



Non-fiction

Group 3

Judge Pao, China's Ancient Detective

Chinese International School, Lent, Annabella – 12

For over multiple centuries and decades, Judge Pao was the pinnacle of justice in China and served as its foremost representation of fairness and equity. The epitome of integrity, if you will. Due to the plethora of TV shows, novels, plays, and films that have been based on his life, he is instantly recognized by people everywhere. Even an eight-ballad tale was written about him and the life he led. All of these come in many different languages and have multiple translations, so he is a globally recognizable figure. One example of a novel written about him is “The Seven Heroes and Five Gallants.” Judge Pao was a Chinese politician who performed twenty-five years of civil service and was a true hero.

Judge Pao was born on March 5th, 999, and his birth name was originally Bao Zheng. His family was middle class when he was a little child. His grandfather, Bao Shi Tong, was merely a commoner, and his father was a peasant. Judge Pao was motivated to alter his poor, struggling lifestyle situation that he was forced to live in, and therefore he became a qualified Jinshi at the young age of twenty-two. He successfully passed the most difficult imperial test. (A Jinshi was someone who had passed the highest level of imperial examinations.) Jinshi are also commonly known as Imperial Scholars. These exams were typically conducted in the palace, and becoming a Jinshi was very rare because usually only one or two percent of test takers became a Jinshi per year. It was very difficult to become one and very exclusive. Some may argue that it was because he went through many hardships and rough times when he was a young child that it shaped his career path of justice and fairness.

One case that Judge Pao solved was when a man claimed that the tongue of his ox had been severed. He was instructed to murder and sell the dead ox by Judge Pao. Soon after, a second man approached Judge Pao and charged the first man with animal cruelty and intentionally killing an ox for no reason. The second man was shouted at by Judge Pao, and Judge Pao charged him with intentionally framing the first man by chopping off the tongue of the ox. The offender's horror and state of shock forced him to confess his guilt. When it came to injustice, Judge Pao was an extremely rigorous and intolerant man.

He was known as the "iron faced judge," and people liked to joke that the Yellow River's clean water was as scarce as his smiles. (The Yellow River is so named because of its muddy, sandy appearance that gives it a dirty yellow and brown tint, and more than 80% of it is filthy and polluted) He hated deceit and fraud and he always stood up for what was right. Once, he was even brave and courageous enough to scold and reprimand the emperor. In the olden days, that could have easily gotten Pao immediately beheaded or hung. Yet he still stood up for what was right.

Another famous one of Judge Pao's cases was the case of the Chalk Circle. Hai Tang was a sixteen-year-old girl who was born into a poor family. They gave her up to a prostitution house. She became Ma Chun-Shing's second wife, but Ma Chun-Shing's first wife, Ah-Siu, got jealous of Hai Tang and Ma Chun-Shing being a happy couple together. When Hai Tang and Ma Chun-Shing had a son, Ah-Siu accused Hai Tang of adultery and Hai Tang got beaten. She was nearly hung to death when Judge Pao came to rescue her. Hai Tang's son Shoulang was placed into a circle drawn with chalk and whichever woman the child went to was deemed his mother. In the end, Judge Pao judged Hai Tang the true mother of the child and Ah-Siu was found guilty of falsely accusing Hai Tang.

He also executed Chen Shimei. Chen Shimei had a wife and two children. He then left his family for an imperial examination. When he passed, he lied and pretended to be single, successfully becoming the emperor's son in law. Chen's wife, Qin, and his two children later moved to the capital and found out what happened and how Chen became the emperor's son in law. Qin was desperate for him to come back and help her with their children, but he refused and ordered them all to be killed. However, the executor was actually on Qin's side and was against Chen, so

he didn't kill them. Qin eventually decided to go to Judge Pao and beg for help, so Chen was tried and arrested. Finally, Judge Pao successfully managed to execute Chen Shimei.

The last example of Judge Pao's cases was when he was presented with the case of a mysterious death. A widow's husband had died, and when the autopsy was performed, there seemed to have been no direct injuries related to his body and he originally seemed to have died of natural causes. However, the coroner's wife suggested that it might have been an injury related to the brain. Sure enough, after a little bit of research Judge Pao found out that a long nail had been pushed into the head of the husband, killing him. Since the widow also had a previous husband that had also died of "natural" causes, they dug him up and found yet another long nail embedded in his skull and in his brain. The widow was tried and found guilty of killing her husbands because she wanted to inherit money from their wills so she could finally be rich and live a wealthy, long life. She was executed for intentional murder.

As a result of all of these successful cases, Judge Pao was given the name of 'Justice Pao.' Shortly after this, he turned thirty-nine years old. He then composed a poem while being elevated to the position of Duanzhou prefect in 1040.

"The essence of governing is to have a cleansed heart,
The strategy of life is to follow upright ways.
An elegant stem will eventually turn into a pillar,
Refined steel cannot be bent into a hook.
Rats and sparrows overjoy when the granary is full,
Rabbits and foxes worry when the grassland dies.
History books contain teachings by those deceased:
Don't leave your descendants with only embarrassment!"

Lady Zhang and Lady Dong were Judge Pao's two wives. With Lady Dong, Pao had two daughters and one son, Bao Yi, born in 1033. Two years after marrying Lady Cui, his only son Bao Yi passed away in 1053 at a young age while serving as a government official.

Judge Pao also served as the fiscal commissioner of Hebei, an assistant in the academy of learned worthies, vice commissioner of the ministry of revenue, deputy director of the ministry of justice, minister of finance, and he was also the Bian magistrate in 1057. Throughout the years and throughout all of his positions, he demoted and fired thirty high-ranking officials in total.

He also has a fascinating link to Hong Kong. His family tree has been well documented, and the famed Sir Y.K. Pao family is related to him. The family hails from Hong Kong itself. Hong Kong, where his relatives currently reside, consistently has top honors in international rankings for having a top-notch legal system and one of the strongest corruption-fighting initiatives in the entire world.

Finally, he died during the year of 1062, in Kaifeng, Hainan. He was sixty-three years old, and his body was buried in 1063, a year after he died. Once his wife, Lady Dong, died during the year 1068, she was buried beside him. His tomb was officially fixed and rebuilt during the year 1066 by officials.

Judge Pao came to represent fairness and integrity, gaining acceptance and popularity while doing so. Nevertheless, despite his lofty position, he was a very modest and humble individual who normally preferred to live simply and enjoy everyday life like a commoner. He upheld justice and minimized corruption. There is a Chinese proverb that applies to him quite well: "One justice can overpower a hundred evils." Truly, he was a real-life Chinese Sherlock Holmes.

New Tales of Judge Pao: An Icon of Justice

Heep Yunn School, Lam, Yat Yu – 13

A commanding figure, cloaked in black. On his forehead is a crescent moon, a fitting symbol of serenity and wisdom; an unsullied light in the midst of darkness, as he is. Known for his fairness and adamant incorruptibility, he has long been a legendary figure, an icon of justice in Chinese history. Solving countless crimes with impeccable judgement and reasoning, fighting against corruption among the nobility while caring for the concerns of the peasants, he has not only gained much fame and respect, but also left considerable impact in our modern society. From the past to present, many works about him have been created, although mostly fictionalized, the spirit of these tales—his unwavering righteousness—remains. History remembers him as Judge Pao.

His alias of Judge Pao is nowadays worldwide famous, earning him several honorific titles such as ‘Justice Pao’, ‘Bao Gong’ et cetera. However, this historical figure’s identity is often not as well known. The character of Judge Pao portrayed in stories is based on a real Chinese government official named Bao Zheng. He lived during the Song dynasty, under the rule of Emperor Renzong. Born into a scholar family, Bao could afford to receive education, but still lived a simple subsistent life in the low working class. As he grew up among commoners, he understood the hardships and injustice many of them faced. This led to Bao developing strong morals and a firm sense of uprightness, which were qualities he carried throughout the 25 years of his service in the government, regardless of the position he held. It was also during his early years when his talent for reasoning and judgement was discovered, under the influence of his father. With his gifted intellect and much effort put into his studies, Bao passed the imperial exam at the age of 29, obtaining the title of ‘Jinshi’, which was the highest level of distinction in the exam and earned him the qualifications needed to become a government official.

Over the time he served in the government, Bao held multiple positions, from the magistrate of Tianchang to prefect of Kaifeng to the minister of finance. In all of these posts, Bao continuously demonstrated his imperturbable incorruptibility and insightful sense of judgement. For instance, when he was the prefect of Duanzhou, a place renowned for its high quality inkstones, Bao discovered the misconduct and bribery the previous prefects committed by collecting more inkstones than the required amount for court tribute then bribing influential officials with them. Bao not only put a stop to this unlawful practice, but also left without an inkstone himself when his term of office ended. Moreover, Bao was not afraid of pointing out mistakes in governmental policies or impeaching high-ranking officials, even if it meant offending powerful nobles, royalty or even the emperor, which could result in severe consequences. This was a taboo for many officials, hence Bao’s boldness in pursuing justice was what that gained him much respect.

As aforementioned, although many of the stories about Judge Pao are only legends or imaginary, it was indeed Judge Pao’s character, which was based on the personality traits of the real Bao Zheng, that made them popular. Aside from the captivating plots and scenes of these tales, the reason why the stories were beloved, especially among the Chinese, was that Judge Pao’s persona consisted of a variety of virtues and positive traits considered significant in the traditional Chinese culture. In short, Judge Pao had many of the characteristics that Chinese people regarded as ideal in a person. Three of his most significant qualities include his relentless pursuit for justice, his righteousness and wisdom in his judgement. The first two of the above traits are mentioned in the Confucian fundamental principles of morality, whilst intelligence has always been considered as a positive trait. Therefore, Judge Pao’s personality is often vividly illustrated in his tales.

One of classic traits most associated with Judge Pao is his uncompromising belief in justice. Solving criminal cases, uncovering the truth and sentencing the culprit with a fair degree of punishment is the essence of justice, and it is what Judge Pao has been striving for in nearly all of his crime stories. To achieve justice, Judge Pao’s righteousness comes into play. His concern for the lower class in society; his hatred for corruption and wrongdoing added up with

his determination to eradicate crime inspires him to fight for the weak and against the powerful. Take the tale of Judge Pao Cleverly Executes Court Official Lu for example. This story begins with how a favored official of the emperor, Official Lu commits heinous crimes, including kidnapping both the wives of silversmith Lee and Governor Zhang. When Judge Pao, who has been wanting to sentence Official Lu for his past offenses, hears about this, he has an ingenious idea of miswriting Official Lu's name on the memorial for his sentence in order not to be discovered by the emperor, then writing his name correctly on the memorial after approval so that Official Lu would be executed. Judge Pao's plan succeeds, Official Lu is executed, bringing both families of Lee and Zhang back together. This is a perfect example reflecting how Judge Pao seeks justice for the weak who are harmed and takes action to punish the powerful who deserve it with his unswerving sense of uprightness.

Another of Judge Pao's celebrated characteristics is his wisdom, with which he unravels numerous mysterious crimes and makes fair judgement in cases. This is emphasized in many of the cases, for instance the story of Judge Bao Cleverly Investigates the Circle of Chalk. Hai-tang, the main character of the tale, is taken into the house of a wealthy tax collector Ma as his second wife after being sold into prostitution. However, Ma's first wife grows jealous of Hai-tang after she bears Ma his first son named Shoulang, leading to her poisoning Ma and framing Hai-tang for it. She also claims Shoulang as her own son as to successfully inherit Ma's property, while Hai-tang confesses to a crime she did not commit after being tortured, and awaits the death sentence. Fortunately, Judge Pao notices something suspicious in the case and comes to Hai-tang's rescue by holding a test to determine the real mother of Shoulang. With Shoulang placed in the middle of a chalk circle between Hai-tang and the first wife, the two women are ordered to pull him towards themselves. Having no qualms, the first wife grabs Shoulang, but Hai-tang, his real mother, could not bear to hurt her child. Hai-tang's display of genuine concern and worry for Shoulang is the very evidence needed to prove that she is indeed his real mother, hence Judge Pao deems her innocent and arrests the first wife for the murder of Ma. The story is one of the many examples of how Judge Pao unravels hidden truths through his insightful perceptions and creative strategies to obtain proof. Thus, it is reflected how Judge Pao utilizes his intelligence in achieving justice.

From the ancient ages to the present time, numerous works about Judge Pao have been produced, and they have remained favorites of the public, no matter in the form of traditional plays and novels, or as modern day crime fiction stories and television shows. The character Judge Pao is now a household name, and I believe he will be just as well known in the future, for he still represents some of the most valued traits in humanity. An icon of legal justice in ancient China; a symbol of righteousness and integrity, history will remember his name, for now and forever.

New Tales of Judge Pao

Heep Yunn School, Lau, Yin Tung - 14

When I was reading a Chinese book, I came across an interesting idiom, which translates literally to 'iron-faced and selfless'. Nowadays, while it is used to describe the just and impartial, it was originally used to represent Judge Pao, a truly equitable and righteous figure so powerful that he became the Chinese symbol of justice.

The illustrious Judge Pao himself was not just a legend — Bao Zheng was a real man who devoted himself to combating corruption and crime during the Northern Song Dynasty some 1,000 years ago. His incorruptible character and fair judgement earned him many different names, such as 'Bao Gong', 'Bao Qingtian', and 'Bao Heitan' due to his dark face in later portrayals, with the meaning of 'black coal'. He was even known as 'Yanluo Tianzi', the God of Death in Chinese mythology who judged and ruled over people in the underworld, owing to the beliefs that he became the Yanluo Tianzi at night or after death because he was so fair and honest. His smiles were said to be as rare as clear water in the Yellow River. During his life, he served as a magistrate, an investigating censor and even a prefect in different cities, including the then-capital of Kaifeng, and had a reputation for upholding justice as a judge. This earned him much respect from the peasants of that time, and he was even idolized like a god.

There are a lot of stories in the ancient pages of Song Shi. It is an official Song dynasty historical record, and gives us a peek into the true story of this legendary character. One of these tales is the impeachment of Zhang Yaozuo, the uncle of the emperor's concubine, who was given political power due to his special status. Bao and other officials protested strongly against this. His unhesitant conflicts with royalty and his equal treatment of all offenders reflects his daring and objectiveness. Moreover, Bao is not only fair and just — in the story of the sliced ox-tongue, a man cut off the tongue of a farming ox who belonged to the neighbour that he was unhappy with. Bao ordered the neighbour to kill the ox, which was a crime back then, and successfully tempted the culprit to call out his neighbour for it. Bao's clever approach to the problem shows his intelligence as well as his determined pursuit for the truth. This undoubtedly makes him the 'Sherlock Holmes' of ancient China. Furthermore, despite being offered opportunities to higher positions, Bao remained a magistrate, the lowest level of the central government at that time, in order to look after his elderly parents. It was only after the mourning of their deaths had been properly executed, when he finally accepted these offers. His faithfulness to them is admirable. With his fairness, strict morals, cleverness, and dedication to his parents, Bao is definitely a symbol of good virtue. However, of course, Bao's story does not end here, and even after his death, his legacy greatly influenced the generations after.

The essence of Bao's impartial character was preserved through oral history, folklore, entertainment, and popular culture. Bao's honourable image in traditional culture also shows the respected figure he was when he was alive, inspiring people to spread his story and portray him as a personification of justice. He also became a hero of some of the earliest Chinese crime fiction stories, featured in a myriad of plays and novels in the Ming, Yuan and Qing dynasties, such as the novel *The Seven Heroes and Five Gallants* and the short story collection *The Judge Bao Cases*. Bao was also a common feature in Chinese opera, in cases such as the execution of Chen Shimei. He was the princess' husband who abandoned his wife and daughters for a life of luxury, and got the punishment he deserved for deserting his family. Another popular opera is the case of the dead civet cat exchanged for the newborn prince, where the former Consort Li was denied her rightful position as the empress, because her son was stolen by Consort Liu. In the end, with Bao's intervention, she was crowned the empress dowager as she had deserved. Many modern films and television series have also been based on Bao's stories, from the earliest ones such as *The Crimson Palm* in the 1960s up to this day. Some video games also have Bao featured. Surprisingly his fame is not limited to Chinese grounds — even French and Japanese comic books inspired by the story of Bao have been published! In other Asian countries such as the Philippines, Malaysia, and Singapore, there are also temples featuring Bao Gong.

In fiction, Bao Gong is portrayed with an iconic crescent moon symbol on his forehead and a dark-toned face, which surely reinforce Bao's personality — the crescent moon is a symbol of righteousness and purity, while the darker skin tones create a mighty, literally 'iron-faced' look, especially in traditional opera. Moreover, he is often advised by the clever Gongsun Ce and assisted by the Four Constables, namely Wang Chao, Ma Han, Zhang Long and Zhao Hu. In these stories Bao is also accompanied by Zhan Zhao, a knight-errant accomplished in the martial arts. He often assists Bao in upholding justice.

For those who wish to pay their respects to Bao, the Bao Gong Temple in Kaifeng is a place for pilgrimage. Constructed to commemorate Bao, his stories, relics, related historical artworks, modern wax figures and family tree are all displayed inside the temple. There is also a famous well that was said to have been dug up by Bao himself. Later, people built a pavilion over it and named the well 'Lian Quan', which can be translated to 'Spring of Incorruption'. It was rumoured that while the upright could use the water there to quench thirst, corrupt or dishonorable people would get headaches or discomfort in the abdomen after drinking from it.

Other highlights of the temple are the dragon-headed, tiger-headed, and dog-headed guillotines. Although some say that it was impossible for such equipment to have existed in Bao's time, they are still an interesting association with Bao in folklore. It was said that the guillotines were used for beheading people of different classes. The dragon-headed guillotine for the emperor and royalty was the bluntest; it was followed by the tiger-headed guillotine, for officials, and lastly, the dog-headed one for the commoners was the sharpest. A blunt guillotine allowed a more painful death compared to a sharp guillotine, and those of a higher class received this punishment because they should have been role models to the citizens, instead of committing crimes, as the ruler. The Bao family motto, authored by Bao himself, is also shown in the temple, in which he says any of his descendants who are corrupt officials will not be allowed to return to their homes, or buried in the family graves. This piece of writing alone can fully demonstrate his strict moral standards and nobility.

15th February in the Chinese lunar year is the birthday of Bao Gong, and in Chinese traditions there is a festival that celebrates it. Sadly, it is only practised in a few places nowadays. For example, in Macau, there are a variety of celebration activities, in particular in the Bao Gong Temple. In this temple, there are a lot of festive decorations and even lion dances to honor Bao on the special day. At the same time, in Zhaoqing, aside from martial art and opera performances, elders wear traditional Chinese garments called Xuanduan to carry out a ceremony for Bao. Due to Bao's reputation as an impartial judge and his opening of the first government-run school in Lingnam, some Taoists said that he was Wen Quxing, a constellation commonly associated with literature and talent, descended to the Earth. This image was also promoted in the ancient novel *Outlaws of the Marsh*. As a result, he was often given paper, ink, pens and ink stones as offerings. The statue of Bao Gong is also paraded to exorcise spirits and pray for prosperity.

After more than thirty generations, part of Bao's bloodline has survived in the mainland, Taiwan and Hong Kong. Sir Yue-Kong Pao and Pao Pui-Hing were both descendants of Bao and active philanthropists in Hong Kong. They are recognized for their contributions to society, such as promotion of education and welfare, and are well-known figures in the public.

Finally, as both a historical and fictional character, Bao's representation of justice and a lawful rule is undeniable. Clean, clever, and filial, he serves as an excellent example of a decent and principled man, and nearly a thousand years after his death, he is still a much respected and reputable figure. As tribute to his efforts, we should also uphold justice and the spirit of fairness and anti-corruption just like he once did — and perhaps we might even earn a lucky smile from the iron-faced judge in the underworld!

The Righteous and Heroic Judge

Immaculate Heart of Mary College, Chan, Yuen Kiu – 13

For the poor, no happy life they longed for,
suffered from deprivation and hunger,
Till the best judge ever appeared,
Peace was restored at last.

Judge Pao, renowned as China's Sherlock Holmes, represents justice, wisdom and honesty, righteous figures, the hero of his own people.

In the past few months, long did I have the time to read some novels about Chinese history. Having a relaxing but a rather boring life at home due to the pandemic, reading books was the oasis of my boring life, giving me inspiring nourishments for my body and soul. Once I read a book about Judge Pao, I immediately became interested in him. Thus, I searched for loads of information and learnt more about him.

He is also known as Pao Zheng. He was born in Shenxian, Hefei, Luzhou. With his appearance, a black face with a white crescent moon, he judged with laws and upheld justice. Working as a Chinese politician during Emperor Renzong in China's Song Dynasty, he served as this official position for 25 years. From this point of view, he must have judged many cases. I searched on the Internet and found the case that I felt the most interested in.

The case I am most interested in is "The Case Of Executing Chen Shimei". There was a man who was called Chen Shimei who had two children with his wife Qin Xianlian, when he left them behind in his hometown for the Imperial examination in the capital. After becoming the first, he lied that he was single and became the emperor's brother-in-law. Years later, a destructive famine forced Qin and her children to move to the capital, then they learnt what happened to Chen there from the locals. Qin finally found a way to meet Chen, begging him to at least help their children for survival and peaceful childhood. Not only did Chen refuse, he also sent his servant to kill them in order to hide his secret, but the servant helped the family escape and committed suicide. Desperately, Qin brought her case to Pao Zheng, who then tricked Chen to the court and had him arrested. The imperial family intervened with threats, but Pao executed him nonetheless with no fear at all. This manifested his wisdom of being a just judge who had no fear of anything.

The renowned Judge Pao was born in Shenxian, Hefei, Luzhou, he grew up in a wealthy family. Since his father was a close friend of the local county magistrature, he became interested in judging cases, which eventually allowed him to unleash his talent in reasoning and judgement. In the year 1027, He passed the highest level imperial examination and obtained the title of Jinshi which qualified him to become a government official eventually. However, he had to take care of his aging parents, so he didn't turn to officialdom until 1037. It shows that he was a very filial person. When he served as the Magistrature of Kaifeng, the capital of the Song Dynasty, he fought against corruption in both provincial and central administrative offices and punished the wrongdoers from different social classes, including the closest relatives of the emperor and some of his own relatives. Again, with no fear in his heart, he upheld the justice for the rich as well as for the poor. Due to his popularity and righteous, he was granted a golden rod and imperial sword by the previous emperor, and all these endowed him with the authority to punish the incumbent emperor and execute convicted criminals without prior approval from the emperor. More, he was also given three knives from the emperor to execute criminals, one with a dog's head for commoners, one with a tiger's head for government officials and one with a dragon's head for nobles. This also shows that he was very much influential and powerful at that time. Sadly, Judge Pao died in 1068 at the young age of 69 years old.

Apart from his usual duties, Judge Pao had his merits and achievements as well. According to the historical records, he had submitted at least 13 remonstrances to the Emperor on military, taxation, examination system, governmental dishonesty and incompetence. He also defended peasants and commoners against the unjust, corruption or injustice of that time.

As a student, I learn about Pao Zheng in the novel, *The Judge Pao Cases*. Then, I watched some TV programmes in order to get to know more about him. For example, the TV programmes such as *Justice Pao*, a series produced by CTS TV in 1970s. I also watched *Young Justice Pao*, a series produced by SBC (now Mediacorp), starring Chew Chor Meng as young Pao Zheng in 1994. All these books and programmes are indeed the treasure of Chinese History and the documentaries about this famous judge.

Though young as I am, it is time for me to learn from him, the way he is so serious about his work, his love for the people and his righteousness. Nowadays, Judge Pao is praised as a symbol of justice. In the hearts of many, he is undoubtedly a true-born leader and his legends will be told from generations to generations.

The Legend, the Hero, the Judge

Immaculate Heart of Mary College, Chu, Kwee Emely – 12

Judge Pao, China's Sherlock Holmes.
Who existed in a time without phones.
The Chinese icon of justice.
And also known for his heroicism.

Judge Pao, the symbol of justice, a representative of all honest and upright officials.

He, a crusading figure with a passion to fight crime and clean up the corrupted land, bearing the name that may ring many bells worldwide as there are a number of books and movies inspired by his life, including books and TV shows, such as 'Justice Pao', 'Legend of Kaifeng' etc.

Recently, I have watched a few episodes of 'Justice Pao' myself with a few friends, as we were curious about the righteous figure after our Chinese History teacher briefly introduced this righteous figure in class. After watching one of his famous cases, The Case of Two Nails, I was so much impressed by Pao Zheng who investigated a man's suspicious death while the cause of death was unknown. After an autopsy, his coroner confirmed that there was no wound on the body. Later, the coroner had discussed the case with his wife, who mentioned that someone could force long steel nails into the brain without injuring the body. After a brief investigation, the dead man's widow was arrested, as the coroner found a nail in the body's brain. Afterwards, Pao Zheng questioned the coroner's wife and learned that her first husband had died. He immediately ordered his guards to go to the cemetery and to dig up her first husband's coffin. Sure enough, her first husband had died the same way as the widow's husband did. This interesting story immediately drew my attention and I started to dig up more information about Judge Pao then.

From a pool of information, many might know that Judge Pao, also known as Pao Zheng or Pao Gong who was a Chinese politician during the reign of Emperor Renzong in China's Song Dynasty (960–1279). During his years in civil service, Pao has demonstrated extraordinary uprightness and fairness with actions such as sentencing his own relative, impeaching the relative of the emperor's concubine and punishing some wicked members of powerful families. His appointment as the prefect of Song's capital Kaifeng, where he initiated a number of changes to better the life of the poor, to hear the grievances of the people, allowed him to be a legendary figure.

During his years in office, he attained the title of Justice Pao due to his extraordinary ability to defend peasants and commoners against corruption or injustice, and had never accepted any bribes from powerful people.

Though Pao was not born to a very well-off family, he was born into a scholar family in today's Hefei in eastern China. In TV dramas, he's portrayed to have dark skin and a crescent moon birthmark on his forehead, symbolizing brightness and purity, it characterized his righteousness and upright character. His father was a scholar and an official, while his grandfather was a commoner. As Pao grew up among the low working class, he grew sympathetic towards the hardships ordinary people had to go through, he also hated corruption and strongly desired for justice, thus inspiring him to become a Chinese officer who was honest and never accepted bribery from anyone, while other officials at that time were indulged with material enjoyment, and thus being corrupted and received bribery from the rich in return for their blind judgement in the court.

Unlike the other children in most ordinary families, Pao was a gifted child and he studied very hard. In 1027, at the age of 29, he passed the highest-level imperial examination and obtained the title of Jinshi, which qualified him to become a government official. Pao was appointed as a magistrate of Jianchang County, but he only started his official

career for a decade later in order to take care of his aging parents and observe all the mourning rituals. For this, Pao Zheng had earned a good reputation for his filial piety.

After a decade of being a filial son, Pao Zheng, served as the magistrate of Kaifeng, capital of the Song Dynasty. He fought against corruption in both provincial and central administrative offices. He punished wrongdoers from all levels of society, from commoners to the relatives of the emperor himself.

In 1040, Judge Pao was promoted to the prefect of modern Zhaoqing, a prefecture famous for its high-quality inkstones (a traditional Chinese stationery. It's a stone mortar for the grinding and containment of ink), a number of which were presented to the imperial court. However, Judge Pao had discovered that the previous prefects had collected far more inkstones from manufacturers than the required tribute — several dozens times more — in order to bribe them with the extras. Pao Zheng abolished the practice by telling manufacturers to fill only the required quota.

As a hardworking and loyal officer, in 1044, at the age of 45, Pao Zheng had returned to the capital. For the next two years as an investigating censor, Pao submitted at least 13 memoranda to Emperor Renzong of Song on military, taxation, the examination system, and governmental fraudulence and incompetence.

In 1057, at the age of 58, Pao Zheng was appointed to the magistrate of present day Kaifeng. He held the position for a mere period of one year, but he had initiated a number of administrative reforms such as allowing citizens to directly lodge complaints with the city administrators, thereby bypassing the city clerks who were believed to be nefarious and in the pay of local powerful families. Although Judge Pao gained a lot of fame and popularity from his reforms, his service after the tenure as magistrate of Bian was controversial. For instance, when Pao was appointed to these offices as Zhang's successor. Someone then filed a rebuke against him.

Our heroic figure left us in 1062, Pao Zheng died in the Capital City of Kaifeng at the age of 69. It was recorded that he left the following warning for his family: "Any of my descendants who commits bribery as an official shall not be allowed back home nor buried in the family burial site. He who shares not my values is not my descendant." Pao Zheng was buried in Daxingji in 1063. His tomb was rebuilt by officials in 1066. Lady Dong, one of his two wives (the other being Lady Zhang), died in 1068 and was buried next to him.

According to some stories, in 1973, the remains of Pao Zheng and his family were carried out in 11 wooden coffins and transported back to the hometown of Pao Zheng, DaPaocun. However, the local commune secretary there would not allow their ancestors' remains to be buried on the grounds, otherwise they would be destroyed immediately. Pao Zheng's descendants, worrying that the remains would be eradicated, secretly hid them elsewhere without knowing what to do. The remains, consisting of Pao Zheng's bone fragments, was later be sent to Beijing for forensics research before they were returned to the newly reconstructed cemetery. In 1985, the Pao Gong Cemetery was reconstructed next to the Pao Gong Temple in Hefei in the forested area of Henan and was completed in 1987 to preserve the remains of Judge Pao and artifacts from the former tombs.

According to legends, Pao Zheng was granted a golden rod and an imperial sword by the previous emperor, which gave him the authority to reprimand the incumbent emperor and execute convicted criminals without prior approval from the emperor. Once, Judge Pao used the dragon-headed knife to execute a son-in-law of the emperor. The famous case was about an originally poor scholar, who, after winning the first place in the imperial examination, married one princess while hiding the fact that he had a wife and a family in his hometown. In order to prevent his secret from being exposed, he ordered someone to kill his own wife and children. Judge Pao, again, with remarkable intelligence could solve this case with no difficulty at all.

After reading all the information we have found and collected, we've learnt a lot about Judge Pao's admirable personality and background. We would love to visit the reconstructed cemetery one day. We think that everyone should be honest and be fair to everyone, no matter their social status, appearance, race and culture. Let us learn from Judge Pao today, so we will be an honest person who is willing to stand up for the voiceless, the marginalised and the poor.

The Legend of Judge Pao

Immaculate Heart of Mary College, Suen, Cheuk Laam – 12

When the whole world was blanketed in sadness of the pandemic, many of us had no choice but to stay home for our learning and work. During these days, I started watching a lot of shows about Judge Pao because my grandma always tells me about how amazing and interesting they are, and she was so right about all that.

Judge Pao, also known as Justice Pao was born in 5th March 999. He was born in a scholar family in Shenxian. His family was in the middle class since his father Pao Lingyi was a scholar and official, and because of that he can go to school but he still have to work in the lower class, this made him understood about people's hardship, so he hated corruption and determined to uphold the justice, so he worked and study very hard to become a Jinshi to bring justice to the innocent and poor.

When Judge Pao was 29, he passed through the imperial examination and became a Jinshi. It is extremely hard because there are numerous people in the examination but sadly he had to defer embarking on his official duties to take care of his parents since Chinese people always put their parents above their career. During that time, he became great friends with Liu Yun, the Magistrate of Luzhou. Liu Yun was known for being an excellent poetic and a fair-minded officer. You can see that Judge Pao is very influenced by him.

After the passing of Pao's parents. He was appointed magistrate of Tianchange county at the age of 39. It is the first time that Pao was known as an astute judge. Then he was promoted as a Duanzhou in south due to his excellent performance. Duanzhou is a city that is famous for its fine ink stone, a stone that is used for making ink because of that, a certain amount of ink stone had to be sent to the imperial court.

In the days of him being a Duanzhou, he found that the previous prefects had collected seven dozen times more ink stone from manufacturers than required quota. When his tenure was up in 1043, Pao left without a single ink stone in his possession, so he wrote this poem about it.

Pao returned to the capital in 1044 and was named as an investigating censor for two years. In those two years of being in that position, Pao had submitted more than 13 memoranda to Emperor Renzong of Song, revealing the dishonesty and incompetence in various government departments including: military, taxation, the examination system, etc.

In 1057, Pao was appointed as the magistrate of the capital city of Bianfor for a year, even though it is only a year, he had accomplished several achievements, for example: allowing the citizens to directly lodge complaints to the city administration.

Judge Pao had also been the minister of finance after he had been the magistrate of Bianfor. Pao had two wives in his family, including Lady Zhang and Lady Dong. He had one son called Pao Yi who was born in 1033, and tragically, Pao Yi died at a very young age, so as his son Pao Wenfu who died at 5. Pao Yi was a government officer, he also had two daughters with Lady Dong. Pao's wife Lady Cui was praised for her devotion to the protection of her family because once was a young maid who got pregnant in Judge Pao's family, after knowing that the girl got pregnant by having her father-in-law child, Lady Cui continued to send money and clothing to her home. The child that the maid gave birth to was named Pao Ya, Lady Cui secretly brought him to her house and fostered him. At the same year Lady Cui brought Pao Ya back to his own father, thus enabling the continuation of Pao's family tree.

Though Judge Pao had a high rank in the government, he had never lived a luxurious life. Instead, he was poor. In 1062, the most respectable Judge Pao tragically passed away in the Capital City of Kaifeng due to poisoning. Then, Pao was buried in Daxingji in 1063. Even though Judge Pao had died, he was still influencing people with his famous cases, for example the case of the executing Chen Shimei.

The case of the executing Chen Shimei is one of the most famous case in Judge Pao's career. Judge Pao executed him even though the imperial family intervened him with threats. This case had been retold in Chinese opera because of how interesting it is, and I will recommend it to you if you are interested in Chinese opera. Due to his righteous and wisdom, Judge Pao, the name is not only famous buy it carries the meaning of justice and fairness. He also had a huge impact on Chinese opera and movies. From his story, we learn to be a good person like how Judge Pao is.

Judge Pao has been influencing us till this day in movies, books even on TV shows. I think that all of us should learn from his life and to be a person who is as gracious as him. I also learnt to work hard for my dreams like young Judge Pao. We are quite sure his legend will go on.

The Mighty Judge Pao Cheng and His Legend

Immaculate Heart of Mary College, Tang, Nok Yi – 13

One day I had my Chinese History lesson as usual. I am not quite interested in Chinese History. However, my teacher talked about a legendary person whom I had great interest in. He described the person having a black face with a white crescent-shaped birthmark on his forehead; he was a well-known official and judge in the Northern Song Dynasty.

You may wonder who he is, some non-Chinese people may have not known about him. He is Pao Cheng, who is also known as Judge Pao. He is the symbol of justice and righteousness. He fought against the unfairness in the society and in the governmental bodies. If people ask why he is so popular, I believe it is because he used his talent and his strength to counter the corruption.

In the Northern Song Dynasty, the society was corrupt. People were in severe poverty. Citizens paid money to tackle the daily troubles and difficulty. However, due to corruption, most of their money was taken by landlords. They often did not have enough money to save themselves from trouble. The citizens began to find Pao Cheng to resolve the unfairness and the unjust. Pao Cheng alternatively was willing and selfless to help the citizens. It is the reason that I would like to learn more about him. Therefore I watched a film about him. It talks about the career and influence of Pao Cheng. His personality and achievements inspire many people.

According to Chinese history, the country finance could reimburse the money of county finance which can be paid by the civil servant. Therefore, the public finance of each county could be repaired. However, some civil servants reimbursed the money for everything as they could not get the power that they wanted in reality. At the time, not only a few civil servants would do this, actually all civil servants would do this. This may have caused the corruption in the society at the end of the Northern Song Dynasty. At that time, there were many people who were in poverty, and there usually was unfair treatment. Therefore, Pao Cheng fought against those civil servants who were going to get the money from the government. You may wonder why Pao Cheng would fight against the corrupt. It is because of the influence of his family.

In 999 years, the beginning of Northern Song, our character Pao Cheng was born in a scholar family in Shenxian which is today's Hefei, Anhui Province in eastern China. Pao Cheng is known as Pao Gong, Lord Pao and Judge Pao.

Pao Cheng's family was in the middle class. His father was called Pao Lingyi who was a scholar and an official. Pao Cheng's grandfather was a commoner, and he was called Pao Shi Tong. Pao Cheng was a gifted child and he studied very hard. Since his father was a close friend of the local county magistrate, he became interested in trying cases and showed his talent in reasoning and judgment. As Pao Cheng grew up among the low working class, he well understood people's hardships, hated corruption and strongly desired for justice.

Pao Cheng had two wives, Lady Zhang and Lady Dong. He had one son Pao Yi (1033–1053) who was born in 1033, and two daughters with Lady Dong. Pao Yi and his wife Lady Cui had a son called Pao Wenfu. However, Pao Wenfu died prematurely when he was five years old. There was a Lady called Lady Sun who in Pao Cheng's family became pregnant but Pao Cheng dismissed her back to her hometown. Lady Cui knew the baby was the father-in-law's baby. Therefore, she gave money and clothes to Lady Sun. When the baby was born, she brought him to her house to foster him. This enabled the continuation of Pao Cheng's family line, and the baby was renamed Pao Shou by Pao Cheng and his wife.

In 1027, Pao passed the highest-level imperial examination and became qualified as a Jinshi. At the same time, he obtained the title of Jinshi and “sit presented scholar,” and he was appointed as magistrate of Jianchang County. However, he needed to take care of his aging parents. He did not begin his career in officialdom until 10 years later, after his parents died and he had properly observed all the mourning rituals. For this, Pao earned a high reputation for his filial piety

During the time Pao Cheng looked after his parents at home, Liu Yun, Magistrate of Luzhou who was renowned as an excellent poetic and fair-minded official, usually visited Pao. As the two got along well, Pao obtained great influence from Liu Yun in respect of love for people.

After 10 years of being a filial son, 39 years old Pao Cheng served as the magistrate of Kaifeng, and the capital of the Song Dynasty. He fought against corruption in both provincial and central administrative offices. He punished wrongdoers from all levels of society, including the closest relatives of the emperor himself. Once, a man reported his ox's tongue had been sliced out. Pao Cheng told him to return and slaughter the ox for sale. Soon another man arrived in court and accused the first man of privately slaughtering a “best of burden”, an offense punishable by a year of penal servitude. Pao Cheng bellowed ‘Why did you cut his ox's tongue and then accuse him?’ In shock, the culprit had confessed.

In 1044, Pao Cheng returned to the capital and was named an investigating censor. In the next two years, he had submitted at least 13 memoranda to Emperor Renzong of Song on military, taxation, the examination system, and governmental dishonesty and incompetence.

In 1045, Pao Cheng was sent to the Liao Dynasty as a messenger. During an audience, a Liao official accused the Song of violating the peace by installing a secret side door in the border prefecture of Xiangzhou. Therefore, as it solicits defectors from Liao for intelligence. Pao Cheng retorted” Why is a side door required for intelligence?” The Liao subject could not respond. In the following year, Pao Cheng was Fiscal commissioner of Hebei, Vice Director of the Ministry of Justice, Auxiliary in the Academy of Scholarly Worthies and Vice Commissioner of the Ministry of Revenue.

Pao Cheng was granted a golden rod and an imperial sword by the previous emperor which gave him the authority to punish the incumbent emperor and exec.

He had also been given three knives from the emperor to execute criminals, one decorated with a dog's head for commoners, one with a tiger's head for government officials and one with a dragon's head for nobles.

In 1068, our hero Pao Cheng died. He was 69 years old when he died. He died in the capital city of Kaifeng where present day Kaifeng, Henan. Pao Cheng was buried in Dacingji, his tomb was rebuilt by officials of the Huaixi Road in 1066. His wife was buried next to him.

After Pao Cheng passed away, all of his sons passed imperial court examinations and became officials. They all mirrored Pao Cheng's virtues, and were praised by people as upright officials.

Pao Cheng was a strict person, he didn't want his family members to be corrupt. He once warned his family that “Any of my descendants who commits bribery as an official shall not be allowed back home nor buried in the family burial site. He who shares my values is not my descendant.” Moreover, he saved and helped many citizens. In the end of Northern Song, as we know there were many officials who were corrupt. Therefore, the citizens could not get fair treatment, and they might live harder than we think. Pao Cheng fought against the corrupt that may help the citizens to get a fair treatment, to live better.

In present days, injustice keeps appearing in different levels of the society. People hope for a person who can be an unbiased judge and resolve corruption like Pao Cheng. Despite the long period of time and history, Pao Cheng is still praised by modern people.

An upright, selfless and impartial person, Pao Cheng. His story will be spread forever. When people talk about a righteous person, they will think about our hero Pao Cheng.

My Great Model and the Committed Judge – Pao Cheng

Inmaculate Heart of Mary College, Ying, Cheuk Kiu Cheryl – 13

Black clouds surrounded the world, bright future had been blurred.

Since a legend was born in Song, commoners' lives would be saved.

The man with justice brought the light, corruption of the imperial soon eliminated.

For any locals or anyone who knows about the righteous judge in Chinese history, they would definitely recall the stories of Pao Cheng after reading the poem above.

My encounter with Judge Pao all began when I was still a student of primary school (four years ago). At that time, reading was my only hobby, and I took it as some sort of treasure hunting. Every time I read a book, I could discover some new and concealed gems which conveyed the knowledge about the world. Thus, I always borrowed books from the library. One of my favourite books at that time was the comic 'Seven Heroes and Five Gallants'. I read it again and again as its plot was exceptionally alluring and breathtaking. 'Judge Pao' was also one of my favourite characters. I greatly admire his righteousness and wisdom, since I dreamt to be a detective when I grow up. He is not only an idol of my childhood but also a model of my life.

Although I have learnt about Judge Pao from comic books, the stories might not be adequately comprehensive to describe the facts of him. Therefore, I searched for books in libraries to understand him more. In the following, let me introduce the great judge and his achievements.

In 999, Pao Cheng was born into a scholar's family in present day's Hefei, Anhui Province in eastern China. He was nimble and eager to learn in his childhood. As his father was a close friend of the local county magistrate, he started to become interested in studying various cases, and he waited for a great chance to show his flair in reasoning and judgement.

Pao's dream of serving his people came to true in 1027 when Pao Cheng passed the highest-level imperial examination by his hard-work and received the title of Jinshi or "sit presented scholar", which qualified him to become a government official. However, concerning his ageing parents, he didn't begin his career right away till 10 years later, after the death of his parents while Pao observed all the required mourning rituals. He earned a good reputation for his love for his parents, and that was indeed a good foundation for starting his career.

After taking care of his parents for 10 years, he served as the magistrate of Kaifeng which was the capital of the Song Dynasty. He fought against the corruption of both provincial and central administrative offices. Moreover, he treated all levels in the society equally. Even though the wrongdoer was the closest relative of the emperor himself, Pao had no fear at all, instead, he would give him the same punishment as a commoner.

Moreover, Pao Cheng was granted a golden rod and an imperial sword by the previous emperor, which allowed him to punish the incumbent emperor and execute convicted criminals without the prior permission from the emperor. In addition, he had been given the three knives from the emperor for executing criminals: one decorated with a dog's head for the commoners, one with a tiger's head for the government officials and one with a dragon's head for the nobles.

And at last, Pao Cheng ended his legendary life at the age of 69 in 1068.

In legends, the character Judge Pao solved a lot of well-known cases. A famous one is 'The Case of Executing Chen Shimei'. It is about a man named Chen Shimei who placed first in the imperial examination and had a marriage with the princess who allow him to be the brother-in-law of the emperor. However, he had his own family, a wife and two children, which he concealed to the emperor. Years later, Qin Xianglian, the wife of Chen

Shimei, and her children were forced to move away by a famine. They moved to the capital and found out what happened to Chen. Qin asked for his help to take care of their children but he refused to take up any responsibilities. After that, to avoid his secret being revealed, Chen sent his servant to kill his own family. However, his servant helped the whole family escape. Then, Qin brought the case to Judge Pao. Pao tried the case and Chen finally received a heavy sentence, which was an execution in spite of pressures and threats from the imperial family. It showed that Judge Pao had no fear of the powerful authorities at that time.

Another case is 'The Case of Executing Pao Mian'. It is about Pao Cheng's nephew, Pao Mian, who became a county magistrate, was found taking guilty of misconduct acts. He used to be unprejudiced in every case, but since Pao Mian's mother, Wu, treated Pao Cheng as her own son when he was little, he started to struggle between the Confucian concepts of loyalty and filial piety. At last, he executed his nephew and went to his sister-in-law to apologise tearfully and ask for forgiveness. It shows that Judge Pao judged people impartially in any situation.

As Pao Cheng had lots of achievements, his story had been adapted in popular fiction and drama, such as 'Bao Gong An' in the Ming Dynasty (1368–1644) and 'Seven Heroes and Five Gallants' in the Qing Dynasty (1644–1911). Therefore, most people regard Pao Cheng not as the minister and political critic of documented history but as the courtroom judge of the classic work.

With the advantage of different adaptations of Pao Cheng's legends, his stories have been spread around the world. Not only known by Chinese people, he is also renowned in some foreign countries.

In France, a Chinese editor, Xu Ge Fei, founded FEI, a press which chiefly publishes Chinese classic tales. She found Patrick Marty, a french TV screenwriter to create a comic which could facilitate westerners' understanding of Chinese culture. Marty accepted the invitation and then did research to select a suitable theme for the comic. Coincidentally, he found out the legends of the popular Chinese Judge. He was impressed by Pao Cheng's image of wisdom and courage. Xu Ge Fei, Patrick Marty and the Chinese cartoonist, Nie Chong Rui later collaborated to depict the brand-new Judge Pao.

After appearing on the market in France, it became well-liked in just an instant. It soon released the Italian and Dutch versions in the same year. Two years later, the English and Chinese versions were launched. It was confirmed that the tales of Judge Pao undoubtedly achieved an appreciable work on out-spreading Chinese culture.

Since lots of works use Judge Pao's stories and legends as the prototype of their plots, people know not only about the character, Judge Pao, but also the real person Pao Cheng progressively, and they start to understand more about his righteousness, wisdom and bravery. For me, it is also a new perspective to learn further about the meritorious traits of Pao Cheng, apart from enjoying the judicial stories of him. There is always something we can learn from this greatest judge of all, and personally, I believe that his stories will be passed on and continued be the comfort of the underprivileged and the oppressed.

Judge Pao, a Hero of All Times

Immaculate Heart of Mary College, Zhao, Kangru Carol – 13

A guardian for the commoners, the heroic case-solver.
A face shines in the dark, Illuminating the heart of every villager.
No more injustice, no more deception
But a good leader who fears no one.

The iconic and righteous Judge Pao, the Chinese Sherlock Holmes, is also considered as a true hero for many families and citizens whom he helped during his twenty-five years of civil service. As an icon striving for equality amongst the wealthy and the under-privileged, he vowed to never let anyone down with his enacted judgement.

During the pandemic, I had nowhere to go but to get stranded at home for such a long time, so I entertained myself by watching various Chinese historical TV shows and documentaries to have a better understanding of Chinese culture. That's when I stumbled upon a TV programme called Judge Pao. In the programme, Judge Pao was portrayed wearing a judge's zhan jiao futon hat, having his dark-complexioned face and black, and bushy beard is the most outstanding feature of him. Moreover, the white crescent-shaped birthmark protruding on his forehead is definitely his unique symbol.

Some people may ask, "Who is Judge Pao? What was his early life like? What role did he play in the court during his years of service? And more importantly, what was the influence that he brought?" My curiosity and respect towards him inspired me to watch the drama and do some additional research, and the mysteries were then unveiled eventually one by one. The stories of different Judge Pao's cases were so vivid that I enjoyed studying every one of them.

Pao Zheng (999–1068), also widely known as Pao Gong or Judge Pao, was a Chinese politician during the reign of Emperor Renzong in China's Song Dynasty. He has also earned himself the honorable title of Justice Pao during his years in the office due to his righteous and honest discretion which offered fairness to the poor ones who came for his help.

During Year 999, Pao Zheng was born in a scholar family in Shenxian (which is in today's Hefei, Anhui Province in eastern China.) His father, Pao Lingyi, was a scholar and an official, while his grandfather, Pao Shi Tong, was a commoner. Though Pao's family was middle class and could afford to send him to school, life wasn't easy for them at all. According to some stories, Pao's mother had to collect firewood for the family despite the fact that she's just about to give birth to Bao.

Since Pao had an ordinary upbringing, he understood people's hardship and how the poor was suppressed by the upper class, and thus, he was determined to fight against corruption and stand up for the oppressed.

As a child growing up with extraordinary talent, Pao was a gifted child who manifested uncommon intelligence beyond his age. He didn't let his talent be wasted, on the contrary, he studied extremely hard to pursue his career. As his father was a close friend of the local country's magistrate at that time, Bao invested into deciphering cases and he later discovered the talent he had in reasoning and judgment. This laid the foundation for the prosperity of the dynasty.

During 1027, when Pao was 29, he passed the highest-level imperial examination, and thus he was awarded the title, Jinshi, which was also known as "Sit Presented Scholar." This gave him the qualification of becoming a government official. As a result, Bao was appointed as magistrate of Jianchang County.

After receiving the appointment, many new officials might be thrilled to pursue their career right away, however, Pao chose to postpone his career in the court for over a decade in order to take good care of his aged and sick parents. According to the historical record, he was a good son who observed the mourning rites after his parents' death. The act of filial piety he paid to his parents earned Pao a high reputation and appreciation among the villagers.

In 1037, after 10 years, Pao finally returned to the imperial administration and served as the magistrate of Kaifeng, capital of the Song Dynasty. It was there that Pao first established a reputation as an astute judge. He punished wrongdoers from different classes of the society, including sentencing his own uncle to death for the crime he committed.

The imperial family, in order to show their respect towards Pao, the previous emperor of the Song Dynasty granted him a golden rod and an imperial sword to give him the authority to punish the incumbent emperor and execute convicted criminals without prior approval when necessary.

In 1062, the people remembered this renowned judge as Pao ended his civil service with his demise, in the Capital City of Kaifeng (present day Henan), at the age of 69. When he was alive or even after his death, he was very much well-respected and admired by the people of the county he served. A hero in their eyes, a hero forever.

To commemorate this great judge, in 1985, the Pao Gong Cemetery was reconstructed beside the Pao Gong Temple in Hefei, in the forested area of Henan. The cemetery was later completed in 1987 to preserve the remains of Pao Zheng and the artefacts from former tombs of his. As the cemetery holds the exact place for Pao Zheng and his family remains, his descendants have been protecting it carefully and sincerely with respect to this day.

For most Chinese, however, would probably know Pao Zheng as the courtroom judge in popular Chinese dramas and fiction, but not as an administrative minister. This is because popular portrayals of Judge Pao, this historical figure, could be found in the detective novel, "Pao Gong An," written in the Ming Dynasty (1368 AD–1644 AD) and the novel "Seven Heroes and Five Gallants," originating in the Qing Dynasty (1644 AD–1911 AD). Furthermore, Pao Zheng's stories were preciously retold and preserved from generation to generation, particularly in the form of performing arts like Chinese Opera and more.

As a student, I know that Pao Zheng is most famous for his uncompromising stance against corruption among the government officials at that time. We all admire his courage and intelligence in doing his job. He upheld justice, making him extremely popular in China, especially among the peasants and the poor. He became an iconic feature in literature and modern Chinese TV series in which his adventures and cases are retold again and again and have become the best bedtime stories ever.

Undoubtedly, Judge Pao will always remain a legend in the hearts of all of us but also in the hearts of others all around the world who have read about his stories. Let us not to forget Judge Pao but to keep learning from his good deeds from today onwards. Then, we can make contributions to our county and to be a role model to the next generation.

Judge Pao

Korean International School, Ku, Chun Hang Jaydon – 11

Judge Pao or Justice Pao was a famous Judge and was one of the founders of the island that we live in right now Hong Kong.

Who was Judge Pao?

Commonly known as Bao Zheng, he was a Chinese politician at the time of the Song dynasty. During his time working for the civil services he demonstrated to be honest and cheerful to be around, though he was honest and cheerful he was also hard working and this would grant him respect later in his years. In fact he was so loyal to his job that he sentenced his own uncle for his sinful and misdeeds.

What and who is he now?

Due to his ability to defend peasants, commoners against corruption or injustice and initiated a number of changes to better hear the complaints from the people and in turn made him the legendary figure he is now. Bao Zheng today is honored as the cultural symbol of justice in Chinese society. His largely fictionalized Gong'an and wuxia stories have appeared in a variety of different literary and dramatic mediums beginning with “*The Seven Heroes and Five Gallants*”, and have sustained popularity till now. In Chinese mythology, he is often portrayed wearing a judge's zhan jiao Futou hat and a crescent moon on his forehead. Some Chinese provinces later deified Judge Bao, associating him to the compassionate war god Guan Gong.

Early life of Judge Pao

Bao's family was in the middle class, his father Bao Lingyi was a scholar while his grandfather Bao Shi Tong was a commoner. Though Bao's parents could afford to send him to school, his mother had to climb up mountains to collect firewood just before she gave birth to him. As Bao grew up amongst the low working classes, he had well understood the commoner's hardships and hated the corrupted rich and strongly desired for justice. At the age of 29 Bao became a Jin Shi passing the highest level examination, Bao was appointed as magistrate of Jianchang County, but had to postpone embarking on his official career for a decade due to having to take care of his elderly parents and then faithfully and mournfully observing their passing ceremony.

The Prefect of Duanzhou

In 1040, Bao Zheng was promoted to the prefect of Duanzhou, a position famous for its high-quality inkstones, a certain number of which were presented annually to the imperial court. However, Bao discovered that previous prefects had collected far more inkstones from manufacturers than the required tribute and several dozens times more in order to bribe influential ministers with the extras. Bao put an end to the practice by telling manufacturers to fill only the required amount.

Bao Zheng's Family

Bao Zheng had two wives, Lady Zhang and Lady Dong. Bao had one son named Bao Yi and was born 1033 and had two daughters with Lady Dong. His only son Bao Yi died in 1053 at a relatively young age while being a

government officer, two years after his marriage to Lady Cui. Bao Yi's son, Bao Wenfu , died prematurely at the age of five.

However, when a young maid called Lady Sun in Bao Zheng's family became pregnant, Bao dismissed her back to her birthplace. Lady Cui, Bao Yi's wife, knew that the maid was pregnant with her father-in-law's child but still continued to send money and clothing to her home. Upon the birth of Lady Sun's son named Bao Yan, Lady Cui secretly brought him to her house to foster him. The following year, she brought him back to his biological father, thus enabling the continuation of Bao's family line. Bao Zheng and his wife rejoiced, and they renamed their new son to Bao Shou.

Bao and his Wife's Deaths

Bao died in the Capital City of Kaifeng in 1062. It was recorded that he left the following warning for his family saying: "If any of my descendants who commits bribery (crime) as an official shall not be allowed back home nor buried in the family burial site. He who shares not my values is not my descendant. Bao was buried in Daxingji in 1063. His tomb was rebuilt by officials of the Huaxi Road in 1066 and when Lady Dong died in 1068, she was buried right next to him in his tomb. The Bao Gong Cemetery was reconstructed next to the Bao Gong Temple in Hefei in the forested area of Henan in 1985 and was completed in two years time and to preserve the remains of Bao Zheng and artifacts from the former tombs. As for the exact location for the rest of Bao Zheng and his family remains a secret.

My favorite case of Bao

When Bao Zheng was an infant, he was raised by his elder sister-in-law, Wu and was treated like her own son. Years later, Wu's only son Bao Mian became a magistrate, and was convicted for bribery and malfeasance. Finding it impossible to fulfill both Confucian concepts of loyalty and filial piety, an emotional Bao Zheng was about to reluctantly execute his nephew. In the end, the real suspects were forced to confess and Bao Mian's sentence was commuted.

Tales of Judge Pao

Singapore International School (Hong Kong), Mak, Chun Ho – 14

Nine-hundred and ninety-nine AD, Hefei, Luzhou, now present day Feidong County. A baby, fresh from his mother's womb, lay wailing on the bed. His parents picked him up tenderly, not knowing what kind of future awaited him. One that was of justice, law, and as a worldwide phenom almost ten decades later...

Born into a scholar family, the man who is now known as Judge Pao, was also known as Bao Zheng, his birth name. Both fortunate enough to have sufficient resources provided by his middle-class family to go to school but yet unfortunate enough to have to endure a lower-class standard of living, he grew up amongst the lowest of the working class. Interacting with them daily, feelings of sympathy and empathy soon developed within him, and noticing that they were somewhat segregated and mistreated by the rest of society, a sense of justice soon emerged. Despising all the corruption and understanding the hardships and from that, he worked even harder to achieve his aspiration of passing the highest level of imperial examination, hence starting the journey of one of the world's greatest judges.

At the young age of twenty-nine, the young Bao soon progressed and further qualified as a Jinshi, the final and highest degree of in the imperial examination of China, better known as an imperial scholar. Eventually, he was appointed as magistrate, which was an imperial official in charge of a county, of Jianchang County, but soon decided to undertake his official career a decade later, in order to care for his ageing parents. After their passing, at the age of thirty-nine, he was then appointed as the magistrate of Tianchang County. It is a fact that Bao started his famous campaign as a sharp-witted judge. One of the most known and popularised stories of Bao was said to have originated from here. Based on a Chinese anecdote, the story was said to have been along the lines of a man approaching Bao, stating that his ox's tongue had been cut out. In response, Bao told him to return to his cow, slaughter it, and put it on sale. A few days later, another man approached Bao and proclaimed that the first man had privately slaughtered his cow, accusing him of an offence punishable by a year of penal servitude. However, Bao instead responded with, "Why did you cut his ox's tongue and then accuse him?". Shocked, the perpetrator had no choice but to confess to committing the crime.

From then on, word continued spreading about this genius and shrewd thinker of a judge. Bao continued moving from place to place, being promoted to become the prefect of Duanzhou. During that time period, there was an example of him preventing the corruption that he expressed his detest for. Duanzhou was a prefecture famous for its extremely high-quality inkstones, which is a stone mortar used for grinding and containment of ink, still widely used nowadays, however it was highly coveted back then. Bao's task was to return with inkstones of a certain number and present them to the imperial court. However, Bao soon realised the previous prefects of Duanzhou collected far more inkstones than the required amount, as the extra was soon used to bribe influential ministers with the extras. In order to prevent this from happening once more, Bao abolished the practice by telling manufacturers to only provide the necessary amount. Due to his honesty and integrity, after leaving Duanzhou, he never had a spare inkstone in his possession, not one, not two, keeping true to his word.

In a few years, Bao returned to the capital and was named an investigating censor in 1044. He was also soon promoted to become an imperial censor. During his years in the government, Bao had thirty high officials demoted for corruption, bribery and dishonesty. These would also soon be the last years of his life. From the year 1057, he was appointed as the prefect of Kaifeng. Although only holding the position for one year, his impact was widely felt, once again due to the multitude of cases he tackled and solved.

Finally, at the age of sixty-three, Bao passed away, in the capital city, at the time, of Kaifeng. It was stated that he left a warning to his family: "Any of my descendants who commits bribery as an official shall not be allowed back home nor buried in the family burial site. He who shares not my values is not my descendant".

An interesting story that concerns his bloodline is the fact that the first of Bao's children, Bao Yi, died at a relatively young age of twenty after being married two years. Bao Yi's son, Bao Wenfu, died prematurely at the age of five. However, a young maid, known as Lady Sun, in Bao's family became pregnant, Bao then dismissed her to her hometown. After hearing the news, Bao Yi's wife, Lady Cui, knew that the maid was pregnant with Bao's child. Hence, she continued to provide resources and clothing to the maid's home. Soon, Lady Sun gave birth to a child named Bao Yan, who then was brought back to Bao and his wife a year later by Lady Cui. They rejoiced, as this enabled Bao's family line to continue on. They then renamed their child from Bao Yan to Bao Shou. With this incident, Lady Cui was highly credited to the conservation of the Bao family, who has since then now settled in Hong Kong.

The great Bao Zheng, also known as "Justice Bao", lived a successful and noble life. If he had seen how much his life, his story impacted everyone, he definitely would have been satisfied. And he surely, unquestionably, has had one of the largest impacts on the world, and its storytelling.

The Immortal Judge

St. Joseph's College, Siu, Chung Hung Yeung Aston – 14

The legacy of Judge Pao is undoubtedly one of the greatest symbols of Justice within the history of ancient China. During his lifetime, Pao was known for his righteousness & undying strive for justice, such that he dared to scold the ancient Chinese emperor directly, something that would normally result in certain death. For over a millennium, Judge Pao's story left all of us flabbergasted by his courage, wit, & modesty, earning the name: China's Sherlock Holmes.

The tales of Judge Pao has been going on for a thousand years, many books, TV shows, & films were made in his name, to honour him as a witty & dauntless defender of justice. He was often compared to the great detective Sherlock Holmes, hence the title above, however, unlike Sherlock, he served as a judge rather than a detective. Stories of Judge Pao often revolves more around his attitude towards justice & his unwavering loyalty to morals, whereas the stories of Sherlock Holmes puts a spotlight on “whodunit” rather than the topics of justice. In this essay, we'll go on a journey through history, regarding his great detective works, heritage, & controversies within. But before we dive deeper into the tales of Judge Pao, we first have to discover his roots, & to witness history with our own perspective.

Judge Pao was born in ancient China in 999 A.D. during the Northern Song Dynasty. Like many historical greats, Pao came from a humble background. His father was a scholar & government official, & his family was considered in the lower end of the middle class. Since Pao was from a working class family, he deeply understood people's hardships & social issues from a young age. Pao saw the corruption in high levels of the government, hence his strong desire for justice. At the age of 29, he passed the highest level of the Chinese Imperial Exam & became a Jinshi (進士). Relatively young to be holding this position, he became a magistrate of Duanzhou. As I've mentioned, Pao took justice very seriously, & not just according to law. He developed his own moral code & acted as a judge during his tenure, hence the name “Judge” Pao.

As his tales of justice continue to expand throughout the nation, Pao received praise & respect from his fellow officers, & was promoted to prefect level, then eventually, investigating censor. Pao was called to the palace because of his reputation of being an uncompromising judge, in addition to his work castigating wealthy imperial families. He “spoke truth to power”, & initiated reforms for justice of the people, not only the affluent. This led to him being given the honorific title of Bao Qingtian (包青天), signifying him as a person who brings justice to the people. As the stories of his miracles spread, people heard about his miraculous powers of detection. However, many of these stories turned out to be fictional, nonetheless, it is undeniable that Pao was an astonishing judge, who was courageous enough to impeach high ranking imperial officers, such as the emperor.

As a man of justice, Pao was distinguished from other law enforcement officers by his candor, simply put, he was not afraid to call out whatever immoral or stupid things anyone has done. He famously remonstrated the emperor during the Northern Song Dynasty, telling the emperor personally of what he did wrong. Although what he did could have gotten him executed for the slightest lack of disrespect, Pao stood by his moral code & what he said, not feared of the consequences he will face. On one occasion, the emperor was going to issue an amnesty to all criminals & promote all government officials. Nevertheless, Pao saw the wrong in this & conferred with the emperor directly. Fortunately, the emperor decided that his advisor was correct, & the bluntness in Pao continued to thrive & lived a life of open honesty.

During his lifetime, Pao demonstrated uncompromisable justice & unwavering loyalty to the truth. His esteemed investigative skills led him to be one of the most famous titles in Chinese history. With an undying legacy

of integrity & courage, Pao prosecuted thousands of criminals during his time, while also aiding thousands in their quest of innocence.

After his passing, Pao was named the immortal judge by historians & civilians alike. One of the main reasons Judge Pao was deemed the title was because of a common folklore, stating that he acts as a judge in a form of hell in ancient Chinese religion. According to the common myth, Pao ran the department named “The Infernal Bureaucracy”, acting as a deity judge to all those pass him. It is not common to see a regular mortal being escalated to such a position, reflecting his dignity & impact in terms of divine justice. The tales of Pao still live on today, with screenwriters & filmmakers grabbing every opportunity to bring the thousand year old judge to life.

With seemingly large sphere of influence even in modern days, one of the most eye catching things to discuss about Pao is his legacy. As I’ve mentioned above, Pao’s undying legacy continues to remain forceful through the centuries, with the spotlight shifting to Hong Kong. According to history, Hong Kong is the residing place of his descendants, which makes sense, as Hong Kong is the city where the Song Dynasty met its end. Hong Kong is known for its highly developed legal system, with separation of powers, & judicial independence. As the place where his legacy lies, I think Judge Pao would be proud of the legal system that his grandchildren would take part in, as well as one of the best crime fighting institutions in the world.

When I first sat down at my desk trying to muster all the little energy I have left to conjure this essay, I never thought I would discover someone with such righteousness. The new tales of Judge Pao gave me an opportunity to submerge myself into the legal system of ancient China, including its influence in Hong Kong today. The legacy of Judge Pao laid the foundation of many justice systems, & gives aspiring law officers a role model to look up to. While there is no way to decide whether the tales of his crime fighting stories are true or otherwise, its hard to not feel amazed by what Pao had done to ensure justice prevails, for whomever deserves it.

One of things Pao impressed me most was his candor, his courage, & although he is well aware of the potential aftermath, he never fails to let fear or glory take over him. From time to time, people will bring up some recent news article about some criminal cases & give their opinions about it. Judge Pao helped fostered an environment & culture where we dare to raise our voices when we feel there is injustice. His tales set a role model for how our judicial system continues to develop, to ensure that what he stood for still stands today. Together, we can too, foster a society where every man is bound by laws, to ensure liberty & equality, justice for all. At the end of the day, it is up to us to decide whether things are right or wrong. Wherever our opinions lie, I hope we can look back at our decision & affirm ourselves that we did the right thing, just like what he did in the new tales of Judge Pao.

Judge Pao

St. Margaret's Coeducational English Secondary and Primary School, Cheung, Man Kit – 13

Judge Pao, a determined judge, fearlessly challenged the corrupted officials and deal out justice. He is a symbol of justice, he hates corruption and 'spoke truth to power', insulting powerful imperial families and rich.

One of the pillars of his fame was the courage in remonstrating with anyone who did immoral or terrible things, including the emperor himself, who could have had him instantly executed for the slightest lack of respect.

On one occasion, the land was hit with huge floods. When the waters finally fall back, the grateful emperor decided to express his gratitude to the gods by issuing a blanket forgiveness to all criminals and promoting all civil and military officials.

Bao objected to the plan. Justice and meritocracy were too important to set aside in this way, he told the emperor. Acts of criminality must lead to punishment, and genuine acts of merit must be the only way to rise in government.

The emperor decided his advisor was correct. Other than living in a culture where thoughts expressed too honestly to people in power could cause disaster, Bao spoke his mind and continued to thrive.

Bao Zheng took on many different parts before he was promoted to the position of perfect of the Song capital, Kaifeng, and enjoyed a reputation as fair and virtuous judge after his appointments. Although it seems to be just another long and impressive resume of a successful public servant, Bao Zheng became an exceptional character as his cases evolved into many legendary acts of justice, such as accusing an uncle of Emperor Renzong's favorite concubine, punishing powerful corrupted families and even sentencing his own uncle. Not only moving within the circles of the rich and powerful, Bao Zheng was also known to have initiated many legal reforms to better address the grievances of the people.

As a judge, Pao was said to have tried cases with integrity, firmness in law enforcement and impartiality. For examples, he allowed people with little education to make complaints orally without having to complete paperwork. In this way, they could avoid injustices exerted by some officials who would offer to represent them at high cost.

In his lifetime, Pao fulfilled his task as a senior Chinese official until he was old. He did not leave a lot of property like other officials of the time, and instead only owned a plot of land about two hectares where he build a guesthouse for his old age.

Judge Pao Climate Change Speech

YK Pao Middle School, Ge, Ashley – 14

Good morning to my fellow listeners, I am judge Pao. Today all of you are here to talk about a serious problem: Climate Change. It is happening in our lives, but we don't even pay attention to it. According to research, with every increase of 1.5°C in temperature, 4% of mammals lose their habitat. With only 3°C of temperature increase, which seems small, 41% of mammals lose their habitat, that is almost half of the entire mammal population. Live coral reefs have decreased by half already, and with only a 2°C of temperature increase, 99% of coral reefs will disappear. Up to one million species are facing the problem of extinction and animals becoming extinct in no time is highly possible. Due to climate change, animals are forced to move away from where they are used to be at and more towards higher altitudes or towards the north and south poles so it's colder. This migration shifts the settlements of animals and viruses and even humans. Even human health can be affected by the reduce of parts of the ecosystem and the spread of viruses. Who is it to blame for climate change though? The main cause of climate change is large companies or industries that produce large amounts of greenhouse gases and smoke. Around 25% of emissions in the world come from factories. 1/3 of deaths from stroke, lung cancer, and heart disease are caused by smoke emissions from factories, just imagine all these poor people who must suffer through all the mess they made. I would not severely punish these people, because as someone that judges fairly, I believe that this is not completely their fault. However, this should be changed. For reducing climate change, a set of new policies should be brought out. We would be investing more money for the use and development of renewable resources like solar and wind energy. Some countries have already set up quotas or objectives to improve the situation. The Kyoto Protocol aims to reduce greenhouse gases to at least 5% below the 1990 level. Countries like Norway is already committing to this objective and agrees that their greenhouse emission level during 2008–2012 will not be more than 1% higher than the 1990 level. This is working quite effectively for countries based on feedback. For those of you from large industries listening to this right now, my plan is to come up with an objective. Our quota for this year is to emit less than we have before. By doing so, we can limit the emissions each year bit by bit and contribute to the reducing of climate change. We can decrease the use of plastic packaging and replace them with recyclable materials, and instead of burning fossil fuels, the government will contribute for investing in renewable resources, but you are responsible for making it happen. There would be no punishments, but the effects of climate change are on yourselves. Make a change, if you want to save yourself, first contribute to saving the environment. The whole world would be shining just like the stars in the night sky. Brightness would return to us. Thank you.

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Judge Pao Climate Change Speech

YK Pao Middle School, Ghesquiere, Naele – 14

Climate change is making an enormous change in our lives. This year, it was 28 to 30 degrees Celsius in Shanghai in September, according to weatherspark.com, in 2021 September, it was 18 to 21 degrees. As you can see, there was a 27% increase in the temperature. This change in our lives affects not only humans on this very planet, but the wildlife, and biodiversity.

Firstly, global warming is happening due to human activities, primarily the burning of fossil fuels, which also increases heat-trapping greenhouse gases in the Earth's atmosphere. China is one of the biggest threats to global warming as it has many hazardous factories, which pollute the air and dramatically changes the climate. Fortunately, China is trying to control this problem to help the world.

In addition to pollution, global warming causes droughts and cyclones that are gradually destroying biodiversity. In Australia, there is an example of a disaster caused by global warming. According to BBC.com, in 2013, there was a very big heat wave that made the temperature reach 44 degrees Celsius in Bairnsdale, Victoria, Australia. The drought killed all trees in the area which later became a desert with only a little number of animals living there.

The most important action, in this case, is to reduce pollution, burn fossil fuels more carefully, and develop new energy sources. One of those new sources could be clean coal. A good example would be the Shanghai Tower which burns clean coal and produces little air pollution. Another way is to have a nationwide road network that allows gas-powered automobiles to connect all cities by a two-lane highway system or better. That would allow easy connection between cities, and prevent the pollution caused by cars and trucks on city streets. Another way is to develop wind power farms in China, which could replace many fossil fuel plants and reduce energy costs. In addition, it would be straightforward to build a wind farm in China because it has many deserts. That would generate more electricity than most other countries.

Even though some refuse to think that this horrible, torturing, and tormented situation is essential, I, Judge Pao, believe that everyone who refuses to have allow any of these new sources built should be punished, and do community service, to help this world! If you think that you can't do anything to help, you are wrong! You could try recycling your trash and buying more organic products. With these solutions, we can make this earth a better place!

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Judge Pao Climate Change Speech

YK Pao Middle School, Hu, Grace – 14

Greetings to you all. I'm Judge Pao and I am here to announce the verdict for the cause of climate change. That, the verdict, is that people's reluctance to make change is the major cause of the catastrophic climate change. This is because it causes excessive emissions of greenhouse gases, a reason that is both true and commonly accepted. I will explain the details in the following paragraphs.

According to the United Nations, fossil fuels contributed to "75% of the global emissions of greenhouse gases". Fossil fuels are widely and dominantly used to generate electricity. However, it is not that modern technology of the 21st century is not advanced enough to produce electricity using other more environmentally friendly methods. Wind turbines for electricity were created in 1887, solar panels were created in 1954, nuclear power plants were put into use in 1954, and hydroelectric power plants were first used in 1878.

Evidently, the common alternatives for fossil fuels have long existed and were developed during their time existence. Is it not foolishly stubborn to think, all of you here, that alternatives can't be used? You might ask, however, aren't the alternative sources dangerous to not just people but the environment too? Well, my response to you is for you to compare whatever deaths brought by alternative energy sources to at least 8.7 million deaths brought to us annually by fossil fuels. Still, that excludes the deaths caused by smog, which is also an effect of combusting fossil fuels. NRDC, an important non-profit environmental organization estimates that 1 in 5 people die from fossil fuel air pollution.

If fossil fuels are so dangerous, and there are available alternatives, why can't we just use the alternatives – renewable energy – instead? Is it not evident enough that change in energy sources is crucial to reduce climate change? 2 answers, yes or no. If not, then what is it that prevents you from seeing the dangers of fossil fuels? The only possible answer is your stubbornness and extreme reluctance to change. If you answered yes, then why is change still not put in place? What is still stopping people from putting renewables to use? Perhaps their costliness? Well, I believe that efficiency should be taken into greater consideration because it lasts for a longer time compared to the cost of construction and maintenance. Let's compare efficiency. Hydroelectric power plants are able to convert 90% of the energy they received into electricity while even the best fossil fuel plants are only 50% efficient. Nuclear energy is about 8,000 times the efficiency of fossil fuels because the fuel used is significantly denser in terms of energy stored.

With those other reasons eliminated, we are left with a final answer. That is my friends listening here, the reluctance to change. Just because fossil fuels currently supply 80% of the world's energy, doesn't mean that it's the best technique. I suggest my idea of a solution here. There should be more renewable power plants built starting now. To change the root cause of this problem, we will raise awareness and warn those around us and those with the power to decide, that climate change is important. More importantly, we should accept and advocate for change. This is my speech, thank you all for listening.

Judge Pao Climate Change Speech

YK Pao Middle School, Huang, Susie – 14

Humans have all kinds of different environmental problems. Global warming is the most serious issue now in the world. Global warming has caused great inconvenience to human life.

One consequence that Global warming has caused is the rising of the sea level. According to china.org, Shanghai and other coastline cities were likely to drown around 2050 due to Global warming. 2050 is only 30 years from now on. Would you want to live in the ocean when you're 40? I believe that all of you want to live normally. So, if we want to live on land until 2050, we shall together make a judgement to decline Global warming.

My judgement about who's going to be punished for Global warming is that humanity is the one to be blamed. This is because that humanity means desire and human's desire on making more things overweight the importance of the environment. Humanity means selfish, and selfish could be due to Global warming by human inventions and industrial factories.

I believe that the judgement for humanity for causing Global warming is that we shall all stop to produce more CO₂. We need to stop using CO₂-producing cars whenever we need to go outside. We need to stop using plastic bottles even though when we have a vacuum cup beside us. We need to stop using fossil fuels to burn industrial factories. All of our selfishness, egoism and inconsiderate acts could lead to our own extinction.

So, in order to restrain Climate change, all humans shall reflect themselves. Reflect on why we are so selfish, selfish enough to destroy the world that we need to live in. We have produced 50 billion tons of CO₂ per year. People might wonder if 50 billion tons seems only a little, why should we care? However, if you want your generation to live happily and in peace, or you want your families and friends to live beside the coastlines to live on dry land, then you should implement measures to help reduce global warming. No matter wealthy or poor; no matter old or young; no matter what country you are in. We, together as a team of a human shall protect the earth and the environment that brings up us humans.

So, in order to make people that live beside the coastlines and your generations live in peace. We shall all reflect on ourselves and decrease the producing CO₂ in our normal life.

Judge Pao Climate Change Speech

YK Pao Middle School, Ju, Grace – 14

Hello folks, I am Judge Pao, a fair, honest, unbiased Chinese judge from the Song dynasty. Today, I will discuss a problem that has been troubling us, humans, for decades already, climate change. I would give my decision on who is to blame and what we, the human civilization, should do together to prevent climate change from becoming worse.

The health of our world is at stakes. The major problem with climate change is rising sea levels. This is a critical problem. Coastal cities with low elevations will endure major floods and eventually sink. The cities will sink, and you cannot even hear their cries. For example, climate change is going to cause significant floods in Bangkok. Floods, such as the 2011 flood, which killed hundreds of people. Things are similar for Ho Chi Minh City. It is estimated that 20 percent of Ho Chi Minh City will be flooded by 2100, and 7 million people will be in this disaster. By 2096, the city, home to 300 million people, would be completely underwater. London, the great beautiful city cannot run away the devastating palms of climate change. London has potential flooding in 2070, and 23 percent of the whole population, which would be 2 million people, would be displaced.

Before I come to my conclusion, I examined the significant contributors to climate change. According to CNN statistics, the top two contributors to climate change are electricity and heat, contributing up to 30.6 percent, and transportation, which contributed 14.8 percent.

I judge that the people to blame for climate change are those rich countries and wealthy people. Research by the international charity shows that the amount of carbon dioxide 125 billionaires emit equals the yearly emissions of 85 million cars. Some of the most significant carbon dioxide contributors are countries like US and China, which are all wealthy countries.

The trend of climate change is like a train without emergency brakes. It cannot be stopped completely. It could only be slowed down. We should charge extra tax for the households that use the most electricity per person and compensation for countries with the most emissions per capita. Charging per capita and per person means that I will not examine the whole amount of emissions from a country or a household because of population differences. A small portion of the compensation would go to the countries affected dramatically by climate change. Another major part of the money would go to investment in more renewable energy and ways to get rid of the waste that humans produce. Renewable energy can reduce the number of emissions contributing to climate change by electricity and transportation since it is impossible to stop people from using either. We can have minor investments in better ways to eliminate solid waste. Solid waste contributes 3.1 percent to greenhouse gas emissions. Investments are much needed because the anaerobic decay system is now one of the best technologies. Even with that, it generates methane and contributes to greenhouse gas.

In conclusion, climate change cannot be stopped. However, we could have compensations and additional taxes for those who contribute the most to climate change and use the money to repay countries affected and invest in more environmentally friendly ways to reduce our contributions to climate change to the very least.

Judge Pao Climate Change Speech

YK Pao Middle School, Li, Danny – 14

Climate change has been a major problem in the world we live in. It causes floods, extreme weather, economic crisis and other major problems for humanity. If we do not attempt to stop climate change right now, it would worsen in the future. In this speech, I would be going through how climate change would impact the world economy and the punishments that follow.

The impacts of climate change on the economy are very significant. According to swissre.com in a 2021 report, global GDP would decrease by 4.2% by 2050 if the Paris Agreement targets are met, which is below 2°C increase (which is not being met for the moment). If the increase is at 2–2.6°C (which is looking likely at the moment), there would be an 11%–14% decrease in GDP. If matters worsen even more to a 3.2°C increase, world GDP would decrease by 18%. The economy in China would be damaged significantly, losing 24% of its GDP in a severe scenario. The world population is estimated to increase to 9.7 billion by 2050, and the world GDP to 218 trillion USD. With so many people, an 11%–14% decrease in GDP would heavily impact the world. If this doesn't stop soon, not just lives are being lost, but the world economy would collapse, causing further and more consequential problems.

According to ourworldindata.org, China is the biggest "contributor" to global carbon emissions, with emissions accumulating over 11.47 billion metric tons in 2021. Although the USA has shown a downward trend since 2007, they're still in second with 5.01 billion metric tons. India is third with 2.71 billion metric tons. Seeing the case as it is, some countries are getting affected more than others, but those countries might not be emitting as much as others. So in other words, they should get compensated. Where do the money come from? From the main "contributors". There would be punishments for the top 10 emitters, with each country having to pay 5% of their emissions as compensation for other countries. For example, China will compensate around 550 million dollars and the USA around 250 million dollars.

Furthermore, China devoted into a goal of making non-fossil fuel sources 20% of its energy use by 2030; in 2015, that figure stood at 11%. However, I believe this number should be reaching 25% by 2030. As for now in 2022, China would reach its goal, but they aren't doing everything in its power yet. Raising it by another 5% would put pressure on China and receive better results. If the extra 5% is not reached, more punishments and compensations will appear. The United States, which had previously set a goal of reducing emissions by 17% from 2005 levels by 2020, has proposed in its INDC to bring emissions 26% to 28% below the 2005 level by 2025. Now, I would like to raise this number to 33% by 2025. USA have tried reducing before at the proposed range, but still, it's a major problem. So raising the number by 5% would hope to produce better results. Similar to China's case, if the goal is not achieved by 2025, more punishments and compensations will appear.

New Tales of Judge Pao

YK Pao Middle School, Lo, Angela - 14

Debris floating all over the oceans, the smell of stinky garbage, the whining sound from marine animals—this is the status quo of the oceans. Ladies and gentlemen, I, as Judge Pao, is hereby to proclaim a scathing verdict regarding the ocean pollution issue. Recently, an environmental aegis organization pulled out more than forty tons of artificial ocean debris within a month: about six-and-a-half times as heftily ponderous as an Elephant. This calamity was brought to the commonage and caught my attention. Ergo, for the equity and right of all life, it is consequential to apperceive the situation. Acts of criminality must lead to penalization. Let me present the quandary of the oceans and the ultimate verdict.

Covering more than two-thirds of the planet, the oceans provide habitats for animals, foods, livelihoods, and copious recreational value to billions worldwide. Lamentably, more than eighty percent of ocean pollution stems primarily correlates human activities encompassing plastic wastes, industrial chemicals, and oil spills. First and foremost, marine species can become entangled in or ingest discarded plastic debris, causing suffocation, starvation, and even demise. Can you imagine that a forsook plastic bottle can trap a sea turtle to death? Furthermore, its impacts fall heavily on coastal fishing communities, low-income countries, and seafood eaters. Coastal areas rely on the oceans for aliment and economical supply, their survival depends on the health of the seas, and humans are exposed to these toxins by orally consuming contaminated seafood. Ocean pollution resembles a dreadful crocodile, slowly engulfing these cosmopolitan benefits from us. Hence, a verdict proposed is vital and plausible.

Through deep cogitation, I opine that the verdict is sentenced to three stakeholders. Firstly, ocean conveyance companies frequently discharge fuel oil because of the tremendous magnitude of shipping ecumenical. Thence, they should be obligated to take responsibility. If a ship releases more than 200 tons of fuel in a single day, the shipping company will be fined twenty thousand dollars, and earnest breachers may face the company's shutdown. The alternative is to utilize renewable energy or use less fuel oil. In addition, restrictions from the regime will be implemented and enjoin ships in certain key bulwarked ocean areas. Secondly, individuals' throw-away of plastics are additionally massive ocean polluters. Ergo, to solve the problem, people who report seeing someone putting plastics in ocean will receive rewards, and violators will be fined between two to two hundred dollars for the same astringency. Society must plenarily advocate and implement opportune disposal of plastics through recycling, incineration, and bioremediation. Thirdly, factories that emit a high quantity of chemical waste into the ocean withal need to take responsibility. Exorbitant emissions of chemicals into the oceans are inevitable detrimental, and pernicious. Factories should optate organic fertilizers, which are lower in nutrients, and utilize them half as often as suggested. Government should also contact institutions to prohibit pollutions in ocean of materials can't degrade or imperil human health or the marine environment.

Overall, governments and institutions should vigorously support the renewable energy transition, and mitigate utilizations of deleterious marine conveyance and discharge. To reiterate, the calamity of ocean pollution is already so solemn that we can no longer sit idly by. Hence, to ameliorate the crisis, these verdicts will be implemented immediately.

New Tales of Judge Pao

YK Pao Middle School, Lu, Ricky – 14

To all citizens of China, we have met the biggest problem we have ever met. It is a world-wide, severe, and important problem. Climate change. Over the past few decades, I observed the stars. It shows that there is a gigantic change in our current climate. I sense that the Earth we live on had become the warmest of the billions of years of the Earth's history. The air we breathe have changed numerously; our world is not the world we once knew.

You might think it is not a problem, but let me tell you, its influence is much bigger than what we once thought. At the far north end of our world, beyond the seas are mountains of ice and snow. Those landscapes reached and expanded for thousands of miles and under the thousands of meters of ice are the evilness from millions of years ago. We call it virus. Those tiny monsters are hiding under the ice crust. As soon as they melt, a holocaust would happen. Following the sea currents, these unknown viruses would go all around to world into the ocean. Soon they would spread to wherever there is water. Unfortunately, we have no idea how deadly these viruses are. We know nothing about our enemies. If you want to create a happy world for our next generation, we should help the Earth. But how can we help?

I searched for clues of people harming our natural environment for tens of year, the result is shocking. As shown in the investigation, all of us on the world are murderers of our mother Earth. All the time when we use light, cars or doing anything, we are using up the oxygen that we breathe every day. They are transformed into gas called carbon dioxide. These gas rises to the atmosphere and traps heat around our planet like prisoners, changing our climate. Let's think about it, who are creating most of the carbon dioxide on our planet? The answer is crystal clear, the factories and transportation we use every day. To lower the carbon dioxide created, the most effective method is to lower the energy we use. We must save energy as much as possible. In our daily life, we can turn off the lights when we don't need to use them, we can use public transportation more. From all these small things we can do, together we will make a difference.

Again, to all human on Earth, this is a global problem everyone is facing. Everyone have the responsibility to protect the Earth from being damaged by climate change. Nobody would want to see the catastrophic scenario when people are dead, animals and plants all vanished. So, people, let's do what we can do to rebuild a paradise for all life.

Judge Pao Climate Change Speech

YK Pao Middle School, Ma, Bobo – 14

It has been recently brought to my attention that climate change is starting to become a serious problem. All around the globe cities are facing temperature highs and lows never seen before, coasts are shrinking and ecosystems are slowly withering. The world is facing problems that humankind has never experienced and it is time for us to render a judgment to fix this conundrum. With all these problems caused by climate change, the biggest may be the decrease in the production of food. The drastic changes in temperature around the world will cause crop failure across the world, plants and farms will slowly have more and more underwhelming harvests. Ocean temperature will also rise and become acidic, causing fish to become sparse and become an unreliable source of food. Currently 9 million people already starve each year, the decrease of food production combined with the ever exponentially increasing population of the world will cause even the death total to skyrocket even more. Thousands of poor children will be born into a world that can't provide for them, millions of people will be forced to slowly starve to death. The people who will suffer and starve will be the poor and helpless while those who cause this blight, those who earn money with the death of the planet, they will be the ones who stuff themselves full at lavish banquets. We need to make a change, we need to fix our future, we need to save millions.

The cause of this is simply the emission of greenhouse which traps the temperature released from the sun inside our atmosphere, causing temperatures to rise. The countries that emit the most greenhouse gasses are currently developing countries like China and India. China emits more than 10,000 million metric tons of carbon dioxide, more than doubled the amount the US emits. Yet China has 1.4 billion people meaning that each individual releases 8 metric tons of carbon dioxide per year, while an individual in the US releases 14 metric tons of carbon dioxide per year. The US and other developed countries have also historically emitted far more carbon dioxide than developing countries. People argue that developed countries should be fined because they are already developed, yet developing countries still haven't had the chance to develop. And by fining developing countries, you are stopping them from becoming developed. Other than that, the countries that will suffer because of climate change are developing countries with less infrastructure and more people below the poverty line. Fining them will only cause more to suffer. Well, taking all these aspects into consideration, I have come to the judgement that humankind needs to heavily fine and control the emissions of first world countries and lightly control the emissions of 2nd world countries. Then using the money from the fines, we need to create a fund to support and help 3rd world countries as well as developing countries near the coastlines. This decision will save them from the decrease in production of food as well as help them overall. Thousands of children will be saved from the fate of losing their homes, thousands of families will have a chance at life they didn't have before, thousands of communities will be saved from starving to death. This decision will save millions. We need to make a change soon, we need to fix our future, so I urge you all, please change the world.

Judge Pao Climate Change Speech

YK Pao Middle School, Pan, Coco – 14

In the recent modern world, people suffer from more severe natural disasters, more frequent typhoon that destroys cities and buildings, unreasonably high temperature in late winter that melts the ice around Antarctica, deadly heatwaves in the developing countries that kills countless people. These are all because of climate change that all human beings are responsible of.

The developed countries are mostly responsible for climate change. Although they do not produce as much carbon dioxide as developing countries, they still have been the major problem. Developed countries have a stable community and a steady financial system but those factories owners are still expanding on their needs in coals and fossil fuels and extending their company into developing countries to produce more product for more profits. They have also been cutting down forests and trees for materials to make more expensive products and for farmers to promote their agriculture businesses which cause massive areas to suffer from deforestation and desertification. Why are so many people focusing on money while ignoring problems the world is facing right now? Though deforestation is more severely and frequently occurred in developing countries, but they are currently poor and undeveloped, so it is needed for them to generate money from resources they owned. However, on the other hand, it cannot be understood why, when those developed country are already wealthy, should cause deforestation to occur.

The developed countries also involve in a highly wasteful lifestyle. Many of the rich people drive cars to other places even if they are just a few hundred meters away from their house and they left their lights on when they are off to work, emitting innumerable amount of carbon dioxide and wasting a great amount of energy. According to Oxford Committee of Famine Relief, the richest 1% of the world population emit 175 times more than the 10 % of the poorest people. This shows that how the lifestyle of the rich varies from the poor and how the behavior of the rich is extravagant, profligate, and improvident. Shouldn't we eliminate their use of fossil fuels and coals to slow down climate change and the creation of greenhouse gasses?

I have come to a solution that will decrease the amount of carbon dioxide created. Firstly, as to the problem of carbon dioxide emissions with factories. Developed countries could donate considerable amounts of money for developing countries to construct environmental-friendly machine that does not involve combustion that would emit carbon dioxide to generate electricity and manufacture products. In this way, these countries cannot only stabilize their economy and society, but also producing goods by using cleaner energy to save the world from global warming. Developed countries should also spend money building sustainable equipment. For the time being, when the equipment has still not been fully constructed, the government should set a limit to the amount of carbon dioxide that could be emitted each day. Cutting down trees should also be abolished and anyone who does it should plant that tree back, in addition imposing a fine for it. Secondly, people not only the rich ones, should eliminate their waste on electricity and reduce the chance of travelling by car.

By forbidding deforestation and excluding carbon dioxide emissions, climate change will slow down considerably. As a result, people will suffer from less damage from the consequence of climate change.

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Judge Pao Climate Change Speech

YK Pao Middle School, Pan, Tom – 14

Dear COP members, thank you for your discussion and judgment about our beloved planet. I want to make my decision here as a fair judge. I will make my judgments based on research and data.

An increase in natural disasters is one aspect of global warming. I am discussing those natural disasters affected by climate change, such as hurricanes and droughts. Natural disasters are what might finally end our planet by promoting other aspects of climate change.

For example, a modern hurricane is strengthened by the increase in water vapor and air pressure caused by an increase in air temperature. The speed and strength of a modern hurricane are 1.5 times stronger than a hurricane 75 years ago. With a wind speed of about 200 miles per hour, a hurricane nowadays can destroy a 100 meters tall building in seconds, killing innocent people without giving time to react. Not just that, as national geography predicted, as temperature increases by 1°C, the hurricane will grow 8% stronger and broader. It also caused 12% more droughts and 20% more wildfires, which can destroy a whole habitat and cause great famines around the globe.

As carbon dioxide causes a thicker ozone layer, more heat and greenhouse gasses are trapped in Earth, heating Earth. According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency, there is 40% more carbon dioxide now than 100 years ago. So fundamentally, it is carbon dioxide's fault that we have global warming. It is that country that emits too much carbon dioxide to be blamed. Those countries include China, the United States, and India in the lead. A total of 16.6 billion tons of carbon dioxide are emitted each year, which makes up half of the carbon emission of the whole globe. Furthermore, a decrease in half of the emissions would make a big difference.

Carbon emission goal is a carbon emission goal sets based on the countries' population, productivity, and needs, to reach carbon neutralization. However, about 55% of the countries exceed the goal. For countries that exceed the goal, we first need to make them compensate for every single ton of emission. The number needs to be big enough, so those countries will need to consider this. Secondly, we can weaken the country's power in global conferences to force the governments to take this seriously. In addition, we can force countries to establish a law about the emissions of companies and factories based on their need, financial ability, and jobs; since some companies makeup all the emissions of a small country. Finally, to fundamentally solve the problem, we need to educate people from a young age. We need to set classes in school to make people take this problem seriously and learn to save resources, electricity, and food.

Moreover, there is a good example that achieved all this. Sweden set courses and laws to keep their carbon emission low. In 2021, Sweden's carbon emission was negative. If all countries follow Sweden and what I mentioned above, the problem of global warming could be solved in the long term. However, if we still wait, as more natural disaster promotes sea level rising and habitat loss, it might be too late. We must act now! It is now or never!

Judge Pao Climate Change Speech

YK Pao Middle School, Ren, Anna – 14

Coral reefs take up less than 1% of the oceans in the world, and more than one quarter of them are already beyond repair. They have died because of bleaching or diseases caused by climate change, which is caused by us humans. But why should we care about the destruction of coral reefs which seems to have no relation to our lives?

Coral reefs have tremendous impacts on the environment. To begin with, they are home to more than one quarter of the marine population, including fungi, algae, and more than four thousand species of fish. When the number of coral reefs decline, the population of the organisms that live within coral reefs will, in turn, die as well. In addition, coral reefs act as a natural barrier between us and violent storms. The decline of coral reefs will lead to an increased amount of coasts being harmed by severe storms and increased coastal erosion. Their decline will lead to severe damages of the human population. Over 500 million people worldwide depend on coral reefs for food, income, coastal protection, and more. Any one of us might be affected and killed. We are all thoughtful and caring people. Now that we know the effects, we won't want to harm coral reefs. Since the decline of coral reefs is caused mainly by climate change, all we need to do is to slow down climate change, but who causes climate change, and how can we slow it down?

Carbon dioxide is released by us humans into the air. It is a type of greenhouse gas, which absorbs energy from the sun, turns it into infrared wavelengths, and reflects it to the surface of the earth, preventing the heat from escaping back into space. Even though carbon dioxide only takes up about 0.04% of the atmosphere, the level is higher than they have been for the last 3 million years. For example, in 2019 alone, 36.44 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide were released into the air. A shocking, significant, terrifying amount.

Around 47% of the carbon dioxide released into the air each year is by the 10% wealthiest people on Earth's lifestyles, including their electricity and transportation methods. Thus, a way to decrease the amount of carbon dioxide released into the air is by improving their lifestyles. They should use renewable energy and resources friendly to the environment. The people's affluence ensures them enough money to buy renewable resources such as solar panels. The cars that release carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases should be replaced with electric cars that is friendly to the environment. For short distances, they should walk or bike instead of driving cars everywhere. A law should be set down that if the 10% wealthiest people in the world are not using environmental-friendly resources, they are required to pay extra taxes. Even if people are wealthy, nobody wants to lose money. Therefore, they will change to environmental-friendly resources, which can help benefit the whole environment by reducing the amount of carbon dioxide released into the air each year.

Therefore, based on the evidence above, the 10% wealthiest people should switch their lifestyles to using renewable, environmental-friendly resources to decrease the amount of carbon dioxide released into the air each year and slow down climate change.

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New Tales of Judge Pao

YK Pao Middle School, Ren, Chelsea – 14

People from the future! I am judge Pao, and I came here to warn you about a calamitous event caused by you. I know I should be dead 962 years ago, but now I still stand in front of you. God chooses me to judge you, the people living in the 21st century, about the abhorrent desertification you brought to this world.

Now let's start the quart. The plaintiff is the earth which has accused human beings of hurting it.

People of the earth. I was told that our planet was in great danger now. In the beginning, I didn't believe this shocking news. I thought our offspring would be much more intelligent than we were. I thought the growing technology would help our planet be better, and I thought that you would be the savior of our planet. But what did you do instead? You destroyed everything!

You killed this planet of life and beauty with your selfishness and egotism. You turned the green and vitality of our mother planet into barren and arid deserts. You covered the trees and prairies with boundless sand and death. You are leading yourselves into a calamitous ending.

Humans. According to the information, god gave me. The forest area of the world is disappearing at the rate of 17 million hectares every year, which is about 4.7 hectares a day. With almost 1000 trees per hectare, about 4700 trees are cut down daily. 4700 trees a day! This is a horrible, unbelievable, and unacceptable result! You cut down so many innocent trees! You did all of this to fulfill your greed and for your benefit.

But this is only the start of your evil behavior. As you trampled over more and more trees, the desert took its place. This is the ugliest action I've ever seen. Places that used to be lively, natural, and wild turned into poor, infertile, and empty areas. No crops can be planted; no animals can survive. It also caused extreme weather and a lot of natural disasters. Sandstorms are more and more common. This is the worst that can happen to our planet.

You all understand the consequences followed by desertification. The Great Depression that happened in 1929 was a warning. Due to over-farming and deforestation, the lack of food slaughtered the American dream and nearly killed the whole nation. But did you learn things from it? No! Now you are rewriting the same tragedy again. The same bad ending story is happening again, and you didn't even notice. If this goes on and nobody stands out to stop it, soon this planet will be unadaptable. There will be no more food for you, and humans will soon be extinct from history forever, which you deserve if you don't stop desertification right now.

We don't want this to happen, right? People, you don't want to disappear forever. This is the last warning from us. Stop hurting our planet, or you will soon be wiped from the earth as punishment from god.

New Tales of Judge Pao

YK Pao Middle School, Shao, Jenny – 14

I am the far-famed Pao Qingtian, also known as a just, equal, and kind judge, Judge Pao. Today's case has to do with the safety of the whole world. For the sake of people's safety and the development of the world, I will start this case. The problem of global warming has always been a "heartache" for the Earth, which in many cases is a place on which the public depends for its survival, for both nature and humans. The loss of the Earth means the loss of human beings as well. The wasteful exploitation of the Earth and its resources and the destruction of the ozone layer by some chemicals have led to the deterioration of the global situation.

We, humans, start this case: we burn fossil fuels, such as oil, coal, etc., or cut down forests and burn them to produce a lot of carbon dioxide, that is, greenhouse gases. These greenhouse gases can strongly absorb infrared radiation from the ground, which will cause the temperature of the Earth to rise, that is, the greenhouse effect. This process is called global warming.

Therefore, it is urgent to take measures to protect the Earth now. The main steps to solve global warming are energy saving and efficiency improvement. Second, strengthen the management of water resources. Third, control the number of carbon emissions and use new energy sources. These measures are essential. Improving energy will allow us to lose less, even with great demand, so we do not have to burn harmful gases. Control of water resources is an excellent way to avoid the problem of wasting resources. The development of new energy sources will make us aware of the subsequent energy depletion.

We have only one planet, and we are all under one blue sky, so let's take new actions to protect and purify our world. Protect the environment, so we do not change from "children" of the Earth to destroyers of the Earth. Protecting the environment will give you security for generations to come. Think about how beautiful it is that your sons, grandchildren, and grandchildren will live happily and sunny under a blue sky.

Let's work together for the Earth's sake and all human beings' survival.

New Tales of Judge Pao

YK Pao Middle School, Shi, Gordon – 14

I, Judge Pao's verdict is that the trend of increasing global temperature should be contained. Everybody should realize the severity of increasing temperature on our daily life before it becomes irreversible. Our earth temperature should be at a proper range, soothing and suitable to human skin. However, the rising global temperature is like a chronic disease encroaching on our health, our environment, and our future. As a matter of fact, we are the ones to be blamed behind the recent rising trend of temperature. How can we continue to neglect the lives of our future generations? It's such a cruel act.

To solve the problem, we need to pinpoint its source. The best way to contain this trend is by reducing the toxic emission released into air such as greenhouse gases generated from human activities. Each day, millions of factories around the globe and countless automobiles emit large amount of exhaust fumes. Therefore, to kill a serpent, we need to cut off its head. By knowing what exactly causing the temperature to rise, we can stop this issue from exacerbating.

Yet how can we fully prevent the temperature from rising? The economy is unable to grow if we cease industrial activities, so emission is almost inevitable, but does it mean we should do nothing about it? Absolutely not. We should educate people about the problem so they know the detrimental consequence about their action's and how serious the rising temperature could affect our environment. Do you want our offspring to live in a furnace? Do you want our future eco-system to be permanently damaged? Do you want many species to go extinct? Even a seemingly slight average temperature rise is enough to cause a dramatic transformation of our planet. Therefore, it will eventually make our planet unsuitable for any specie to inhabit.

Apart from education, there are still many practical aspects to tackle. Switching to alternative green energy is a milestone of our history. More people are driving electricity-powered, emission-free vehicle instead of traditional fuel vehicle. Governments are levying carbon tax based on the amount of pollution while introducing tax rebate for embracing green energy such as solar panel, hydroelectric power, and wind power. The rising popularity of bike sharing is encouraging people to choose green travel. Planting trees, and expanding acres of forest, can allow more trees to absorb the carbon dioxide and convert them into oxygen, which has the effect of cooling down the temperature.

The most effective way is the combination of policy and education, we need to make people realize how their action will affect the temperature while introducing series of measures to encourage people to curtail emission and consequently stop the temperature from rising. The utmost importance is to make people willing to pitch in deeply from the heart rather than a rule to obey.

In conclusion, every one of us living on this planet should be aware of the effect that rising temperature is having on our home, the rising temperature contributes to the highest death rate in America. It is an issue we could not afford to ignore, and we must fix this problem urgently before it goes beyond our capability. I, Judge Pao sincerely believe no one has the inclination to ruin our beloved planet and on one will turn a blind eye to the rising temperature.

New Tales of Judge Pao

YK Pao Middle School, Tang, Caitlin – 13

Dear fellows, I am Judge Pao. I am here to inform everyone about a serious phenomenon happening nowadays, and humans should raise awareness into preventing it to further create more harm. Our Earth has warmed and cooled numerous times during its lengthy history. Tiny variations in the planet's orbit, changes in the atmosphere or surface, or variations in the Sun's radiation led to an alternation in the climate. However, throughout the last century, another force has begun to alter Earth's climate: humanity. This climate change refers to a long-term rise in the planet's temperatures—global warming.

I am being objective and impartial here—we should do better. When we burn all the fossil fuels, we will release CO₂ pollution into the atmosphere. When we cut down trees and make them into furniture, we will devastate the forests. When we are sitting in cars driving around the countryside and chilling with air-conditioning, we are unconsciously damaging our Earth. At the two poles, mountain glaciers and ice sheets are melting, and it contributes to sea-level rise. Penguins and polar bears are losing their home. Most of them are forced to move to a colder area, and they have to leave the land where they lived for years. Human activities are causing trouble for other species, but it is inevitable that not long in the future, we will suffer just like all of the poor animals. Also, precipitation including rain and snowfall increased globally on average. Species such as mosquitoes, and crop pests are flourishing, thriving in different environments. One type of insect called the bark beetle which feeds on spruce and pine trees decimated millions of wooded acres in the United States. Witnessing your home to be destructed won't be anything delightful to see, and the innocent animals will feel the same way.

As humans, we should definitely do something. Every one of us should start by gaining awareness of detailed things in our lives. Drive less, replace cars with walking, cycling, or taking mass transit more often. Recycle more, abandon plastic bags, and use eco-friendly canvas bags instead. Plant more trees, utilize spare time, and contribute to nature with one's own strength. For every mile without driving, you will save one pound of carbon dioxide. By reducing every half of the household you waste, You can save 2,400 pounds of carbon dioxide per year. With every single tree you plant, it will absorb one ton of carbon dioxide over its lifetime.

Wake up, humans! Climate change is becoming a serious, detrimental, and menacing issue to all of us. Don't wait until you are pushed to the corner to react, because as soon as you bumped into the wall, there will be no room for you to make any changes no matter how much you regr

New Tales of Judge Pao

YK Pao Middle School, Tang, Joanne – 14

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen, we are gathered here for the final judgment on the topic of deforestation. I, judge Pao, will present to you our final verdict. Many of you might know me as an upright and unprejudiced judge of the people. I once sentenced my uncle. However, I have been working on a project regarding deforestation for the past year. I have talked to dozens of experts in this field. After much discussion, we have reached a conclusion.

First and foremost, why is preventing deforestation even important? Destroying forests in large amounts can lead to serious consequences. For example, it leads to soil erosion and land collapsing. It also demolishes biodiversity, causing species to become extinct. The death of many sinless animals is caused by deforestation. It also leads to soil erosion and land collapsing. Moreover, it results in an increase in greenhouse gases, intensifying the climate change we are all facing today. Research shows that deforestation accounts for 8% of greenhouse emissions.

Deforestation has been happening faster than ever before. In just 40 years, a forest the size of Europe has vanished. This leads us to the question: who are the ones to blame? Through our investigation, the top companies responsible for the consequence are Cargill and Wilmar International. The US-based company Cargill has a long history of profiting from annihilating the environment. They have damaged the largest ecosystems such as the Amazon, Grand Chaco, and many more. Cargill is still cooperating with world chain companies such as McDonald's, Burgerking, and Walmart. Wilmar International is also the biggest palm oil trader. They control 45% of the world's palm tree trades and produce 36 million metric tons per year. Still, both companies are continuing to grow by enlarging their supply chain even with all their iniquities.

This tragic, disastrous, catastrophic situation might seem out of control. But what can you do to help? We could make minor changes in our lives such as by consuming less unrecyclable packaging and waste. Avoiding the companies mentioned above are also an effective way of change. Instead, look for eco-friendly products for similar prices from companies that care for the environment. By doing so, these companies are then forced to decrease their damage since fewer people are using their products. All these actions might seem small and futile, but when everybody does so, it can change the world.

Dear audience, we call upon every single one of you to help make a change. Our team promise to further focus on fighting from the legal aspect. Nevertheless, I hope all of you kindhearted warriors will join us by making even the smallest changes. Don't all of you care for our deteriorating planet? Let us all stand together and fight the war on climate change.

New Tales of Judge Pao

YK Pao Middle School, Wang, Caimo – 13

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen! You may already know me as the great Judge Pao, able to fight crimes and bring justice to the world. Well, I am here to address the case that we perhaps have been hearing about these days –global warming. Scientists are thinking that it is being caused by humans. You’ve heard up it, of its terrible consequences, and some of you believed them. But should you really believe what you see? I am here to tell you that this is false, a complete lie, unbelievable. We are humans, such intelligent beings, and they say that we have done this in complete ignorance about what we have done? My answer is no, a thousand times no! There has already been so much scientific proof showing us that this is false. And after you have heard them, you will soon realize that believing in this reason might have been the stupidest choice you have ever made. My friends, I know that you must all be yearning to know what possible reasons I have to make you think that our current reason is simple, wild, unrealistic imagination? Well, first of all, there is the chance that this is simply caused by the rotation of the earth. You see, as the earth spins around its axis, as time goes by, it slightly tilts. As it tilts, some of it that has never before been exposed to the sun, now it. You see, that is the phenomenon that we see today, of the ice caps melting! There are also other theories, for example that this has been done by aliens intending to take over earth by killing us, the human race, with heat. In the last month, there have been over a thousand sighting globally, saying that they have seen UFO’s aiming heat rays at deserted areas. Oh, those evil, malicious, wicked creatures! But also, this simply proves that the great heat, was in fact, not caused by us! How can you still possibly believe that human caused all of this! It would definitely be the wrong choice for us to continue our rant about how we are able to stop all of this simply by changing ourselves. My friends, do you see? This is the truth. I sincerely do hope that if you believe me, you are willing to help me stop the ridiculous rumors going around there days.

Judge Pao

YK Pao Middle School, Xu, Anna – 12

Judge Pao was commonly known as Bao Zheng or Bao Gong. Born into a middle-class scholar family in Shen Xian, Hefei, he was an extremely upright politician during the Song dynasty. He is honored today, as the cultural symbol of justice. He has appeared in a great number of works of literature, often portrayed as the incarnation of the Astral God of Civil Arts.

In 999 A.D., Judge Pao was born. He was raised in the lower working class, so he was familiar with the struggles of the majority of the population and knew what it was like to live there. His later decisions were significantly influenced by this.

Then in 1027A.D., at the age of 29, Pao passed the test of the highest degree of the imperial examination in China. He was appointed as a pingshi, which was a magistrate of Jian Chang state. However, both of his parents were quite old at that time, so he decided to resign and care for them. A few years later, after they passed away, Pao were still hesitant to leave. It was until 1037A.D. when Pao decided to “get back to work”. He then became a magistrate for Tian Chang state.

During his service as the magistrate, Bao Zheng gave valuable suggestions to the country's political decisions. He once suggested that the country's annual payment of property to Khitan is not a strategy to defend themselves from attack. Instead, they should train the army, select generals, and devote itself to enriching the border defense, as well as abolishing corrupt officials and not being officials, selecting county governors and magistrates, and implementing the method of evaluating and trying to replace Enyin's children. At that time, various channels were transferred to the procuratorial envoys, and they impeached the officials accusing them of even the smallest mistakes, and focused on flaunting each other. This made the officials feel uneasy, so Bao Zheng asked for the system to be removed.

In 1043, he wrote a famous poem called 《书端州郡斋壁》

清心为治本，直道是身谋。
秀干终成栋，精钢不作钩。
仓充鼠雀喜，草尽兔狐愁。
史册有遗训，毋贻来者羞。

Through this poem, Pao embraces the character of being morally upright, and to have a cleansed heart.

Then in 1044, he went back to the capital as an investigating censor.

According to an anecdote, he once encountered a troublesome case. A man once claimed that the tongue of his ox had been sliced. He was instructed by Judge Pao to go back and sell the ox's meat. Soon after, another man entered the courtroom and charged the first man with secretly butchering a "beast of burden," a crime that carries a year in prison. However, he fell into Judge Pao's trap, since how could he know the man was selling ox meat? "Why did you slice his ox's tongue and then accuse him," yelled Bao. The offender was so shocked that he had to admit.

Another famous case was when he was sent to Liao dynasty as a messenger. According to a Liao official, the Song installed a covert side door in the border prefecture of Xiongzhou in order to recruit Liao defectors for intelligence. "Why is a side door necessary for intelligence," Bao shot back. The Liao subject was unable to reply. He solved another case with his unique point of view. From the stated incidents, people all around the place knew about Judge Pao's cleverness.

His uprightness was also demonstrated when sentenced his own uncle.

Judge Pao's story became a legend, and was retold in various forms, such as Chinese opera, plays, Pingshu, and in several Wuxia novels. His known descendants were known to have inherited his cleverness and ability to fight, as they have won multiple global awards.

This is the legendary tale of Judge Pao.

New Tales of Judge Pao

YK Pao Middle School, Xu, Momo – 13

Citizens of the world, I am the judge Pao Zheng, and I lived over 1000 years ago. Doubt not; I have died. But my soul lived on, preserved through stories told by generations of people, for while I am not the most paramount figure, throughout my life I did do my best to be fair and just, and I never misjudged anyone in my court. After my death, whenever demands for justice grew so strong that it woke me, I would reappear and assist my handpicked judge to restore righteousness. However, today I myself am forced to stand before you, for matters had gone way too far. I now present you my verdict on deforestation.

Deforestation is the act of removing forests and using the land for other uses. By doing so, we destroy an entire ecosystem and millions of lives in it. Is building Skyscrapers that we already have too much of really more important than this phenomenal system nature has created, which is not only dynamic and capable of self-repair, but also home to the most diverse species in the world? Today, we have less than 30% of wild forests left, and if we let things drift, there will only be 10% by 2030. Orangutans, meaning “man of forests” and sharing 96.4% of our genes, are now endangered due to deforestation. Chimpanzees, Mountain gorillas, Pygmy sloths, Monarch butterflies.....they are all on this list too.

I hereby declare that deforestation is a most ghastly sin of mankind. The forests never had any wrongdoings—quite to the contrast, they often aid the human world and keep our planet healthy. They are a great habitat that contributes to the Earth’s water cycle through transpiration; they monitor the temperature and prevent soil erosion; and perhaps most important to us, they produce the vital oxygen we need through photosynthesis and take in carbon dioxide that causes air pollution and, ultimately, global warming. But what did we give them in return? We cut them down and demolish them.

I am not saying that we should not cut down any trees, for trees can be useful. But cutting down a whole forest just for some land and maybe some material inside the plants?—That’s egregious. Wild forests are a precious gift from nature, and we must cherish this gift.

We have to protect our forests from this moment onward. It is for the good of mankind as a whole, and for the sake of our home, the Earth. She has suffered greatly from her own children’s reprehensible behavior, and she must not suffer anymore. We, with that mind of ours that we had always been so proud of, can and should be responsible for protecting Mother Earth. Instead, we have been harming her all along. This must change. And the change must start now.

New Tales of Judge Pao

YK Pao Middle School, Xu, Selene – 13

I am Judge Pao, defender of justice and renowned for my propriety and fervency in restoring order. After meticulous consideration, I have concluded that ocean pollution is an exigent matter that demands our undivided attention: it is often the primary source of environmental destruction and has potentially catastrophic consequences.

Ocean pollution is epitomized by waste and litter, with a profusion of oil spills from ships, and myriads of toxic waste pumped into the ocean. According to One Green Planet, there are approximately 270,000 tons of plastic levitating on the sea's surface. We are all accountable for this problem. How could we be so callous to allow the demise of our precious environment? The passage of time will only exacerbate the deterioration of our planet.

We must make a change.

A common misconception about ocean pollution is that it's limited to plastic and waste being dumped into the azure waters of the sea. This is utterly fictitious – the impact of ocean pollution spans far more widely. It wreaks havoc with the purity of the air we breathe, contributes to rising sea levels, and is a significant factor in the extinction of key animal species.

Fundamentally, contamination of our waters contributes to and aggravates air pollution. According to National Geographic, the proliferation of algal blooms is advanced by ocean pollution, this phenomenon can be hazardous to wildlife and can ultimately be detrimental to humans. According to the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, the ocean is an air filter at night, absorbing pollutants that fuse with the sea surface after the sun sets. The pollutants will then be ingested by the inhabitants of our complex marine ecosystems, gradually tainting the ocean.

Furthermore, the melting of polar ice caps can also be attributed to ocean pollution. According to Polar Trec, Arctic airborne pollutants form fog which traps the Sun's energy, thereby increasing the air temperature in a similar way to greenhouse gases. Increasing temperatures lead to another severe problem: global warming. Global warming precipitates the melting of polar ice caps in Arctic areas resulting in flooding of low lying land as a result of surging sea levels.

Finally, the destruction of our oceans can be intrinsically connected to the decimation of marine species. According to Pew Trusts, marine creatures can become entangled in or ingest plastic debris, causing asphyxiation, starvation and drowning. Moreover, sea contamination is propelling some species to the fringe of extinction. Could you imagine a world with no sea creatures? According to a neoteric investigation by researchers at Plymouth University, 15 animals' extinction is ascribed to ocean pollution, and 700 marine species are in peril.

Now, for the overwhelming environmental problems and climate change to cease, we must confront the root cause – ocean pollution – promptly. We must make a change.



Creative Writing
Non-Fiction
Group 3

Judge Pao: A Profile

G. T. (Ellen Yeung) College, Zeng, Elyn – 13

Have you ever heard of Judge Pao? Have you ever seen him on television shows, or read about him in books? If you haven't, this passage about Judge Pao will definitely help you know more about this legendary figure!

Judge Pao was born in Shenxian on the 5th March, 999. In fact, his father was a scholar and an official working for the government. Although their family members could afford Pao to go to school, his mother had to climb up mountains to collect firewood just right before she gave birth to Pao! How impressive! As Pao grew up among the grassroot working class, he understood the hardships in people's lives, and understood the importance of justice among their country. So he was determined to be an unbiased judge when he grew up.

Pao passed the highest level of imperial examination when he was 29 years old and successfully qualified as a Jinshi. Through his life of justice, Pao solved some of the most mind-wrecking mysteries. Many citizens were impressed by Pao's intelligence. One of his most famous cases was "The Case of Two Nails". Pao investigated a husband's death whose cause had been ruled natural. However, Pao's coroner confirmed that there were no injuries on his body. At home, the coroner discussed the case with his wife, who mentioned that people could put long nails into others' brains, leaving no injuries or traces on the body. The next day, the coroner found a long nail indeed, and soon the wife of the victim was arrested for murdering her own husband. After all that fiasco, Pao went to question the coroner's wife, and found out the coroner was her second husband, while her first husband died. Pao ordered the guards to go to the cemetery and opened his coffin. Unsurprisingly, there was a long nail in his brain, too. Judge Pao successfully solved two cases.

Judge Pao was a very intelligent official, he died in 1062 in the capital city of Kaifeng. I am very impressed by his wit and his courage to solve mysteries and come face-to-face with those evil criminals lurking around on the streets. I do hope I can be as brave as him, maybe I can be the next Judge Pao in the future, who knows?

Judge Pao

HKMA David Li Kwok Po College, Poon, Elise – 12

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The Story of Judge Pao

Man Kwan Pak Kau College, Lui, Ming Fung – 13

If we talk about Chinese history, we must have to mention a guy. In the thousands of years of history, he is one of the most dazzling stars. He is the character of our article. Judge Pao

Movies and TV portray him with a black face, with a crescent moon on his forehead. He is selfless, admirable. Even in front of the emperor, he was outspoken, dared to supervise, and disregarded his own life and death.

At that time, there was an officer in a country who was greedy and corrupt, and he did all kinds of evil, he also relied on himself as a relative of the emperor, corrupted the law and committed all kinds of evil. When Judge Bao found out, he sent someone to monitor his every move mercilessly. At first, that officer didn't care much, but when he knew it was Judge Bao, his arrogance suddenly disappeared, he knelt down and begged for mercy, and asked Judge Bao to come to his mansion, saying that he surrendered himself, but in fact, he wanted to bribe Judge Bao. When he arrived at the mansion of the officer, the officer went out to greet him in person, and behaved amiably. The officer and Judge Bao sat on the stone bench in the garden and chatted. Judge Bao felt very puzzled, and after a while, the officer carried out several boxes and added: "This is a little gift, please accept it." Judge Bao opened the box and saw there is a lot of money. He was secretly surprised: The officer didn't surrender himself but wanted to bribe me! Then the officer said in a deep voice: "I don't understand what you mean." Seeing that Judge Bao pretended to be confused, he said bluntly: "Bao, as long as you let me go, the money will belong to you. There is a reward, you can choose gold and silver, Bao, I will let you eat well and live well, and enjoy the glory and wealth forever. What do you think?" The officer thought that Judge Bao would agree, but Judge Bao's answer surprised him: "officer, being an official is only for the people, not for money. You said you would surrender, but now it seems that is not the case." After speaking, he strode out of the officer's mansion, and dealt with it fairly when he returned.

It was Judge Bao's honesty and integrity and he won everyone's respect and love. He is famous in history all over China and even the world.

Deliverer of Justice

Shanghai American School, Huang, Kaylee – 13

Judge Pao (commonly known as Bao Zheng and Bao Gong), was one of the most famous politicians during the Chinese Song Dynasty. He was known throughout the nation for his strong sense of justice and integrity, continuously proving his worth during the years spent getting justice for those who were wronged. Bao completed 25 years of civil service and consistently served as a model of rectitude for the citizens of Ancient China. This resulted in him gaining the title of Justice Bao, which represented how strong his moralities were when he applied them in court. He was revered even after his death by several Chinese provinces who compared him to the war god Guan Yu for their similar sense of righteousness.

Despite the titles he held and his popularity, Bao wasn't always divinized by the public. He was born to a middle class family in the year of 999, with his father being a scholar and his grandfather a peasant. He still received proper education and was greatly influenced by Confucius's ideologies on moral authority and his take on the significance of being a principled leader. However, Bao still grew up in the lower working class, meaning he had to see the mistreatment of people who didn't possess high status within the Chinese community. This ultimately resulted in his strong hatred for injustice and his need to right the wrongs caused by the corruption and deceit in high society.

He embarked on his journey to become an imperial official at the age of 28, progressing through the examination of the highest level to become a Jinshi (the most distinguished degree an examinee can achieve). Despite his chances for a career as an Imperial Scholar, however, he chose to delay his employment in order to return home and care for his elderly parents. He put off chasing his scholarly aspirations for nearly a decade, looking after his parents instead and attending mourning ceremonies after their passing, which represents their strong filial bond.

Even after his absence, the people still welcomed him formally. The public admired his filial piety and respected his traditional values, leading to his return to the position as magistrate of Tianchang County. It was then when Bao first became known for his fairness as an official. He was promoted several times afterwards until he ended up as the investigating censor in 1044. It was in this position that he became involved in the famous impeachment case concerning a concubine's uncle.

Emperor Renzong had taken multiple concubines during his reign, one of whom was Concubine Zhang, his personal favorite. He had wanted to make her empress and have her rule alongside him, but refrained from doing so due to his mother's protests. Instead, he displayed his favoritism for her in other subtle ways, like raising the status of her uncle, Zhang Yaozuo, from his low-level local position. Bao objected to this, stating that Zhang did not have the talent and merit needed for his standing, and strongly advised the emperor to remove him from his rank. At first, Emperor Renzong paid no heed to his words and kept Zhang in his position. However, Bao did not abandon his protesting, which proved how headstrong he was when it came to fairness. His advice for the emperor eventually convinced him to remove Zhang from his position and strip him of his titles.

Even in the face of those with more authority than him, Bao still spoke up in the name of justice and what he deems right, making him one of the most upright officials in Chinese history. Even when near death, he thought of wanting his offspring possess the same values as him, stating that "he who shares not my values is not my descendant." He never allowed himself to be swayed by the corruption and manipulation around him, choosing to take the righteous path to help the less fortunate.