go to the airport.” My mother was waking me up. “We will go to HuangShan and visited the Huangshan Panda Ecological Park!

“I bought tickets for the HuangShan Ancient Village Sightseeing Tour too!” My father said.

“Oh! Will there an evil bull in the cave?” I asked.

The Red Rain

Marymount Primary School, Lau, Yi Fei – 11

Brown did not expect to have to foil an evil scientist's twisted experiment.

It was summer, and Brown was beginning to wish he hadn't registered for space camp.

His teacher had stuck the poster on the wall. Printed in large, blocky font were the words, "IF YOU ARE A STAR, COME TO SPACE CAMP!" Brown knew there was something off with it. He was only seven, but it was obvious that Huangshan, China was not in space. The story went that there'd been red rain there for thirty years. Obviously, he would register.

The problem was, after landing at Tunxi Airport at 5 A.M., Brown failed to catch a taxi.

And got lost.

Brown stayed calm. Okay. Someone's probably testing me. He searched the crowd for someone likely. Soon, he spotted someone with a badge saying AIRPORT PERSONNEL—but not the same design as the other staff. Brown approached him. The person looked at him.

"Alright, you pass." He turned on his heel and led Brown to a shuttle bus filled with around sixty children.

"Seat belts off, everyone!" announced the person at the front. Brown had learned that his name was Galileo.

Everyone's straps unfastened. They walked into the campus. Galileo bellowed instructions. "Get into your assigned wing. Quickly now. Don't speak to the people in the village. Ever.

Brown wouldn't have done so anyway. But the very fact that Galileo prohibited such a pointless thing made it not so pointless after all.

He quietly filed into C Wing. His classmate Shale caught up with him.

"You know the red rain's stopped, no?"

"No," answered Brown. "I might figure so. Did you notice Galileo's moustache? It's soaked. And red. That means the red rain isn't rain, not really. Starts here, I bet."

Brown's schoolmate, Alean, told him that C Wing had to report to Centre A for breakfast.

"That late already?"

"They make us get fitted for uniforms first. C'mon."

Brown looked at his watch. Shale and he hurried to Centre A. Children jostled them. Brown didn't fight it. He knew this was a good excuse to explore.

Soon enough, he found himself swept right out of campus and into what looked like a small village. An old man approached him.

"Ni hao?" Brown tried.

The man laughed. "Are you from the camp? Don't wander around in the early morning. Kidnappers are about."

"Kidnappers?"

"Where's your wing? I'll get you back."

"C. Why'd there be kidnappers here?"

Footsteps echoed against the stony ground. Galileo's.

"That's one," muttered the old man.

Brown was still thinking hard when he arrived at Centre A. Kidnappers: Maybe the camp recruited hapless orphans for training? Yeah, like we're in some sci-fi story. It *is* eerily similar, though.

Alean was waiting for him. “Good morning, sir. Hello, Brown. We’re being fitted over here.” He ushered Brown away from Galileo rather forcefully. What’s the rush? wondered Brown. He noted that there was some plutonium inside a small room.

“What did you find out?” pressed Alean.” Galileo was angry.”

Brown told Alean about the old man. Now they reached the fitting room. Shale was practically bouncing off the walls.

Brown tapped C U LATER in Morse code. He was measured by a machine, then he allowed himself to be poked and prodded by an old tailor.

“Hello,” said the tailor softly. “You’re Brown.”

Alean jumped, for the voice was what Brown had described.

“Yes,” said Brown, “and I thought you were a villager.” The old man chuckled again.

“I am. The camp hires villagers to do odd jobs.”

“So they’re paying you.” So you think they’re kidnappers.

“Yes.”

The old man watched the boy fit his uniform together. He hoped could figure out why the red rain had stopped as kidnappings started.

Brown put on his uniform. The slip in one of his pockets caught his attention.

ATTENTION ALL CAMPERS. TO AVOID CHILDREN GOING OUT MISTAKENLY, WE HAVE INSTALLED A GUIDING SYSTEM BASED ON HALL. CAMPERS ARE EXPECTED NOT TO GO OUTSIDE.

Suddenly the pieces of the puzzle began piecing themselves together.

Kidnappers.

Campers trapped.

Red rain.

Don’t speak to the people in the village.

You know the red rain’s stopped, no?

Galileo forbid them to speak to the villagers because each had information the other did not. The campers were prohibited from leaving because some of them were kidnappees. It hadn’t made sense at first, but now Brown got why the camp needed kidnappees.

The red rain was the key to this puzzle. The story was that it had only been here for thirty years, not like myths. Thirty years ago, the renowned astronomer Alan Roberts disappeared. Who’d’ve thought they were connected?

The red rain was because of the twisted experiment Roberts was conducting. He’d had to “disappear” to be a law-breaking neurologist. The experiment specifically asked for space-loving kids.

Why?

So he’d have no trouble altering their brains to colonize space.

Plutonium. Not that useful. Why was there so much in that room? For the experiment. After years of toil, the experiment had succeeded, so the red rain had stopped. Now Roberts needed every precious millilitre of plutonium. He couldn’t just throw the failed products down the mountain like before.

“What’re you thinking?” asked Alean.

Brown stared at the mountain.

“We have work to do.”

Believing

Marymount Primary School, Pang, Sze Yuen – 10

Every place has a story. A story of how its rocks assembled a mountain, a story of how its waters created a lake, a story of how its greens created land, a story of how its blues created a sky. A story of how its magic formed. A story of belief.

Sze was a girl who believed. She believed in magic and wonder.

She loved to go exploring. She loved to run to the mountains and echo their calls. She loved to swim in the lakes, feel the currents sweeping her along, and she moved them too. She loved to go running, feel the winds leading her, then she led them too. She would glance up at the clouds, see the wooden houses, then stare in awe.

Every time after feeling the magic, Sze would tell everyone in her village that magic was real. They all thought she was crazy.

Disturbed by a storm one summer evening, Sze lay awake, tossing and turning while listening to the thunderous downpours. Sze was so restless, she decided to embrace the elements and go stargazing. In the dead of night, kidnappers were everywhere. But Sze didn't hesitate when she stepped out of her cottage.

Suddenly, footsteps sounded behind her. Sze looked backwards, and found her brother, Ting.

"May I join you?" Ting asked. The siblings looked alike. With the same midnight hair and umber eyes, they were often mistaken for twins.

"Sure," Sze responded, while padding the ground. After Ting sat down, he whispered, "I miss Ma and Pa."

Sze squeezed his hand, "Don't worry, they are only travelling. They'll come home soon." She said.

"You say that all the time! Am I—" Before Ting could continue, muscular arms grabbed the siblings, and ruined the peaceful ambience.

Kidnappers.

Sze tried to scream, but her mouth was covered. She thrashed and bit the attackers with all her might.

"Stop biting, or I will cut you with my knife!" The kidnapper growled.

Sze didn't care. She thrashed even more. She bit harder. Then, feeling the knife pierced her flesh, she screamed in pain.

The kidnapper pulled her into a van, with Ting at her side.

The buff kidnappers covered their mouths with cloth that smelled sickly—sweet.

It was sedative.

Sze tried to fight it, tried to keep herself awake. But she was becoming drowsy, and falling asleep...

When Sze awoke, she could see the soft glow of morning. She looked towards where Ting was lying. He was still asleep. With the kidnappers nowhere to be seen. "This is the best chance to escape," Sze muttered.

Sze heaved Ting onto her shoulder. Feeling her raw wounds burn, she winced but didn't stop. After climbing off the van, she found that she was on a steep cliff.

Sze looked up to the clouds and saw the cloud houses, bigger than ever. She stared in awe. That was when she noticed something else on the clouds. Two silhouettes, in the shape of a man...

Why did they look so familiar? She knew who they were. They were the kidnappers.

They were holding torches with red hot fire burning at the point. They were about to burn down the cloud houses.

Sze tried not to panic.

Sze had to save the houses.

A ladder laid suspended from the clouds. Before Sze could use it, it tumbled swiftly down the cliff.

Sze didn't think. She ran. With Ting on her shoulder, she felt the leading of the winds, growing stronger. She saw her legs leaving the ground... it was happening! It was real! She was flying!

It was awesome!

Seeing her village from high above. Seeing everything! After rising higher, Sze was finally leveled to the cloud village.

The clouds were springy, not soft like Sze imagined. She walked into one of the wooden houses. Everything inside was black and burnt. Before she could explore more, a huge shadow loomed over her.

"Sze! It's you! Help us! These kidnappers... burnt everything!" Sze tried to focus on who was talking. It was a tall man with a familiar face...

"Yes, I am Sze." She answered passively and tried to think... But she had no time.

Without waiting for an answer, Sze dropped Ting onto the man's arms and winded through flames on the clouds to the kidnappers. "Hey kidnappers! I escaped!" Sze yelled.

The kidnappers charged at Sze. But she was ready. She imagined the call of the mountains, the sweeping of the waters, the leading of the winds, all combined. It was burning in her body. Coming free...

BAM!

They all exploded out, onto the kidnappers. The clouds shook. The mountains roared. The waters pushed. The winds crashed...

Without knowing, Sze was creating a mountain. A gigantic Yellow Mountain! The roaring of the mountains sent rocks, tumbling down onto a pile. The waters, creating a lake. The winds, giving life.

When the kidnappers fell to the ground, Sze extended her arms, letting the power suck back into her body. The kidnappers were defeated.

Everyone cheered, "SAVIOUR! SAVIOUR! ".

She did it.

Sze paused the cheers when she spoke, "So magic is real?"

The tall man stepped up and said, "Sze, it is all about believing. You believe in the mountains, the winds, the waters, and even us. And you better go. But don't tell anyone about your ability. Your power must be kept a secret."

"Yes." Sze replied, "We'll come visit you."

" Good luck, Xiao Sze. Believe in yourself." Said a woman stood next to the tall man.

Sze blinked. Only her Ma called her "Xiao Sze". She looked back. They were gone.

She picked up Ting, and soared down to the village with a smile.

Believe in yourself.

★ ★ ★

At the same time, two poets were walking up the mountain Sze created. They saw Sze flying down to a village, and decided to live there, at Yellow Mountain, the mountain of belief.

A Requiem for Dong

Marymount Primary School, Wong, Norah – 12

“Dong, wake up!”

Dong opened his eyes to see his wife, Jinjing, carrying their son, Taichi. Jinjing was still in her pyjamas and her face was frozen in fear.

“I woke up to him crying and he was burning up,” Jinjing hurriedly explained as she waved at a carriage passing by.

The ride was silent, with the passengers all too anxious to talk. Taichi could be in grave danger and just the thought of it made the stomachs of Jinjing and Dong churn.

When the physician soberly announced that Taichi had rapidly descended into a deep coma and there were no suitable remedies, Jinjing sobbed her heart out and Dong simply sat wordlessly.

“I’ll find help,” Dong left the little straw hut abruptly.

Dong packed a bundle of essentials and set out for his hike to the Magical Mountains. He got as close to the mountains as possible by horseback, and walked the rest of the way.

“Elves, where are you?” Dong yelled as he ventured through the deep snow. He heard someone, or rather something, trying to stifle a giggle. He spun around and peeked behind a bush, before seeing a small elf clutching his stomach and rolling around the floor, laughing his head off.

Frowning, Dong nudged the elf.

“It’s just so hilarious seeing you so scared,” the elf panted out between laughs.

“Save my son, please!” Dong pleaded.

“Go north for the sword and back here to kill the dragon.”

Dong was raised by the elves before he was handed over to his nanny. They had granted him three wishes, and in return, he had to kill their biggest enemy, the dragon. .

Dong looked up at the dark night sky and set off on his journey, determined to save his only son.

The days had turned into weeks and he finally reached his destination, a small village house in the farthest north of China.

Dong knocked on the door and heard someone shuffling towards the door.

“Who is it?” a woman gasped at the sight of him and shut the door. Confused by her actions, Dong knocked again and the woman recollected herself and opened the door yet again. “Come in, please,” the woman said, a bit flustered.

They sat by the fire and the woman poured him some tea.

“I’m sorry,” Dong took a sip and apologised, “I didn’t quite catch your name.”

The woman spurted out her tea, “You don’t recognise me?”

Apologetically, Dong shook his head.

“I was your nanny!”

Dong stared at her for a good five minutes before snapping his fingers, “Aha! Mrs Dao!” he exclaimed.

“You want your sword back, don’t you?” Mrs Dao sighed exasperatedly.

Dong’s eyes gleamed with excitement.

“But I’ve traded it,” said Mrs Dao.

Dong sallied out, “Well, I’d love to stay but I must go get that sword.”

“The stall has a green sign and a man with a white beard is in charge,” Mrs Dao ran after him.

Dong strolled through the market before eventually arriving at the stall.

“Do you have a sword, mister?” Dong beseeched.

“I have different kinds,” cackled the stallholder.

Dong begged, “May I see what’s in store?”

Shooting Dong with an acid smile, the dealer presented him with three swords: wood, gold and silver. Dong immediately casted his gaze on the silver one – it was plainly decorated with a small engraving of a dragon on the bottom.

“This one please!” Dong affirmed, exchanging his horse for the sword.

After a night’s rest, Dong continued his tough and gruelling adventure to the dragon’s lair.

Ultimately, Dong arrived at the lair and the entrance loomed over him. He stepped into the lair while shivering in both fear and cold.

Dong had thought long and hard about his plan to kill the sleeping dragon. He sneaked closer to the massive creature while drawing his sword silently. At a striking distance, Dong was ready to slice down.

Just as Dong could have killed the dragon, the beast snapped its eyes open and grabbed Dong with its claw. Shrieking, Dong dropped his sword in fright and the dragon snarled, fisting him even tighter. At this point, Dong was short of breath and his vision blurred.

Mustering up his last bit of strength, Dong bit down on the dragon’s hand and the dragon yelped in response. Tumbling onto the ground, Dong groped for his sword and staggered towards the dragon shakily.

The choking that the dragon had given him had made him awfully weak but he was still determined as ever.

“This is for my son!” Dong yelled and stabbed the sword into the monster, killing it once and for all.

Dong thought this episode was all over.

From the wall of the cave came a blinding light, and a cluster of elves burst through the opening, gleefully escaping the portal.

An old elf walked up to Dong, “My King, you have freed us from the confines of the dragon’s secret portal.”

Dong stared at the elf incoherently, not understanding a word.

The elf sat by him and told him about the dragon capturing half of the elf population and how it kept them inside a hidden portal in its lair. Killing the dragon was the only way of rescuing them.

Dong had saved all the elves.

“But why did you call me your King?”

The old elf sighed, “Your father succumbed to fighting the dragon and that’s why you were raised by us.”

“I can’t be your King, I am perishing,” Dong’s voice grew fainter.

The old elf howled, “We can’t have no King!”

“Find my son, he’s witty and charming, a— perfect— fit—.” Dong murmured slowly.

The old elf tried desperately to keep Dong awake, “the son you wanted us to save?”

After a few short gasps, Dong lay motionlessly.

After that, Dong was worshipped heavily among the elves. The elves were also marvelled by Taichi’s exceptional ruling skills.

The elves and Magical Mountain were never ever disturbed again.

The Last Elixir of Eternity

Marymount Primary School, Yuen, Wang Ching Shannon – 10

Resting my hand on the sturdy railing on Bright Peak, I felt the wrinkles of the peeling paint, crafted by the harsh winds and cruel rains that had shaped Huangshan into fascinating landscapes. Rising into the blue, a craggy gray face jutted piercingly into the clouds – the Flying-over Rock! “How I crave to stay here forever,” I mused wistfully.

“Come, Candy!” My father called. Sunlight drowned the billowy clouds in liquid gold, and my face glowed with the last apricot rays before twilight beckoned the stars. Sighing, I dashed to the hotel for the night.

Before dawn, my family and I packed hiking gear and food, and I slipped a bag of Maltesers chocolates into my pocket. We trekked along the unfathomable abyss and soon we arrived at Alchemy Peak.

By coincidence, my fingers brushed against an ancient marred stone. The earth lurched and I plunged into emptiness! With an astonishingly soft landing, I blinked slowly and surveyed the environment. The surroundings looked like Bright Peak, but where were the villa and the Flying-over Rock? Waves of fear washed over me.

“Welcome, Chosen One,” a husky voice rasped from behind. The speaker was a hunched elderly with a scraggly beard, wearing a robe and a pleated skirt. On his hand he clasped an iron crutch, gleaming wickedly.

“Who are you?” Voice trembling, I questioned carefully. “I’m Iron Crutch Li, one of the Eight Immortals,” he introduced heartily. “Congratulations on traveling back to the Song Dynasty!”

Dizziness swelled inside me. Time travel? “Oh, calm down,” the god rolled his eyes. “You may go back, but only if you help me save the last Elixir of Eternity.” My shoulders tensed. “The legendary Huangdi made four Elixirs and left the last on Alchemy Peak. Over the years, many have attempted to steal this mythical medicine, but I fought them off. Now, we’re facing the real enemy, Prime Minister Lu. This ambitious villain desires immortality to rule the country. That mangy ungrateful brat!” The immortal ordered, “You, find the Elixir. I’ll fight the inhumane brute.”

“But –” Iron Crutch Li hissed, cutting me off, “We must hurry. He’s extremely close now. Here’s a twig from the Greeting-guests Pine. When visitors pass the tree, their appearances are recorded. When that rogue reaches the Elixir, the last leaf of this twig descends.”

Wind swirled around me in crimsons like flames, sapphires like water, and violets like amethysts and I kept on rising. I landed clumsily on the rocky surface of Alchemy Peak. “The peak is huge! How can I ever find the tiny Elixir? It’s just like finding a needle in a haystack!”

On cue, a leaf began to tinge with a rotting brown and shriveled. No time could be wasted. My heartbeat matched the clacks of my shoes against the granite. I scanned the exposed stones. Branches snagged my hair and I pried them loose. Another withered leaf plummeted down the twig.

Meanwhile, Li and a fierce robed man wielding a sword battled with so much power that they sent shockwaves rippling around. A metal cane swung at the evildoer’s head, but the deadly blow was deflected with a jab of the gangster’s saber. He dove between Li’s legs and tried to stab his back, but missed by inches. Their footsteps tapped on the ground and clangs echoed around the bare clearing.

“May justice prevail,” I prayed as I scampered across ledges. On the twig, only one fluttering olive leaf remained. Wordlessly, I reached a ramshackle cabin. Light leaked from the patchy rooftop. With the lightest knock, the door creaked open.

“Take that, old man!” A taunting bellow sent ripples down my spine. Li proved no match for his opponent. In a desperate effort to defeat the enemy, Li sliced a giant boulder in half and flicked a piece towards Lu. Lu skillfully dodged the lethal attack. The rock thumped crudely on a sheer cliff. A gasp escaped my lips. The recognizable figure indicated that it was the one and only Flying-over Rock! Nevertheless, I was too immersed in urgency to marvel at the masterpiece.

Amid the grimy surroundings inside the cabin, a radiant dazzle scintillated in the shadows. I ventured by inquisitiveness. Inside an alchemy furnace, a chestnut-sized brown sphere glittered with magnificent flashes of power. It must be the Elixir of Eternity!

“Hey, little girl!” a discourteous holler rang in my ears. Fearing the worst, I turned ploddingly, biting my lip and clasping the Elixir in hand. Prime Minister Lu stuck his head in my face, beady eyes twitching. “Give me the Elixir,” he purred dangerously. My mind frantically searched for a heroic trick.

Silently, I ripped a packing and secured my fingers around an orb. “Here,” I mumbled. My heartbeat quickened. “That was easy,” Lu smirked, shoving the Elixir into his mouth, “My name shall live on forever!” Licking his lips, he exclaimed maliciously, “How heavenly the Elixir tastes! It’s nourishing me now!” He marched away triumphantly, towards the never-ending row of slopes.

In the distance, Iron Crutch Li hobbled over. “Have we failed?” Li questioned dejectedly. “No,” I beamed. “This is no time for jokes,” he scolded solemnly. “I tricked Lu and handed him this instead!” I waved the bag of chocolates. “I don’t believe —” I interrupted eagerly, thrusting out the true Elixir, “Look.”

That lone word captured Li like a magnet. “Sweets for the sweet,” I whispered, grinning, handing over the Elixir. Then he suggested something that shocked me. “Eat it. You saved the Elixir. With a pure heart and indomitable spirit, you deserve it.”

“Why not give it to your family?” I queried. “It’s not like you need to ask,” he huffed crabily, “They are all dead.”

I uttered a single sentence, “I’d rather live a limited lifespan with my beloved, than alone in eternity.” I crumpled the Elixir into specks and let the whirling gale sweep them away...

Whisked back to the present, I ran to my parents, with the warmest cuddle.

Tales from China's Magical Mountains

Po Leung Kuk Choi Kai Yau School, Chan, Charlotte – 10

Once, I was an explorer from England, and I left no stone unturned. And then, I got a job at Huangshan. Soon, I had arrived at the inspiration of mythological mountains – Huangshan. It was snowing when I got there. There were a lot of tourist spots, but I had always been interested in natural monuments. I reminisced about the views as I approached the final destination – the Stone Monkey. It was just a rock, shaped vaguely like a monkey, that sat on top of a hill. But it was quite peculiar. I put a hand on the stone. It seemed to vibrate, and the hill seemed to rumble – rumble words.

'Many years ago,' It said, 'the dragons stole a dragon pearl from the Zhuques, for dragon pearls could increase their magic. The Zhuques found out, and got their revenge. Whilst the dragons were studying the pearl, the Zhuques set the world on fire. Hundreds of dragons perished, their wings burnt, and fell to the ground. Others fled. The pearl was left behind, forgotten. It drank in sunlight and moonlight, and it slowly formed a being – the first monkey. Later, the monkey was treated with great respect, but two things troubled him. One, he and only he could speak, in the human tongue, as well as understand it. Two, his fellow monkeys were always being caught – caught by the men in the village below them. One day, he heard a fleeting whisper from the beings in the village. It was a horrible shock to him. For he had found out that the brains of the captured monkeys were eaten, to make the beings in the village cleverer. Upon hearing it, the monkey flew in a fury. Without knowing what he was doing, he slew the two villagers. The other villagers killed him, but the gods took pity on him. They turned him to stone, and put him back to the hill of the monkeys. That monkey, as you can guess, is me. They killed me, just to be cleverer, just because they wanted to, just for their own selfish reasons! I want you to avenge me.'

The stone grew quiet, and shocked, I drew back my hand. One thing I knew, however, was that the truth wasn't always so simple. And so, I decided to investigate, and draw my own conclusions. Firstly, I decided to listen around and ask some questions. The best place to do that would be in a museum. After entering the nearest museum, I searched for the nearest guide. 'Excuse me,' I asked one, 'but is it true that some villagers caught monkeys and ate their brains in the olden times?' The guide frowned. 'Where'd you hear that? No, I don't think they did that.' 'Not exactly.' A man at the back of the room spoke up, with a distinct Chinese accent. 'The villagers caught the monkeys so that the Emperor could eat the brains. Eating monkey brains makes you cleverer.' He paused, and added as if he'd remembered, 'Supposedly, of course.' The guide stared at the man. 'I'd never heard of that. And the whole thing seems quite harsh to the monkeys.' She sounded deeply unconvinced. 'Well, it wasn't really the villagers' fault. If they didn't do it, the Emperor would punish the entire village,' said the man defensively. 'So they didn't have much choice.' 'And how, may I ask, would you know about this?' asked the guide, now suspicious. 'How are you so clear about everything?' The man stammered, 'Well, I... I...' He turned to me. 'I presume you've seen the stone monkey?' I silently nodded. 'Why don't you come over? We can have a chat about the history behind the monument. E... E... *Erosion* and whatnot,' he said, ending with a note of triumph. Frowning slightly, I joined him.

In his hut above in the mountains, he told him his side of the story. 'How did you know about the villagers?' I asked curiously. 'I am one of them,' replied the man. 'What? How?' I spluttered. 'Oh, I stole the pill of longevity from the Emperor,' answered the man carelessly. 'Our whole village shared it. I presume that you've already met Hou?' he asked. 'Hou? Who's Hou?' I asked. 'The monkey,' the man replied shortly. 'But *he* doesn't know everything. He's not... not... om... om...' 'Omnipotent?' I suggested helpfully. He nodded in my direction. 'What you said. He doesn't know our side of the story. And that side is less naive and darker.'

'Long ago, the Emperor heard say that monkey brains made one cleverer. Upon hearing this, he asked his physicians if that was true. Afraid of his wrath, the physicians eagerly agreed. The Emperor made a law that all the monkeys found to be killed and brought to him. The official in charge of these mountains demanded that each village bring at least thirty monkeys to him each month, the better to get the Emperor's favor. Any village that did not comply would have all of its residents killed. One day, a monkey attacked some of us, and killed them. The entire village stirred with indignation. We killed the monkey, but the gods took pity on him. He survived, as a statue. The rest of the village didn't. They were all killed by the vengeful monkeys. And so, I want you to avenge us.'

The only thing I could think to say was, 'But I thought the villagers were immortal?' The man replied, 'Not invincible.' He led me out in to the swirling snow, before I could say anything else. Of course, I hadn't thought about which side was right. I still can't, now. *I want you to avenge us.* I wondered, mirthlessly, how to avenge them. I couldn't tell them, though. Not the truth. Who knew what they would do. Not that I could find the man, anyways. The best, would be for both of them to hear a fleeting whisper of the fantastically impossible story. And I hope they can.

Civilization

Po Leung Kuk Choi Kai Yau School, Chic, Chak Chic Ryan – 9

The wind whistled through the deep crevasses buried in the mountains and through the gigantic valleys between the ginormous mountains with their beautiful snowy white peaks. The entire place was covered in fog and mist, but thanks to the hi-tech glasses that Jen had given me, I could see the entire view, and it was spectacular!

“Thank you Jen”. I whispered to myself.

Although it was incredible that I was actually on the Yellow Mountains, I was also shivering, though with fear, curiosity, excitement, or cold, it was hard to tell. I had to find civilization, and fast. Hopefully they would be able to share some food or allow me to stay for the night. I took some water from a small stream nearby and put it in my water bottle for later. I hiked through the mountains, until I saw a collection of stairs. I ran over and saw that it led up to a resting place! Now I knew that civilization was up ahead. I got to the resting place and saw that there were a few seats there. When I got to the other end, which was actually stairs going evermore upwards, I climbed up, even though exhaustion had added to my multiple feelings right now. When I got to halfway there, I saw that there was a giant gap between where I was right now and the stairs leading to the other resting place. There was a deep valley below me. If I fell, who knew how far the ground was from here? I powered up my jetpack and flew over to the other stairs. I felt dizzy, from fear and relief! I kept hiking.

About half an hour later, I saw some houses with lights in them. I knocked on the door. “Come in” came the reply. When I entered the house, I knew the owner loved his family. It was decorated with pictures of people laughing and eating together. And the house had a fire that was nice and cozy, and it had a friendly atmosphere. There were two people eating some vegetables at the table and six people reading and doing what seemed like homework together, although I wondered how they got to school in such a hostile environment like the Yellow Mountains. Perhaps they used some sort of jet car that was adapted to this type of environment.

“Welcome!” interrupted the voice that I had heard earlier, stopping my train of thought. “We were not expecting visitors, especially right now during this frigid winter. You must be freezing!”

“Understatement of the year” I thought.

“Come and warm up near the fire!”

I saw that the speaker was, in fact, an old man, with a warm smile on his face. He must have been 50 or 60 years old! And yet he spoke and walked like a 20 years old young man.

“My name is Albino. I am astounded that anyone would have been able to get here, yet here I am, staring at a real live person who came from The World Below.”

“What is The World Below?” I inquired politely.

“We use that term for the civilizations that are not on the mountain, specifically the Yellow Mountains. We know that there are civilizations, yet no one has managed to go back down and come back up confirming they are still there. Nor has anyone come up here either!”

“Well, that’s because we have developed technology that allows us to climb better and allow us to survive longer in harsh conditions.” I replied.

“Such as?” he asked.

“Like these rocket boots that allow us to fly, but for only short distances, the hi-tech glasses of which I can see through clouds, fog, mist, etc. Like the backpack where it only opens when its owner touches it, and it can also recommend what I should do now or what I should get, and the phone that can do quite a lot of things, and even I haven’t known how much it can do yet.”

“Impressive!” he said. “May I know what you are here for?”

I said “I am here to look at the plants and living things here and also look for some civilization so that we can confirm that people still live here and also improve our communication with each other and give each other gifts and necessary things to live. Speaking of which, I have them right here!” I took my backpack off with a relieved sigh. I dug into it and took out some matchboxes, thick jackets and clothes, water bottles and food, phones like mine and boots that would be able to hook onto the rocks when climbing.

“Wow!” he exclaimed. “They’re perfect!”

”Yup! Now, I would love to stay, but I’ve got to go! Maybe we’ll see each other again, but not today! Thanks!”

I went out and called the helicopter crew. “I’m ready, pick me up please.”

“Roger that” came the reply.

“Bye guys!” I called to the people in the house as I climbed into the helicopter. They waved back, while clutching the gifts that I had given them.

Finally, I was going back home.

An Adventurous Encounter with Strange Creatures on Huangshan

Po Leung Kuk Choi Kai Yau School, Chim, Hei Tung Venara – 10

It was midnight. Suddenly, I was awoken by a screeching sound. I looked out of the window and saw a mysterious shadow. It was enormous with an uncanny shape. As I reached for my glasses, the shadow quickly disappeared!

I returned to bed, pondering what could that be. A thought ran through my mind: “Could that be aliens?” Nonetheless, I assured myself that it must have been a dream!

Let me introduce myself, I am Min-Yeung, I live in Shanghai, China. I was so excited to begin my journey to Huangshan with my family, and Benji, our dog. I looked forward to having lots of fun!

The next day, we started our journey. Soon after my father started driving, I fell asleep.

Dazed, I woke up with pain on my knees, I struggled to stand and noticed I was hurt and lost! The environment was filthy with a stench like rotten eggs! As I looked up, I saw the same mysterious shadow of last night, Oh, no, it was a gigantic dragon! His eyes shimmered like neon lights, the pupils kept on morphing into different shapes, and its skin was charcoal black! He looked at me and began talking, amazingly, I understood him! I was terrified. He asked. “Are you alright?” in a peculiar accent, I nodded gingerly. He looked astonished that I could understand him. He introduced himself as Arul and led me into a dark cave. I followed behind, with a weird feeling, but my curiosity overcame the fear.

Arul revealed himself that he belonged to another planet called Nubira. Somehow, he crash-landed on Earth while playing his x-ray guns in a spaceship! How cool was that! He led me deeper into the cave through a dark tunnel. He proudly showed me his drawings that sparkled like magical dust, Arul explained the pictures were illustrations of battles and wars on the Earth. He went on introducing each cave depicted warfare of each planet. One particular battle, called “The Battle of the Earthlings” was a battle between aliens and humans. Both fought for Nubira, the planet Arul once lived. The Chinese Emperor, QIN Shi-Huang, defeated his King, the Great Grohman. The aliens vowed to come back with a vengeance. At this point, I realized I should connect with my family. “Oh no! Where are they?” I exclaimed. Worse was that I could not find my phone, it was no longer in my pocket! I bursted out crying, fearing I could never see them again. With a comforting nudge of his nose to my head, Arul said “Min-Yeung, let me tell you I have the power to see into the universe since I am a solar hybrid dragon, I can help seeing where your family is now?” Immediately, a screen popped up which showed my parents were crying at home. I screamed to get their attention, but they could not see me. I was so anxious. At this very moment, Arul fainted abruptly, his forehead was burnt to touch. Suddenly, I felt my nose was forcefully blocked by a cloth or handkerchief, I passed out too!

Feeling lightheaded, I found myself waking up, being bound along with Arul! I saw a person preparing a syringe from a medicine bottle. “Is that tranquilizer? Oh no!” I was frightened. That person winked at me, saying “Well dear, I don’t think you’re aware that us ALIENS can hear each other’s thoughts... And you are correct, it is tranquilizer! I guess you did not sleep long enough! Ha-ha! And I know what you are thinking the reason why you were captured.” He paused, and with an angry tone, he said he was humiliated by the defeat of his grandfather, The Great Grohman, to such lowly humans, and that it was time for revenge. I shivered and questioned “But why me? There are a lot more people to choose from!” “I have my reasons, child.” He watched in fear as this mad alien walk towards me, he had tentacles like octopuses’ feet! He slithered towards me, ready to inject me. Fortunately, Arul unbound himself and pounced at the “octopus” right on his head! Bam! He was knocked down. Arul recognized him as Azazel, the brutal alien that capture dragons and human for experiments. As we browsed around Azazel’s laboratory, it was full of peculiar creatures preserved in cylinders. Arul said those creatures were the Chonobog, a male hybrid dragon of half-cyborg and half-bred dragon species; and Harichka, was a female hybrid dragon that can feel other people’s emotions and can control other creatures; the last one was Yectofen, a female hybrid dragon that could do the impossible acts one can never do... Arul sadly explained they were his friends of the same species before they went missing. Now he understood it was Azazel who captured them in the core of Huangshan! Arul found the key to the laboratory door and locked Azazel in!

We had a fabulous talk about legends of hybrid dragons on our way out. Arul offered me a ride on his back! I climbed up his back. It was already evening, he flew around the blue moon, and I noticed we have become invisible! Arul proudly said he possessed different power as a hybrid dragon, like becoming invisible, morphing to different shapes and forms, seeing the past and future, reading others’ mind, and understanding other creatures.

Arul finally flew me back to my house. He revealed both to our visible forms and introduced himself to my family. Though shocked, my parents were overjoyed to see me back alive, and invited Arul for dinner. We ate quickly like we were starving to death! My parents were grateful to Arul for bringing me home safely. We departed, and Arul flew back to the outer space.

This was my adventurous encounter with these strange solar creatures on Huangshan. I hope everyone realizes that these amazing creatures do exist, and they are fantastic!

The Dragon Hunt

Po Leung Kuk Choi Kai Yau School, Kee, Cheuk Kiu Natalie – 10

I raced up the steps. I looked back on my friend Jack. “Come on! We need to hurry!” Jack was my best friend. He had agreed to come with me on this “dragon hunt”. There was a rumor that there were dragons nesting on the mountains of China. I intended to find whether the dragons existed or not. Jack doubled down and wheezed. He wasn’t the most athletic person. “Let’s ... go ... back ... now. The— there are no drag— dragons.” I looked back and sighed. “Fine, let’s take a short break now.”

I took out the sandwiches I had brought. As I ate, I looked up at the breathtakingly beautiful mountains. Lush green trees covered the steep peak. After we ate, we kept walking up to the mountains. After quite a long time, we finally reached the top. I grabbed my flashlight from my backpack. “You can lead,” Jack whimpered. I rolled my eyes and kept walking. After a few minutes, we came to a small cave. When we walked inside, I caught my breath. The cavern was beautiful, with its shiny jewels and diamonds glittering in the crevices of the cavern. Suddenly, I saw some white pointy things on the ground. The flashlight’s beam swept across dozens of things that looked like arrowheads. Wait, those weren’t arrowheads. They were teeth! Dragon teeth! With shaking hands, I bent down and picked up one. My hand slipped across the point, drawing blood. I dropped the tooth and shouldered my backpack. Jack was hyperventilating behind me. I could hear his breathing echoing around the cave. “Let’s keep walking,” I mumbled.

As we kept walking, I focused on the beauty of the cave instead of the dragon teeth littering the floor and blood dripping from my finger. Suddenly, I heard a deep growl that made the hairs of my neck stand up straight. I turned around and stared into the yellow eyes of ... a dragon! The dragon walked forward. I turned around, hoping for an exit, but another dragon walked towards us. We were surrounded. Even when we were surrounded and were probably going to die, I couldn’t help admiring the beauty of the dragons. The dragon’s scales shimmered with different colors. His deep, yellow eyes glittered with malice and intelligence. The dragon behind us threw back his head and laughed. It sounded deep, like the dragon was sixty years old ... or six hundred. “Hmm,” the dragon said. Its voice sounded gruff, like he was coughing all the time. His breath exuded the smell of eucalyptus, like he had been eating a lot of cough drops. “Never before has a human wandered into our midst. You are foolish to come searching for us, boy.” Behind me, Jack whimpered. I was scared, but I mustered up my courage. “Who are you? What are you?” The dragon in front of me snorted. Smoke came out of his nostrils. I wondered if dragons were in danger of spontaneously combusting all the time. “We are dragons, mortal fool. Can you not see?” “Um, sure,” I still wasn’t really believing that dragons exist, but the dragon must’ve read my mind, because he said, “We exist, human. We have existed for millennia, centuries before you polluting, dirty humans came along!” “So, what are you going to do now?” I asked. The dragon bared his teeth and growled, “No human can see our cavern and live. We are going to eat you!” The dragon pounced, but I jumped to one side. The dragon’s claws had ripped off a chunk of my sleeve. I looked back and saw Jack still frozen in terror, the dragon preparing to blow fire. “Jack!” I yelled, “We need to go!” I ran forward and dragged Jack out of the way as the dragon blew fire. The heat scorched my shoulders. Jack came to his senses and ran towards the exit. I slipped on a dragon tooth and fell on the floor. I groaned and stood up. I was dimly aware of the dragon racing towards me. I picked up a dragon tooth, and as the dragon opened his mouth, I stabbed the tooth into his tongue. “RAAAAR!” the dragon roared. I grabbed a dragon tooth for protection and picked up the speed, running towards the exit. At the last second, the other dragon leaped onto me and flew me into the air, its claws digging into my shoulders. I raised my dragon tooth and stabbed it into its foot. The dragon dropped me, and I landed on the floor. I rolled over onto my side and stood up shakily. I had no idea how I had survived the fall that was at least 10 meters, but there was no time to dwell on that now. I raced towards the exit, and as I dove out the cave, the dragon blew fire. The trees immediately caught on fire, leaving a smell of smoke in the air.

The fire had left a few burns on my arms, but it wasn’t that painful. Jack was sitting down next to me, wheezing. “Are you okay?” I asked. Even as I asked the question, I realized that it was a stupid question. Of course, he wasn’t okay. Jack looked at me, his eyes wild with fear. “Let’s get out of here. I don’t ever want to come back again.” We ran down the hill, slipping on moss and rocks. As I ran, I was wondering why I hadn’t died in there. I should have fell to my doom when the dragon dropped me. I was grateful that I had not died in that cave. I was looking forward to a nice hot bath when I got home. Jack tripped over a rock, but he kept running. Finally, we got down the hill. We laid down and took a few deep breaths. I knew we couldn’t tell anyone, because they wouldn’t believe that dragons were real. They would think that we were really crazy.

Origins

Po Leung Kuk Choi Kai Yau School, Li, Hei Li Sophie – 10

Mei woke up to the sound of animals chirping and grunting, water rushing and wind blowing gently against her face. Slowly propping her body up with her elbows, Mei looked from side to side, and mumbled under her breath “Not this again.” This wasn’t the first time that Mei had accidentally teleported to the Magical Mountains of China, as her fellow villagers called it. Ever since she ventured into the mountains when she was a little girl, she started appearing in the mountains frequently during her sleep. Everyone in her village believed that any who ventured into the mountains would never come back.

Mei slowly stood up holding her elbows that were red and aching from the hard ground. Mei always found the mountains very interesting, though she never ventured beyond where she woke up. But this time curiosity got the best of her. She really wanted to venture beyond, following a trail of faded bricks. She brushed away large leaves that blocked her way and hopped over cracks. Finally she reached a creak with flowing water that looked as clear as ice. She carefully knelt down examining her reflection. Being careful not to fall in, she used her hands to scoop up water. Looking further out, she wondered about the faded brick trail that she had been following, questioning whether anyone had ever lived here or if anyone still lived there. Mei continued walking further and further, higher and higher, until she reached a thick mist that was so thick she couldn’t even see her hands in front of her face.

Mei continued walking, hoping to reach somewhere safe. She eventually reached a small passageway that was covered in vines that looked more than a hundred years old. She examined the wall closely for a few seconds, then slowly touched the wall and moved her hand along the side until she pushed a lever, but the door didn’t open. In fact, a trapdoor right under Mei’s feet did. She fell straight down until she hit a cloud. She was confused. How could she have landed on a cloud? She could hear a soft giggle from behind her. She turned her head, to her surprise there were a few children hiding behind a large tunnel wall. She hopped down from the large cloud and walked towards the children, her bare feet tapping on the cold wet cobblestone floor.

Mei could see one long shadow creeping towards her. She turned around as quickly as she could to see three children walking towards her in a single file. There was a girl in the front that seemed especially angry as the others seemed worried. The girl pulled Mei’s wrist and pulled her aside and said “You can’t be here, you’re not one of us, plus this place is sacred and you,” she said while pointing at Mei “shouldn’t be here. But there is no way out of here, unless you go via our town. This trap door only opens from the outside. There are a lot of risks getting you out of town especially when the safest way out is at least five days away!” All Mei could do was stare straight at the girl and say “Wait, I’m going to be with you for five days! I don’t even know your name.” The girl replied with “Yes, and my name is Kari, this is my brother Yang, and my little sister Li.”

Kari motioned everyone to follow her, as they walked towards a tunnel that was only lit by a torch that was slowly reaching its end. As they walked along the walls covered in symbols, Mei placed her hand on the wall and pressed her fingers against the carvings, tracing them. Mei followed the children into tunnel after tunnel, until they reached a wall with a large detailed carving of a mountain on a cloud. The children all sat down. Mei, following what the children did, put her right hand on top of her left and sat there slowly closing her eyes. As Kari put her hand on the large carving, the others did the same. A streak of blue traced all the lines in the carving tracing every small detail, the blue was brighter than usual. The siblings could feel it, so Li asked “do you have bending?” Mei gave a simple response “what’s bending?” Li said, “open your eyes and I’ll tell you”. Mei did as she was told and opened her eyes to a small house that was bright and filled with sunlight. Her eyes were still adjusting to the brightness of the sun, as the children explained “bending”. “So basically bending is the supernatural ability to bend an element to your will, whether it’s water, fire, earth or air. One of your parents must also be a bender. We should get going before anyone comes, let’s start packing up.” Finalized Yang.

So the children packed up their things, except Mei who sat there waiting as everyone packed up. She suddenly questioned why she shouldn't be there, and Li explained that all elements were divided. Mei was a water bender, and they were air benders, unexpected things may happen if they mix. And with that, the four headed away from town. They walked past a mountain that looked like a sleeping cat, and into a cave that would provide shelter. When Mei walked in, she disappeared. The siblings went everywhere around and within the cave, but Mei wasn't anywhere. She was gone, lost, just vanished into thin air.

But Mei knew where she was; she was back home questioning her father why she was a bender, and why he kept this from her since the day she was born.

The Magically Mysterious Mountain of Zi Qi

Po Leung Kuk Choi Kai Yau School, Wong, John – 10

Among the Huangshan mountains, there was once a magical mountain called Zi Qi. It had a flowing stream of water which provided clean water to the villagers. Every year on new year's day, all the villagers would climb to the top of the mountain and pray to the god, Tai Shen, for giving them the magical water. It was a prosperous and peaceful place. A foreigner, Tao Heng Suan, came to Zi Qi wanting to understand the 'magical' mountain, so he decided to venture to the mountain. He thought that the villagers were superstitious and did not believe all the marvellous magic that the mountain provided. The foreigner was stubborn and was soon nicknamed Wan Gu Siao Hai (the stubborn boy).

It was snowing on the mountains of Zi Qi when Tao arrived at a dark cave, after following the stream along the mountain. He thought if there was really a God called Tai Sheng, it would protect the villagers at all costs, so he decided to place mud on each door of every house so the villagers were trapped in their homes. He wanted to test if the 'God' would rescue the villagers. Suddenly, he saw 12 glowing yellow eyes glaring at him from a distance. Mountain pumas pounced on him. He was shivering in fear. Petrified, he tried to escape the sharp pawed creatures. Finally, he succeeded. However, his suspicion grew as he was unable to prove whether or not the mountains were truly magical. So, he decided to stay on the mountains another night, and try another 'experiment' the following day.

"Brum-brum-brrrrr!" the sound of a saw plunging into the core of a tree branch was the alarm clock. Tao was now trying to cut a tree branch to block the stream and stop the villagers from receiving water. He believed that if there was a 'mountain God', it would definitely protect the villagers. He used all his might to cut the branch, but it still did not work and instead led to the saw breaking in half. He paced forwards and backwards anxiously. His only tool was broken, he felt darkness all around him and he did not know what to do next. Still, Tao did not believe that there was a God. Then, he continued his journey along the treacherous path up the mountain.

"I do not believe that there is a mountain God, I do not, I do not! This is just bad luck!" Tao cried in despair, each droplet landing on the earthy warm mud of the magical mountain. "Bang!" a gigantic lasso emerged from the top of the mountain, landed around Tao's arm and pulled him tightly to the bottom of the mountain. "Thump!", "What was that?" Tao asked himself. "I think it was the God! I was wrong, there is indeed a God!" He ran to the local gathering spot and screamed, "This is a wonderful, magical land! I was wrong! All of you are not superstitious, I respect you all!" He finally understood that he was wrong and to respect people's beliefs. Seeing is not always believing.

Tales from China's Magical Mountain

Po On Commercial Association Wan Ho Kan Primary School, Arron, Gurung – 11

Once upon a time in China, there was a family of four living down mountain. In that family, there was two children living together with their parents. Their names were Li Bai and Du Fu, they both just turned twelve because they were twins. Their school was on top of the mountain so they needed to wake up early to get to school on time.

One day, the brothers were going to school. "Hey Li Bai, could you wait for me!" Shouted Du Fu, while trying to catch up to his brother. "Sorry Du Fu, I was worried we wouldn't make it to school on time." replied Li Bai while slowing down his pace. After Du Fu had caught up to his brother, the two of them started to run up the mountain. Soon after that, they reached the top of the mountain panting heavily. They just got to the school while the bell was ringing. The teachers were starting to teach while the brothers got to their seats. Six hours later, school had just ended and the bell had just rung, the brothers talked with their friends for a while and then they started to head back home.

While they were going back home, Du Fu suggested that they should go and explore the other mountains. "Sure" said Li Bai, "But we have to ask our mother. "No way!" Du Fu interrupted Li Bai. "If we tell our mom she definitely won't let us go. Besides, we just turned twelve, so we are already old enough to go by ourselves." "Fine." mumbled Li Bai "I hope we don't get into any trouble?" "Hooray!" celebrated Du Fu. The brothers quickly went back home and told their mother that they were going outside to play. "O.K." said their mother, "But remember to come back home before dinner." The brother nodded their heads and ran out of the house.

At the bottom of the mountain, the brothers stood there looking at how big and tall the mountain they were going to climb was. "I think this is a little too high for us to climb." said Du Fu "Yeah," agreed Li Bai. The brothers kept on searching for a mountain that they could climb until they found one. "Wow, this mountain looks beautiful!" said Li Bai. "Yeah and it's not that tall too." replied Du Fu. After that, the brothers started to climb the mountain.

An hour later, the brothers had climbed more than half-way up the mountain. They started seeing a lot of different astonishing plants and animals that they never saw before. They saw a glowing plant and a group of ten-legged spiders. After that, they reached the top at dusk. They sat down on a large rock and admired the beautiful that they could see from the mountain. Suddenly, the brothers heard a really loud screech from behind them. They turned around and saw a giant bald eagle starting at them. Du Fu found a sword and threw it at the eagle, but it missed. Li Bai laughed and said "Wow, is that the best you can do?" "Shut up Li Bai!" shouted Du Fu, "We are in a dangerous situation here!" Du Fu slid down, went under the eagle and got the sword. He then threw it back to Li Bai. Li Bai jumped on top of the eagle and stabbed its eye bravely. The eagle screeched really loudly and then it died. "Nice teamwork Li Bai!" said Du Fu. "Yeah!" agreed Li Bai. "But we better go home because there might be more coming."

Finally, the brothers went home trying to forget what had just happened and promised each other never to explore new places without permission again.

Tales from China's Magical Mountain

Po On Commercial Association Wan Ho Kan Primary School, Sum, Yin Yat – 11

Once upon a time, there was a village in Huang Shuang and two ninjas which would save China were born there. The younger ninja was called Bob. The older ninja was called Jason. They both have their powers. The younger one can see things miles away and the older one was very good at fighting.

One day when everyone was doing their own things, a lot of gangsters who looked evil and scary came. At first, the villagers didn't care about them. But they suddenly killed the boss of the vegetable shop and said "everyone hands in the air". They took out their weapons and said 'Take all your money out or we will kill you'. But the villagers were poor that they didn't have anything to give them. The leader of the gangsters was very angry and said he would kill everyone in the village. All of the villagers were very scared. But the two ninjas came out and said 'We won't yield to you!'. But they were too weak to fight hundreds of people. The two ninjas tried to find chances to hit the gangsters. But the gangsters were too strong and the two ninjas were too weak. At last the two ninjas got beaten up.

After this fight, the two ninjas realized that they were not strong enough to protect the villagers. The next day, the two ninjas woke up early so that they can practice ninjutsu. They practiced very hard to become stronger. After a month the gangsters came again to revenge the two ninjas. But the gangsters didn't know that the two ninjas were way stronger by then. When all the villagers dodged back to their houses, the two ninjas came out and said 'We are strong enough to beat you guys!'. The gangster's boss laughed and said 'You two are in a big trouble!'. After that, they started to fight. First, the two ninjas got hit by them. But after the two ninjas found the weaknesses of the gangsters, the situation reversed immediately. The two ninjas beat the gangsters and drove them away.

After this day the two ninjas became the idols of the village. The two ninjas can have free food at the restaurant, free clothes and much more. The two ninjas and the villagers were very happy. But they didn't know that a big trouble awaited them in the future. The gangsters were very angry and they hired a killer to kill the two ninjas. After a few days a guy came to the village. That guy dressed up like a civilian but no one knew that he was a killer. When the killer saw Bob, the killer immediately took out his poison knife and tried to kill Bob. When the killer was about to kill Bob, Jason stopped the killer and hit him. The killer was scared because he felt Jason was too strong for him to beat. The killer ran back to the gangsters' shelter. The gangsters' boss was disappointed that the killer was afraid of the two ninjas.

Bob's injury was quite serious. Jason took Bob to see the best doctor in his village. The doctor said he couldn't save Bob because the poison already spread to all of his body. But the two ninjas didn't give up. Finally, they found the best doctor in China, Lee Shi Zhen. When Lee Shi Zhen saw Bob, he immediately took out his tool and started healing Bob. After a while, Bob came out and said "I feel I am full of power!". Jason was very surprised that Bob could be ok. When the gangster boss knew Bob was still alive he was very scared.

The gangster's boss let all of his guys to attack the two ninjas but he didn't know because of the injury Bob inspired his potential. When the gangsters tried to get closer to Bob, they were all bounced away. When they bounced away, Jason immediately hit them. After a while all of the gangsters passed out. But one of them didn't pass out. The one who didn't pass out ran back and report to the master.

After that day, the boss of the gangster came to the two ninjas' place and asked them not to hurt him and that he would not do anything bad anymore. The two ninjas chose to forgive the gangster. The gangsters now turned back to good citizens and they will not do anything bad again.

Magical Mountain Cang

Po On Commercial Association Wan Ho Kan Primary School, Wang, Yik Tung – 11

Yun Nan, one of the multi-ethnic provinces in southwest of China, has a lot of widely spread legends and many of them are about Yun Nan's sacred mountain—Mountain Cang. Mountain Cang is famous for its snow on the top and special landscape— “19 peaks and 18 rivers”. For these two scenes, there are two beautiful legends.

Once upon a time, under Mountain Cang there was a village. The village was affected by a sudden pestilence which was created by an evil god. A pair of sisters wanted to save the village from the pestilence, so they begged the Snow God to give them power to stop the evil god. The Snow God was moved by the sisters and she sealed the evil god on the peak of Mountain Cang. And to lock the evil god forever, the younger sister used the mysterious snow and her body to cover the evil god. Since then, the snow on the top never melt.

There is another legend about the scene “19 peaks and 18 rivers”, which offers spring for local people to drink and makes them long-lived. Thousands of years ago, there was a childish dragon who was assigned to charge the weather on land. Because he took pleasure in teasing others, the farmer on the land suffered from the weather badly. When the land was dry, the childish dragon made the weather even drier. When the land was wet, the dragon made the weather even wetter. The dragon mostly wanted from the game was just watching the farmers' precious food to be destroyed. Farmers complained to [The Jade Emperor](#) about what that evil dragon did. [The Jade Emperor](#) asked the dragon to stop torturing the farmers. But the dragon ignored the command, and he threatened the farmers if they told the Emperor again, he would kill all of them.

The farmers were afraid, so nobody told the Emperor again. The dragon kept torturing the farmers. One day, the Jade Emperor found that the food given to the god became fewer. The Emperor suspected that was because of the dragon. Therefore, he turned into a farmer and went down to the human world.

He went to the place where was charged by the dragon. When he stepped into the place, he looked at the sky and saw it was going to rain. He found a house and went inside to stay away from the rain. In the house, he saw an incredible scene: people were as thin as a skeleton! Almost everyone in the land was like a skeleton because that evil dragon made them out of enough food. The Emperor was very angry. When the Jade Emperor found the dragon, he was killing people. He killed 10 people every day to let the people scare of him. He glanced at the Emperor and asked “Who are you? Whoever you are, just come here and let me kill you!” The Emperor shouted “You tortured people and killed them! I have warned you before, but you did not listen. Let me kill you today!!!” The Emperor and the dragon fought. After 3 days and 3 nights, the Jade Emperor won. “Now I give you a chance. You choose to become a mountain to protect these poor people or die under my sword!” the Emperor shouted.

At last, the dragon chose to become a mountain. His ribs became 19 peaks and his intercostals became 18 rivers between the peaks. His body became the mountain. That evil dragon now became a faithful dragon. He used his body to protect people. He used his power to make this place have a weather in spring for most of days. He used his whole life to become a mountain and to beg the people's forgiveness. And the dragon, the mountain, is called Cang.

Tales from China's Magical Mountain

Po On Commercial Association Wan Ho Kan Primary School, Zaheer, Aysha – 11

In a world above the magical Mountains lived a magical creature. Powerful as a leader. Held the bright smile of a thousand sun.

Had a beautiful eye as the sparkling star. And a mind only filled with fun. While a hear wishing to go far.

Flew from one magical from town to another. Only to feel the need to go further. Swam beyond the seas. But felt no magical breeze. Wandering here and there as none felt like home and he was left alone.

Fortunately, he found a well-wisher who said, “home is always where you are richer”. Only one place that is filled with love. For him it is far, far above.

That is where he decided to go. Just so you know. He flew back to his world. And in the clouds above Hengshan he once again curled.

Tale of Shen Nong Mountain

Po On Commercial Association Wan Ho Kan Primary School, Zhang, Bowen Brian – 9

Long time ago, there was a man called Shen Nong. He was the person who lived on the Magical Mountain, which was just an ordinary mountain before. This mountain became legendary because Shen Nong discover many Chinese herbal medications here. People called the mountain the Shen Nong Mountain to appreciate for Shen Nong's kindness and wisdom.

In the ancient time, there were many diseases that caused people to be severely ill and no medicine nor doctors were able to heal those patients. For people who underwent those diseases, people had many pains for a prolonged period of time, many people passed away, and everyone in the community were afraid of being sick. Shen Nong, as a brave, kind and intelligent person, He was concerned for the people who had those diseases. He wanted to find a way to help and cure the people from the diseases.

One night in his dream, he met an immortal. The immortal said, "The mountain that you are living in have many ingredients for making the medicine that can be used to treat people. I have many methods to help you treat other people and do you want to learn from me?" Shen Nong said: "yes, of course, I would love to learn from you and help more people! Can you teach me now?" "Of course," said the immortal. From that time on, Shen Nong started his studying in pharmacotherapy of the herbal medications. Every night when he slept on his bed, the immortal taught him method of how to made those medicines to prevent the diseases. Therefore, Shen Nong was learning the information at night and practicing the medical knowledge by the method that the immortal told him in the day time. "First of all, you needed to know the name of the plant", and the immortal brought him to the mountain. The immortal said that, "This medicine is used to made this and that one is used to" Shen Nong paid close attention to the immortal's words and remembered all the notes in his mind. "Next, you also needed to know that which plant use the leaves, flowers, fruits, stem or roots to made the medicine. Now, you needed to collected the plants to made the medicine" the immortal continued.

The immortal told Shen Nong that there are several ways to cooked the plants for making the medicine, such as, boil, steam, fry, bake and decoct He mixed the plants together and made these herbs into medicine, which healed all the patients. Everyone was very grateful for Shen Nong and his medications. Shen Nong thought that his power is too limited and he wanted more patients to be healed. So, he passed on the method of producing those herbal medications to other people who were interested and he had a lot of students who were willing to learn those medical knowledges.

First, he taught his student the names of the plants. Then, he introduced the student how to collected the plants. Next, he demonstrated to his students on how to cook the plants. And lastly, he showed the student how to mix plants up to made medicine. There are more and more people that learned the ways of made the medicine and more patients were able to been healed. Soon after, there were less and less people being affected by the disease and people's body were better and healthier than ever. From that day on, everyone lived happy and healthy.

Shen Nong founded the system of the traditional Chinese medicine and promoted the raising of many other famous doctors in ancient China later, like Hua Tuo, Bian Que Traditional Chinese medicine system was also an important part of Chinese culture. As an important heritage of Chinese culture, every Chinese person is very proud about it. For thousands of years, the development of the traditional Chinese medicine system inspires many Chinese people' healthy lifestyle and habits that prevents those diseases.

Many people might question that is why Shen Nong is called Shen Nong. In Chinese, Nong, means a person's ploughing skill is outstanding. Shen Nong also taught all the peasants how to plough and plan for plantation of rice. He said:" First, you needed to knew that there are how many kinds of rice there are; next, you needed to knew when does you seed the rice and what time to foison. You also needed to knew what soil does your rice grow in and all kinds of rice grow in soil with a lot of water. Now, you can grow rice by yourself. But be careful with the changes in weather, soil and water, which could influence your harvest. You should pay attention to monitor the growth of the plants with hard work at all time." After the teaching, peasants followed the way to grew rice successfully and they never had to face any famine.

One day, Shen Nong went to the mountain, he discovered that there was a new kind of plant, and he wants to taste it to know how does it taste and what is the function of the herb. But this plant has highly toxic and Shen Nong unfortunately passed away soon after he ate the plant. Because Shen Nong helped people so much and people appreciated and commemorated Shen Nong, they named the mountain as” Shen Nong Mountain”. This is the origin of the name of “Shen Nong Mountain”.

In China, there were many famous mountains and also many mountains had magical tales with it. But I love Shen Nong mountain very much because this mountain represents the beginning of Chinese medicine and farming techniques. Every Chinese person should remember it.

There is an Old Saying

Regents Primary School of Shenzhen, Chi, Ming Yun – 11

There is an old saying, “the landscape of the five mountains tops all other, that being said Yellow Mountain tops all of those.”

When I was a kid, I always heard a lot about the Yellow Mountain, such a place with fantasies and mysteries. Luckily, I have made my dream come true, for I took a trip to Yellow Mountain, and what you cannot believe is that I met a little demon there.

This is what happened: I suddenly realized I might be lost when I was deeply attracted by the beautiful spots around. Nobody was there, which means I had to find the way back all by myself. How hopeless and desperate I was! Then, all of a sudden, a black shadow appeared in my sight. It was a girl with two fox ears and a big tail on her back, wearing traditional clothes. Was she an angel or a demon?

The poor girl had wounds on her face and hands. She sensed someone was heading closer and struggled to open her eyes. However, her body burst into a radiant light and turned into a pendant, which looked the same as her body, when I fixed my eyes on her. I picked it up secretly. To my surprise, I found myself among the tourists. My mother was chatting with others nearby. Nobody realized that I had already been lost for 5 minutes. Yes, for 5 minutes!

The next day I chose to stay at the hotel when my mother said they would climb up the mountain. I put the pendant on the floor and it began to glow. The little girl appeared in front of me. I told her that we could be friends. I told her my name and some facts about human beings. She turned , looked happy and shared her name with me. “My name is Alisha. I am a fox. People think all foxes are evil demons and the angels are hunting us. We must survive in the war between the angels and us. I was hurt in the battle and fell to the ground and then you stood up in front of “me”. After hearing her words, I became sympathetic towards her and was interested in where she lived. Alisha read my mind and was delighted to lead me there. She took me flying in the sky and everything below seemed as tiny as an ant when I looked down. We flew over the peak and Alisha pointed to a tiny village in the clouds and told me that was the place where she lived. We flew to her little house that was surrounded by ivy leaves and scattered flowers. It was a little house made of chocolates, fruits and ice. Alisha took me in and it felt just like we were in the castle made of snow and ice. I had never known there was such a gorgeous place on top of the mountain, just like living in the fairy tales.

Suddenly, we heard a big sound “BOOM!” Two houses were seriously damaged. Alisha told me it was an angel who had done it. She told me to hide somewhere and she would run out to fight. I said, “No!” I pulled her hands and added, “I will always be on your side!” She looked at me in surprise and nodded. However, both of us had no sense of how to fight. “We must fight until we die! Warriors would never be defeated!”

We fought and helped each other. But, Alisha sacrificed herself. She pushed me and she was seriously hit by angels. I couldn’t help bursting into tears. Alisha looked at me sadly while her body became transparent. She said “Run! Run away! The only thing I can do for you now is to lead you away!” She turned into the pendant again. “My Alisha, you can have a rest!” I picked the pendant and ran back.

Until now, the pendant is still lying in my bag. I look forward to going back to the Yellow Mountain again. I want to know whether the war is over or not. Will Alisa come back and take me to her house again?

Dad's and Mine Secret

Regents Primary School of Shenzhen, He, Ming Ye – 9

The Yellow Mountain is in the south of Anhui Province in China. It is called Huangshan. The view of Huangshan is very beautiful and special!

Two years ago, I went to Huangshan with my Mum and Dad. We spent four hours climbing to the top. After we had a rest, dad asked: "Alisa, would you like to go down a different way?" "Wow, that sounds great; I would like to go with you!" "Okay, let's go!"

We went down to the mountain and it became steeper and steeper. Suddenly, Dad shouted, "Look, there is a cave, let's go down!" So we went on descending the mountain until we came to a much bigger cave. The cave was full of bones — very very big bones. "It's a skeleton," I said. "It's a dinosaur skeleton and it looks like tyrannosaurus rex," said Dad.

"Could dinosaurs still be alive in this cave?" I asked. "Oh no, there haven't been any dinosaurs for a very long time. They are just old bones. They can't hurt us," said Dad.

"Look over here, Dad, this rock looks like a giant egg." Dad went over to have a look. Just then there was a loud crack! The egg had started to hatch. There was a big crack down one side which got bigger and bigger and bigger. Then a little head looked out. "Oh my God, it's a baby tyrannosaurs," said Dad. "Dad, I am so scared!" I said. "It is just a baby, don't worry," said Dad. "But it's got very big teeth," I added.

"Hi baby, do you understand me?" I tried to say hello to this baby dinosaur, but then, it opened its red eyes slowly. It then opened its mouth and blew out little flames, so the cave was full of smoke. The smoke went up our noses.

"Dad, dad, what can we do?" I shouted. "Calm down, honey, let me try."

"Hello baby, how are you? Please do not hurt us, we will take good care of you, would you like to be friends with us?" The baby dinosaur got closer to my dad, and he became anxious and nervous. The dinosaur looked friendly and wanted to say something, but we didn't understand it.

"I think it will not hurt us," I said. "Okay, let's talk to him," said Dad .

"Baby, how many years have you been living here?" the baby dinosaur did not answer, he just showed me his fingers, I counted it: "One, two, three, four, five fingers!" "Do you want to tell us, you have been living in this cave for five thousand years?" asked Dad. The baby shook its head. Just then my dad's phone rang, the baby dinosaur was scared and ran away quickly. I exclaimed, "Oh dad, you are so bad, I hate your phone! It scared away the baby, I want to play with it." I was so sad.

And then the cave began to shake. "Quick!" said Dad. "Let's get out of here." We ran out of the cave as fast as we could. We ran down a long dark tunnel. Down and down we went, and as we went we got hotter and hotter and hotter. "I am too hot," I said. "We can't run anymore," said Dad. So we stopped. Suddenly the rock began to move. Up went the rock taking us with it. Up and up it went, faster and faster and higher and higher.

"What have you been doing? I have been waiting for you a long time," said Mum, as she saw us looking down at the cave. "What was all that noise?" Dad and I laughed at each other. "Well, it's a very long story and it's a secret belonging to us."

The Mountain Fairy and Su Ming

Regents Primary School of Shenzhen, Liao, Xia An Anne – 9

On a day when the sun had just surfaced from the water, a little boy hobbled up the mountain near the hut where he lived to chop wood. The boy's name was Su Ming. The path to the mountain was extremely difficult to walk, and Ming felt that he was about to fall every moment as he walked along the cliff edge with his heart hanging in the sky.

Ming tried his best and climbed to the peak of the mountain eventually. He was panting heavily on the lawn. Looking around from the peak, there is a beautiful scenery with fog around the mountains. Ming sat up with his hand on his chin, and he was thinking.

“Why can't everyone see the beauty of Huangshan?” Ming sighed deeply and murmured. He thought about it but his eyelids, getting heavier and heavier, he fell asleep quietly and started to dream. A deep voice slowly sounded...

“Hello Ming, have you ever wondered why you can't see the outside World? The World is huge, and all you have seen is only the tip of an iceberg.” Just before Ming was going to reply, he woke up.

Driven by the dream Ming wanted to build a road to beautiful Huangshan and let more people from outside enjoy the beauty of Huangshan.

Ming called on the villagers for help, but everyone just laughed at him for being whimsical. He ran home with tears streaming down his face. In the haze he saw a shadow appearing in front of him and reminded him, “Ming, you have to use your sincerity to impress the people.”

The shadow disappeared immediately. Really?!... Ming was in a daze for a few seconds. Then he ran out of the door, begging the villagers sincerely to help him build the road for more people. This time, the villagers stopped laughing at him and went to help. Ming showed a relieved smile eventually. It didn't take long for Ming to realise his dream but his temperament also became arrogant day by day, and he began to be defiant...

Those people who did not listen to him were punished heavily by him. Tourists had to pay so-called protection fees to visit the mountains. Ming was no longer the little boy who wants everyone to see the beauty of Huangshan.

Gradually, people began to move away from him. Ming was upset. “Why?” He was puzzled. One night, the shadow appeared again. “Ming, do you want to know why everyone starts to stay away from you? You are no longer the little boy that the people love,” the shadow disappeared.

Ming woke up from the dream immediately. He was determined to get rid of his bad behaviour and put it into action. People gradually got closer to him again as he was changing back to the little boy.

After Ming died, everyone loved and respected him very much for his contribution to Huangshan Mountain and to the people, and he was regarded as a mountain god by everyone.

The Fairies and the Deer

Regents Primary School of Shenzhen, Luo, Si Fei – 10

A long time ago, there was a beautiful fairy named Cecilia, who lived in Heaven blithely. One day she broke a valuable musical box by accident, which made the Queen of Heaven very angry. She punished the fairy harshly by turning the fairy into a mortal, and expelled her from the Heaven.

Fortunately, Cecilia soon began to enjoy life on the earth. She met Ashley, another fairy, who was also expelled from the Heaven. They lived together and had a great time with each other. Every day, they travelled around the world, appreciated wonderful landscapes and made friends with kind men and women. Cecilia was an amazing Chinese zither player, and Ashley enjoyed her music very much. One day, they decided to visit Huangshan, one of the most famous mountains in China.

It was a sunny day. They climbed up the mountain leisurely while chatting and laughing. When they finally arrived at the peak, they saw some people gathering and talking. Cecilia and Ashley were curious, so they came near to the group of people. Then they heard one of these men talking with excitement, “Yesterday, I got a secret from a merchant. There will be a deer with golden antlers appearing in the forest of Huangshan tonight, and whoever catches the deer can get good luck. Why don’t we give it a shot? What do you say? If we capture this little thing and get the deerskin, we can acquire huge fortune for sure.” The rest of the group was apparently affected by his zeal, and they all agreed to set up a trap to capture the deer tonight.

Cecilia and Ashley didn’t like what they had heard. They always loved and cared for animals, and letting a lovely deer be caught and killed by the men was the thing they would never enjoy. “What can we do now?” Cecilia asked anxiously. “They are making a plan, and the poor thing will die!” “Don’t be panic, my dearest girl,” said Ashley, “I know someone who might be able to help us. Let’s go get the tree fairy and see what he can do.”

The old tree fairy listened to them carefully, and agreed to help them. However, he pointed out that the fairies had to pay a price for this in exchange. “Well, if you bring the deer to my tree, I would protect it and enchant those hunters, so there will be no way for them to find the deer. Nevertheless, I am not allowed to randomly use my magic to change the life of people as well as animals, so I have to make you two pay for it.” The fairies were so keen that they agreed without any hesitation.

That night, they found the deer and brought it to the tree fairy. All of a sudden, a sparkling string struck them, and Cecilia turned into a stone, while Ashley changed into the sea of clouds. Nowadays, when tourists visit Huangshan, they can see a stone-made beauty sitting at the mountain peak with a Chinese zither, and the cloud is surrounding her.

The Magic Huangshan Mountain adventure

Regents Primary School of Shenzhen, Lyv, Jinbo – 12

Lead

Louis and Tim: Two curious primary school students.

Doctor Jerry: He likes to invent and explore with rich experience.

Robot U : Dr. J. invented this robot to help them with this exploration.

Chapter One: Adventure Academy we are coming

“Hi, Tim! I have a piece of good news to tell you,” said Louis.

“Really? I want to tell you a piece of good news, too!” replied Tim.

Since they had the same good news, they were admitted to the Adventure Academy.

They are going on an adventure tomorrow. Why do they want to go to this Academy? Because they like adventures very much.

Chapter Two: Doctor Jerry

After Louis and Tim went to school, they had the first adventure with Dr. J. on Huangshan Mountain.

“Do you know Doctor Jerry? He is a famous explorer. I didn't expect to meet him here,” said Tim.

After five minutes, Dr. J. and a small robot came into the classroom.

“Hello! I will go to Huangshan Mountain on an adventure with you tomorrow.” They were so excited that they went back to the dormitory to prepare things.

Chapter Three: Huangshan Mountain we are coming!

Next morning, they were ready to go on an expedition with the doctor.

“Doctor, can I ask you some questions?” said Louis.

“Sure.”

“Why did you bring this robot with us?”

“You'll know soon,” said the doctor mysteriously.

After arriving at Huangshan, they set up a tent to go to bed and planned to explore Huangshan the next day.

Chapter Four: A bad start

The doctor said their goal this time was to climb to the top of the mountain, but things didn't go all that well. While they were still climbing, a big stone rolled down.

“Run to the corner quickly!” said Dr. J. But the corner was too small. Louis was hurt...

Chapter Five: Magic forest

The big stone fell into a cave, and then there was a magical scene. There is a forest in the cave.

Robot U went into it.

“That is beyond logic and above reason,” said Tim.

Then they went in with the robot. There was a treasure chest inside. The doctor asked everyone not to act rashly.

He asked the robot to scan the treasure chest. It was a pity that the dinosaur fossil was hidden in it.

Unfortunately, it was not a whole piece. But it also had research value. Then the sunshine came in, and the stone was shining. Louis put it in his bag. But they didn't forget their mission and climbed to the top of the mountain.

Chapter Six: Alien

At night, Tim who was out looking for food said he saw the aliens. All the people didn't go to sleep and it was a long night. The next morning, Tim forgot where he saw the aliens. They had no choice but to move on. After walking for about five minutes, Tim yelled, “Aliens!” Everyone was startled.

When they carefully came up and looked at them, they turned out to be strange shaped dinosaur fossils. Dr. J. said those are the characteristics of Huangshan Mountain. Huangshan stones are not aliens. It turned out to be a false alarm.

Chapter Seven: Lost friends

They climbed up the mountain, and the fog was getting thicker and thicker. Although they tried their best, they were all lost. The robot flew up to the sky to detect where they were, but the fog was too thick to find the direction for a while. At this time, the stone in Louis' bag started to light.

Tim found Louis with the shining light, but they didn't know the directions and couldn't find Dr. J. So they could only wait.

Chapter Eight: Hit the mark by a fluke

“We can't wait any longer,” said Louis.

“So what are we going to do?” said Tim.

They suddenly found some water on the ground.

“I remember that the doctor's glass was leaking!” Louis said.

Finally they found the doctor with the traces of the water.

“I have to say this is really a mountain with heavy fog, complex roads and willow hidden flowers!” said Louis.

Chapter Nine: Food lost

Now the hillside was getting steeper and steeper, and it was more and more dangerous. All of a sudden, Tim fell.

Now the situation was very urgent.

The doctor asked Tim to throw away the bag containing food, but Tim was reluctant because it contained all their food. Finally, Louis pulled Tim up, but the food was lost. The doctor said, “I will pick wild fruits from the tree this evening, and that will fill our stomach.” Louis said they could only do that first. Fortunately, Tim was not in danger.

Chapter Ten: Meet the beast

“Doctor, have you heard anything?” Louis said.

“Don't talk. Let me listen carefully. Make a fire. It's a beast,” said the doctor.

But the wind was too strong for the lighter to light.

“Give me the stone,” said the doctor. Louis quickly took out the stone. After the doctor's efforts, the fire was started.

And the beast was driven away.

What a close call! It's still a long way from the top of the mountain.

Chapter Eleven: They arrived

On the fifth day of the adventure, they finally reached the summit. In these five days, there were happiness, adventure, sadness and surprise. Arriving at the top of the peak finally can be said to be a rich experience. After that, they handed over the stone and the dinosaur fossils to the state, and they became famous. In the end, Louis and Tim became explorers.

The Secret of Huangshan

Regents Primary School of Shenzhen, Or, Cheuk Yan – 12

It's raining and blowing hard today. Peter was sitting on the bed reading books. He is his friends' leader. Peter had superpowers too. Suddenly, the doorbell rang. He stood up and said, "Who is it?" A voice replied, "I am the postman. I have a letter for you." Peter muttered, "Who will send me a letter? Is it Tim? He always sends me some strange things." He opened the door and took the letter. After the postman had left, he opened the letter, which informed him that there were some treasures in Huangshan, and that he must find them immediately. Since they were very important, they should not fall into the wrong hands. He said he would contact his friends when he arrived at Huangshan. The letter had no sender's name and was an anonymous letter. But there was a map, on which the location of the treasures was marked.

Suddenly, the doorbell rang again. He opened the door, and found that it was his friends, Tim and Snow. Tim is a computer genius. Snow is a biologist, and can talk with animals as well as is good at ancient writing too. They both said they received a letter about the Huangshan treasures. After some discussion, they decided to go to Huangshan to look for the treasures together. Peter and his friends formed an expedition called "Huangshan Expedition" and planned for an adventure at Huangshan.

After they had arrived at Huangshan, they checked in at the hotel. They were very tired, having put down their luggage, they went to bed.

The next day, they started their expedition. They looked for the treasures according to the map. After a long time, they found the location of the treasures. It was a large cave. Then, they took out the flashlight and went into the cave.

Inside the cave, there was a maze. At the end of a long path, there was a door with some ancient writings on it. Snow translated the ancient writings immediately. She asked, "What are the 'five wonders' in Huangshan?" Tim said, "The 'five wonders' are Special Pine, Strange Stone, Cloudy Sea, Hot Spring and Winter Snow." He used a stone to write the answer on the door. The door opened and they entered carefully.

It was a resplendent room, everything was made of gold and jewels. A paper was stuck on the wall. Snow translated the words on the paper, "Who was the refining elixir on Huangshan Mountain?" Peter answered, "Huangdi!" The export opened.

They ran into a large maze with many twists and turns. They were confused and disorientated. Peter stopped and said, "We must find the correct way to go. I want to try to use telepathy to find the treasures. It will take some time." Peter started using telepathy. After some time, he said, "I know where the treasures are! Follow me." Tim and Snow followed Peter and ran into the maze.

Because they knew the direction, they passed through the maze quickly. Soon, they saw a door cut off their road. Snow translated the words on the door, "Congratulations to the adventurers, you passed through all the difficulties in this maze. There is one more question. If you can answer correctly, you will get the treasures. If you cannot, you will stay here forever. Here is the question:

One day, the master ordered his disciples Ken, Ben and Mary to pick up peaches. Soon, the three disciples returned happily after picking peaches. The master asked, "How many peaches did each of you pick?"

Ken said: "We each picked the same number of peaches. There are less than 100 peaches in my basket. If we count three peaches in three fields, there will be one left at the end."

Ben said, "If we count four peaches in four fields in my basket, there will be one peach left at the end."

Mary said, "If we count five peaches in five fields, there will be one peach left at the end. How many peaches did we pick each?"

The master quickly asked them. "Do you know how many peaches you each picked?"

After Snow translated the words on the door, Tim shouted, "What? If we cannot answer the question correctly, we will stay here forever? Oh! I don't know how to answer it!" Snow said, "Don't worry, we can answer it correctly. Let me think... Oh! I know! The answer is 61!" Peter and Tim asked, "Why?" Snow replied, "In fact, the number of peaches picked by Ken, Ben and Mary are less than 100, and after subtracting 1, it is a multiple of 3, 4, 5, that is, $3 \times 4 \times 5 = 61$." After Snow had written down the answer on the door, the door opened. They ran into the room and found many boxes in it. They opened them all. The treasures were books, jewellery, gold, etc. All the treasures were ancient cultural relics. Ken, Ben and Mary were very surprised and happy because they had found the treasures. They gave them to a policeman and returned home.

Magical Huangshan

Regents Primary School of Shenzhen, Xu, Mei Hin – 10

Huangshan was born into a happy family. She was smart and ambitious. As a child, Huangshan was different from other girls, and this difference created a legend.

As a child, Huangshan was different. She liked sword dance and learning Chinese Martial arts, so she would make a mess of the family every day.

One day, Huangshan's mother Emei Mountain finally couldn't stand it. She yelled at Huangshan and told her not to touch the sword again. Huangshan was upset. She couldn't believe that her mother would hate her. Suddenly she had an idea, she wanted to leave home.

A day later, Huangshan got up early. She put some food and water into her schoolbag. Suddenly she saw her sword. She thought for a moment, afterwards she put the sword into her schoolbag. During the journey, Huangshan heard someone talking about something. She listened carefully. She heard that because of human's excessive felling of trees, many trees on the mountain were disappearing. Huangshan was surprised, she couldn't believe it! At that moment she made a decision. She wanted to help them! At first, Huangshan helped a mountain called Xiaoxing An Mountain. Soon after, Xiaoxing An Mountain has become the most beautiful forest in China. Xiaoxing An Mountain wanted to repay Huangshan. So it gave her some trees and some rare animals.

Day after day and year after year, Huangshan finally found a suitable place to provide for the aged. Huangshan has also cultivated many trees and rare animals because of helping other mountains in the recent years. Later, Huangshan was regarded as a tourist attraction for the world to see.

During Huangshan's old age, many people came to visit it. Huangshan has an average annual passenger flow of 3007570! It is amazing! Why is Huangshan so popular? Because Huangshan has very beautiful scenery, and some people say that an emperor once came to Huangshan to seek the method of longevity.

Huangshan is more than 6000 meters above sea level, where the scenery is pleasant and beautiful. People who have seen Huangshan will be amazed. The four landscapes of Huangshan are Qisong, strange stone, sea of clouds and hot springs. My favourite landscapes are the sea of clouds and hot springs.

I love Huangshan.

Daisy Venis and the Hethena Stone

Regents Primary School of Shenzhen, Xu, Ziyun – 10

In the world of magic, there was a powerful stone called Hethena Stone. It was powerful because it was made of the stone from Mount Huang, the magical mountain. The pine trees and clouds also gave it appearance and magic. The stone could keep people powerful, young and immortal. The only existing Hethena Stone was the one made by Areliger, but no one knew its whereabouts.

Daisy was a student of Cergards School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. Daisy had a lot of friends at school. Her best friend was Alina Intergant, who was good at potions and all kinds of magic spells. Although nicknamed as 'Spells Nerd', Alina seemed to enjoy Cergards very much. She could spend all day in the library without feeling bored.

Daisy wasn't especially good at any subject, but with Alina's help, she always got good scores. Cergards students' favourite activity was the ball, an event held once a year. They hated PE class because it was too tiring, especially for Alina.

One day, while Daisy was walking in the hall, she got lost. Then she found a chamber in a corner. She was curious so she left some marks along the way to the hall. Daisy told Professor Charves about the chamber. Professor Charves looked worried. "Do you still remember where it is?" he asked. "I left some marks along the hall," answered Daisy. After a while, they found the chamber. Professor Charves looked at it for a second and told Daisy never go into the chamber again.

After dinner, Daisy told Alina about the chamber. Alina said, "Let's go and have a look. Come on, you lead, I'll open that door."

They went to the chamber quietly. "Apardis Noweotar." Alina whispered to the door of the chamber. It opened. They walked into the chamber and encountered a monster in it. Terrified and confused, they ran back quickly.

The next morning, Daisy was too busy getting to class in time and forgot to bring her textbook. Professor Delerium kindly let her use one of the books on the bookshelf at the back of the classroom. When Daisy was going to take out a book, she heard a voice near her ears, "The chamber! The chamber!" Before she could realize what it was, she passed out.

When she woke up, she found herself lying on the bed at the school hospital. Alina sat beside her, telling her what had happened. "Well, you passed out when you touched the book, so Professor Delerium took you to the school hospital," said Alina. Daisy thought the chamber was mysterious so she decided to go there again.

The next day, Daisy spent all day in the library reading books, but didn't find anything about the strange sound. So, she turned to Alina for help. "Daisy, if the library cannot help you, there is nothing I can do. But still it is not a good sign. Perhaps danger is approaching our school. You need to be careful," said Alina.

That night, Daisy heard the voice again. She immediately called Alina. "Alina, come with me to the chamber. I think something strange is going on there." "OK, but we need to be careful," said Alina. At nine o'clock that night, Alina and Daisy arrived at the door of the chamber. "Apardis Noweotar," shouted Alina.

The door opened. Inside the chamber, they saw a monster hiding behind a stone. "Pertric Huticute," shouted Daisy, trying to kill the monster. But the monster wasn't hurt at all. "Reducious!" shouted Alina. This time, the monster was killed.

On their way back to the dormitory, they saw someone that they had never expected to see in Cergards. It was Hecamote, the most powerful dark wizard. Hecamote said to Daisy, "Oh, I bet your mom would be disappointed if she sees you here. You don't seem to care about your life, which she sacrificed her life to protect." "Donnmetion!" shouted Daisy.

"Thecetate!" shouted Alina. But all the spells didn't work.

"You think you two can kill me?" Hecamote laughed coldly, walking closer and closer to Daisy. "Do you know why I came here? For the Hethena stone! I was almost killed by your stupid parents. They made me so weak. Even so, you still can't defeat me."

"How did you know about the chamber?" asked Daisy.

“Since tonight is the last night of your life, I'll tell you how. I discovered it when I got lost in the hallway, just like you,” said Hecamote. Then she went straight inside the chamber.

“Ahhh!” cried Hecamote as she touched the stone.

Her body collapsed and then disappeared. Her followers disappeared, too.

Daisy went inside quickly and put the stone in her pocket.

“Westin Drako,” shouted Alina. Then they were back in their bedroom.

They went straight to the Principal's office and told Principal Litemner every detail about tonight.

“Thank you. You both did a good job. But I hope you won't do it anymore,” said Principal Litemner.

“We won't, Principal Litemner.”

“Now go back to sleep. I will handle the rest of it,” said Principal Litemner.

Daisy was confused about why Hecamote's body was destroyed when she touched the stone. So she read books about the stone, but she still didn't find any clues. She decided that the only way to find out was to ask Principal Litemner.

“Daisy, do you know what special power Hethena Stone had?” asked Litemner, after hearing Daisy's question.

“I don't know.”

“Mount Huang is such a magical place. That's where all the power of Hethena Stone originated from. The air of Mount Huang also gave Hethena Stone a special feature, which is, when a dark wizard touches it. It would activate and destroy the dark power. That is why Hecamote couldn't touch it. Hethena Stone belongs to the good.”

Daisy nodded and then left the Principal's office.

Daisy was relieved and happy to know that, the world was peaceful again, and that the holiday was coming soon.

Filarina Fowl

School of the Nations, Campbell, Lily – 10

Filarina Fowl kept running. She had been running for days. She was starting to get really hungry. Rocks can run for days on end, but they need food, lots of it! There was absolutely no grass in this polluted human city. Humans are weird, she thought. Grass and plants are essential to all creatures living near the city, like her (but I suppose they wouldn't know that). Her mountain was only a couple of miles north, but that was quite a short distance for a Unikitty–Rock like her, that was why she was running. The other Rocks in the mystical mountains were chasing her because her mother was a Unikitty. Unikittys and Rocks had had a big grudge for as long as Aelir, the oldest Rock alive, could remember. Her mother had disappeared when Filar was a hatchling. Her father, on the other hand, had tried to steal some fruit from the Rock Queen Galarrina's garden for himself and Filar. However, he had been arrested and put in jail.

Suddenly, she spotted grass! It was behind a fence just a short run away! She ran at the fence, but what she hadn't noticed was that the fence was electric wire, the only thing known to be able to penetrate a Rock's super hard shell. She suddenly realized that, and tried to slow down, but she had way too much momentum. She felt her shell rip and looked down. "Oh no!" she thought, just before she slipped into unconsciousness...

She woke up in a weird smelling, very clean, white place. On a bed of leaves and hay next to her, another Rock lay sleeping, with a strange white thing on his arm. Was she at a human hospital? She had read about them in books, but the beds of leaves didn't really fit in. She heard footsteps. A figure appeared in the doorway. It was a human! He was dressed in a white coat. He seemed to be able to see her, even though she had her camouflage on, and weirdly enough, he smelled like a Rock! Then he started talking in Rock language, and that's when Filar thought that she must be dreaming. No human should be able to speak Rock, that was just wrong!

"So, what is your name? And are you feeling any better?" he said. His voice was gentle and kind.

"My name is Filarina Fuchsia Alaria Fowl." (she was quite fond of her name). "But you can call me Filar. what happened?"

"Well, Filar, my name is Dr. Martin Farnworth, and Welcome to the Rock Sanctuary and Healing Centre, or the RSHC. We care for sick, and or injured Rocks, and then send them home, or in some cases, they can stay here in our sanctuary, if they choose." He looked across at the other Rock and sighed.

"Who is he?" Filar asked. The mysterious Rock next to her snorted and rolled over.

"We don't know his name." Dr. Farnworth replied, "he has been here for a couple of weeks, but he won't respond to us, we don't know what to do."

"I could try talking to him", she suggested.

"That would be a big help," says Dr. Farnworth," but nothing we have tried has worked."

A few minutes later, the other Rock stirred and woke up. He looked around, and his gaze settled on Filar. He seemed confused.

"You're finally awake! I am Filarina Fuchsia Alaria Fowl of the misty mountains, "Who are you?" She said all this awfully fast, and worried that he wouldn't catch it all.

"I'm Kindofulus," he finally said. "Why are you here?"

"I'm here 'cause my shell ripped on some electric wire. How about you?" she asked.

"I don't really know," he replied, "I don't trust them."

"Why ever not?" Filar asked.

"Because they are humans!" Kindofulus exclaimed. "We can never trust humans!"

Over the next week, more and more Rocks came in, and most were soon released, but one caught Filar's attention. Her name was Kioneleinna. She seemed to be very talkative, and she was quite young. But what surprised her was how similar she and Kindofulus looked. Normally, rocks looked very different from each other, like Filar and Kindofulus, Filar has a shell that's covered with dots, a fluffy, pearl white coat like a cat, a long wispy tail, a gold speckled black unicorn horn, and she was the size of a miniature horse. Kindofulus, on the other hand, had a very stripy shell, a blue gray coat, big floppy ears like a dog's, only two front legs, and a snake's tail for the back legs. Kioneleinna had the exact same coat and shell as him. That was not possible if they were not brother and sister, Which Filar had figured out by now. She was surprised that Kindofulus hadn't told her that, but she couldn't blame him. They had only known each other for a couple of days.

Then, on Saturday, the alarm sounded. Dr. Martina rushed in and shouted,

"They found us!". Everyone ran around collecting all the Rocks into the van, and Filar went up to Dr. Martin, and asked him "what's going on?"

"The government has found out what we are doing. According to them, it is illegal."

"So, they know about Rocks?" Filarina asked.

"A few of them, yes. But now is not the time to talk. We need to leave." they hurriedly finished packing up, and got in the van. It was very bumpy, and Kindofulus and Filarina winced at every turn. The government car was still behind them . Then, suddenly they were gone.

"Where'd they go?" asked Kindofulus, who finally trusted Dr. Martin and Martina enough to talk with them.

"They must have lost sight of us when we went around that massive hill," replied Dr. Martina.

Soon their destination was in sight. The mystical mountains. They were even more breathtaking than Filar remembered.

"This is where you live?" Kindofulus asked enviously.

"Yeah. It is. The mystical mountains. Home."

The Fire Pheonix

School of the Nations, Wong, Janus – 10

In a world of mystery and magic... There were a few hikers who just started their trip in the beautiful China mountains. They were attacked by wild creatures and animals, but never gave up. They walked past rivers, broken bridges and thin logs. Unfortunately, when they were hiking, they found a mysterious and magical beast. They lost communication and were missing.

A few years later, a helicopter was flying above the night sky of the China mountains when they found a little sparkle of light hovering through the trees. They went closer and found a big land of fire. A group of people in the helicopter parachuted down to the fire and searched for clues. Then, a man went to one of the edges of the fire and saw 2 skeletons, who were about to turn to ash, some rotten food and an old-style backpack. Not only that, there was a bloody note that said "HELP US, SAVE US, KILL THE MAGICAL BEAS-T."

They all wondered what it meant. A few paces ahead, there was another note that said "Fire." They then took the two skeletons, the backpacks, the rotten food and those two bloody notes. One of the men used the phone to dial the police. The police tracked down the spot, the direction and spawned a helicopter to take them to the police station.

At the police station..... The group of people decided to talk to the police about all the things that happened. They sent agent Ace to help, with all the weapons and spy gears Ace needed. They took the helicopter through the mountains and through the valleys, finally they arrived.

The group of people parachuted down while Ace took the grappling hook and shot to the tree. Ace arrived first, while others were behind. He took out night vision goggles and searched for clues. Then, he found fire footsteps, shaped like ostrich feet, leading towards the Yellow Mountain. When Ace was about to follow the path from the footsteps, one of the group members just dropped their parachute on the fire. The fire lit up... and it formed a ferocious beast. Ace scanned the beast, and he learned that that magical monster was called a Fire Phoenix.

The fierceness made everyone scared. They tried to run away but they were trapped in the fire. One member just ran through the fire and got burnt, another one cried like a baby. Later, another one tried to hit the Fire Phoenix but burnt his hand. Ace had to do something fast. He got a water gun out and he shot the beast. The beast was fiercer but suffered much damage. The beast used his fangs to use a claw attack. Ace dodged, same as the others. Ace quickly put his water gun into his pocket. The phoenix used his wings to blow out heat waves. The waves were so strong that the fire was more apart and spread. "ITS SOOO HOT!" shouted Ace.

The waves blew out the fire and the fire spread apart so much that it started to reach the city. The firemen saw it and a lot of people were crowding the fire to see what happened. But they could not see because Ace and the Fire Phoenix were far away. The phoenix grabbed Ace and flew so high. In Ace's pocket, he took out a pin bomb. It was so small that the phoenix could not see it. The citizens thought it was a meteor falling from the sky, because now, the phoenix flew down. At halfway, the phoenix was tired and threw Ace to the ground. Ace decided it was time and he threw the pin bomb at the Fire Phoenix. The fire from the phoenix lit up the rope from the bomb and it exploded. Smoke covered the sky, and it was blocking the sun. Ace thought the phoenix was dead, but he could still see it's flames! Ace had no choice. He took out the water gun and shot the phoenix. Unfortunately, it only had a few drops of water. The phoenix charged at Ace with its supersonic speed which was quicker than a rocket. Ace quickly grabbed an eagle flying by, and the phoenix missed. The creature crashed into River Thames and made a giant and deep hole. Ace was still in midair. He saw a crowd of citizens cheering and he did backflips in the air. The crowd cheered. But he did not notice that he was dropping down. He crashed to the ground and broke his leg. He then was rushed to a hospital in the mountains.

At a hospital in southern China, A group of people took Ace to one of the most excellent hospitals so that he could have better rest and heal better. Also, to have him get to another mission. It worked out perfectly until, a month later, the day Ace was about to leave the hospital, he could hear some screaming sounds outside. A crowd of people that had injuries rushed in the hospital. Ace looked outside. A restaurant had a broken gas pipe, which led to the air, and it formed... FIRE!!! A magical beast appeared; it was the Fire Phoenix! It came to the hospital and started to destroy the front part. Ace couldn't run down or take the lift because the phoenix was already smashing it! Ace had no choice but to sit below the fruit table. The phoenix destroyed most of it, except for the cafeteria, the medical bay and 6 rooms. Oh no! thought Ace. It was the moment that his life was going to end...

The creature smashed the bottom floor, making the floor upstairs crash down. Ace was on the floor, seeing everything lying on the side. The Fire Phoenix was crushed under the rubble, and there was peace again.

The Battle in Huangshan

Shanghai Singapore International School, He, Qiyang – 9

If you asked me what my most memorable vacation was, I would definitely say the trip I took to Huangshan last year. My family and I had decided to go there, because it is one of the most popular places of interest in China. We would be able to breathe the fresh air and enjoy amazing scenes, such as the great waterfall, the spectacular stones, and the cloud sea.

When we reached Huangshan, I found there were zillions of travelers. They were amused by the natural scenes and couldn't wait to snap photographs. If we wanted to enjoy the wonderful sights, we had no choice but to be pushed back and forth by the great swarms of curious tourists.

After waddling through shaky rope bridges and climbing up loose stone steps, I noticed an odd-looking pine tree that bent its trunk for warm greetings. A sudden strength flowed through my body, and with all my might, I sped to the peak faster than my parents.

Finally, we reached the top of the mountain. It was worth spending two hours to enjoy the blissful sight. We saw another 1500-year-old pine tree sat atop the summit, which seemed extremely out of the ordinary. The purple-coloured leaves glided down and danced in the air. A comforting breeze swept them gently to the ground. They landed smoothly beside my left foot. My nose was kind of ticklish and, "ACHOO!" My sneeze quaked the leaves like a tornado, and I was suddenly sucked into a mysterious world.

I looked around: golden crops were planted neatly in wide farmlands. A group of buffalos were ploughing the soil. Barefooted children were splashing happily in a small stream to catch fish. Around the croplands, what used to be skyscrapers were now replaced by small cramped cottages. I glanced into the distance: a magnificent palace was guarded by soldiers who wore helmets and armour, a sword in each of their hands.

"I'm in the Qin Dynasty!" I murmured to myself. Besides me, two other people looked strange. One wore a long grey robe and held a tiny wine jar. The other wore a leather battledress which featured buttons made of emerald. To my surprise, they were Li Bai and William Shakespeare, and they were arguing about whose country had more talents.

"The four great inventions were founded in China!" Li Bai exclaimed proudly.

"England invented the steam engines, which led to the Second Industrial Revolution," stated William Shakespeare without delay.

Suddenly, a bright beam of light flashed through my brain. I suggested that we could have a culture competition between China and England. The first round would be about poetry. The second round would be about food. The last and final round would be about music. Another question came to my mind: who would be the judge?

"Emperor Qing!" I yelled.

Everyone looked at one another and nodded. In a flash, Emperor Qing arrived and launched the culture competition.

During the first round, Li Bai battled with William Shakespeare. Li Bai chose his most popular poem called "Bring in the Wine." He lifted the cup and gave a gulp.

"See how the Yellow River's water from heaven. Entering the ocean, never to return." He recited with strong rhythm and stroked his beard.

"See how lovely locks in bright mirrors in high chambers. Though silken-black at morning, have changed by night to snow." When he finished reciting, he drank all of the wine in front of him.

Next it was William Shakespeare's turn. He stood still and presented with emotion his "Sonnet 18":

*"Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?
Thou art more lovely and more temperate:
Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May,
And summer's lease hath all too short a date."*

Emperor Qing clapped his hands so hard that they became red. It was impossible to decide, as both poems were in different styles. Therefore, he announced that it was a draw.

It was time then for the second round. In China, the most famous, tasty food is the sweet and crispy roasted duck. In England, they traditionally make a juicy, flavourful Christmas turkey. After one hour of preparation, the roasted duck and turkey were ready. Emperor Qing couldn't wait to have a bite. Firstly, he used chopsticks to seize a turkey leg. After the first bite, the flavours of honey exploded in his mouth; it tasted full of juicy spices. Next, the

crispy duck skins tasted like hopping candy. After emptying the two plates, Emperor Qing was wordless, reluctant to declare a winner. It was another draw.

Finally, it was time for the music contest. Beijing Opera is a typical kind of music in China. The high pitch inspired all of Emperor Qing's senses. With a soft rhythm, the singer made a face-changing performance. He turned the hand by clicking his mask, and the red face switched into a green face, then a black one. After the performance, Emperor Qing marveled at the tuneful music and the exceptional acting. Now it was England's turn. William Shakespeare invited the most prevailing group of music makers in the U.K.: Vice Tone. When the powerful beats of the pop song started, Emperor Qing instantly became incredibly dizzy. The "0" point sign was raised by mistake.

While everybody was still disputing about the scores, a swift rush of wind whistled past my cheek. I was teleported back to Huangshan, and my parents were waiting for me so that we could take some family pictures. What a thrilling adventure! Next time, I hope to witness another competition, perhaps hosted by Napoleon.

The Secret of the Misty Mountains

Shanghai Singapore International School, Kapoor, Nishant – 11

Ah yes, the misty mountains. A very mysterious place. Scientists have spent years studying the great secrets behind the misty mountains. Dinosaur bones have been found, new species of plants and animals...but I have seen things you would not believe. My experience in the misty mountains has been kept secret for a while, until today. Today I tell you my prosperous journey through the so-called misty mountains.

You may have heard tales of dragons or unusual animal species, but that is all completely false. What I have seen is something we all know and love: Pokémon. You might think I'm joking, but I'm not. You see, these species aren't your typical Pokémon. The Pokémon I've seen are much different. In fact, I didn't actually see these magnificent creatures; I only saw a shadow of this great beast. I was with the tour guide and we were about to leave. I told him that I wanted to stay and take pictures, but while I was taking pictures, I saw a shadow on a rock, so I went to investigate.

As I walked toward the cave in which I saw the shadow, I heard noises. I was even more intrigued. I knew I had to go back soon, but I didn't. Soon I saw a Bulbasaur-looking shadow, and a huge pile of rocks blocked the entrance to the cave. The tour guide ran over to see what had happened. He saw that I had cut myself. I was 21 years old, so I thought I didn't need a band aid. I said no need, but he gave me one anyway. As I was driving back to my house, I thought to myself, "Did I really see a Pokémon in the misty mountains?"

The answer is yes. I really did see a Pokémon. Now I am thinking to myself, "Why did poets decide to live here?" I then realized that the poets must have kept Pokémon as their pets.

I wouldn't think they would go battle each other because they're, well, poets. The poets probably loved the Pokémon so much that they wanted to stay. Now I realized that the village in the clouds were poets with one of the strongest Pokémon, Palkia. The Palkia is probably what the yellow emperor had as a pet. This all adds up. This is like how on a plane, the higher class you are, the fancier things you get. It's exactly the same, except the higher class is the yellow emperor and the lower class are the poets. The reason that, till this day, the mountain feels so magical is because the Pokémon give a special aura of some sort.

That's it. That's the long-awaited secret scientists have wanted to know for a long time. I've given you all the answers in one whole essay. This has the most magical journey I've ever been on.

The Mystery of the Luna Flower

Shanghai Singapore International School, Katyayan, Aadya – 11

The magical Huangshan mountains of China were indeed ineffable! The mystic, mighty mountains are home to tall trees that bear the most delicious fruits, a variety of majestic creatures, and many more unknowns. However, there was something even more beautiful that embellished the magical mountains – the Luna Flower.

The Luna Flower used to bloom and glow every full moon night, leaving an incredible aura of positive energy. It is said, if anyone worships the Luna Flower, they could get enough power to control the entire Earth! Many people had heard of this but never believed it, because it sounded so unreal. The mountains were lined with a long queue of silvery white flowers every full moon night. They were amazingly beautiful, but they were not magical. No one knew which of those flowers were the Luna Flowers. No one had ever seen one.

Until a villager near Huangshan decided to find out. This villager did not have a family. His parents had left him when he was just two years old. Cheng, as his fellow villagers called him, used to live alone in a corner of the village. He wasn't really interested in solving mysteries and exploring, but some unknown power appeared to pull him towards the mountains. Finally, he decided to explore the mystery of the mountains and the Luna Flower.

Cheng left for the mountains early in the morning on that full moon day. After a few hours, he reached the foothills, then start climbing through the difficult path covered with dense forests. As the day passed, it started getting darker and colder. Dusk had set in. This meant that he had to hurry up to see the flower bloom. White light emanating from moon was making its way to the mountain through the pine trees – giving an astonishing beauty to the snow-covered mountains. But Cheng was struggling through the freezing winds. The few minutes of hiking left seemed to be years of distance for him. He felt he could go no further. He needed to look for shelter and warmth if he had to survive the cold. He was about to give up.

"I know you can make it," he suddenly heard a whisper. Cheng looked around in astonishment. He felt that the mountains were talking to him! The voice encouraged him to continue climbing. He gathered his strength and kept moving, as fast as he could.

Cheng had finally made it to the top of the mountain. His heart was beating fast with excitement. However, the Luna Flower was nowhere to be seen. He felt drained, filled with disappointment.

Suddenly, he felt someone was behind him. As he looked back, he saw a beautiful lady with blue eyes wearing a milky-white gown. She looked at Cheng with a lovely smile, without uttering a word. Cheng was mesmerised as he looked at her. There was complete silence. Finally, the lady broke the silence and whispered, "I was expecting you, Cheng." Cheng was taken back "Wh—who are you and how do you know me?" he asked in a nervous voice. "I am the reason you are here. I am the Luna Flower," said the lady.

"I called you here to share a secret that you should have known years ago," said the lady. "The truth is that I am your mother who left you when you were just two. I came to the mountains in search of the Luna Flower. I believed it would end our poverty and miseries. It would make us rich so that you could get the best of food, education and every happiness that you could dream of. I wandered in the mountains day and night to find the Luna Flower. But when I tried to take it, an evil spirit showed up and tried to snatch it. I held the flower with me through the fight that followed and refused to give it to the spirit. Finally, he cursed me to become the Luna Flower and be unreachable to any human except my son. Since then, I have been waiting for you with the deep belief that someday you would come and rescue me of the curse." Cheng was shocked to hear this.

A whole night of talks went on between the two. Time seemed to fly. Cold winds were not hurting anymore. That was the power of the flower. Finally, she said, "Let us go back quickly while it is still dark. If we don't reach the village before it is morning the curse cannot be broken until the next full moon night."

They started climbing down. Suddenly, a huge giant appeared from nowhere. This was the spirit that had cursed Cheng's mother! "You cannot leave so easily!" he said. "Your way is full of danger and obstacles. If you cross before the sun rises, you can go back, but if you don't, both of you will be cursed to become the Luna Flower!" Cheng and his mother continued their downhill journey.

Suddenly, they saw a huge monster approaching them with a terrifying roar. It had red eyes, huge ugly hands and tiny feet. As the curse was not broken yet, Cheng's mother still had all her powers. She chanted some words and the ground started tearing apart. The creature fell into the ground and the ground came back together.

Cheng and his mother successfully completed the first obstacle. The rest of journey was full of dangerous creatures, snakes, and monsters, but with the power of Luna flower, they crossed all hurdles.

The spirit appeared in front of them and said, "Since you have crossed the obstacles, the powers of Luna Flower will be with you, as long as you don't harm anyone."

The rest of their life was a magical fairy tale story. No one knows how long they lived but the story of the Luna Flower passed from generations to generations in that small village near Huangshan.

The Avatar Mountain

Shanghai Singapore International School, Krishna, Shreyas – 10

The Percsons

The Percsons are a family who live in Yue Shang, China but they come from England. They are very enthusiastic about the magical mountains of China. There are four people in the family – Perc Percson, Jessica Percson, Jesse Percson and Jenny Percson.

The Avatar Mountain

The Avatar Mountain is a magical mountain. People believe that there is a dragon named Min Nong. Min Nong is a fierce and angry dragon, but on some occasions, Ming Nong is kind and helpful. People also call him the invisible dragon.

Picnic Time

The Percsons were planning to go to the Avatar Mountain. They planned a trip to the Avatar Mountain. The flight was on 14th December, 2000. Jesse and Jessica brought some research pads and drawing books. Perc and Jenny brought some research tools to dig up the holes in the mountains and find fossils of animals.

Uh Oh Danger Time!

“The flight is taking off,” said the Percsons. “Yahoo!” said Jesse and Jessica. “We are going to the Avatar Mountain, everybody,” said the pilot. “Let’s go, everybody,” said the air hostess. But a terrible thing happened. It’s danger time! Everybody got scared and cried, “Help!”

The Dragon

Suddenly, a dragon came into the flight and destroyed it. The pilot said, “Stay calm, stay calm. We will talk to the dragon.” All the crewmates tried to talk to the dragon, but the crewmates could not understand the dragon’s language. They could only understand, “My name is Min Nong.” Min Nong also could not understand anything except, “Hello.”

The Attack

The dragon started to attack the plane for no reason. Min Nong just kicked the plane, and the Percsons fell down and reached the Avatar Mountain. Min Nong started to become furious. Then, the heroes came to save the world from dragons.

The Heroes of Avatar Mountain

The heroes of Avatar Mountain are the Percsons – Perc Percson, Jesse Percson, Jesse Percson and Jenny Percson. The dragon was coming to attack, but the gods in the mountain gave a sword to Jesse. The dragon (Min Nong) blew fire, but it reflected off the sword and went back to the dragon, and Min Nong died.

Back to Home

Everybody was saved by Jesse. Perc said, “Guys, let’s go home now before a dragon comes again.” Perc quickly fixed the airplane with random materials. It took them 4 hours to reach Yue Shang. When everybody reached home, they started to cry, “We have come back home.” After that, they never ever wanted to talk about it or even think about it. But again, they thought about the things which happened on Avatar Mountain, and the Percsons decided to go to the Avatar Mountain again to enjoy an adventure.

Tales From China's Magical Mountains

Shanghai Singapore International School, Kuo, Yong Yan – 10

Once upon a time there was a fox called Leon Phoenix. He wore a green feather hat and his fur was a deep orange. From the top of his tail to the bottom, there a slightly yellow in one side. He loved to play with his mother and she did anything for him. One day his mother was seriously ill when he was twelve. This caused a problem. Leon was not allowed into his own house anymore of the horrible sickness so he decided to go pick the magic plant that can cure and sick person. It was planted on Huang Shan.

Leon thought about the brave heroes who wanted the plant too but were turned into stone by Salsa, who guarded the plant. Salsa was known to wear a creepy white and black scarf everywhere. She was also known to be a monster. She was feared by most people in the village. There was a known story for Salsa too. Legend say that she turned people into stone every year on Lunar day. After she turned them into stone, she put them on a row with the other collected stone people.

Leon needed help, so he went to his Grandpa Silas' castle. The old person liked wearing a long white cloak that flowed freely in the wind. He was sometimes strict but he was also kind. Leon was very welcome to Grandpa Silas, after Leon helped him to find the magical four-leaf clover. It could grant wishes for whoever said the magical words: "Clover, clover." Grant me a wish, for those who would want to wish!"

Leon knocked on the secret passage through Grandpa Silas' castle and the mysterious cave. Miskey, the door guard, answered. "Why, hello, Leon! Are you going to Silas?"

"Yes!" Leon responded confidently.

As usual, Miskey was wearing an old tattered hood that was a rich creamy chocolate color. He liked saying that it was maybe worth thousands of dollars. Who knows? When Miskey led Leon to the forbidden town, Leon saw a strange sight. The once soft grass had turned into dangerous black spiked thorns.

"What happened? Why is the grass thorns?" Leon asked, curious.

"Dangerous beasts have been throwing special bombs that makes the grass turn black. Do you understand we've had a hard life here?" Miskey explained, swallowing hardly.

As Leon looked across the horizon, the trees turned into black statues. As they moved closer, Leon saw that the statues were the brave heroes that disappeared long ago.

"Oh no! Is that the bravest hero? Is that Kaystool? The hero?" Leon cried, shocked.

"I'm afraid it is him." Miskey said.

"Knock, knock!" Leon knocked on Grandpa Silas' castle. As Leon went inside, he saw lots of rare flowers. There was a Hummingbird potholder, a banana root grow, and a jewel plant. Grandpa Silas went to the jewel plant and pulled off a necklace. He said that it was called a mood protection necklace. When you get angry, it fires out an electric shock to the person who angers you. When you are sad, it wraps its arms around you. Leon was thrilled when Grandpa Silas dropped the around Leon's fur neck.

As Leon fought the strange creatures around the jungle, he became more and more tired. At last, he reached the entrance of the cave of magical plants. He stopped to rest on a hammock made by leaves. A shrill voice echoed through the cave. Then Leon jumped. Taking a deep breath, he stepped into the cave. When Leon saw Salsa, he gulped. Next to Salsa was a person.

"Max!" Leon whispered fiercely.

Max was Leon's friend. He always wore a green striped shirt and a pair of shorts pants. For an ostrich, Max was flexible and jolly. Salsa whipped around. She screamed. She shouted. She kicked. She charged at Leon. Before he had time to react, he was feeling a little bit angry. This let the power of the mood protection necklace flow. The electric shock worked. Salsa fell to the ground. When Leon looked closer, Salsa was sleeping. Leon rushed to let Max out and take the magical plant.

Leon and Max rode an air taxi back to Leon's home. He rushed in and made a special soup using the magical plant. Leon's mother recovered in just a few days. She thanked Max for accompanying Leon. She invited Max to dinner too. Then at night they all watched the shooting stars.

Tales from China's Magical Mountains

Shanghai Singapore International School, Kustandi, Dustin Owen – 12

Rocky steep mountains covered with a layer of dove-white coat, surrounded by a mystical sea of clouds; this was the alluring Yellow Mountains. However, this is not all there was to it. High above the famous mountains, there was a village that sat right on top of the puffy white clouds. The people there came in different shapes and sizes, ranging from fairies to fish-headed bears.

South of the village lived a young-aged and kind-hearted farmer, Ming, who lived in a tiny wooden hut. Ming had silver-grey hair, wrinkled palms and wore an old battered sun hat. He had a humongous field where he grew his wide variety of crops. Ming would harvest his crops and make a scrumptious meal out of it to share with the local villagers who would be delighted by the kind-hearted gesture.

One day, Ming arrived at the center of the village. It was the Harvest Festival, and Ming had decided to throw another feast. He used a big trolley to help him push pots of fresh produce. There was a man behind Ming who helped him carry a huge metal pot and a stove by tying a string onto it and forcefully carrying it.

When it landed on the ground, it made a loud 'thud'. The man placed a small ladder for Ming to reach the pot. He also presented Ming with a long wooden spoon which Ming struggled to hold. All the villagers watched with their mouths wide agape as Ming started dumping all the ingredients into the empty pot.

Afterwards, two gorgeous looking fairies flew up and poured gallons of water into the pot which was halfway filled with ingredients. The man cranked the heat and a dark-orange glow formed beneath the pot. The pot began bubbling and a fragrant smell wafted out which pleased the villagers.

The soup was done, and Ming served each villager with a bowl of soup. The villagers exclaimed excitedly as they dug into the bowl of soup.

"Ming, would you like some?" the man who helped Ming asked.

"No, thank you. I ate brunch early this morning," Ming replied kindly.

Happiness was evident in the village. However, after a week, destruction struck. The whole village was sick, and some had even died. The only person who had not contracted this 'sickness' was Ming. But why?

"What happened", Ming muttered to himself in disbelief, "what do I do?" Suddenly, a thought struck his mind.

He ran a few kilometers from his village and arrived at a mushroom hut. It was enormous and had a bright red cap on top with some white dots. Ming knocked on the door gently and went into the room. A frail, old lady was sitting at her desk quietly, reading a book. She also did not attend the celebration.

"Mei Ling, do you know what happened-?"

Before Ming could complete his sentence, the woman interrupted him, "yes I know, my son who helped you carry the equipment accidentally dropped some poisonous herbs on the spoon when he gave it to you. I am deeply sorry," Mei Ling said, "you can go to the Yellow Mountains. Collect fifty milliliters of magical water and give it to the people to drink. A milliliter would do for each person, as it is powerful."

Ming nodded his head and was thankful for her help. He packed his bag and left his village. He had brought a parachute to fly down to the Yellow Mountains. From a bird's-eye view, Ming saw oddly shaped rocks and pines near the mountains. He also spotted blue patches.

Ming cautiously opened the parachute and flew down. He could feel the wind caressing his cheeks, it was a great feeling.

Once Ming landed, he wanted to explore the mountains as they were extraordinary. Green and lush, covered with a cap of white, sent off a cooling sensation which relaxed Ming's body. Ming then shook his head, "No time to be exploring the mountains leisurely. Time to get into business!"

Ming looked around, like a predator trying to find his prey. He looked behind trees and looked behind rocks, and finally he found the treasure.

The pond was sky blue and it glittered invitingly. Ming's eyes sparkled like diamonds upon seeing the pond. This was what Mei Ling was talking about, Ming thought to himself. Ming could already feel the presence of the pond—cool and unearthly.

Ming took out the flask from his bag. Fifty milliliters, exactly fifty, Ming thought, I can't mess this up, not now, will never. Ming's hands then started to turn clammy. Ming took a deep breath as he gingerly scooped fifty milliliters of water into the flask and covered it with plastic wrap.

Ming sighed with relief— the job was done. As Ming bid farewell to the Yellow Mountains, he made his way back to the village. When he reached the village, he immediately went back to his kitchen and got out tiny teacups which were as small as a bottle cap. Ming poured a milliliter into each cup and went around the village, giving people the heavenly medicine.

After what seemed like an eternity, everyone received a small teacup to drink and was back in shape. All the villagers praised Ming for his kindness and hard work.

"How about the criminal who was responsible for this? Guards seize him!" The whole village erupted into a loud chant.

Ming shook his head and explained, "It was a mere accident, he was terrified himself and promised to be more careful next time. Give him one more chance." The whole village mellowed down after hearing Ming's explanation and nodded their heads in agreement.

Ming was indeed kind-hearted.

The Monster in Huangshan

Shanghai Singapore International School, Lee, Yoojin – 12

A long time ago, there was a village in Huangshan. The villagers had started disappearing. It started 3 years ago, when some villagers went far away from the village to hunt. The villagers went hunting in the nearby village, but sometimes the villagers also disappeared there as well.

A boy named Nán wondered why the villagers disappeared, so he wanted to go far away from the village to find the missing villagers. However the villagers disagreed with his opinion, so at midnight, he sneaked out of the village and just walked for a long time. He was hungry and tired, and didn't know where he was and how far away from the village. He lost his way!

Nán just kept walking and suddenly stopped, because someone touched his shoulder. He looked behind him and saw a girl who wore white clothes. "You look very tired. Do you want some rest in my house?" the girl asked. "Yes, I want some rest," he said. Then the girl and he went to her house together. When he arrived at the house, he wondered why the girl lived far away from the village, and why she lived alone. But he was too tired, so he just fell asleep.

After a few hours, Nán woke up because of a scream from outside. He carefully went to the place of the scream. Next he saw a monster, called Jiǔwěihú, and he saw people within the big cage. They were the missing villagers!

The Jiǔwěihú usually ate people, but this Jiǔwěihú was different. It ate tigers and liked to collect people within the big cage because the Jiǔwěihú that ate tigers were more powerful than the monster that ate people. Only a few people and the Jiǔwěihú knew the fact. This Jiǔwěihú didn't want to know that the Jiǔwěihú ate tigers, so the people in the big cage were fake to keep that fact a secret. It didn't want that the other Jiǔwěihús that ate tigers to grow their power.

When the Jiǔwěihú went out of the house to hunt a tiger, Nán carefully went to the big cage and used a tree branch to open the lock and the villagers came out from the big cage.

"The Jiǔwěihú is the girl who wore the white clothes and this house's owner," one missing villager said. "You can use this amulet to seal the Jiǔwěihú," another villager said, and gave the charm amulet to Nán.

"Ok, I'll seal the Jiǔwěihú. You can go back to the village, I'll do by myself," Nán said. "But you are just a boy, how can you seal the Jiǔwěihú by yourself?" the villager said. "You don't need to worry about that, you should go back to the village in a hurry, before the Jiǔwěihú comes back to this place." Nán said. The villagers agreed to his opinion, and went back to the village.

Nán looked around the house, and found a net and a rope in the depot. He got a great idea. He quickly tied the rope to the net and pegged the rope into the peg tailing on the wall above the main gate. He hid and waited on top of the roof until the Jiǔwěihú came back. The monster changed its shape to the girl's shape, and when she started opening the door, Nán quickly pulled the rope and captured the Jiǔwěihú with the net. The Jiǔwěihú was finally caught in the trap!

Next, Nán put the amulet on the net. The amulet shone brightly, and the Jiǔwěihú that looked like the girl was changed to a fox with nine tails. It shouted and felt painful. Finally, it was sealed. When the Jiǔwěihú was sealed, the house and the big cage disappeared. Nán put the amulet in the little box, and he planted the little box beside the pine that was located in front of the house. Suddenly, fog came out from the bottom of the pine and showed the direction of the village. The fog guided the way back to the village, and Nán followed its directions. As the road was long, Huangshan was covered with the fog. This is why there is still fog on Huangshan.

When he came back to the village, every villager celebrated Nán's comeback and everyone called him 'little hero.'

A Quest for a Cure

Shanghai Singapore International School, Mohanty, Arav – 11

China was at the height of its prosperity. It was a time of peace, and an era of inventions and mystery. Chang was an ordinary boy who worked in the fields. One day, Chang's parents fell ill. Only the life berry on Death Mountain in the Huangshan range could cure them. All those who ventured there had never come back. Chang asked for Emperor Huangdi's wisdom.

"Follow the road of illuminated hope, cross the Devil's River. You must chant the Spell of Immunity to cross the river. Then continue towards the dark forest. At the end of the forest, the trail of Death Mountain starts. But be careful, young Chang. Only the worthy can obtain the right fruit, for all who venture there in search of the fruit have been greedy. You need to have all the four virtues – 'courage', 'patience', 'faith', and 'justice'."

"What do you mean, right fruit?" asked the curious Chang.

"You will find out soon enough," replied Huangdi.

Before Chang left the royal palace, the emperor gave him the Sword of the Brave and blade-proof chain mail armour.

Chang trekked for two days before arriving at the Devil's river, and all the while he prayed for his parents. There was a reason why the river was called Devil; the river was a ghostly green that whispered as it flowed and it was filled with evil spirits.

To cross the river safely, Chang did what the emperor told him to do. "Chang you mian yi!" Nothing happened when he uttered the Spell of Immunity. Chang wondered if it really worked, but when he entered the river and swam to the other side, the evil spirits seemed to repel from him and he easily crossed the river.

He saw the dark forest a few kilometres ahead. In a quarter of a day, he had reached its edge. There was not even a trail, and his sword gleamed slightly, warning him of danger ahead. He continued into the thick forest and it was getting dark.

He looked for a safe place where he could turn in for the night. From the deep dark woods, an orc jumped towards him, but the courageous Chang swiftly beheaded him with the Sword of the Brave.

He looked down and saw an orcish sword had penetrated his chest. He struck me before I killed him, Chang thought. He slowly pulled the sword out of his chest. "Why don't I feel any pain?" he thought again. It must be the blade-proof chain mail armour. Chang capered with joy. "Thank you! Thank you!" Chang said even though he did not really know who he was thanking.

The next day, he continued towards Death Mountain. After two days, Chang arrived. He was overwhelmed to see the huge stone cliffs on the mountain.

On his way up the trail, he saw the elusive Clouded Leopard slowly crawling on the edges of a distant rock. He also saw a group of Sika deer gambolling in the grassland, while some Huangshan macaques were perched on thin branches. Chang soon came to a huge cliff where the trail ended.

There lay before him some skeletal remains. Chang knew these were victims of their failed pursuits to climb the cliff, as many were cracked and dented. They were not the people with the virtues required to be worthy of the fruit. He stared at the beauty of the boulders, rocks, greenery, and pine trees on the cliff for a moment. The vastness of the scenery made him a little sad and he thought about his parents. He soon resolved his faith and was determined to find the cure for his parents.

Huangdi told him that as soon as he entered Death Mountain, he would need the virtues. For climbing the cliff, he would need the virtue of fortitude. That is, never giving up.

Chang found a rocky ledge sticking out of one part of the cliff. It was not that high. He hoisted himself up, and could easily stand on it. There were many similar ledges. Some were huge and others were very tiny, but following the virtue, Chang did not give up. He was soon at the top of the cliff, where he admired the view of the sea of clouds. “Hey,” demanded a thunderous voice out of nowhere. “What are you doing here?”

“H-h who’s th-th-there?” Chang stammered. “The pine tree,” said the voice. Chang saw hundreds of trees lighting up in the dark with hundreds of pink objects on them also lighting up. It was the life berry!

“Do you see all these skulls?” asked the tree. “All these men had greed in them, and they did not have the virtues. They ended up picking the wrong fruit. That lead to their deaths.”

“How do I know what the right fruit is?” asked Chang.

“You must pass a test. Only the pure-hearted with all the virtues can feel it in their heart, and know what the right fruit is. Try picking a fruit. I sense that you are different,” replied the tree.

Chang made his way along the other trees. After what seemed like an eternity wading through thickets with bright pink berries, he saw one tree that was unlike other trees. The old, scaly weathered trunk of the tree told a story of its own. It appeared to have lived a long life and was probably going to meet its mortal fate soon. Even the berries were dusty and shrivelled. It changed Chang’s feelings, and he felt all the virtues flowing in his heart. He nervously moved his hands to pick up a fruit. He paused. Finally, with a certain confidence, he picked up a fruit. “Yes, that is the right one,” said the tree.

Chang was relieved. He headed back home and his parents were happy to see him unharmed. He fed them the fruit, and they felt well immediately. Chang could now get back to his normal life.

The Mysterious Yellow Mountain

Shanghai Singapore International School, Sa, Yoonwoo – 11

Lukas was running away as fast as possible while the gigantic white monster was chasing him. Tired of running, he stumbled and fell. He looked around; the white monster was nowhere in sight. He lay down wondering what went wrong.

It all started two days ago when Lukas's best friend came over. Wilson had brought a photo of his recent trip to Yellow Mountain. As looking at it, Lukas noticed something.

"Hey, what's this thing with you?"

"Maybe it's a piece of that was metal shining behind me," Wilson shrugged like it was nothing. "Metal in the mountain? It's not natural. Take me there, will you?" Lukas asked, but Wilson shook his head and said, "I have a life and a job. Remember? It was on the west peak. Go find out yourself."

Everything triggers his curiosity. Lukas even joked about curiosity being his power source. For that reason, he had become a professional adventurer. Filling up his backpack with necessities, he wondered whether he needed to take his matchstick. He didn't think so, but reluctantly, he packed it anyway.

Yellow Mountain was tremendous. Lukas took a deep breath. Even the air was different. It smelled fresh and sweet. The sunlight shone through the trees. Then, out of the light, a man appeared. "I am Huangdi. You cannot go up. You will doom human society!" Before Lukas said anything, Huangdi was gone with a poof of smoke. Stunned but determined, he resumed his adventure. While going up, he found a weasel staring at him. No, wait. It was a protected animal, wolverine. Suddenly, in the blink of an eye, the wolverine turned into a human form. Surprised, Lukas asked, "Who are you?" "I am Zhongli Quan, the god of death. I can end you now, but I won't," said the god in a firm voice. "Your obsession with the quest can change the future. You can resume your adventure, but avoid the steel disk. One touch of a curious hand will bring back the darkness." Then Zhongli Quan turned into a hawk and flew up to the sky before Lukas could fire questions at him.

Lukas briefly slept when he woke up. It was very early, and already Lukas was sweating because he had been hiking westward since 3 a.m. Now, he was sure what he needed to find. It was something metal. When he arrived at the top, the sun was coming up. At that moment, he saw something on the ground shining in the sun. His eyes widened. That was what he was looking for. On the ground, there was a round metal with a drawing of a fierce-looking White Tiger. The warning from the gods resonated in his mind. He knew he shouldn't touch it. But his curious hand, touched the disk.

Suddenly, the ground started to rumble, and the mountain started to crack. A massive White Tiger lunged out of the drawing. "Ahh!! Thank you. You unsealed me from my 100-year sleep. Didn't the Phoenix, Tortoise, or Dragon come?" Tiger asked. Lukas opened his mouth, but no sound came out. "Now I am back to punish mortals!" With a massive roar, an enormous tornado churned, breaking down everything in its path. The White Tiger turned its head toward Lukas and said, "You will be my first sacrifice." Then it charged. Lukas was soon on his feet and running as if his life depended on it.

Suddenly, he fell. Too scared to move, he covered himself up from the attack that never came. He looked up. The White Tiger was no longer chasing him. Instead, it was charging toward the Black Tortoise of the North. The Tiger's claws were too strong for the Tortoise. It looked impossible that the Tortoise could beat the Tiger. Lukas was crying for bringing this disaster to the Tortoise. But his despair soon turned to hope. Out of nowhere, the Phoenix of the South and Dragon of the East appeared and said in a gentle voice, "We can stop our old friend, White Tiger of the West, with help of Huangdi, eight immortals and a human, which is you."

With a flash of light, Huangdi and the eight immortals came. Huangdi spoke in a gentle but majestic voice "Phoenix, Dragon! Help the human seal the White Tiger. The rest of us will distract it. Now my warriors, go into the action!" As the cruel battle raged, Lukas cried "Why is the Tiger so angry?" Phoenix sighed and answered, "The White Tiger is the guardian of Yellow Mountain. When the human polluted the mountain, it became so angry. It wanted to punish humans. Fortunately, a brave sorcerer found out Tiger's weakness and was able to shut it away for 100 years." The Dragon continued, "Its weakness is fire from a human. Do you have it?" Lukas was devastated that he didn't have a fire. Then something popped into his head. He smiled and exclaimed, "Wait, I do!" He pulled out his matchstick.

He swiped it a few times and got the little flame. The Phoenix said, “Good. Throw that at the Tiger, then throw this metal disk. Now!”

Lukas was in action! The eight immortals surrounded the Tiger, and the Tortoise smashed the Tiger with its weight. As soon as the little flame touched the roaring creature, the flame turned large. The Tiger roared in agony. Huangdi cast a spell on the disk as it flew along a curved path, and the essence of Tiger was sucked into the disk. Screaming, a whirlwind of flame vanished. Lukas collapsed.

When Lukas woke up, he was in his car. He wondered if what had happened was real. It felt like a vivid dream. So, Lukas hurried to check his matchbox, but it was empty. He pledged to himself that he would protect the sacred Yellow Mountain from human pollution.

The Tale of Bai She

Shanghai Singapore International School, Shin, Ahhyeon – 12

Once upon a time, in the Ming Dynasty, a traveler called Xie Jin was climbing the Yellow Mountain. As Xie Jin was fainting and walking up the mountain, he felt strangeness.

Suddenly, a creature appeared the creature was white colored. But in the blink of an eye, the white thing disappeared. He quickly took out a paper and brush with ink and drew the white creature. As Xie Jin climbed down the Yellow Mountain, he kept looking at the drawing of the white creature, and decided to write a story about it. After he arrived at home, and wrote a story about the monster and published it as a book. Soon, the book became a best seller. Many people went to the Yellow Mountain to see if the white creature existed, but it did not appear when many people came. The white creature only appeared when one person came to visit it.

One day, a person was climbing Yellow Mountain and heard a sound “SHHH.” No one was around her. The hair on the back of her neck stood up; goosebumps prickled her body. The sound was getting louder and louder. She knew the white creature was getting closer and closer. Suddenly, the white creature attacked her. She lost her consciousness but she saw how it looked like. The creature was big snake. She hardly waked her up. And she gave white creature a name called Bai She. Bai is white and She is snake in Chinese. People started to call the white monster Bai She. Then, she decided to inform Chinese Emperor.

She went to Beijing and went to Chinese Emperor and told there was a big white monster in Yellow Mountain. Chinese Emperor told his servant to check Yellow Mountain. When he was climbing, he saw one white light. He slowly followed that white light. He found that white light was Bai She. He quickly ran down the Yellow mountain and went to inform the Chinese emperor. Chinese Emperor sent military to find Bai She. Military found Bai She for days and days. They still could not find it. They gave up finding.

Centuries passed... until now, people do not know find where is Bai She. Some people said Bai She is still at Yellow Mountain. Those are all fake. Now, Bai She is left as a legend and a fairy tale. Is Bai She still alive or dead? If Bai She is still alive, where do you think Bai She is now? Maybe Bai She is at the Yellow Mountain or even at city?

The Danger for Huang Shan Mountain

Shanghai Singapore International School, Srivastava, Aadi – 9

Several years before today, there lived two brothers. Their names were Huang Yang and Huang Guang. Their grandfather, Huang Ying, died some time ago. Huang Yang never wanted to kill anybody, but Huang Guang was violent and wanted to take over the whole of China. Because of that, he went to jail multiple times and always came back because his brother paid for him. One time, Huang Guang stole money from some villagers and another time, he urinated on the road. One day, while Huang Guang was walking, he heard some people say, “It is said that Huang Ying has a magical bo staff that could control Jade Dragon of Huang Shan mountain and can destroy the mountain.” Huang Guang knew the bo staff and knew he could take over China with it, so he took the bo staff one night and set off for Huang Shan mountain.

When Huang Yang woke up, he found his brother was not in bed. He asked all his neighbors where his brother had gone. One said, “He was heading for Huang Shan Mountain with a yellow and golden bo staff.” The brother went home and thought, “Why did my brother go to Huang Shan Mountain with the bo staff?” The painting of their grandfather, Huang Ying, said “He went with my bo staff which is actually the Huang Yi Bo Staff.” Huang Yang was surprised but said, “Do you mean the mythical bo staff that can take control of the dragon of Huang Shan Mountain and imprison the spirits?” The grandfather said, “Yes. The bo staff used to be mine. I used it for good. Your silly brother wants to destroy Huang Shan Mountain so China would think he is powerful and bow to him.” Huang Yang asked, “How do I stop him?” Huang Ying said, “Go to Huang Shan Mountain and ask the spirits to help you. Here is the key to make the spirits know you are my grandson.” The picture then broke in half and a key came out. Huang Yang was stupefied, but took the key.

Huang Yang set off after he packed up food, water, a bamboo bo staff to protect him, clothes to keep him warm, and the key. The mountain was very steep, but he managed to climb it. While he was climbing, a green tiger scratched him on the face. Huang Yang hit the tiger and it left. He was feeling weak when he came across a home. He knocked on the door. A beautiful woman opened the door and asked, “Why are you here?” Huang Yang thought she was a spirit and showed her the key. She looked surprised then recovered and said, “Come in, the Huang family is welcome in my house.” She gave him food, and while he was eating, she saw the scratch on his face. She exclaimed, “Oh my god! Let me heal that scratch from the jade tiger.” She quickly got some water and put it on the scratch. The scratch healed in seconds. Huang Yang asked, “What’s wrong with a scratch?” The woman said, “The scratch from the Jade Tiger poisons people very slowly. That’s why I had to save you.” Huang Yang asked, “Are you a spirit?” The woman said, “Yes, I’m a spirit. My name is Anna Shan.” Then he asked, “Can you teach me how to use a bo staff?” Anna said, “Of course. After I teach you how to use the bo staff, I will show you to the spirits. Get ready for tomorrow because we will use a bo staff.”

The next day, they both woke up at 2:00 A.M and brushed. They ate magical eggs the spirit had made. At 4:00 A.M, they were ready to use a bo staff. They learnt the slashing snake, the dragon’s breath, the praying mantis dodge, and more. At the end of the day, they had learnt 55 moves.

Meanwhile, Huang Guang was getting to the top of the mountain fighting the Jade Dragon. Whatever he did, the dragon slashed him away with his tail. Finally, Huang Guang said, “Oh mighty dragon! You don’t scare me. You will become my slave with the power of this bo staff.” Suddenly the dragon began to get dizzy, then sleepy, then became awake and roared, “I will obey you, the master of Huang Shan Mountain.” Huang Guang thought “Nobody can stop me now!” and laughed.

After a few weeks, Huang Shan Mountain had very little fruit, water, trees and more natural resources. Huang Yang did not know what to do. Finally the spirit said, “I will show you to the other spirits.” The other spirits were Tai Wang who was thin but smart and Xiang Jiang who was tall and strong. They said, “There is a man on the mountain which is ruining the environment.” Huang Yang said, “It is my brother, and I’m going to stop him. Can all of you help me defeat him?” They all shouted “Yes!”

That day they started climbing the mountain to reach the top. Jade Dragon saw this and told all of this to Huang Guang. Huang Guang said to the dragon, "Throw rocks at them." So that night, the dragon threw rocks at them, but Xiang Jiang broke all of them with strong punches. Jade Dragon told Huang Guang what was happening so Huang Guang said, "Burn them!" Tai Wang made a fire proof tent so the dragon could not burn them. That day, they reached the top of the mountain. Huang Guang tried to attack, but Huang Yang by hit him and made him fall off the mountain. They broke the bo staff, and the dragon was free from the spell. Huang Yang couldn't believe he killed somebody but he did it to save Huang Shan Mountain.

The Tale of Huangshan Mountain

Shanghai Singapore International School, Srivastava, Aanandi – 10

Who would have thought, Huangshan Mountain, instead of yellow and bright, could have been dark and gloomy. This tale retells the story of two brave girls saving Huangshan Mountain, and all its inhabitants.

Li Ming and Mei Hua were both the very best friends. They could never go anywhere without the other; in other words, they were inseparable. Like all children at the time, they knew of the old myth about how Huangshan, the mountain they lived upon, was once lovely and nice, but had now become dark and miserable. Both knew that for the future generations, something had to be done.

The next morning the girls woke early. The sun was bright and the weather was perfect for an adventure. Li Ming and Mei Hua, in different homes of course, did exactly the same thing: getting ready. At exactly half past six, the girls met outside Mei Hua's house. Mei Hua asked Li Ming excitedly, "Li Ming, are you ready for our great adventure?"

Li Ming replied, smiling at her best friend's excitement, "Yes, my dear friend. I am ready."

This expedition was approved heartily by their parents, because their parents knew that Li Ming and Mei Hua would come back successfully.

The two maidens set out on their journey, not looking back at their past. They walked and walked for hours. Mei Hua chattered away and Li Ming, being a great listener, listened carefully. As sunset began to approach, Li Ming proposed to stop there and start again early the next morning. Mei Hua agreed but was very hungry. They set up camp, and then the close friends took out their food and began to hungrily devour their dinner.

The next morning, Li Ming woke to find, her companion and another stranger bending over her as she woke. "Aah!" Li Ming was terrified. She got up and looked right at the stranger suspiciously. "Who on earth—" Mei Hua interrupted, "He is my friend, Oko. He lost his way and so I helped him. In return, he said, he would help us find the fairy Bo." "Suddenly everything was clear to Li Ming. "Sorry for being so rude, Oko. My name is Li Ming."

"No problem. Everyone acts like that. It's normal. Nice to meet you." Pausing a bit, with a cheeky smile, he said, "And hurry up or you're not going to be able to catch up." Li Ming smiled and thought, "I like him. He is cheeky but nice." Breaking Li Ming's thoughts, Mei Hua asked, "Do you want breakfast or not?" Punching Mei Hua playfully, Li Ming said, "Of course I do."

Oko made a plan. ".....and so The deadly Qwickklaw River...." He briefed them through it several times before they were ready to start.

The girls, led by Oko, continued after a short run through the plan and, of course, a hearty meal. The friends walked and walked, through fields of golden wheat, through forests with dark gloomy feelings, through flowers which danced with the wind, until they reached Qwickklaw River. Oko told the girls to rest, and as they were extremely tired, they fell asleep. After a few hours, Li Ming woke up, expecting to see Oko sleeping to the left of her, but, to her horror, he was gone.

"Mei Hua! Mei Hua!" Li Ming cried, shaking the sleepy Mei Hua. "It's Oko! He's gone!" Mei Hua woke immediately. "What?" she screamed, "We have to go find him." She was going to run to find Oko, when she saw a note on a tree right behind her. "Look! I found something!" Li Ming ran over. "Oh! It's a note! I wonder who it's from." Mei Hua gently tore the paper of the tree and read:

Dear Mei Hua, and Li Ming,

I have kept a secret from you all this time. By the time you read this, I will have already been killed by my evil mother. It all started like this. My mother died when I was young, so my father married again, but to an evil sorceress. She was the one who turned Queen Bo to stone. One day, I stole her stone, and ran away. I got lost, and Mei Hua found me. I didn't give you both the stone because I didn't trust you, but now I do. My mother found out I was gone, and so started to search for me. I suspected this the whole time, and so before she found me, I dedicated this stone to you. Run home, quickly! Before my evil mother finds you! Say the magic word and save Huangshan Mountain.

*I will never regret this,
Oko*

P.S. Please never mention my name to anyone, because anyone can be my mother.

Li Ming started to cry. Mei Hua put a loving arm around her and said sadly, "Li Ming, do not cry. For now, let's run as fast as we can to our home. Let's restore Huangshan Mountain, before the evil sorceress comes back." Wiping away her tears, bravely and quickly, Li Ming took Mei Hua's hand and ran with all her might back home.

In their village, the first thing the companions did was to say the magical word. "Azankeraj", they said together, the stone on the ground, their hands united. The whole village came to see the transformation. The stone glowed a bright yellow, and soon, they saw the loveliest maiden. Long black hair, silky smooth skin, big brown eyes, and a melodic voice. In a few moments the ground lit up, and flowers began to bloom. It was a terrific sight. The transformation of both Huangshan Mountain and the sweet queen were successful. Everyone was at peace, and the sorceress was dead as all evil things cannot bear happiness, and all was well.

The Diamond Mine of Mountain Tang

Shanghai Singapore International School, Wen, Kuan Hao – 12

Thomas arrived at the foot of the mountain, about to run up. He checked his backpack, which contained 2 liters of water, a granola bar, and a camera. He jogged up the first few meters when a voice called, “Tom, wait for me!” He rolled his eyes and stopped, waiting for Arnold. His companion held out Thomas’s jacket and said, “You forgot your jacket!” Thomas thought that although sometimes Arnold could be really annoying, occasionally he could be quite helpful. “Can I come with you, Tom?” Arnold inquired, and Thomas immediately changed his thoughts. No, once in a million times he is helpful.

He walked up the stone stairs embedded into the earth, and Arnold staggered behind, which Thomas found irritating. He began to walk faster and faster, and soon Arnold’s cries of “Help!” and “Wait up!” were drowned out by the wind between them.

He soon saw that there were no more stairs up the mountain and began to walk on the path that hundreds of explorers had made during their treks. He marveled at the fascinating sights of wildlife on the mountain: squirrels running tree by tree, mushrooms scattered on the ground, and the sun shining up in the clear, blue sky between the trees. Birds chirped in harmony, freshwater streams flowing down the mountain, making plit–plat sounds as the water runs over some pure black pebbles and a sparkle of light between the bushes surrounding a tree. Wait, say what? Thomas quickly turned his gaze back to the bushes and walked over, curiosity burning inside. He hacked the bushes using his hands, and soon saw a circular entrance with a rusted handle. Every thought in his mind encouraged him to open the mysterious entrance, but when he tried to lift the handle up, he couldn’t. It was as if it were super–glued to the ground. He tried again and again, but the handle would not budge.

“There you are! I’ve been looking for you for ages!” Arnold cried, bear–hugging Thomas. That is when Thomas found a solution.

“Arnold, can you help me to lift this handle?” Thomas said. Arnold started pulling with every single ounce of strength he had and pulled the lid off. Thomas dashed into the gap, with Arnold plunging after.

The surroundings were dark, with Arnold whispering nervously behind Thomas, “Holy Moly, I wonder where I put my flashlight...” Arnold hurriedly fumbled in his bulgingly full bag, and some contents spilled out. Arnold finally found his flashlight and switched it on, and Thomas found that Arnold’s shovel was lying on the ground. He beckoned to him to pick it up, along with dozens of other belongings. The walls were littered with scrapes and cuts. They kept walking, keeping a haunted silence as they covered meter by meter. Finally, they came to a ninety degree turn and found themselves staring at a plaque that said: “THE TANG DIAMOND MINE—200 METERS AHEAD.” Another one said, “WEAR YOUR HELMET AT ALL TIMES.” Arnold exclaimed: “This place is a DIAMOND MINE??! We could get RICH!!” Thomas caught a glint ahead, and the two treasure hunters marched on confidently, as if they were going to be billionaires.

Thomas gasped in surprise as he found a colossal, shining, seemingly transparent diamond embedded in the wall in front of him. He hurriedly shoveled the stone onto the ground, as if fearing the diamond would soon evaporate into thin air. Arnold gazed around, expecting to see another humongous diamonds materializing out of the air. But sadly for him, there were none. He turned to help Thomas get the diamond out, hoping to get some credit for finding the diamond. Thomas eagerly accepted, as he found it hard to unearth the diamond from the almost invincible stones that stubbornly clung to the diamond, like it was their family heirloom.

“I got it out!” Arnold cried triumphantly, and produced the diamond for Thomas to see. Thomas cried, “Let’s get back up to the surface!” While walking, they talked about how they could split the profits 50–50, how they could make Mount Tang to a money–printing machine, and achieve the stuff that they would never thought would come to reality... But while talking, Thomas found a worm of doubt in his mind. He found the mountain captivating, dazzling, and he as a child always desired to explore nature. As the traveling brochure said, this mountain has a marvelous web of species and wildlife that many people, including himself, found fascinating.

Even though he found it hard to say the words, he said: “I don’t want to be involved. You can keep the diamond for yourself, but please don’t destroy this beautiful mountain.” Arnold found it hard to believe and challenged, “But what about our plan? The money from selling this diamond?”

“There can be a lot of those huge diamonds in the world, but there is only one Earth, one nature.” Thomas shot back.

“So you mean that all those efforts are for nothing?!” Arnold was furious to see his companion deserting the chance to get rich and famous. “For this silly old mountain?” Arnold yelled. “No! We’re not just saving this mountain; we are saving a piece of nature! Think about your lessons in science!” As soon as he said that, Arnold realized how greedy he was being, destroying the mountain which was a key part to the environment over a diamond that would make him into a self-important idiot that thought only about money. “I...am sorry, Tom, I shouldn’t yell at you.” Arnold apologized, “I shouldn’t destroy nature.”

“It’s okay, Arnold. It is hard to leave that attractive gem there,” Thomas comforted Arnold.

They left the diamond where it was, and the treasure hunters reverted to nature lovers, feeling good that they are saving the environment. Thomas felt alas, he was at peace.

Mysterious Mountains

Shanghai Singapore International School, Yu, Hyunseo – 12

Chapter 1

The planet 'Nepho' have Hong Kong region in China. In Hong Kong, here are 'Magical Mountains'. The mountains are so beautiful. But the Nepho planet has only winter. Many people want the other seasons like the other planets. Many people think the way to make spring is in the mountains. Many people go to the mountains to solve problem. But people have died who tried to climb mountains. As time went by, some people were interested in it but, most people gave up. But, the Wang always prays to the mountains. Later, she can know the god of winter was living in the mountains. Winter went by the name 'P' (P's real name is different). Actually, P has a reason to make winter for all of days.

Chapter 2

20 years ago, P was walking around the town. In that season, it was winter. While he was walking around the town, he saw a man and his son. They were giving food to people. P was surprised, because that season was harsher weather than the other seasons. P wanted to know why they were giving food to people. "Hello, my name is Sihun. Can you give me some food?" (P used a false name.)

"Oh, my name is JeaHwon. You look starving. Here you are." JeaHwon said. "Thank you. By the way, why are you giving food to people?" P asked. "Ah, because I stored much food 2 months ago. But they didn't. I wanted to give some food to people." JeaHwon answered. "So kind, sir. Oh, I need to go. Goodbye." P said. Next day, they were giving food again, and P helped them. P gave food to JeaHwon's home every day. JeaHwon was surprised that the food didn't decrease. One day, the name of YeeYun told the king, JeaHwon stole food and was selling. King was angry and he locked JeaHwon and his son in prison. P couldn't do anything. One week later, JeaHwon and his son died in the prison, because were starving. The king gave JeaHwon's all food to YeeYun, but the food was all gone and winter continued for 20 years.

Chapter 3

One day, Wang made Winter Camp. Winter Camp was located in the Magical Mountains. There were 4 students' sign up: Hohun, Teayun, Hohyun, and Sihun. The next day, they started to climb. While they were walking, they saw Zhou. Zhou was made up by P, because P wants to no one come to the mountains.

Except who didn't know about Magical Mountains. Actually, no one knew about the Magical Mountains except Wang. She thought Zhou was god of winter. In the students' vision, they needed to kill the monster if they went to escape that situation. Actually, all of the people died by Zhou, who wanted to meet P.

"Hey, we need to run away from monster. We don't have weapons," Hoyun said. "I agree" Sihun said. "We need to escape with Wang. But I think she is mad now." Hohyun asked. Teayun caught Hoyun and run away with friends. They were alive. But Wang she thoughts missed one time to meet P. She was angry. The students saved Wang's life, but Wang punished them when they arrived at the camp ground. That Wang let them make food their selves. "I will give some food to the team. A team is Hoyun and Teayun. B team is Hohyun and Sihun. You just beat the other team in the game." Wang said. After the game, A team won 3:2. B team. But the food is not enough to make dinner. However, they are so hungry that they just make dinner. 1 hour later, they became so hungry. They decided to escape the camp and find food in the town.

Chapter 4

Hoyun, Teayun, Hohyun, and Sihun went to town well. But, Wang was not. Wang was killed by Zhou, because she came into the mountains to change season. When they arrived in town, the residents were starving. Hoyun and Teayun decided to find food in the mountains. When they climbed the

mountains, they met someone. That was P. P was surprised to meet people in the mountains. "Excuse me? We are Hoyun and Teayun. If you have some food, can you give us some food?" Teayun asked. "Why?" P asked. "Because our town doesn't have any food. They are starving now." Hoyun answered. P surprised them by climbing mountains to give food to people. "Okay. But don't tell anyone about me." P answered. "Thank you. I will not talk about you." Hoyun and Sihun answered. Every day, they climbed mountains to get food. 1 year later, P said to Hoyun and Sihun, "You are kind people. My Chinese name is Pihun. I am god of winter and spring will come." P said. The next day, spring came and Hoyun and N became assistants to Pihun.

The Avatar

Shanghai United International School, He, Nicole – 10

It's the summer holiday, my parents and I are at the misty mountains. The view there is very beautiful. It made me think of the movie——《Avatar》. We take many photos there. Suddenly, I trip off the cliff, I'm scared, and I scream and scream. As I fall deeper and deeper, things change around me quickly. I stop in the middle of the air, a flash of blue light flashes in front of my eyes. A tail grows on my back, my hair grows longer and my skin becomes blue, I'm growing taller too! A few seconds later, I look like the Na'vi people in the Avatar movie! But, I start to fall again. This time, a huge dragon flaps its wing and soars to me. I'm frightened, I scream again, my face become pale, and I close my eyes.

The dragon catches me, I hear a men's voice calling, "Hey! Wake up, wake up!" I open my eyes, I see a Na'vi man holding my hands. I look at him again, I realize that he's Jack. The one in the movie! "Are you Jack?" I ask him, puzzled. He looks surprised and asks: "How do you know my name? Oh! It's just normal, because I'm the king of the Na'vis." "Wait for a moment, can you say it again?" I just say that I'm the king of the Na'vis". Jack repeats. "What! But, you just married with the Na'vis princes!" I'm shocked. I can't believe my ears! "That thing is like fifteen years ago. Now, we're going to have our baby!" He says happily, "We're nearly there, come on! Let me show you our kingdom!"

I look up, there are exotic plants and magical animals like the one we're riding on. A huge tree appear in front of my eyes, white little creatures flying up and down the branches, Na'vi children play joyfully in the shade. Men are hunting, women are chatting. Suddenly, the dragon stops and land, I can't control my balance and nearly fall. Jack grabs my hands. Suddenly, a golden arrow fly towards me. I close my eyes and scream and scream. I feel someone pushing me and waking me up. I open my eyes again, I found myself in the hotel. It's just a dream.

Heroism

Shanghai United International School, Wang, Melissa – 10

2050, Huang Shan

A boy, whose name is Joe, sighed. What could he do anyway? Trapped in Huang Shan, to decide die or not. Well, it was his dream to be free, but he doesn't want that. He saw animals killing each other, lying, stealing food Well, he hated to say, that he had killed, exactly, tortured a kid. She died at last because of hunger. She deserves that. He killed a cat!!! Joe liked cats very much, so he could not kill cats. He won't say that's because he doesn't dare killing her. That was not he wanted, he tried to change the world. He killed the animals who kill each other, and he knew it was right. He doesn't dare going down the mountain. Cause they are too dark. People lying and stealing food. They, they are too dark, they are far too bad. They get to pollute Joe. So that's why he escaped from the crowd. His mom is only a housewife, and all she did is complaining why Joe is such a freak. He hates that. His dad is just a worker in a factory, not Michelin's CEO or king of Rome or anything else. He hates that too. He thinks men should live to be somebody, not nobody, but he's fourteen and he has lived here for a year, so why hadn't he become famous yet? Joe doesn't get it. It is all torturing him. But that all disappeared in one night. Joe was lying on the branch, thinking of what should he do to change the world. Suddenly, he thought of something. Huang Shan, yes, what is Huang Shan like..... high, Yes, very high, what is down there? The crowd?..... no, absolutely not. Another world? Yes, it is!

There must be another world down over there! A beautiful, fantastic, perfect. Mmm, He's got to go and live in that world. And he famous in this world. By the way. But.....how.....? It isn't a difficult question for Joe. The easiest and most romantic way is to jump right from Huang Shan's top and so he did that. As soon as weightlessness took his body, he felt dizzy and went to sleep. Five seconds later, he stood right here where he jumped down, faced to the crowd on Huang Shan.

862, Huang Shan

He is extremely happy about what he saw because the world is perfect. It must be. He began to explore the world, he saw a girl slapped in her face. He saw a student standing outside the school, crying. He heard dirty words. He heard somebody swear. Joe kept walking. He wasn't handsome, but not ugly and still people glared at him. He was helpless now. The world is even worse! Tears fell down. He ran to a place without anyone there. He felt a little bit better. He stayed there for about ten days. 2days later, he was too hungry, in the world he used to live, he ate berries, but now there aren't anymore. He met a man. Well, a boy. Joe asked: "Do you know where you can find the restaurants?" The boy stared at him for a moment. Then he laughed: "seems you are new here. Did anyone tell you a legend about here? OK, a man called Li Bai, had been here 100 years ago. Emmm, well, the world you came from, actually. He lived there for a long time. When he left, we found he had a piece of paper on his room. It says: The world is not black and white, but grey all over. All wise man loved it, but some men and woman were so jealous they started spreading rumors! God saw everything and was very angry. The jealous man and woman were all put into this world. I am the third person to live here. Most people were still painfully thinking about how to spend rumors. I am not, so I went out and played in every street. I felt very happy. Oh, some people like you were also here because you were too ...imaginary. Joe stood there. He soon ran up the street. And there he protected the girl, helped the old people, and taught kids how to read. He made music from the world that he lived before, also some inventions and some books. After a few years later, people like him. Now he lays on a branch. He thought happily: "The world can't be ideal, but he can. There is only one thing heroic: to see the world as it is, and to love it."

The Mysterious Dragon

Shanghai United International School, Yang, Chloe – 10

One normal night with Cincellia and Jackie, Mum was telling the children about a legend happened in the Yellow Mountains.

‘Long, long ago there was a helpful dragon which everybody likes. Its family of dragons were all proud of it. By then, the people there were all very happy. But one day...a evil man who nobody know about came to town. He was very angry with having a ‘beast’ to be a helper in town, So, he did an awful thing. He gave a bottle of ‘water’ to the dragon. When the dragon drank the ‘water’, it fell right asleep in a cave. The man said that only the bravest person who wants to go across the danger of the cave can save the dragon. Then, he left. Through time, the dragon family all went to heavens---dead. This legend remain a mystery...forever.

Know you’ve had your bedtime-story, my sweeties. Time for bed!’

Then in mid-night, Cincellia woke Jackie up. ‘Hey, Jackie! Do you want to go to the cave which Mum said there’s a dragon’ whispered Cincellia. ‘You mean the dragon in the Yellow Mountain? It’s just a legend!’ Jackie said. ‘But how can you prove that? Let’s go and find it! It surely would be cool!’ Jackie was still in bed and turned around. ‘What? You say that we’re going on a trip where no one else know? It is dangerous and we will possibly loose our lives there!’ said Jackie jumping out of bed. Cincellia replied, ‘But aren’t you curious of it? We are in the Yellow Mountain but in a hotel, that’s bored. Now it is mid-night, how about escape the hotel and go for adventure?’ ‘Well,...Ok then.’ Said Jackie.

Cincellia quickly grabbed two pairs of gloves, two flash lights, she and Jackie’s coats, notebooks, pencils, a digital camera and some money they just traded last night and she packed them into she and Jackie’s backpacks.

They ran and ran down the mountain hotel...

They saw breathtakingly beautiful hills covered with herbs and trees, they saw seas of clouds floating upon the mountains, and they also saw gorgeous little houses forming villages.

Jackie and Cincellia found a nearby cave. They put on the helmet with flash lights they bought on the way and then tip-toed into the shaggy dark cave.

‘Are you sure we can find the dragon who was a mystery for 500 years?’ Asked Jackie.

Cincellia didn’t answer.

Jackie coughed, and Cincellia heard a low growl, but when she knew that it’s the echo from Jackie’s cough, she laughed and they went on for the adventure.

The deeper they went in the cave, the stronger Jackie’s fear grew. Until he couldn’t have any more of it. He said to his elder sister, ‘I couldn’t bear it anymore, you can go on the adventure on your own. I’m going back with Mum and Dad.’ ‘Well, that’s your choice and I couldn’t and I won’t or want to stop you from the worst choice. But, you’ll be sorry for what you’ll miss during that best adventure for our whole life and we’ll get a lot from this. Still, if you really want to go back. There is no second chance. Think deep through this.’ Replied Cincellia and ran into the darkness, leaving Jackie her brother along.

‘Too curious is not a good thing.’ Jackie said to himself while walking back upon home. But suddenly he heard a loud scream, “ahhhh...” ‘It must be Cincellia!’ Jackie thought. He ran as fast as his feet could carry him and did not bare what he saw on the spine-chilling way.

Finally, when Jackie has no breath left, he saw Cincellia’s backpack! And there’s a curvy hole near it! ‘Cincellia must have fallen off here in this hole! Poor sister!’ right after Jackie said these words, he quickly picked up the backpack and headed for the hotel to look for his parents’ help.

He walked and walked, until he got to a crossroad! He followed his heart to try to find the exit. But instead, he found a cliff as high as the waterfall Li Bai mentioned in his poem! He sat down, knees off and cried softly as he thought there was no hope for him and Cincellia to survive and he needs to watch himself die from hunger.

All of a sudden, a large snake sent in Jackie's sight. It crept in the sky upon large, beautiful sea of clouds towards Jackie until he saw clearly by his own eyes, a dragon! He rubbed his eyes, swept away the tears running out of his eyes. He was right, it really is the dragon. The dragon has large eyes and colorful tentacles. And on top of it was a girl – Cincellia! He ran to the cliff, watched her drove the dragon to him hopefully.

When they arrived at the hotel, the dragon said, 'You woke me up, you helped me, now you're my master.'

'Let's sell it, it would worth a lot of money. Jackie said. 'No, let it go free. It saved us, freedom is what I owe it.' Argued Cincellia. They let the dragon go and they quietly went in the hotel and crept on their bed.

And when the next day came, everyone woke up. Jackie and Cincellia just behaved like nothing had happened. They've promised themselves to keep the dragon's secret a mystery. Nothing had been altered, but the dragon's hope was pinned into the children's heart.

My Special Adventure to Huangshan

Shanghai United International School, Yang, Tom – 10

The other day, I was reading a book of Chinese mountains. When I turned to a page about Mountain Huangshan, I saw a marvellous mountain picture. It's so gorgeous and all of sudden I felt my body got lighter and I had two wings. I start to fly, flew to Mountain Huangshan.

I flew over peaks and valleys. Then something strange happened. I saw a village at the foot of the mountain. The villagers looked as small as ants from above. I landed to the village to see them close. I met a kid villager when I landed. "Hello, nice to meet you. What's your name and where do you live?" I asked. "Hi, I am Xiao Yu. I live near Mountain Huangshan. This is my village and it's beautiful. There are my animals like deers, ducks and birds live here. And I play with them all the time. What's your name?" The kid said. "My name is Tom", I said, "Is there a place to take a rest?" "Sure, you can take a rest at my home." Yu said, "Follow me!"

Then I had a very nice meal at Yu's home. "Let me show you around Mountain Huangshan. This is a mysterious places with long history." Yu said. We then took some tools and started to climb. When I walked after Yu. I was looking at him and thinking, "Who is him eventually? His dress looked very ancient Chinese style. And it looked like Tang Dynasty dress. Then how come I come to Tang Dynasty?" I was about to ask but Yu whispered, "Quiet! Watch out, a dragon!" That evil dragon came to us and roared. "Oh my god! The dragon is going to eat us!" I screamed. Yu took two sticks from our bags and he was brave. He hit the dragon many times and ran away. And finally we escaped.

We ran long enough until we were too tired. An old man came to us and he looked familiar to me. I asked him "You look so familiar to me. Have we met before?". "Maybe we met. Or maybe not. My name is Li Bai." "Oh, you are the famous Tang Dynasty poet Li Bai? I've long head of you and read many of your poems in school. You wrote a very famous poem about Huangshan. Why do you choose to be a poet and live here?" I asked him. Li Bai smiled but not answered directly, "Goodbye, young man. One day you will understand all this. Until we meet again. " Then he left us. I stood there for a moment and then I ran after him, "Wait, I have one more question!" Yu shouted at me, "Watch out, a valley!" It was too late. I fell into the Mountain. And my wings disappeared. I felt I was about to die. I closed my eyes.

But I did not die, I opened my eyes and found myself wake up on my sofa. I realized it's a dream. What a special dream and I wish it will come true one day.

Huangshan Love

Shanghai United International School WanYuan Campus, Cheng, Genny – 11

Huangshan is the one of the most famous mountains in China. It has very beautiful views like the fairyland. There are many animals live on it like monkey. Above the mountain there are many amazing rocks and trees. There is also a sea of clouds flying on the top of Huangshan.

Our story starts at a winter. Because of the ample resources, a happy monkey family lives in a cave at the top of the mountain. They have three children. One day, a little monkey got lost and his father went out to find him. He looked for the little monkey from sunrise to sunset. After two days, the monkey father was tired and hungry. When he arrived at the bottom of the mountain, he lay down to sleep, but he never woke up again. The next day, a farmer found him. The farmer was very kind and he thought that animals should be treated like humans, and that they should have a tomb. After making a tomb for the monkey father, the farmer went home. He fell asleep quickly. He had a dream— a person in white clothes walked to him and said, “I will repay you for your kindness.” He didn’t take it to heart. The next spring came again; the weather got warm, the flowers bloomed, and it was time for picking tea. When the farmer was on his way to his plantation, the good smell of tea was everywhere, especially the place around the monkey’s tomb. There the tea was very green and full. There was some short white hair on the tea and the tea not only smelled nice, but also tasted nice. To thank the monkey god, the farmer named the tea Monkey Tea, the plantation Monkey Plantation, and the village Monkey Village. People still use these names now. Let’s go back to the monkey family. The mother missed her child and the monkey father, so she looked at the bottom of Huangshan every day and night. As the time passed, she became a stone and looked towards the bottom of Huangshan—Monkey Village forever. Then, it became the famous scenic spot in Huangshan, called ‘Monkey watching the sea’ with the sea symbolizing the sea of clouds.

Today, people from around the world come here to see the beautiful place. People around the world come here to taste the tasty tea. They have both become renowned in the world. I’m proud of my hometown—Huangshan.

Adventure to the Mystery Mountain

Shanghai United International School WanYuan Campus, Du, Sammul – 11

ABC news— “Scientists have confirmed that a mysterious new mountain has risen from the sea. It seemed the remains of an old civilization are at the top of the mountain. Also, the shape of this mountain is like an upside–down triangle. Now let’s.....” The voice of the television cut out.

Rex yelled, “Carter, did you hear the news? It’s time to have an adventure!”

“Yes, I’ve heard the news because I’m sitting near you! The distance between us is only about one meter!” replied Carter. “Rex, can you stop murmuring words like an idiot? I can’t bear it anymore!” yelled Carter furiously.

“I’ll try,” murmured Rex unhappily. “So then let’s go to the government and ask whether we can explore this mysterious mountain.”

A few hours later.....

The Head of FAA shouted, “You’re finally here! Mr. Carter and Mr. Rex, you want to ask for permission to go to that mysterious mountain that just raised up from the sea, right? Don’t worry, the Governor has already granted permission. Now just go back home and start packing. After that, go to the airport where a helicopter waiting for you with a detailed satellite map of that mountain. Another thing to note is there may be no food there because the only thing our satellite can find are lots of ruins, so anyway you’d better bring your own food. So, what are you guys waiting for? Go! Go! Go!”

“Th.....Thank you Mr. Glitch.” murmured Carter and Rex.

A few hours later.....

“Welcome aboard! Mr. Carter and Mr. Rex, my mission is to bring you to that mysterious mountain,” said the helicopter pilot.

“Do you know where it is?” asked Rex.

“Of course he knows! Are you silly? He is a pilot!” muttered Carter angrily.

“We’ve finally arrived. I can’t wait to check those remains of the ancient civilization,” said Rex happily.

“Me too!” replied Carter. “Pilot, can you land the helicopter?”

“Sure,” the pilot answered.

After the helicopter landed.....

“Well, I must go back. There isn’t enough fuel left in helicopter’s tank. So, I need to fly to the nearest aircraft carrier – the New Hope. I’ll be back in three days.” reported the pilot.

“OK,” said Rex. “We can stay here for a few days. Just go!”

“Here is the emergency bag and other things you need,” said the pilot as he opened his enormous backpack. The pilot left. So now Rex and Carter could start their adventure. They’d go to the remains first.

“So here are the remains?” asked Rex puzzled.

“Of course, it seems the only way we’ll any artifacts is to dig. You brought the pickaxe, right, Rex?”

“Yes, here it is.”

“How many pickaxes do you bring? Rex?” asked Carter.

“Three, one for me, one for you, and another for emergency,” replied Rex. Soon, they started digging.

After a while.....

Rex found something, but he couldn’t recognize it. He thought it looked like a bowl or a pot so they put it in their bag. They kept digging for a few hours, but they found nothing else.

Rex grew very tired and asked Carter about setting up a tent. Carter agreed. When the tent was ready, they climbed in and crawled into their sleeping bags.

“How do you feel, Rex?” asked Carter.

“I feel snug as a bug in a rug,” replied Rex happily.

The next morning.....

Carter went to check the artifact again, but he couldn’t find it, so he asked Rex whether he had seen it.

“It’s in my tent. I put it in my backpack yesterday. Don’t you remember?” replied Rex as he yawned.

“Let me check.” They both crawled out of their sleeping bags. Carter checked the artifact while Rex started a campfire, ready to cook breakfast.

“Oops, it seems we only brought one tin of meat and two tins of tuna, but twenty tins of beans! Why did we pack so many beans?” screamed Rex hysterically

Carter was in disbelief because he thought Rex had brought more meat. Sadly, Rex thought like that, too.

Suddenly, both of them heard a whirring sound.

“What’s that?” asked Carter. Rex looked up into the sky.

Rex found out the sound was coming from a helicopter. He was very puzzled. So was Carter.

Soon, the helicopter landed next to them. The pilot got off the helicopter and talked to them. “The Government asked me to come because there’s a hurricane getting nearer to this mountain so I must bring you back inland. It’ll be safer for all of us.”

Carter appreciated the pilot.

After the helicopter arrived at the inland airport.....

Mr. Glitch, followed by some archaeologists, came to see them.

“Welcome back! What did you find?” asked Mr. Glitch curiously.

“Yeah! What did you find? Mr. Rex and Mr. Carter? Let us see,” yelled the archaeologists.

“Well, we only found something like a bowl. Here it is,” Rex took the bowl out of his backpack and Carter handed the bowl to the archaeologists.

“What a remarkable wonder! It’s made of silver. The color faded because it’s too old. You’ll see the color of silver if you polish it. It’s amazing that silver things could be made at that time because the ruins seemed to be from about 2000BC from the detailed satellite-map. Would you like to put it into the national museum?”

“Of course. We don’t mind,” Rex and Carter spoke in one voice.

“What else did you find?” asked one of the archaeologists.

“Nothing. We couldn’t find anything else before the hurricane warning.”

“Okay, maybe you can go back with us another day. We can also bring some equipment,” said that archaeologist. Carter and Rex nodded.

Carter and Rex stayed in the airport for a couple of hours before they went back to home.

Finally, they arrived home. Rex grabbed a bottle of soda and jumped onto the sofa.

“What a marvelous adventure!” Rex exclaimed. “I hope we can discover the mountain more next time with those archaeologists,” Carter agreed, too.

Magical Mountains

Shanghai United International School WanYuan Campus, Gu, Angela – 10

Long long ago, there was one mountain in Anhui, China. The mountain was so tall that it broke through the clouds. A Wood Elf and a poet were born there. When they were born, their parents died, so they named themselves Tauriel and BaiJuYi. The two loved to wander in the wonderful mountain of Anhui with animals trotting happily around them. One day, they met each other surprisingly. First, they both screamed in horror and ran away to hide. Later on, they became best friends.

Every day, they watched the sun rising and setting. They closed their eyes and listened to the beautiful music of the nature. They danced on the green grass with wind blowing around them. They believed only good creatures and fine plants lived in the mountain, but they were wrong. Far away from them, goblins and orcs became ally. They wanted to rule every country even the mountain of Anhui. The first step of all was to destroy other creatures including Tauriel and BaiJuYi, but the two friends were drinking barrels after barrels of wine, making poems after poems and sleeping from six o'clock in the afternoon till next day's noon. They didn't care about anything else at all.

One day, Tauriel felt unusually bored. She told BaiJuYi, "The Mountain stands alone. No mountain stands with it. Let's cut it, so the mountain has more friends." BaiJuYi agreed instantly. They climbed to the top of the mountain with axes dangling behind them. They swung the axes with all their strength, but there was only a mere crack which was almost invisible. They gave up and watched the stars and the moon shining in the black sky like lights in the dark. While grass became advanced dancers, rivers and wind became talented singers. Birds fly around joyfully with butterflies at their sides.

A week passed with flowers and trees, the leader of the goblins and orcs couldn't wait any longer for the beginning of their terrible plan. He and his followers raced around and around the mountain pouring white paint for good-looking and destroying the nature. They finally reached the house where the two friends lived. They screamed, stomped their feet and threw rocks at the window to get the attention of Tauriel and BaiJuYi, but the two friends kept drinking their precious wine. BaiJuYi felt more like a singer, and he sang loudly:

*The view is so clear, everything shines with a special scent of candy sweet.
Barrels of wine I want to drink, with my best girlfriend.*

When the orcs and goblins heard this lovely singing, they thought it was sword sharpening sound. They were so afraid that they threw their weapons on the ground and ran as quickly as they could to get away from this house. When Tauriel came out and saw the unbearable view, she prayed, "I wish the nature is mended and the mountain has friends." Gods who lived in the heaven heard her wishes and they came true. The trees, flowers and grass came back and mountains after mountains formed around the lonely mountain of Anhui.

BaiJuYi and Tauriel both agreed that the mountains were extremely magical. One day, they decided to get married, and they did. Their children never left the mountains for even a second. They lived with animals singing around them and the grass dancing for them. Everyone loved the magical mountains of Anhui. Years after years, poets and visitors all came to the magical mountains.

Tales of Huangshan

Shanghai United International School, Wanyuan Campus, Guo, Gary – 11

“What bad luck!” murmured Wang resting on a rock and staring at pine trees nearby. As a travel fan, he was attracted to Huangshan for its beautiful scene, but it was raining cats and dogs from the first day of his arrival, making his mood as bad as the weather outside. Now the rain stopped, but Wang could not find the way into the mountain. He tried several options, but all failed as they would end up on the brink of a deep cliff.

For Wang, what could make him feel a little better was oddly-shaped pine trees everywhere. It was said that those trees existed for more than 1,000 years. In the mist, every branch of each tree was twisting and extending outward, but never duplicating each other, like many dancers in ancient costumes showing off their skills in the cloud sea.

When Wang was enjoying the scene, he was suddenly thrilled by a tree nearby. The tree looked a little bit special as its trunk was split into two from the ground and each trunk had a branch which was falling downward like willows. A crazy idea immediately surfaced in his mind: the tree was posing exactly as the Chinese character “North”, however, in Small Seal Script, a form of Chinese calligraphy used over 2,200 years ago.

With a closer examination of the tree and its surroundings, Wang found there were four paths under the tree. Then an even crazier idea popped into his mind. “Is the tree a guide for the direction?” To test if his theory would stand, Wang carefully stepped into the path leading north. Several minutes later, the path led him to a place where he found another tree resembling the character “West”, also in Small Seal Script. In this way, Wang found many pine trees as guiders which finally directed him to the destination – a small pond.

The pond had no trees nearby and the water was as crystal clear. At this time, a huge wind suddenly showed up and dragged Wang into the pond. Wang was so frightened that he tried to grab anything he could touch. At last, he felt a handle-like thing in the water and with one pull, a big tunnel showed up at the bottom of the pond and Wang was saved.

The end of the tunnel was a vast flat land. There was no sign of any mountain, but the weather was as gloomy as Wang had experienced these days. Wang walked several miles and what he could see was the gushing stream and rustling leaves, which formed a peaceful picture. Suddenly on the end of the road, a small village in front of a vast forest was jumping into his eye. There were many villagers holding arms who kept quite vigilant on Wang’s appearance.

Just before Wang tried to explain how he was led here by pine trees, the leader of villagers shouted at him, “Young man, you are on a treacherous trip. You must return now!” At this juncture, a monk rushed from the crowd and whispered to the leader. After the whisper, the leader softened his voice. “It seems you don’t have time to escape. Then come and join us!” The monk immediately came to Wang and handed him a small object and told him. “You might be our savior. Remember, use this to throw at the Monster’s eye when it opens!”

Wang was in a complete puzzlement, but by instinct he could sense a great danger was approaching as the fear on everyone’s face was so evident. He had a look at the object handed to him. It was a small jade with a big cock imprinted on the surface, which seemed to be an ancient artifact. At this time, he suddenly smelt a dense scent which was clouding the village. Seconds later, a gigantic vortex appeared in the center of nearby forest forcing all the leaves swirling crazily in the wind.

The vortex moved gradually towards the villagers like a green avalanche storm. It gradually changed its form into a big mouth, trying to devour all the people with one bite. At this juncture, the leader made a whistle and all the villagers took out fireworks, ignited, and threw them in the mouth. With several rounds of big explosion like the heavy thunder, the vortex seemed to deform as if it was hurt by the secret weapon.

As Wang was happy about the success, a huge figure loomed from the vortex. It was a huge monster with thousands of legs waving aggressively. With eyes closed, it rushed into the crowds and easily whipped many villagers far away with one attack. Just before Wang realized what had happened, the monster took him from the ground and stared him with wide open eyes.

Wang thought of the monk's remarks and used all his strength to throw the jade at the Monster's eye. The jade was activated when it touched the eye and emitted a strong beam. The monster was frightened and loosened its leg so that Wang fell to the ground. Then a real big cock arrived from the heaven and used its huge beak to pierce the monster. The monster let out a sharp cry and soon retreated into the ground.

The villagers thanked Wang for his braveness and explained that the ancestors found this quiet place in Qin Dynasty. Pine trees resembling characters in Small Seal Script were also planted then to guide directions. Before Wang voiced more questions, he lost consciousness and when he woke up, he was in the place where he found the tree resembling north. But this time, he could not find the tree any more. But on the ground laid a small vase. On its body, there was a map of Huangshan and also a picture of how the god of cock defeated the evil centipede monster, which proved to him the adventure was not a dream.

The Mysterious Mountain – Huang Mountain

Shanghai United International School WanYuan Campus, Huang, Justin – 11

This mountain, Yellow Mountain is also called Huang Mountain. There are many mysteries that people don't know about this mountain.

[2000 years ago, China]

A big thing happened. The emperor's daughter got a strange disease. The most famous doctor in the whole country couldn't even fix this problem. Just when everybody was very anxious, one old man said that they should go to Yellow Mountain to have a look. He remembered that his great grandpa had told him that there was a great doctor who could treat every disease living in this mountain, yet no one had found exactly where he lived in the mountain.

The emperor told a lot of people to get the task of finding the doctor but they all failed. Just when the emperor was frustrated, a boy called Leo wanted to find the doctor by himself.

After a few days, he got to Yellow Mountain successfully. The mountain was covered in mist. When he took a few steps on the mountain, he could hardly see anything through the white fog. Some moments later, the sun came out. Now Leo could see something. He kept climbing the mountain. One step, two steps... He felt tired. Just then, he saw a little dot about 50 meters ahead. Although he was extremely tired after climbing the mountain for many hours, still moved his steps toward the dot. It's closer, even closer. It's a small village! "How can there be a village on the mountain?" he said to himself. But, actually he didn't care about that. Leo quickly asked about the great doctor on Yellow Mountain. No one knew. They only gave him some food and let him rest in one of their houses. But, there was a boy in the village called Sam. He wanted to go to find the doctor with Leo.

The next day, they left the village. And all day, they just climbed the mountain. Suddenly, they saw a forest in front of them, making them stop. Then night came.

"Do you think we should go in the forest?" Leo asked, although he knew it was an extremely bad idea.

"Just think, do you want to be eaten by a wolf?" Sam asked back. So that meant they should sleep in the wind.

The next day came. After the boring and extremely tiring mountain climbing, they finally got to the top of the mountain.

"Is the doctor here?" asked Leo.

"I don't know, maybe he's not real." answered Sam casually.

"I'll keep going." said Leo. They saw trees, waterfalls, rocks... "Wait, the rocks" shouted Leo suddenly while Sam was still sitting under a tree nearby, looking at the sky. There were strange pictures painted on the rocks. Leo started to remember the old people from his own town said the doctor liked to make pictures. He has lived for 300 years, so everything must seem so normal to him.

"He must be here somewhere." said Sam. They started to look for the doctor. He couldn't be far away.

Time flew by and night came. The old man had said that the doctor would come to these rocks every night, when everyone was asleep.

"We can't just wait like this!" Leo said. But Sam didn't say anything.

"Hi?" Leo whispered, "What are you doing? You said you wanted to find the doctor."

"Yes, but..."

"So, let's go. He will come soon."

(SOME HOURS LATER...)

It was already very late at night. The doctor still hadn't come.

"Actually you've already met him," Sam said finally, which surprised Leo, "Just feel him now. You are right. He's not far away."

"Are you..."

Sam suddenly changed into a man. He was holding a long stick. "I am the doctor." he said.

"Now, if you want to have the medicine, you need to do something. Find the master of this mountain. He is the controller. I can't give the medicine to anyone without his permission. I can't go with you because there's some magic in this mountain."

Then Leo went on his second trip. He just knew that the master of Huang Mountain lived in the largest cave on the mountain. How could he find it? Leo suddenly had an idea— go back to the village. Hours passed. He went all the way down and finally found the village again. He told the whole thing to the villagers and then asked about the largest cave. Still the same, no one knew that largest cave. "Are they trying to keep something secret from me," thought Leo, "all the things— Sam, the rocks and the villagers, what are they thinking?" "What am I doing? I'll go home and not waste time." he said to himself.

As Leo got on his way, he saw something shining in the sky. He wondered what it was. It was moving. Leo just followed it, and although he didn't want to follow it, he just couldn't help running toward that little dot. Then, he finally realized the dot was a bird, which could shine. After the long nonstop running, Leo finally stopped following the strange bird. He looked around...

"The cave!" shouted Leo when he saw a large cave and a sign that wrote: MASTER OF HUANG MOUNTAIN. He went in and saw an old man sitting.

"Excuse me, are you the master of the mountain?" Leo asked.

"Yes." said the old man coldly.

"Can I take the medicine away from the best doctor on this mountain?"

"STOP DREAMING!!" the old man shouted, and Leo felt the rocks falling, the ground shaking, and, the mountain seemed to fall down. And this part of the mountain disappeared.

Chinese Mountain on a Meteor

Shanghai United International School WanYuan Campus, Jia, Stephen – 11

As Li ascended toward the atmosphere into outer space on the spacecraft of Challenger II, he was appalled and astonished just to peer out of the magnificently crafted windows with a frame of real gold. Li was a Chinese teenager who was only fifteen years old, but how could he be on an aircraft at a time of not-so-advanced space technology? Because he was on a secret and special mission that only he and his officer knew. He was on this mission to prove that teenagers can land their feet onto the various planets around the Milky Way Galaxy. When his officer was looking for candidates for this mission, he wanted to find a person who hated his home on Earth and wanted to discover the secrets of the universe and Li was a typical type of that. After months of training, Li finally learned how to buckle his seat-belt while in space and some other basic skills, too.

Now as Li sat on the comfy cushion seat of the spacecraft Challenger II, he discovered travelling into space was an interesting thing to do. He loves being on adventures and has read about fifteen adventure stories since he was born. Suddenly, he heard a crack. He sat straight up, his face white with panic. Then, he heard another louder crack. After that, another one, this one louder than the previous crack. Finally, the last final crack occurred and the spacecraft lost control, throwing Li back and forth. He vomited all over the floor and before he noticed, he was being thrown out of the spacecraft, out of the protection layer the builders added before the flight, and into outer space.

A loud whooshing sound woke Li up. He discovered he was sitting in a cave where no sunlight could possibly arrive. He quickly sat up and to his relief, the oxygen bottle on his back was still there so he could still get fresh air. Then, after a minute of hesitation, he crawled quickly from the dark cave surrounding him. As he finally saw light, he realized that he was no longer in space, in his spacecraft or on Earth. He was on a unique planet that seemed to be orbiting another star several light-years away. After his surprise and excitement, his worries began. He had been knocked off his spacecraft so he hadn't had time to bring any food or water. How could he survive without food or water? His officer had told him that the oxygen bottle could only last for three months and the journey in the spacecraft had already used up nearly half of his supply, plus the estimated time he spent in space after he was knocked off the spacecraft and before he woke up. How could he even survive with over half the bottle of oxygen used up? Would he painfully die? Just as he was thinking, his eyes saw something very familiar— a huge mountain standing beside the cave where he had just woken up. It made a connection in his mind. 'Oh! The Yellow Mountain! This mountain looks just like it!' he shouted out but no one responded. For a moment, he had forgotten that he was alone on a previously unknown planet. 'Now I need a perfect plan for survival,' he said to himself.

After using his mind of a teenager as hard as possible, he finally remembered that he could try to search something as his prey to make his stomach better. He went into action after he prepared something that would work as a simple weapon to hunt something living. But despite his extremely hard work, no success was available on this planet. He even went to the summit of the mountain and looked down at the planet but he just found several droplets of water he preciousely kept. Although he had found something to drink, he hadn't found any food source. He went back to his cave sadly without anything to eat. The following days were the same. After barely surviving for three days with the little droplets of water, he felt that his oxygen was running out. 'But I should have enough oxygen to survive for over a month,' he thought, 'how is it running out so fast?' Perhaps he used more than his officer predicted or something happened while he was knocked out of the spacecraft.

One day, as Li woke up from his sleep in his cave, he discovered something glowing on the surface of the planet. He crawled out of it to check it out. As he returned to the planet's surface, he was both astonished and surprised to see something like a UFO landing on the planet. Was there anything or anybody in there? Did they come to rescue him? Could he talk to them? Before he approached it, the UFO's door opened and out stepped a person in a spacesuit. Li guessed it was definitely a human. He promptly ran up to him, making him jump. As Li saw the man's face clearly, he realized that it was his officer !

He dashed quickly to his officer and the officer met his eyes and realized that it was the boy he had sent out into space.

'How did you know I was on this particular planet?'

'Well, I really didn't know you were on this planet but I'm here on a mission to test some soil someone brought back from Mars. It's really a coincidence!' the officer said excitedly.

Until he was in the spacecraft on the way back to Earth, he had never appreciated that Earth was their home or realized he had the responsibility of protecting it. He would have never known he wouldn't survive without Earth if he had never experienced living on a planet without the resources that we take for granted on Earth. As the officer and Li saw Earth in the distance, they both knew the meaning of Home Sweet Home.

The Wings of Freedom

Shanghai United International School WanYuan Campus, Lei, Bella – 10

Once upon a time, in Ancient China, a girl named Ella was cooking breakfast in her Aunt Alicia's gigantic house. Her parents had vanished when she was little. So she was sent to live with her Aunt and Cousin Melisa. They made her do all the chores, and cook their meals for them too.

"What's this?" Melisa sneered at the breakfast, which Ella had laid before her. "It's your breakfast, Miss." Ella said. "Disgusting!!!" Melisa yelled. Then she dumped the breakfast on the floor. "Oh, and you," Melisa yelled, "Go get my lip gloss!" "But...It's all the way in your room Melisa!" said Ella as she knelt down to clean up the breakfast Melisa had just dumped on the floor. "I said go get it!!!" Melisa screamed. She kicked Ella hard, right on the head. Tears fell down Ella's face as she said, "Yes, Miss." Then she dashed into Melisa's huge bedroom at the other end of the gigantic house. She lifted the tray of red lip powder, because there weren't any lipstick or lip gloss in the ancient. "Ah!" Ella yelled as she tripped over the table leg. Melisa's lip gloss went flying, it hit the wall and the tray broke into a million little pieces. Ella looked at the mess she'd made. She was going to be in big trouble. It wasn't fair, Ella thought, just because her darling parents have disappeared, her Aunt Alicia and Cousin Melisa have been living with her. Ever since then, Ella's life has changed. She has been treated like a slave, cleaning up after Melisa and her aunt. Ella had had enough. She was running away.

It was easy, running away, because she didn't have much to pack. Ella placed another set of clothes, some water and some bread into a bag. Then she ran out of the gigantic house. She was free!

Ella looked left, trees and houses. She looked right, trees and houses. Just as Ella was about to explode with confusion, she heard a scream coming from her house. She whirled around.

"HOW DARE SHE!!!" She heard Melisa scream "Mommy, she can't get away with this!" Melisa screeched, "Look!" Aunt Alicia yelled, "She's getting away!" Melisa jumped up, and dashed out of her house, which tore Ella apart. Uh oh, Ella thought. Where should she go? But Ella didn't care. She ran like she had never run before.

When Melisa's screeches had finally faded away, Ella looked around her. There were trees everywhere, and wild flowers grew as far as Ella could see. Uh oh, Ella thought. She knew where she was, in the dangerous Huangshan. Well, Ella thought, at least she wasn't thrown into the lake by Aunt Alicia.

Ella bounced around the path. She was in a spectacular mood; the view of Huangshan was amazing. She had never seen anything so beautiful. But Ella's mood soon turned upside down. As she was walking on a steep cliff edge, Ella accidentally stepped on a rock. The rock fell down the mountain, so did Ella. Ella closed her eyes, sure that she was going to hit the ground. But she didn't.

When Ella opened her eyes, she was soaring through her back. Slowly, Ella landed on top of Huangshan. She blinked. Two figures stood before her. "Mom? Dad?" Ella gasped. "Darling!" her mom cried as she rushed over to hug Ella. "We're so sorry. We left you with your aunt. Will you ever forgive us?" "Of course, Mother!" Ella cried, "But... why didn't I die when I fell?" "Darling, you couldn't die." Her father said. "What?" Ella gasped. "Because your grandfather is the god of Huangshan." "So, does that mean, I'm a goddess?" Ella whispered. "Yes, sure you are." Her mother said with a smile, "But you can only become one if you've been through a lot. That's why we've sent you to your aunt's house in the first place." "So," her father said, "Do you want to join us in heaven?" "Sure!"

Then the three of them took off, with their wings of freedom.

The Story of Mountain Tai and Emperor Qin Shi Huang

Shanghai United International School, Wanyuan Campus, Ling, David – 11

Emperor Qin Shi Huang unified 6 states into one country which was the Qin Dynasty. He became the first Emperor in China history. But Emperor Qin Shi Huang was not happy, because he wanted everyone in China will obey to him.

One day, Emperor asked his Minister, “Do you think everyone in our country will obey to me?” His Minister was very clever, and he answered, “My dear Emperor, you just have unified 6 states into one country for 3 years. I don’t think the 6 states people will obey to you, we need to do something.”

Emperor asked, “What can we do, Minister?” His Minister answered, “That’s easy, My Emperor, did you hear about the Mountain Tai? The greatest magical mountain in China is Mountain Tai. It is a sacred Mountain in the history, where lived many Gods on the mountain. I suggest you go to Mountain Tai to announce that you are the Emperor of China. That means you are the Emperor that sent by God, after that, everyone will obey to you”

“Good idea! Let’s just do it, ”said Emperor Qin Shi Huang.

One month later, Emperor Qin Shi Huang and his entourages went to Mountain Tai. Unfortunately, when they got to the Mountain Tai, it was raining cats and dogs. One Wizard near the mountain said to Emperor Qin Shi Huang, “My dear Emperor, today is not a good day to start the ceremony, because there was a very dark cloud in the sky, the shape of this cloud means failure. I strongly suggest you make the ceremony next year.” This Wizard has superpower, who could see the past and the future.

But Emperor Qin Shi Huang was very arrogant, he said to his entourages, “I am the most powerful Emperor in the world, no one could stop me. Get the announcement ceremony started, and kill the Wizard!”

The Wizard could see the future, he knew Emperor Qin Shi Huang will kill him, so he wore a woman’s cloth and went to an island far away.

So Emperor Qin Shi Huang started his Emperor Announcement ceremony on Mountain Tai. That day was raining very heavily, the Wizard said to himself on the island “Today is not a good day, because Gods didn’t accept Emperor to rule the country, he needs to be a good man first, that’s why the Gods didn’t agree, so they sent the Raining Fairy to pour the rains, unfortunately, Emperor Qin Shi Huang didn’t get this.”

Emperor Qin Shi Huang was the first person to unified 7 states into one country, but he never listened to anyone, maybe it was the reason that the history of Qin Dynasty was only 14 years.

China's Magical Mountain

Shanghai United International School WanYuan Campus, Ma, Chloe – 10

High above in the clouds and air, the Yellow Mountains stay there. A person controlled the Mountain who lived in it.

It was me! I lived alone in the big, old Mountain. Nobody except me lived here. I was here when I was born, and then I was 10 years old. The animals here were my friends, and I knew everything and every place in the Yellow Mountains — my home.

One day, the big mountain I lived in suddenly fell down. I was so scared that I thought I was dying. I was disconcerted and didn't know what to do. Suddenly, a big blue bird flew across the air and came to me. She saved me and let me on her back. It took me into the blue sky, into the clouds. It flew across the Yellow Mountains. At that time, the big mountain was still falling. The bird flew around the mountain three times and let a yellow ring stay around the Yellow Mountain. Amazing! The mountain stood still, it was not falling anymore. It used a beautiful sound to call its friends. And they flew high across the air.

It was not the first time I met the blue bird. One summer night, when I was sleeping I heard a sweet singing sound out of my mountains. "It is a bird I don't know", I never heard a sound like that. I met her in the morning and told her that only I lived here in the Yellow Mountains. If she wanted to live here I was very happy. And then she lived in the second Yellow Mountain———a beautiful and good place. Sometimes the blue bird would bring me to the places I want. It was so beautiful!

Chapter 2: The sound of the Blackery ghosts

One day, there was a sound of the Blackery ghosts suddenly. The ghosts were behind. And they used their big hands and broke the Yellow Mountains. "Our home", I cried, "My warm, secret, full of mystery, old 3000000000 years ago, happily forever home, was gone!" Suddenly, the big blue bird came. She sang a secret song, and the Blackery ghosts began to sleep. Then she sang another song and more and more birds came. They put the sleepy Blackery ghosts into a big bird's nest and took them away. I was so happy! I hugged the blue bird and thanked her. She smiled at me. Now the Yellow Mountains were free, they were our home again.

Chapter 3: Goodbye blue bird

One day, she sang a song to me. I never heard the song before. I knew her meaning, she missed her parents, she wanted to say goodbye. I hugged her and put a beautiful garland on her head. She sang a secret and beautiful song to me again and flew away. I was so sad that she went away. I hoped she would come back someday to protect the Yellow Mountains with me.

Lucy's Adventure on Mount Huang

Shanghai United International School, Wanyuan Campus, Ma, Thomas – 11

There are a lot of mountains in China. But do you know which mountain is the most beautiful? It must be Mount Huang.

Mount Huang is in Anhui. There are lots of amazing views there. The most popular view is pine trees. There are many beautiful pine trees like “greeting pine”. Mount Huang isn’t very looming like Himalaya Mountain, but you can see cloud cover at the top. There are many mysterious stones, some like monkeys and some like birds.

Once there was a girl called Lucy. She and her parents were travelers. They wanted to travel around the world. They planned to go to Mount Huang.

‘Quick! Dad and Mum. We are almost at the foot of the mountain! I want to climb to the top immediately’ shouted Lucy.

Dad looked at Lucy and laughed, ‘You will be tired if you are so excited now.’

Mum laughed too, then the family walked together through the entrance. ‘Our first station is Mount Huang hot spring.’ said Dad.

On the way to the hot spring, mom looked at the travel guide. They wanted to know more about Mount Huang hot springs. ‘Mount Huang hot spring has been developed since the Tang Dynasty. The average temperature of the hot spring is about 42 degrees.’

‘It sounded so cool.’ said Lucy. Lucy is excited again. She ran forward. She wanted to be the first one to see the hot spring.

After a long walk, they arrived at Mount Huang Hot Spring. Lucy jumped for joy. It’s so beautiful and it looked like a painting.

Suddenly, many bubbles burst from the center of the hot spring. Lucy was curious, so she wanted to ask her parents. But when she turned her head she couldn’t find her dad and mum. She began to worry. When she was sad, there was an old man who was in blue traditional Chinese clothing that appeared from the mouth of the spring. Lucy was frightened.

The old man began to talk with a hoarse voice, ‘Don’t be frightened little girl, I am the guardian of the spring.’

Lucy calmed down slowly, she asked, ‘Why did you come out, and where are my parents?’

‘I don’t know where your parents are. But I’m going to find my best friend, the guardian of the pine and guardian of the stone,’ said the guardian of the spring.

‘Where are they? I want to see them. Can I go with you?’ Said Lucy longingly.

Guardian of the spring thought for a while and said ‘Okay, you can follow me, and maybe we can find your parents.’

Lucy was so happy she jumped as high as a rabbit. ‘First we need to find the guardian of the pine he lives in the Yu Ping Tower.’ explained the old man.

They walked along the path. On the road, Lucy introduced her trips to France, America, the North Pole and so on. The Guardian of the spring listened carefully.

Gradually, they arrived at the Yu Ping Tower. ‘Where is the keeper of the pine?’ Asked Lucy.

The Guardian of the spring pointed to a pine tree, ‘That’s the pine greeting guest do you see? He’s 1300 years old! He is the symbol of Mount Huang. Guardian of the pine won’t appear until we make a pose like the pine.’

‘But how can we do that?’ Asked Lucy.

‘Stretch out one arm and place the other hand gracefully at the side of your leg’ explained the guardian of the spring.

Lucy followed what the guardian did.

'Ha! Ha! Ha!' There was a loud sound in the Yu Ping Tower. Then a man just like the Guardian of the spring came out, 'You are here, my brother. I miss you very much.' said the guardian of the pine.

The guardian of the spring smiled too. He introduced Lucy to the Guardian of the Pine.

The Guardian of the pine talked to Lucy, he said 'Let's go to look for the Guardian of the Stone at the top of the Lion peak.'

'Hooray! We are going to climb a mountain.' shouted Lucy.

Lucy Jumped up and down, several minutes past. The people were all very tired, but they were still climbing the mountain and soon they saw clouds above the Lion Peak.

'It's magnificent' everyone exclaimed.

'We are now at Lion Peak. If you look up, you'll see that the peak looks like a mighty lion. Look! That's the top of the Lion Peak.' said the guardian of the pine. The tree people start walking quickly. It took less than a minute to reach the summit.

'Look' The Monkey View Sea. It is magnificent! 'Said the guardian of the spring.

'The stone is just like a monkey standing on the top of the mountain, looking at things far away, or jumping into the sea of clouds.'said Lucy.

'Knocked the head of the monkey. The guardian of the stone will appear.'said the guardian of the pine.

Lucy did as he said. But nothing happened, but suddenly she fell down.

'Wake up little Lucy, why are you sitting next to the spring?'A familiar voice came to Lucy's ears. Lucy opened her eyes. That's mum and dad. That's a dream.

'Let's go visit Mount Huang quickly.'said her dad.

Lucy got up and followed her parents to climb the mountains again.

The Mystery of History

Shanghai United International School, Wanyuan Campus, Qu, Minghong – 11

In winter, my family and I climbed Kung Lung Mountain. The mountain was covered in thick ice. The huge snowflakes were dancing in the wind and the foxes were jumping in snow, trying to find a prey or something to eat. Everything is white except my parents and I. We were shivering in the snow.

When we were nearly on the icy peak, suddenly, I tripped and fell. I was so scared. I thought it was the end of my life. Surprisingly, a white, fluffy stuff held me, which were like a cotton candy. It was a cloud! I jumped off the cloud and followed it curiously down the mountain. It led me through a cave.

At the end of the cave, there was a village. The sun shined above me. It is warm. I took off my sweater and coat. The clouds floated on top of my head, the leaves grow, the flower busted out. It was spring! I went through a bamboo forest and saw three young men sitting in front of a stone table happily. They were all wearing Tang Chinese clothing. After introduction, I learned that they were LI Bai, DU Fu and GAO Shi. I was stunned seeing the three famous poets from Tang dynasty sitting in front of me. What a surprise! This was the Immortal village. They found this place a thousand year ago. When they were finding immortal fruits, they found it was right here! So they decided to live here with their families.

They showed me around the village. The spring was in the air. Peach blossoms were everywhere, the grass grew, the birds sang, the transparent water floated by, the petals fell down in the river, decorating it into a beautiful princess.

Then, they took me to immortal fields. The immortal fruits were like cute babies. The baby smiled and hang down the trees. The tears were its seed. It was so amazing!

After that, they invited me into their homes to eat one. I went to their homes, which were made of flowers. There were marvelous smell everywhere. It was extraordinarily fantastic! Mrs. Li, Mrs. Du and Mrs. Gao came out and gave me a big welcome. I went in and they gave me some delicious flower cakes. The flowers were juicy and sweet. The smell was so adorable that only one sniff would make your mouth watering. After a while, they handed me the immortal fruit. I took a bite, it made me have a strength that can lift an elephant. After visiting, they asked me to stay, but I refused, because I want to live with my family. So they said goodbye to me and let the clouds take me to my parents.

At last, my family and I went back home safely. What an amazing adventure! Kung Lun Mountain sure is a magical place! Maybe next time, I will have an opportunity to visit Kung Lun Mountain again and introduce the poets to my parents.

An Adventure in Meili

Shanghai United International School, Wanyuan Campus, Tang, Lois – 11

Walking up along the misty mountain. The girl mutters ‘Meili, when am I going to meet the danger? When? How many times? Meili Mountain, you’ve never let anyone see your top, why?’

‘Hey, girl? Why are you up here? You shouldn’t be here, it is dangerous!’ A humming bird pops out and asks. ‘No questions!’ Her face lights up and frowns, ‘You’re a spirit.’ ‘Sure’, the humming bird says, ‘I mean yes.’

‘Good’. She smiles. ‘I’m Sally. My parent always say that Meili is haunting. You know why?’ ‘Yes.’ The humming bird answers. ‘It was long ago, Meili wasn’t haunting. It was beautiful. Animals live here. Spirits live here. But it wasn’t always perfect. A horrible monster came. It has powerful?’ ‘Bear?’ ‘No.’ The humming bird continues. ‘Nian?’ ‘Nian?’ Sally repeats even though she clearly heard that! ‘I know how to help you now!’ ‘Really?’ ‘Yep.’ Sally nearly laughed out. ‘Here, Nian is afraid of red and loud noise.’ As she passed out a red scarf and a gunpowder. ‘This red scarf is enough to scare Nian away. And you use other red things too, umm... like red paper.’ Sally smiles. ‘Oh, wish it would help you! And here is a bone whistle, call me if you need.’ Sally hums happily as she found out she will help the spirits.

Bust just before Sally climbs to another level of the mountain. She hears a sweet clicking sound. ‘Oh, no!’ Sally cries out as she slides down the rope which she is climbing up.’ It is the whistle! ‘Nian tears the red paper and howls a lot!’ Feared one of the spirits. ‘What?!’ Sally swings the rope and lands off. ‘Nian isn’t afraid?’ ‘No, it isn’t.’ The humming bird pops out. Sally swings the rope and slides off the rock cliff and lands on the ground. ‘Where’s those papers?’ Asks Sally. ‘Here.’ The humming bird leads her to a branch. ‘Here.’ ‘Oh.’ Sally smiles. ‘The red paper is too small and Nian maybe can’t see it clearly.’ ‘Oh, that’s a great idea! Thank you.’

And just then, Sally is sent into another part of the mountain. It is like a world apart. Clear streams, green grass, pink crystal-like blossoms, golden sunshine and the sapphire-blue sky. So beautiful! Just before Sally enjoys this warm ‘world apart’. A voice interrupts her. ‘Who are you? This is the kingdom of knowledge. If you are a hiker, as rules I shall ask you a question. You can go to the last task of Meili, only while you give the right answer. And you will turn into a fish if you get it wrong. Oh, I forgot to tell you. I’m the queen of this second-task kingdom, my name is Snow.’ A white dolphin in the clear pond explains in a distance. ‘This is the question. Wet is its mother, it also helps others. It feeds us, warms us, it is too valuable to be sold. It is also our mother. What is it?’ Asked Snow. Sally thinks, ‘Us, she was speaking about ‘us’ in the question. And she is a dolphin, dolphin is an animal. ‘Feed us’ means it is eatable, so it is a kind of food for animals. We could be warmed by clothes, by air-condition, and also COSSY BEDS! ‘Warm us’ means that it is used in our homes (nests). And this thing is too valuable to be sold, it must be LIFE! Mother helps us grow and it grows in a wet place.’ Sally answers, ‘It is lichen. Lichen live in a wet place, it can be a kind of food, it can be for your nests. It helps some animals hide from predators, so it’s too valuable to be sold. And lichen can make a habitat of frog and other small animals, so it is lichen!’

‘Congratulations!’ grinned Snow. ‘You may go to the last task.’ Just a second, Sally finds herself in a small town from the top of Meili.

An old man with wings and a full white beard comes. ‘Welcome, you’re the first one who climbed up Meili. This is the long-live town. We become spirits after living here for 10 years. With no parents or family members.’ ‘Why?’ ‘No is no.’ Answers the old man.

‘Fine then, I’m not staying here, whatever, any place with a family is called home. But not a big fancy village for weird, lonely spirits!’ Sally snaps angrily. ‘I want a family but not to become a spirit.’ Sally added softly, finding she talked a bit rudely.

‘No, it is ok, your family is here. No worries, now you are the first hiker climbed up Meili who is smart, helpful and loving her family. Here is a medal for you.’ Says the old man.

‘THANK YOU!’ Sally can’t believe it, she smiles.

Family is always great.

The Rise of Yellow Mountain

Shanghai United International School WanYuan Campus, Wu, Teddy – 10

A long time ago, our mother planet, Earth was flat. Of course, the landscape of China was as flat as a pancake. People wanted to be tall enough so that they could touch the sky. Therefore, they started building high towers, but the height was never enough for them to reach the sky.

There was a poet at that time. He was very talented at writing poetry. His poems were sometimes too abnormal, sometimes too sad, and no one at that time ever appreciated his poems. He was so depressed about his poems being disliked by the people that he started to immerse himself into yellow rice wine drinking. When he got very drunk, he could still write poems, but his poems would be even more abnormal and brave than his usual poems.

One day, he was drinking delicious yellow rice wine as usual. After he swallowed all the yellow rice wine in his flagon, he started writing a new poem with his brush pen on a sheet of Chinese rice paper. After he finished his poem, a flock of birds flew near him. Those birds were not ordinary birds, they are celestial birds! They started to read his newly written poem. This poem was so good that they decided to stay there and accompany the poet, with a hope to read more of his poems! Day by day, the birds managed to attract other animals to come around and read his poems. All the creatures are amazed by his wonderful poem, they all decided to stay around the poet's side.

With more and more animals straying around the poet, he started to worry about the safety of his animal friends. He thought: "The place is flat, other people could easily come around and hurt my animal friends!" He shared his concern through his poem to his animal friends, those animals suddenly came up with an idea!

From the next day, once the poet fell into sleep after drinking yellow rice wine, the animals would gather rocks and grass, and piled them up and up. When the poet woke up on the tenth day, he found out that he was on a platform high, high above the ground, it was much higher than any of the towers at that moment. Other people from the ground could not reach that high and his animal friends would all be safe. He was so proud of what he saw and decided to name the platform as Yellow Mountain, in order to commemorate the yellow rice wine that helped him write poems and attract animals.

Yellow Mountain was so obvious on the flat ground in China at that time, many poets were attracted by the story between the old poet and his animal friends. They went up the mountain to visit the poet and take him as their master in poem writing. The old poet took them as his apprentices and taught them his way of writing as well as drinking yellow rice wine. The old poet as well as many of his apprentices became famous poets in China.

The Secret of the Fog

Shanghai United International School WanYuan Campus, Yang, Lisa – 11

Fog covers the mountain tops, and a boy stands inside it, gazing down at the precipice, a place full of haunting memories, that he wants to forget...

He has a little sister. They live on the thirteenth mountain top. One day, his sister fell down the precipice, he remembered. He doesn't remember anything except this or he has forgotten everything. Why did his little sister fall? He didn't know.

He comes to the leader's home. The answer is easy: his sister wasn't careful at all! He doesn't know whether it is true or not, it sounds strange, but it isn't strange. He is thoughtful, though...

He likes fog very much. Fog is mysterious, and so like him. Fog can float anywhere it wants, it is free in the world, but he thinks he is opposite, he is in a cage.

The sun falls down and the moon rises up. He walks down the mountain. He sits near the flashing river and lets his hand touch the water naturally. Water can let him think more carefully. Why did his sister die? Why does he forget so many things? Why is not he like himself anymore? These questions are all in his mind, pacing, wandering, lingering...

He closes his eyes to think...

Minutes passed, he opens his eyes and sees a shadow on the other side of the river. It is like a girl. He stands up and walks towards it, but however far he walks, is how far the shadow moves back. Finally, he rushes to it, and the shadow turns into a curl of fog, rises up and disappears. He does not know why...

An Adventure on Yellow Mountain

Shanghai United International School, Wanyuan campus, Zheng, Claire – 11

Once upon a time, there was a small town called "Hong Cun", where was in the bottom of Yellow Mountain. Yellow Mountain was one of the most famous mountains in China. While you were climbing the mountain, you can enjoy the sea of clouds, wondrous pines and unique rock around you. In the early morning when the sun rises, the sky looked very beautiful.

In that town, there was a little girl, Luna, who was very special. She had magical power. Her hair was as golden as gold. Her skin was as white as snow. Her eyes were as blue as sea. She had a little sister called "Nollan". Her hair looked like her sister. But she had green eyes. Her eyes were as green as forest. They walked through tiny streets, went swimming in lakes and ran in mountains. They lived happily in this town.

One day, everything was out of control. Water, soil, fire and wind were all gone. The people lost confidence. Luna and Nollan came out and found the spirits to give them some advices. They said, "Go to the Yellow Mountain! Find the truth!"

They entered Yellow Mountain. They climb and climb. They climb for a long journey. Finally they arrived the top. They found the sorcery stone was gone, which protected the whole town. They must find the stone! Luna tried to feel the stone. She seemed feel something. She run quickly and stopped at the mid of the mountain. "That's here!" shouted Luna. She found nothing, but only some ugly rocks. They were disappointed and frustrated. They walked around, climb around, search around. But nothing was found.

Luna tried to concentrate to feel the stone again. She put her hand on the soil. The soil flew into the sky. There was a shiny stone in the sky. That's sorcery stone! They put the magical stone back on the top of the mountain. Water, soil, wind and fire come back. The town went back to normal weather and people went back to peaceful life.

The Mountains of the Yellow Emperor

Shanghai United International School WanYuan Campus, Zhang, Coco – 10

“Wow, wow, wow... The big Huangshan is cool! Pretty cool and amazing! Look at the tiny rocks!” A girl called Joanna was looking at a map in her hands and praising the mountain.

She took her first step onto the rock and she felt that the mountain was so high that she would fall down into the chasm. She looked at the map but she felt disappointed. She could not find the next step. Her legs were shaking. She felt dizzy. She felt in danger. After a period of time, she plugged up and stepped onto another steep rock. She took a breath and looked at the high mountain above her head. She thought, “The mountain is so high that maybe it is higher than thousands of trees. It’s a long climb into the night. Before sunset, I must make a tent for sleeping tonight.” Then, she looked at the tent in her bag and she continued to climb.

When it was sunset, the sun was going down and there was a red glow.

“Oh, it’s time to take out my tent. I hope there aren’t any wild animals around here.” She pinned the tent and put the sleeping bag in it. “Ok, I will find some wood sticks to make the fire and take out some meat and bread for the dinner. All ready!”

After the delicious meal, Joanna slept in her sleeping bag and soon fell asleep. She didn’t know that there was a fox outside her tent. The fox with huge sharp teeth and big paws was scratching her tent so Joanna heard the strange sound and decided to take a look. She was frightened.

“Ah! A fox is going to eat me! Who can help me?” She cried for help, but then, she kept quiet because the fox was talking to an eleven year old little girl! That was impossible, but possible.

The fox started speaking, “My Joanna, you’re the girl our King, yes, the King of the foxes, wants to see. Please follow me. It’s more important than...anything! And then follow me to Adventure Castle where our King lives.”

Joanna was confused but she followed the fox, which left a trail of dead fish and wild flower smell. She used her hands to cover her nose to keep the smell from reaching her nostrils.

Suddenly, she stopped and shouted rudely at the fox, “You smell like dead fish and wild flowers! Stinky smelly fox, where are we going? You are crazy, man! Let me go back to my warm tent, and also let me forget that ugly fox King! How ridiculous!”

“Oh dear, shut up. Follow me.” Fox answered her shortly and put on a face of disgust. Obviously, he didn’t like others rudeness toward Fox King, though Joanna was very angry.

They didn’t arrive at Adventure Castle until noon. It was an enormous castle and Joanna couldn’t even see its top! There were thousands of diamonds on the surface of the castle, shining so brightly so that others could not open their eyes. Joanna found the castle garden had no flowers, so she felt it was not a common castle. It was just a castle for foxes and... Oh. Fox King.

Joanna saw the fox in front of her was writing a letter. And...Pomp! A puff of purple smoke ran out from the letter and the letter disappeared.

Suddenly, another fox pushed the huge castle door and shouted, “Who’s the fox that has Job Number 413? 413 fox has written a letter to King. Please stand out, 413!”

“Ron. You forget me? I’m Jacob. I’m Smell Specialist Jacob.” The fox said disapprovingly to one of the guards. Now Joanna knew why Jacob could find her, because ‘Smell Specialist’. Yes, obviously.

They entered the castle and a fox in a beautiful dress let Joanna came to her front and spoke politely, “I know your name, Miss Joanna, nice to meet you. I’m Queen Katherine, and sorry but my husband is sick. So I will take the place of King to talk with you. If you can help us make our garden more pretty, and make more flowers, you can get 100,000 dollars. I asked you here because there are no people on this mountain except you. Please help us.”

Joanna agreed but when she arrived at the garden, she regretted because she couldn’t plant any flowers by using water, seeds, and shovels. There was no sunshine and the residents were unhappy every day. She had an idea.

She let Katherine build a ‘Happy Shop’. She was the shop owner, and every day she sold interesting toys and played fun games with the foxes. Day by day, she made all the foxes happy. Soon the sunshine came out and Joanna and the foxes planted many pretty flowers and fruit in the garden. They lived in their village happily.

But one day, the King felt better. He woke up from the bed and went to see his garden. Joanna followed him. When the foxes saw the King, they hid from the King in fright.

He shouted out rudely, “What? Look at these stinky flowers and stale fruit! Servant Bob, throw them into the rubbish bin! If I see them again, I will destroy this village so I can live here happily ever after.” After he cursed, he grabbed the flowers out from the dirt and chopped up the fruit.

In a moment, the sky turned from blue to grey, the birds hid in their nest, the foxes gathered, and the sun ran away behind a mountain. Joanna raised her fist indignantly, because she wanted to fight with King. She gave him a strong fist and he fell down, so Joanna thought he would never wake up again.

Now the foxes lived happily ever after.

The Yellow Mountain

Shanghai United International School WanYuan Campus, Zheng, Alice – 10

High above in the clouds and air, the Yellow Mountain's mountaintop sticks up there. The sun was shining on the stone and reflected orange and yellow. I carried a little bag. I was at the bottom of the yellow mountain and looked up, the top was in the clouds. Can I get up there? I got sweaty thinking of that. To the highest top, even before tomorrow's sunset? But it was almost noon now, I decided to start climbing.

At first, the rocky steps and the handle seemed safe and was easy to walk. But slowly, the steps became slippery and hard to walk still. Even when I held the iron handle and waked extremely slow up the steps. I still felt like I was going to fall of the mountain. But the worst of all, when I stepped on a rocky mossy and slippery step, it cracked open! I closed my eyes and stood in horror. My heart was going to jump off my throat! Then, a piece of rock fell off from the step and I quickly let my foot go. On my right was the high mountain cliff, and on my left the thick and tall mountain rock blocked my sight. And I saw something horrible.

That is, the iron handle which I held tightly didn't continue longer. A few meters away, the iron handle totally disappear! The road became thinner and thinner. When I continue on without the handle. I was full of fear. And because of the width of the road was just the width of my feet. I decided to walk sideway like a crab. My hands hold the rock which pumped out of the mountain wall. I tried not to look down, but it was impossible. And when I took a step, my heart was in my throat.

Suddenly, my foot stepped on a piece of moss, and slipped of the cliff! I quickly pulled it up. But it slipped off again. My other foot was out of control, and fell of too! Worst my hands didn't have anything to hold. I fell of the cliff. 'A HHHHHHHHHHHHHH' I screamed. 'Splash!' I fell into the water without any guard against, I drank a lot of water. I stroked the water and pulled my head out. Then I used my last strength to swim to the shore. My hands grabbed the mud on the shore. I laid down and caught my breath. I stood up and looked all over myself. Only my leg got cut and nothing else. When I tried to walk, but 'Oops!' I fell down again. This time, my face punched right in the water. But then I heard 'Who are you? Why did you come here?' I turned, dear, it's the police! 'I, I, I just....' 'You what?' 'I just fell down from the cliff into the water' I answered. The police's eyes turned big and run to find the safety guard.

Well, I didn't go to the top of the mountain, I still it's an amazing adventure.

An Adventure

Shanghai United International School, Wanyuan campus, Zhou, Dora – 11

Hello! I am a girl called Sarah. I am a tall, skinny girl. Now, I will tell you my adventure.

It begins in the afternoon. I was watching TV on the sofa. Suddenly, the ground shook. What happened? I asked myself. When I looked at the TV again, I was shocked. There was a door on the wall! I didn't remember my home having a door on the wall! I was curious so I pushed the door. It's locked. But when I pushed it again, I sunk into the door. "Help! Help....." My voice trailed off.

Five minutes later, I found out I was in a cave. I struggled to get up and walk out of the cave. I was so hurt by the fall.

"Where am I?" I said in a soft voice. I was in a big snow mountain covered with white snow. I could hear the wind roaring and weather was very cold. I just wore a shirt and a pair of trousers. I am very regretful. Suddenly, the door appeared in the cave. "Oh, I am here. Why I don't continue?" I thought. So I opened the door. But this time, I didn't sink into it. The door was locked! I was surprised but I walked into the door. "What an amazing place!" I shouted. A lot of peach blossom were standing on the ground. To my surprise, there was a girl under the tree. She was so beautiful! She has long curly hair and a long white dress. There was a deer next to her. There were also some mountains behind them. But, she wasn't moving. I touched her. No movement! I touched her again. No movement. I was afraid. I rushed, tearing the door. "Please, let me go back to my home!" I repeated it in my heart! I ran into the door. I closed my eyes.....

Yes! I got home. I'm so happy. What an exciting adventure!

Mount Everest

Shanghai United International School, Wanyuan campus, Zhou, Jack – 11

Many things have happened in my life. Among them, some are exciting, others are distressing. Among them, there is one thing that makes me remember vividly, and it is deeply branded in my heart, which cannot be forgotten. This is what happened when I climbed Mount Everest in 1996.

In the winter of 1996, I—Jack and a scientific expedition arrived at the base camp at 17290 feet high. We plan to reach the summit of Mount Everest by February next year. However, on that night, it decided our life and death. Although we are in high spirits, everyone is still a little nervous. After all, whether we can come back alive is still a question worth pondering. In order to stimulate morale, my comrade in arms, Morse Smith, held a special party. At the banquet, Lucy made a speech: "Comrades, this mountaineering is of great significance, and it is related to the territorial rights of this mountain, so please do your best. As long as one person reaches the top of the mountain and takes pictures, the south side of the mountain is ours! I'd like to congratulate everyone, we've got to the base camp. We have to climb the remaining 11745 feet! "As soon as the voice dropped, there was a round of applause. I said: "Well said, do not climb to the top, do not give up!" "Yes, but go to sleep now, and climb 197 feet tomorrow." Smith said.

With the arrival of the next morning, we were on our way, and captain Woodley led the way to camp one. It's 2510 feet away. Along the way, you can see the beautiful scenery. As the team marched forward in high spirits, they were about to reach Lingotron. Warren fell down and fell dozens of feet. When we got to him, his face was so distorted that all of us were afraid to look at his leg because his left leg was gone. In an emergency, Doctor Jim called the rescue team with a signal gun. Then Jim stayed with him, but the other three were afraid and returned. There are only five left. For this heavy blow, we all kept silent and moved on. Finally, I said, "Is there anyone else who doesn't want to go to the top?" "No more." The captain said, "The cowards are all down." "Actually, I think Milo is a little scared." Lucy said. "It's true." Milo replied. "Then get out of here! Go home." "Said the captain. "Impossible!" Exclaimed Milo. "Go away!" "Do you want me to say that again?" cried the captain "No, I'm sorry," Milo said. Then go back. I saw that his eyes were full of tears, and he reluctantly turned his head, but as soon as he saw the angry eyes of the captain, he did not look back. In a flash, we have reached camp one. But no one was happy. After all, there were only four people – me, Captain, Smith and Lucy. Night soon came, we had a rough meal and went to bed. No one spoke.

On the third day, we pack up and move on, but this time, we will only reach 21000 feet high. So we have to camp in the snow. After traveling 579 feet, Smith's backpack accidentally fell on the cliff. While he was picking it up, the cliff cracked, but he bravely grabbed the climbing rope and saved his life. When we were lucky, the distant snow mountain suddenly split a crack and triggered an avalanche. Its speed is very fast, in an instant spread to us here, it is lucky that there is a big stone to help us block, otherwise no one can survive. After a lot of hard work, we arrived at camp two and had a good sleep.

The next morning, we decided not to go to camp 3, but to go straight up from the camp side. Although it was risky, it was a shortcut. On the way, there were many vertical slopes, but we all used a ladder to climb up. But on the last slope, we lost it because of my negligence. I knocked it down, so it just fell.

Seven days later, we arrived at camp four. Lucy had typhoid fever and had to be looked after by the captain. When we were only 1700 feet away from the summit, the weather was very bad, the north wind was blowing, the ground became very slippery, and the temperature had reached – 38 degrees Celsius. I suddenly felt homesick, but in order to get to the top, I resisted.

Soon, it was one o'clock in the morning. We were only 50 feet from the summit. Smith gave up. I was on the edge of despair. Finally, I got to the top! On top of it, you can have a panoramic view of the whole earth. I set up the camera, after taking dozens of photos, I put the Chinese five-star red flag on the snow. It symbolizes the perseverance and greatness of the Chinese nation. After enjoying the scenery, I climbed down and helped my comrades in arms to climb down the mountain. My way to the top is over.

After that, I wrote my mountaineering diary. But it was years before I made it public. At this time, the captain died and Lucy was dying of severe typhoid fever. Only Smith and I are still alive. But as far as I know, Smith seems to be living in seclusion in the countryside. Only I still live in the city, enjoying the long lost city life. And today I am telling this to you all—my long lost memory.

A Visit to Huangshan

Shrewsbury International School, Yang, Vison – 10

The mountains were unbelievably beautiful, with graphite-colored rocks that were so amazing that I thought that I was having hallucinations. The towering pines that stood beside the lush, leaf-colored grass made me stare at them in awe. In the distance, I could see the magnificent clouds moving slowly. This whole thing was like a dream, like a storyland. But I was not supposed to be in it.

★ ★

“Fine!” I yelled, boiling with anger.

“Give me the book, now!” screamed my sister, Jenny, from the bottom bunk.

“What’s going on?” shouted Grampa as he dashed in.

“Kevin stole my book when I am reading it.” Jenny lied.

“Is that true, Kevin?” asked Grampa.

“No that is...” I was about to say ‘not true’ when Jenny came up the top bunk and covered my mouth.

“Kevin, do you know how rude it is to take someone’s things without asking? Now say sorry to Jenny.”

said Grampa.

I was stunned. I could not believe that Grampa wronged me. Suddenly, I burst into tears. Angrily and sadly, I grabbed my pillow and ran to the bed in the attic to sleep.

The next morning, I woke up seeing the quiet mountains. Hmm, I thought, I must be having a dream. I blinked my eyes hard and rubbed them. The mountains were still there when I opened them. I was a bit afraid now. Frantically, I called for my Grampa and Jenny over and over, but nobody answered me. I did not have a dream. My eyes were not playing tricks on me. I had teleported to a different place.

I was a curious boy, so I started to walk around and explore. It helped me to calm down and think about what to do. Right, I thought, since I didn't know how to get back to my world, I might as well explore this one. Maybe I can find a city. And off I started to walk.

I walked for approximately 2 hours when I spotted something moving. Excitedly, I moved closer and found out that it was a kid. My heart began thumping. Maybe there is a city somewhere near here! Quickly, I began following the kid. After following for about 20 minutes, I saw something that looked like...a roof! This must be a village!

Happily, I ran towards the village, but when I got close enough, I found out that this village was very different to the village that my grandma lived. The houses are different, the roads are different, the way they lived are different, the language they speak is different, even the people are different. How could I survive here?

I was about to walk away from this village when I spotted a kid. He looked like about 10 years old and had followed me since I got here. He looked kind, looked like a friend that would communicate with him and understand him. I hesitated. I didn't want to leave the kid. So I tried to chat with him.

“Hi, nice to meet you!” I said in my friendliest tone.

The kid did not answer.

“How old are you? Where are your parents? Can we be friends?” I asked.

The kid did not answer.

Strange, I thought, why isn't the kid answering me?

I tried to say hello to the kid in 6 different languages, but still the kid did not answer. Suddenly, I thought about something. Is the kid from China? If the kid is from China, then this must be China.

Oh, great, I thought, my family is in modern London and I am in ancient China. Now Jenny would not annoy me anymore.

“How could I get home?” I moaned to the kid, “I am in ancient China and my family is in modern London.”

The kid did not answer.

“Do I really have to do it on my own? I am not smart enough.” I groaned.

The kid did an action for “Yes you are”.

This time, I stopped for a second before saying no. Am I really smart enough? I asked myself, am I really smart enough to think of a plan and save myself?

I think I am.

Hmm, how could I go back to my world? I thought as I sat on a rock, I suppose there would be an idea..... Suddenly, my eyes lighted up. I came here because the bed made me teleport, so if I sleep on the bed again, would I teleport back? I thought. This plan seemed so convincing that I wanted to try it. So I said goodbye to the kid and left the village to find the bed.

It was not long before I found the bed. Pleadingly, I made a prayer for this plan to work and, as the quiet night fell, I lay on my bed. Goodbye, mountains, I thought. I closed my eyes. I felt myself float.

Drifting ... Drifting... Drifting.....

When my eyes opened, I found myself in the attic. I went down to the kitchen and found Grampa and Jenny waiting.

“Why did you sleep for so long, Kevin? It’s eleven’o clock already!” said Grampa.

Proudly, I grinned. I was proud because I saved myself from that ancient China world. I wanted to tell Grampa what happened, but I decided that I better keep it as a secret.

That would be safer.

The Tale of Chi

Shrewsbury International School, Zarin, James – 9

Cannes, France, August 11th, 1994

The luxurious Carlton International Hotel was bustling with tourists, businessmen and families off on vacation. Unnoticed, a man in a suit walked in holding a briefcase. He touched his earpiece saying, “Are you in position?”

A female replied, “I’m always in position.”

The mysterious man made his way towards the magnificent diamond display. There were three guards watching the diamonds. Then a pretty woman walked past. All three of the guards stared. Swiftly, the man smashed the case, grabbed €40,000,000 worth of diamonds and dashed into the crowd. He was quickly submerged by the crowd and escaped unseen by the guards. Strolling outside with a sly smile, he heard the guards shouting from inside the hotel, “Close the exits! No one gets out!”

The woman confidently walked up next to him, “You got it?” she asked. The man nodded before the duo walked off into the distance.

Present Day, North East China

Cat burglar, Yao Ming, snuck into the dazzling Emperor’s palace, through the back window. Yao enjoyed the warmth because he had entered from the freezing, misty mountains. He felt his back crack. He was starting to get too old for this business. He remembered the old, simple days: walk in, grab the jewels, get out. Yao crawled through the Emperor’s ventilation system and made his way towards the Emperor’s chambers. Soon he was right above the Emperor’s sleeping body.

Yao lowered himself by rope into the Emperor’s bedroom, scanning the walls for the safe. Sure enough, it was there, right next to the Emperor’s bedside.

One of the best in the business, Yao cracked the safe quickly and found himself in front of a glistening ruby. Then he felt the thunderous whack of metal hitting his head and fell to the ground. The Emperor stood over him, still in his nightgown, holding the cane he used to walk.

Emperor’s dungeon, dawn

Yao woke with a start. His head was throbbing in pain and he looked around to see guards positioned and patrolling around him. He looked down at himself. Chains and heavy weights covered his entire body. The guards, noticing he was awake, called the Emperor to come to the dungeon. Yao’s worst fear had come to life. He’d been doing this work for fifty years and this was only the second time he had been caught. But this time it was by the Emperor.

The Emperor yawned and looked at Yao, “You don’t look so well,” he said in Chinese. Yao said nothing.

“Listen,” the Emperor said, “I’m going to cut to the chase. You are in a deep, deep pickle here. You want to get out of it, you’ve got to work for me! And by work, I mean join the army.”

Yao gasped. He had never wanted to work in the military. There were too many rules.

“Never!” Yao exclaimed.

“Ah,” the Emperor said, “you know English. Lucky for you, however, I’ve got a special deal coming your way. I’ve been working on an ELITE group of soldiers, you see Yao. They have been learning to channel chi into physical strength. You serve me for just one year, you’d be stronger than you ever were, and your slate would be wiped clean.”

Yao had to admit, it sounded like a pretty good deal to him. "I'll do it," he said.

The Emperor's Palace

Yao's first day of training was one of the worst days of his life. Push ups, burpees and more push ups. The second day was just as hard as well, but this time Yao got to fight and he beat the competition easily, whipping them to the ground.

He had been taught the art of the whip since he was a child. Over the course of the next few months, it started to get easy. Rumours spread that the misty mountains helped channel chi. It got easier and easier, until Yao was so good at channelling his chi, he was able to send someone flying through the air by giving them a mere uppercut.

North East China, in the city

One day he and the Emperor's men were allowed to get the afternoon off, and they went to the city. Unfortunately, their work came to them. The ground started to vibrate and soon it became clear that a helicopter was the cause. Even though they were twelve stories high, Shadow Warriors were jumping from it and landing on the ground hard. They were armed with swords and bows. Yao and the men ran towards them. The Shadow Warriors were dressed all in black and one screamed, "ATTACK!"

Shadow Warriors were people who used chi for evil reasons. The price was losing your very soul.

The battle raged on. The Emperor's men didn't have their weapons but that didn't stop them. They quickly disarmed the Shadow Warriors and they fought in hand-to-hand combat. Yao suddenly had an idea. "Retreat to the mall!" he shouted, and all the other warriors grasped his idea. They sprinted towards the mall, the Shadow Warriors at the heels of the Emperor's men. Once in the mall (which no citizens were in because they had run for their lives) all the Emperor's men ran to the weapons store. They quickly got what they needed and were all armed when the Shadow Warriors caught up with them. After that, the Emperor's men made quick work of the Shadow Warriors.

A few weeks later, Toronto, Canada

After helping defeat the Shadow Warriors, Yao's slate was wiped clean early and he was able to go see his family in Canada. "*You earned it,*" the Emperor had said. Yao now sat watching his grandkids play with his wife next to him. He was living the dream. "Yao remember our first robbery together. Where was it... ah France right?" his wife asked.

"Yes," Yao replied. "We were able to get €40,000,000 worth of diamonds."

"Happy times, happy times," Yao's wife said.