

# Fiction

Group 2



# Judge Pao vs. The Flamingos

*Canadian International School of Hong Kong, Loong, Alistair – 10*

Bang! The gavel strikes the table. The Manatees vs. The Flamingos case has been solved. The Flamingos are told to pay a whopping 75 taels of silver to the Manatees! The Manatees rejoice due to Judge Pao's humiliating ruling against the Flamingos! The Flamingos have their first defeat in court! As the Flamingos angrily stomp out of the courtroom, they start murmuring to each other as they start plotting. They talk of framing Judge Pao. The Flamingos' murmuring gets louder as they conspire to accuse the Judge of bias! The Flamingos, as all evil villains would, let out a maniacal laugh as they leave.

As another case for Judge Pao ends the next day, a group of Flamingos suddenly burst into the courtroom. They yell: "JUDGE PAO IS BIASED AND TAKES BRIBES!" The people and animals in the courtroom are shocked by this! At once, guards drag the struggling Judge Pao away to jail, to await his fate at the hands of the court he once served.

Judge Pao is thrown into a cell. He glances next door. Inside that cell is a bored monkey—Judge Pao waves to his new neighbor. The monkey looks disinterested, muttering "newcomer" under his breath, completely disregarding the fact that Judge Pao was a highly respected individual. The monkey goes on to eat some bananas. Judge Pao slumps his back onto the cell wall, staring at the solid stone floor.

Suddenly, a loud crash fills the air! A giraffe is on the floor, having slipped on a banana peel. The inmates start murmuring to each other. Among the mass of whispers, Judge Pao hears: "This keeps on happening! Where are those banana peels coming from? Everyone in the prison eats the same thing – BANANAS!" The animals walk away frustrated at this constant occurrence and curious about who keeps on irresponsibly throwing away their banana peels on the prison floor. Judge Pao, having good detective skills and having worked for the law, decides to try to crack this case and do a good turn for the other inmates.

Judge Pao looks at the banana peels and he makes a curious discovery – the banana peels form a trail to a specific location. Judge Pao figures that the trail leads to the cell of whoever the culprit is, but the guard keeps glaring at him.

The cell doors unlock when the clock strikes 3 pm – break time. Judge Pao has his chance to crack this case! He casually moves out of the door, following the trail of banana peels. *There's a trash can every few meters, can't the culprit put the banana peels in there?* Judge Pao thinks to himself. He follows the trail for a few minutes until he reaches what looks like an endpoint. Judge Pao yells: "HURRAY!!!" from the discovery that the trail of banana peels **does** lead to the culprit's cell!

The Judge turns around, ready to report his discovery to everyone; only to find that all of the other inmates are already staring at him – wanting to know the culprit of this case of banana peel littering. Judge Pao says: "The banana peel trail leads to the monkey's cell – therefore, the monkey is the culprit!" The monkey comes forward and apologizes. The other animals and Judge Pao return to their cells as break time ends. The littering stops and from then on, no inmate slips on banana peels ever again.

A few days later, during break time, Judge Pao has another crowd of inmates surrounding him. They tell him about strange voices that are keeping the inmates up at night. "The problem is these voices sound different every night so it's very difficult to track down who the culprit is based on the voice." Judge Pao ponders the problem while scratching his chin. Finally, he declares, "I will crack this case tonight!" The crowd of animals cheers wildly!

That night, Judge Pao looks around the surrounding cells, finding all the inmates resting in their beds. However, the strange voices are still audible. He grabs the key while the guard's back is turned and races across the row of cells, following the voice to the last cell – the cell of the culprit. The culprit is the parrot! The parrot learns different voices and using this ability, he yells in different voices every night as a part of his strange nightly routine.

The parrot, upon realizing that Judge Pao has discovered that he is the culprit, turns his randomly switching multitude of voices into a dark and shady one and starts speaking to Judge Pao, "Hey, kiddo, I heard you like Sherlock Holmes books. I'll give you my full box set and 50 taels of silver. All of this in exchange for you not busting me." Judge Pao asks, "Who's Sherlock Holmes?", and flatly refuses the bribe. Judge Pao shares his discovery with the other animals and the parrot apologizes. The inmates sleep soundly from that night on.

It is finally time for Judge Pao to face the charges of the Flamingos for being “biased” and a “bribe-taker”. A guard brings Judge Pao to a courtroom packed with onlookers – Flamingos and other animals alike. The Flamingos speak first, talking about the “biased” and “bribe-taker-supreme” Judge Pao. The new judge then asks for Judge Pao to present his evidence. Suddenly, a large group of animals bursts into the courtroom – Judge Pao’s fellow inmates! They give a speech about how much Judge Pao cares about other people and that he would never take bribes. The giraffes speak of Judge Pao’s valiant efforts in stopping the littering monkey and the evil talking parrot. Even the parrot comes forward to speak of Judge Pao’s flat refusal of his bribe – risking getting more jail time for Judge Pao’s charges being dropped. Before the Flamingos even have time to retort, Judge Pao is pronounced innocent! The audience rejoices as Judge Pao can return to serving the law, being the honest and fair Judge that he is!

# The Case of the Stolen Vase

*Canadian International School of Hong Kong, Luxton, Harry – 9*

“Order! Order please!”

Judge Pao’s voice rang throughout the court as all the people inside fell silent. He wore long robes with a large white beard. They were all inside a giant courtroom with many curious people watching the hearing.

“Please remind me of the charges, police chief,” Judge Pao said.

“Ah, yes. At 11:15 a week ago a priceless Ming Dynasty vase studded with pearls and diamonds was stolen from the Palace Museum in Hong Kong, and deftly replaced with a fake. A smoke bomb was let off to create a distraction. The theft was not discovered for five days. A security guard, a museum guide, and a museum curator, are all on trial.”

“Very good. I will first hear from the guard. You recently came into a large windfall with which you bought a coveted Lamborghini. Will the guard speak?”

“It wasn’t me! I was leading a group out of the smoke caused by the bomb! I recently had a huge lottery win,” the security guard said.

Judge Pao then turned to the guide. “You were previously a magician, so you could have set off the smoke bomb. Will the guide please speak?”

“It wasn’t me! I took cover as soon as the bomb exploded, like my group!” The guide said, which was later proven to be true.

Judge Pao was not deterred. “Will the curator speak?”

“I was leading a donor through the exhibit when the bomb exploded! I immediately took him away as soon as the bomb went off! He was carrying invaluable funds and I hope that he does not hold a grudge against this museum for this incident!”

Judge Pao responded. “The donor claims that to be true, as well as our CCTV. But you are the only one who can turn off the impenetrable security systems, as well as being closer than the guard to the bomb.”

“May I speak?” The donor requested.

“Of course,” Judge Pao responded.

“I was carrying a large briefcase filled with money when the bomb exploded. I will no longer donate any of that money to the museum due to the aforementioned events.”

“Exactly how large was the briefcase?” Judge Pao said.

“It was large enough to store hundreds of thousands of dollars, all of which the museum has lost out on,” the donor replied.

“It took two minutes for you and the curator to escape the smoke bomb, while for an average person it would usually take just twenty seconds. Also, a briefcase containing hundreds of thousands of dollars would have been nearly the same dimensions as the vase,” Judge Pao reminded him and the curator.

“Wait, wait! I’m not the one on trial here!” The donor exclaimed.

“You could be an accomplice to the curator,” Judge Pao said to the donor.

“I swear I didn’t do it!” The curator exclaimed.

“It certainly seems likely,” Judge Pao said to the other members of the court, who expressed shock.

Turning his eyes back to the suspects, Judge Pao could see both the curator and the donor frantically trying to escape and gave the order to put them into a holding cell.

“Please take both of them for further questioning,” Judge Pao said, barely heard over the thieves’ shouts.

Two weeks later, both the curator and the donor had cracked, revealing copious amounts of information about the scheme to steal the vase. The donor had been carrying the replica in the briefcase and when the smoke bomb had exploded, which had actually been set up days earlier, the curator turned off the security systems, the donor stole the vase, replaced the vase with the fake, the curator turned the systems back on and put the vase in the briefcase. Both had been arrested and were serving their time in jail.

Judge Pao has solved another case.

# New Tale of Judge Pao

*Canadian International School of Hong Kong, Su, Scott – 10*

Dang dang dang – it was that annoying music again. My parents must be watching their favourite drama series “the Young Judge Pao” on a quiet Saturday night, which was supposed to be our video game night after a long week at school. But who was this Judge Pao anyway? Let me try watching just one episode on Youtube to find out. Maybe there indeed were some reasons that my parents liked it so much that they watched it over and over.

Alas! Judge Pao was actually a detective, but his story was even better. Not only was he before detective Pikachu, Batman or even my favourite, Sherlock Holmes, he was a real person. Even at young age, Judge Pao was already a crusading figure with a passion to fight crime and dispense justice using his amazing power of deductive reasoning, leading Sherlock Holmes by over 1,000 years. It was even said that at night Judge Pao would turn into the immortal Yama of a Department of Hell known as “the Infernal Bureaucracy” and worked as a supernatural judge sorting out the affairs of the Afterlife with his famous fairness and wisdom. How cool was that? There have been many books and movies inspired by his life, including books written in Chinese and English. I want to read all of them. Moreover, I want to become a judge too, just like Judge Pao, to bring justice and help the underprivileged.

I woke up to a bright Sunday morning. It was finally our video game time. My sister Blair and I grabbed the controllers and started playing the Mario Kart game. But she won two rounds in a roll. How could that happen? I was almost always better than her in video games. As she was celebrating, I noticed that she had been secretly using the “God” mode. Ah! She had been cheating all along. I pointed this out to Blair but she was too happy celebrating to even notice my protest. I went over and yelled at her: “you were cheating!” Blair gave me a surprised look, and then said: “I still won!” We soon broke into a full-on fight. Mom had to come to break it up before we could sit down to have a peaceful lunch. But the cold war persisted. We did not speak for the entire afternoon.

After dinner I sneaked out trying to play the Switch one last time before Monday. I had hoped to figure out how to use the God mode myself, but what happened to the Switch? I searched everywhere but it was nowhere to be found. Who could have hidden it so that he or she can enjoy it alone? It must be Blair because only she would do that to revenge the fight. I confronted Blair, but she denied touching it after our quarrel.

Of course I did not believe Blair but it was late at night. I need to get up early in the morning on Monday. Shortly I heard a faint voice saying “hello”. Scared, I opened my eyes and saw Judge Pao. I was so surprised that I asked him: “Judge Pao, is that you? What are you doing here?” Judge Pao said: “I heard you might have a problem with someone, right?” I replied with a “yes” and explained the series of events that led to the missing Switch. It must be Blair who took it, I declared.

Judge Pao replied: “Don’t be so sure, my friend. Let’s answer some questions first — who played the Switch earlier in the day? Who had the motive to take it and where could it possibly be hidden?”

There were five people in the house. Mom did not care about video games and Daddy was upstairs. Little sister Chelsea was sleeping in the afternoon. It could not be the three of them. It must be Blair, I figured. She had a fight with me earlier in the day. But she denied taking it. “Do you trust her?” Judge Pao asked.

Well, could it be Blair? I asked myself. Blair and I did have a quarrel, but she never lied to me before. Shall I trust her? If it was not her, who else could it be? Did I rule out all the other possibilities?

“Did anyone else touch the Switch besides you and Blair?” Asked Judge Pao. Let me think. Oh, I remember my little sister Chelsea tried to play with the Switch during lunch while Blair and I were angry with each other. She ate pork chop before touching it. I even yelled at her for making the Switch oily.

“Then who would be interested in an oily Switch that smelled like pork chop?” Judge Pao follow-up with more questions. Doggy! I exclaimed. Our doggy Biscuit loves pork chop. He might have thought the Switch was indeed a piece of pork chop and took it! I must have done a good job in deductive reasoning because I could see Judge Pao smiling. Satisfied with that thought, I fell asleep.

“Wake up! It is time for school!” I opened my eyes but only saw Daddy. Where did Judge Pao go? Or was it just a dream? I jumped out of my bed and went straight to Biscuit’s little house in the backyard. There it was, my dear Switch. It was lying on Biscuit’s cushion like a shiny piece of “pork chop” with clear teeth marks on both sides.

Thank God I did not insist on blaming Blair for something she did not do. Next time I shall not let emotions cloud my judgment and never draw conclusions too early before checking all the possibilities. I will remember what Judge Pao taught me.

# Judge Pao: The Case of the Missing Jade

*Canadian International School of Hong Kong, Wang, Andrea – 9*

A long time ago, during the Song Dynasty, there was a very famous judge named Judge Pao, who handled court cases fair and square. He was popular among the civilians and was also known as “Bao Qing Tian” because of his precise judgements. He had four very helpful subordinates, namely Zhang Long, Zhao hu, Wang Chao and Ma Han. I would now like to share an interesting story about a pig head case adjudicated by Judge Pao.

A young boy called Han Ruilong found out that there were mysterious shadows of thieves in his house, so he couldn't sleep at night. On the second night, he was too scared to sleep so he decided to read a book. Suddenly, he noticed that a shadow flew into the neighboring room, he ran as fast as he could to another room. “MOTHER, HELP!” When her mother heard that, she shouted back, “Naughty kid, why are you screaming instead of reading books?” Han Ruilong was shivering, but the only thing he could do was to tell the truth. “I saw mysterious shadows flying around, but there was no people, just like yesterday!” His mother frowned and felt dubious. However, she was also very frightened. She and Han Ruilong took out a small lamp and began to look around the place.

When Han Ruilong and his mother searched under a bed, they were wide eyed with shock. There was a pile of dirt. They moved the bed away and searched inside the dirt. There was an old chest with scratches on it. When they opened it, both of them were astonished. Han Ruilong beamed with happiness as was gold and silver inside! “Oh My God! This must be a gift from god! We are rich now!” “It’s a treasure, we don't know who it belongs to. Don’t touch it!” “Tomorrow, buy a pig head to thank the God.”

Then, they both went to sleep, Han Ruilong kept thinking about the treasure. Before he finally fell asleep, the sky had already been lit up, so he went out to buy a pig head. As he arrived at the store, he knocked on the door, a sly man who called Butcher Zheng came out. Han Ruilong said, “I want to buy a pig head!” “Why don’t you bring your bag to carry the pig head?” “It’s fine, I will put the pig head in my bag and you can return it to me tomorrow.

Then Zheng gave him the bag, and Han Ruilong left. Suddenly, two patrols yelled at Han Ruilong because he was holding a bag dripping blood. They yelled, “Stop and freeze! What is in that bag?” “It is just a pig head!”

When the patrols discovered that it was actually a bloody girl’s head, they gave him a long hard stare and screamed.

The two patrols took Han Ruilong to Zhao’s court. When Zhao saw the head, he knew that it originally belonged to a living person, so he thought that Han Ruilong had killed this person. Zhao shouted, “Who are you? And why do you kill this person?” Han Ruilong cried, “I am Han Ruilong. I didn't kill anyone! When I was buying a pig head at Butcher Zheng’s shop, I forgot to bring my own bag, so he used his bag and placed a human head inside instead of a pig’s one! After that, two patrols came and saw that there was a human head in it!” But Butcher Zheng denied everything, and he also lied that Han Ruilong didn't go to his shop. Zhao asked, “Isn’t this bag yours?” “Yes, but Han Ruilong borrowed it three days ago! Can’t believe that he decapitated a human head!” Han Ruilong just couldn’t win the argument. Since Zhao couldn’t judge who the murder is, he sent his men to lock both of them up first.

It had been a long time, so Han Ruilong’s mother tried to get him out by explaining further to Zhao, but her efforts were to no avail. So she begged Judge Pao to come to solve the problem. When Judge Pao arrived, he asked Zhao about what had happened. Zhao told him everything that happened that sounded like a mystery. Then Judge Pao saw Han Ruilong crying on the other side, so he announced, “Everybody! Go to Han Ruilong’s house and search carefully.” “So Zhao brought some men, including Han Ruilong to his house. Back in the court, Judge Pao interrogated butcher Zheng. He still denied everything, Judge Pao, who became angry, sent people to slap Zheng thirty times. Then he locked Zheng up.

Just then, Zhao came in and Judge Pao asked, “What have you found?” “A buried boy’s body and there was gold and silver in a bag. Then he asked Han Ruilong, “What kind of house do you live in?” “We rent this house.” “Who lived there before?” “That? I don't know.” Then Judge Pao let Ma Han take him away. To investigate



further, judge Pao ordered Zhao Hu, a clever but scary looking guy to go out to investigate if anyone knows anything about the girl's head and the boy's body. Zhao Hu dressed himself as a beggar and walked on the road. He was checking and listening very late until he saw a shadow go into a house which is beside Han Ruilong's house ...

Like a hungry lion, Zhao Hu dashed to the shadow and pressed it firmly on the roof "Ouch! Please set me free, sir!" "Who are you?" "My name is Ye Qianer. This is my first time stealing!" "What is that?" asked Zhao Hu, pointing at the fabric. "I don't know!" He pulled it out. It was a head of a boy! "Murderer!" Zhao Hu exclaimed. "I will take you to Judge Pao tomorrow. The next day, when both of them arrived, Judge Pao praised Zhao Hu and Zhao Hu told him all the things that Ye Qianer did. Then Judge Pao ordered two men to stand beside Ye Qianer, so he couldn't escape. "Who are you, and why did you kill the boy?" "My name is Ye Qianer. I have an eighty-year-old mom at home, so I must steal valuable things to keep her alive!" "Stealing is already against the law. Why do you murder other people?" When Judge Pao heard that, he snapped. "Go and slap him 20 times!" he said to his men. Then Ye Qianer cried, "Same as last time!" "What happened last time?" Ye Qianer didn't reply, so Judge Pao announced to let Zhao Hu slap him two more times. He begged, "Please don't slap me. Last time, there was somebody called Bai Xiong. He was very rich, so I went his home to steal, but I was found by him so I killed him and buried his head in my backyard and his body and jewelry in Han Ruilong's home." Judge Pao said, "Since then, it's been two times." Then he asked Zhang Long, Zhao Hu to check Baixiong's place, and Wang Chao, Ma Han to check Butcher Zheng's backyards again.

After investigation, they came back and said, "Butcher Zheng's backyard has a girl's body." Then Judge Pao took Zheng in and scowled, "Why would you kill a person and blame someone else? Why don't you admit that you're the murder?"

In front of the facts, Zheng had to tell what had happened. "I saw a girl running into my shop. I asked if there was anything wrong. She said her name was Jin Niang and she was chased by a crowd of people." "So she stayed in my shop until late night, when she was about to go, I saw her wearing valuable jewelry on her head, so I took out my knife to threaten her to take it off, but she suddenly screamed, I got so scared and chopped her head off. Then Han Ruilong knocked on the door to buy a pig head, therefore I wrapped the girl's head and gave it to him."

Finally, Judge Pao announced that Butcher Zheng and Ye Qianer were the murders of two cases.

To conclude, we can tell that Judge Pao is a righteous and smart person.

# Judge Pao Did it Again!

*Chinese International School, Boutot, Adrien – 8*

“Bang, bang, bang!” Judge Pao was awakened by the chaos unfolding outside in the dead of night. From the East, he heard “prisoner on the run!” from the West, he heard the Chief Commander barking orders at the guards “get to your post immediately, close all gates and don’t let anyone in or out!”

Judge Pao walked out of his chamber to assess the situation better. The smell of adrenalin and sweat pierced the air, he could see prison guards scrambling to grab their armor and swords. Not to anyone’s surprise, under the command of the most elite Chief, the prisoner was captured in no time.

As the guards were putting shackles on the prisoner, all Judge Pao could hear was “I am innocent, I have been wrongfully accused, I want to see Judge Pao; he is the only one who will help me find justice!”

Judge Pao was well known to all that he would stop at nothing to find justice for the People. The prisoner’s cries for help fueled his interest to find out the truth. He went to visit the prisoner.

The prisoner’s name was Fu-Hing. He was wrongfully accused of being the “Master of Robbery”. Fu-Hing tearfully explained to Judge Pao that the real criminal mastermind was Zhang-Chi. Fu-Hing and Zhang-Chi grew up together and were the best of friends. During the war, they were separated and went on to lead different lives. Fu-Hing became a scholar and Zhang-Chi was caught in hard times and resorted to petty theft. Over time, his crimes got bigger. Zhang-Chi was careful and so far, no one was able to catch him.

Fu-Hing and Zhang-Chi’s paths crossed again last month when Fu-Hing bumped into him at the Central Bank. Fu-Hing was happy to be able to reunite with his long-lost friend. Little did he know his worst nightmare was about to begin.

The old friends wasted no time catching up over a cup of tea. Fu-Hing was honest about what had happened to him over the last decade, but it wasn’t the case for his friend. Zhang-Chi’s story couldn’t be further from the truth. He told Fu-Hing he managed to strike gold and started a successful trading business. He was only in town for a week to close the “deal of the century”. Fu-Hing was happy to learn about his friend’s good fortune; they promised to meet again soon.

In a few days, Zhang-Chi reached out to Fu-Hing for help. He explained he has hit a snag in his deal and in desperate need of a “local” to help him unravel the mess. “Fu-Hing, I don’t know anyone else in town, you must help me! Don’t you see, fate has brought us back together, please help me!”

Patting his friend on his back, Fu-Hing spoke softly, “of course I will help, I don’t know how though, please explain how I could be of assistance.”

A teary eyed Zhang-Chi replied, “You don’t know how much this means to me. It is very easy, all you have to do is accompany me to the bank and I will show you how to help me.”

Zhang-Chi eagerly led the way. When they arrived at the bank, Zhang-Chi instructed Fu-Hing to wait while he talked to the bank manager. After a while, he gestured to Fu-Hing to join him. Zhang-Chi introduced him as a man who has just inherited a ton of gold from his uncle and will need a vault to keep his newfound wealth. The purpose of this visit was to assess how good the security protocols are to safeguard their gold. Zhang-Chi continued in a flattering tone, “many banks are fighting for our business but we particularly like your bank as you are known to have the best security system in town. We are here to assess it for ourselves.”

Fu-Hing was fighting hard not to blurt out and ask his friend what was going on. He felt he should speak up but his loyalty overtook his sensibility and he played along. The bank manager took them on a tour and explained their security protocols in detail, something the bank typically wouldn’t do, but they made an exception in hope of securing the big business deal. Zhang-Chi took meticulous notes.

Outside the bank, Fu-Hing confronted his friend to tell him the truth. Zhang-Chi explained he had trouble securing a bank to handle his business as he didn't have the right "pedigree". He was unfairly discriminated against and the quickest way was to leverage Fu-Hing's profile – a well-respected local scholar.

"Fu-Hing, you don't know how much your presence has helped me! I wouldn't have been taken on the tour if you weren't there. Everyone trusts a scholar. We must celebrate over dinner!"

Everything became a blur to Fu-Hing. He didn't remember how he got home and was awakened by an army of guards who had stormed into his room to arrest him. He was the prime suspect of the biggest bank heist – the same bank he had visited earlier. Fu-Hing was not worried as he was certain of his innocence. He thought it was all a misunderstanding and he will be back sleeping in his bed shortly. But he was wrong, the trial against him was swift; he was found guilty and sentenced to life in prison without appeal. As reality set in, it finally dawned on Fu-Hing he was set-up. Zhang-Chi has paid off the guards and the judge and fabricated evidence against him. Fu-Hing decided he must find a way out, and his best bet was Judge Pao. That night, he devised a plan to get Judge Pao's attention by breaking out of prison and his plan worked!

Judge Pao wasted no time tracking down Zhang-Chi and brought him to justice along with the corrupt guards and judge. Fu-Hing was freed and he couldn't thank Judge Pao enough. As always, Judge Pao found justice for those in need and he did it again!

# Judge Pao's Challenging Detective Mission

*Chinese International School, Ko, Leroy – 10*

Once upon a time, there was a really good detective named Judge Pao. He was a really good detective who caught lots of thieves and put them to jail.

One day, when Judge Pao was looking at the internet, he saw in a newspaper that there was a bad guy called Robber Greatatstealing who stole lots of expensive jewelry from Rolex. He was good at escaping from the police by performing acrobatics or jumping as high as a small skyscraper! He could backflip over buildings! He could run as fast as a cheetah with his strong legs. Judge Pao said to himself "I've gotta catch Robber Greatatstealing! If I don't, he will rob every single Rolex shop and Rolex will go bankrupt."

That night, Judge Pao went out to look for Robber Greatatstealing. A few minutes later, Judge Pao saw a dark figure zooming past him. Who was that? Judge Pao wondered. He saw a Rolex store in a distance, just as that dark figure did a cool backflip. Judge Pao knew Robber Greatatstealing always does lots of acrobatics, so he thought that must be him. So Judge Pao ran as fast as he could to that Rolex store nearby.

As he arrived, he looked around and no one was there yet and the store was closed. A few minutes later, he saw the same dark figure again, zooming to the Rolex store with a hammer. When the dark figure got closer, Judge Pao looked closely and sure enough, that was robber Greatatstealing! When Robber raised his hand and was about to use force to smash the glass with his hammer, Judge Pao pounced on him.

When Judge Pao tried to put handcuffs on Robber, a gigantic puffin flew to him and flew him away. That puffin was his partner in stealing stuff. "You suck at catching robbers!" Shouted Robber as he was flying away. Judge Pao screamed in anger when he got home, because he didn't catch Robber.

The next day, Judge Pao continued his quest to capture Robber. He searched on Google 'where was Robber Greatatstealing's house'. he found it, and at 11:00 a.m, he drove to Robber Greatatstealing's house and put handcuffs on him. "Hey!" Robber exclaimed. "Oh, no! I got caught by Judge Pao!" He called his puffin over, and the puffin broke the handcuff with his beak. He tried to escape Judge Pao by riding on his puffin and flying away, but Judge Pao also got a much faster, stronger puffin, so he followed. Judge Pao's puffin circled around Robber, and when Robber got dizzy, he bumped Robber off his puffin. "Yaaaaahhhhh! Help me! I am falling! Get here you dumb puffin!" Robber shouted. Since Robber called him a 'dumb' puffin, he didn't save him. When Robber hit the ground, he was almost dead. The police grabbed him and said "Go to jail, or die" Robber didn't want to die, so he went to the most high tech jail in the whole world. Robber tried about 1000 different ways to break out of jail, but since it was the most high tech jail in the world, he failed. Meanwhile, now Judge Pao has two puffins, and he became a celebrity. He was the most popular person in the world, even more than Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo. People asked him to sign autographs, take pictures, etc.

So in the end, the 'best' robber in the world got caught by the best detective in the world. So even if you are a who is good at robbing stuff, you will always get caught.

# The Enemy vs. Me

*Chinese International School, Walker, Hannah – 11*

One sunny bright day, Judge Pao was sitting in his old antique rocking chair reading the paper.

“Wow, a calligraphy competition, I’m great at that!”

Judge Pao spent 15 minutes reading the rules and guidelines. Soon he found out that his enemy Mr Loi was competing! He thought it would be ridiculous to compete against him, another fight would break out like last time. He had learned his lesson. Mr Loi could beat anyone. He was unstoppable.

Soon enough Judge Pao did everything he could do to get him out of the competition, he put flyers up saying that the competition was cancelled, but that didn’t work. He put the worlds best calligraphy on the neighbourhood’s wall with his signature attached to it. That didn’t work either. The only last thing he had to do was to send a letter with the greatest calligraphy in the country, saying his anonymous name (Sam) was entering the competition. As soon as he finished writing it he got in his carriage and as soon as he got to the post office, a post worker there questions “ Is your name on that?”

“ Um yes it is, it’s Sam.” Nervously said judge pao.

“ Oh okay– hold up there’s no one in our neighborhood called Judge Pao. Here let me show you the list hopefully you will remember your own name.” Weirdly the post worker.

“ Oh yeah sorry I got confused, my name is judge Pao, hahaha. Wait is that Mr Loi on the list? He lives in this neighborhood?” Questioned Judge Pao.

“ Sure he does, he lives on St. Nielsen street, Neighbourhood 1, House 15.

“Thanks, just the right information I needed. Said Judge Pao.

Judge Pao sprinted faster than Sonic to Mr Loi’s house. Luckily Mr Loi was not at home. He got to the door and thought of a great idea. He mumbled under his breath, “Kids this is why you always carry a pin.” He pulled out the shiny hold pin from his pocket. Instantly the door unlocked. He frantically ran all over the house just to find the ink and paper on the brown antique cabinet. He left the house with the stolen ink and paper in a black bag. He quickly ran back home and hid the ink and paper in the safe. Finally, it was the day of the contest, Judge Pao was more than ready for this contest. The Judge of the contest announced on the microphone, “Please get ready at your stations for the calligraphy competition to start.”

# The Mystery of Judge Pao

*Creative Primary School, Chen, Marie – 9*

It was 10th November, the five friends, Wang Da, Wang Yan, Zhou Yu, Chen Yong, and Huang Hao Lang gathered under an oak tree.

"There is something I am really worried about," Wang Da confessed, "Every day I wake up to see some of my precious things gone."

"What?" Huang Hao Lang exclaimed after a moment of silence.

"I know, it seems impossible, but –"

"That happens to me too!" Everyone said at the same time.

"We need a solution!" Chen Yong declared. "We should call the police!"

Wang Yan shook her head. "No. The police only tracks down robbers and arrests them. But what use could the police be if we do not know who and where this robber is?"

The bell for class rang. The friends gave each other a brief good bye, then scurried off to their classes.

After school was dismissed, the five friends walked home together.

"You guys are all coming to my house, right?" Wang Da asked. Everyone nodded.

"Good." Wang Da said. "We'll have more time to think things through."

When they got to Wang Da and Wang Yan's home, their mom was preparing dinner.

"Hi mom." Wang Da said as she entered the kitchen. "Yeah, hi." Wang Yan followed her.

"Are the others here?" their mom, Mrs. Wang, asked.

"Yup." Wang Da pointed to where the others were putting down their backpacks.

"Hi." Zhou Yu said as she entered their bedrooms with Chen Yong and Huang Hao Lang right behind her. Wang Yan had already climbed up to the bed. It was six o'clock. The five friends were deflated.

"Guys," Zhou Yu said, panting from the argument. "We should get a judge."

Chen Yong, who had given up on agreeing with them, opened his mouth to retort.

"No!" Wang Yan said. "Don't say anything yet. We will vote for our actions."

Chen Yong crossed his arms, glared at Wang Yan and muttered something no one heard.

"Guys!" Zhou Yu, who normally was so controlled, screamed. Everyone jumped. "How are we going to do anything if all we would do is bicker like starlings?!"

Wang Yan zoned off. "Where will we find a judge?" She thought. "We need to find one soon."

Zhou Yu rolled her eyes. "We are going to find a judge tomorrow, okay?"

Wang Yan nodded.

The next day was Saturday. The friends met at Sha Tin Park. Zhou Yu had a thick book in her hand.

"What is that?" Huang Hao Lang asked.

"It is a book about a judge, Judge Pao."

Chen Yong frowned. "Is he real?"

Zhou Yu shrugged. "No one knows."

Chen Yong pressed, "How do you find him?"

Zhou Yu took a step backwards. "What are you getting at?"

Chen Yong hesitated, then said, "Well, I was thinking we could find him instead, that might be easier."

Wang Da said, "Um, isn't Judge Pao a very ancient legend?"

Huang Hao Lang said, "If he's part of history, we could use a time portal." Wang Yan wondered out loud, "Do those exist?"

Chen Yong snapped his fingers. "Yes! I know how to get a time portal. My mom keeps one in the attic."

Wang Da jumped happily. "Let's go get it and go back in time to find Judge Pao!"

The friends travelled back in time to find Judge Pao.....

"Wait a minute, where are we?" Wang Da asked.

"I think this is Feidong County." Zhou Yu replied.

"So can someone explain why we are in front of this temple?" Huang Hao Lang asked.

"This is Judge Pao's ancestral house." Zhou Yu explained.

"Are we supposed to look for him here?" Wang Yan asked.

"Looking for me?" A deep, unfamiliar voice rumbled behind them. They turned around to see a man dressed in a black robe with a golden dragon picture sewed onto the chest. The thing that took Wang Yan by surprise was that there was a half-moon on his forehead.

"I wonder what that is." Wang Yan thought, but was too shy to speak.

"We need your help, Judge Pao. There is a thief lurking in our city. We need you to help give them a fair punishment." Zhou Yu said.

"Hmm... you want me to help, yes?" The five friends nodded eagerly. "I do not see any reason for me to deny you."

"Yes!" Wang Yan thought.

"We will teleport you there" Chen Yong said. "Let's go."

"I have a plan, but there is also a problem. We do not know who and where the robbers are."

Judge Pao responded, "I am sure I can help with that. I was born with this half-moon on my forehead, and it can help see where someone or something is and also capture objects and small animals."

"That is good. So when we are ready, try to find where the thieves are. You and the police will sneak up behind them, surround them, then attack." Wang Da said.

Chen Yong frowned. "What about us?"

"We will hide, and get backup if necessary." Huang Hao Lang said.

"Okay." Wang Yan took a deep breath. "The plan is set, we are ready."

"Now!" The police sprang into action, wrestling the thieves. In a flash, there were arms and legs flailing, clicking noises as the police handcuffed the thieves and thudding noises as people ran. In no time, sirens screeched and the police forced the robbers into their cars. A hissing shake, Fangs according to the robbers remained. Judge Pao captured it with his powerful mind and sent it far, far away into the wild.

"We did it!" Zhou Yu exclaimed.

Wang Yan smiled happily. "There may be many more robbers here in Hong Kong", Wang Yan thought. "But we saved the city from a gang of some!" As they flopped onto Wang Da and Wang Yan's beds, she wondered what their next adventure would be. "But whatever it is", she thought. "I will not be alone on the new adventure!"

# The Case in 2546

*Creative Primary School, Kong, Kelly – 12*

One ordinary day in 1039, Judge Pao was strolling in the royal library. Suddenly, he felt a glowing sensation over a corner, where a blood-red book with gold lining was laying on the floor. The pages were glowing! Judge Pao flipped through the pages curiously. In an instant the pages flashed brightly and the Judge was gone.

Judge Pao was falling through an endless void. Just when he thought it was never going to end, the void came to a sudden halt. Judge Pao landed on a cold stone hard floor with no particular gentleness. His head throbbed painfully.

The Judge got to his feet and glanced at the unfamiliar surroundings. He figured a maiden was standing in front of him. “Hello! I’m Natalie!” the woman yammered. “Where am I?” Pao stammered. “This is year 2546 in the Crystal Kingdom! The ruler of this place is Princess Priscilla,” Natalie boasted. Pao realized the book he fell into must be a portal to the future!

“I’m Judge Pao of the, uh... Dragonland! And I am a detective,” Pao introduced himself. Natalie studied him closely. “The Princess is in need of a detective. Someone has stolen her famous necklace ‘The Northern Star’! Come with me, I will bring you to the palace.”

Natalie brought him to the throne room and pushed the doors open. Princess Priscilla sat on a diamond-encrusted throne. A crystal chandelier swung above their heads dangerously.

“Greetings, Your Highness,” Natalie bowed deeply and Pao imitated her. “This is Judge Pao. He will find the necklace for you.”

The Princess wore a rose pink gown with white gloves. She had a crystal tiara and flowers on her brown silky hair.

“Finally!” the ruler of the kingdom let out a breath of relief.

“Your Highness, when was the last time you saw the necklace?” Pao asked.

“Last night, I was wearing it during dinner. After I put it down in the glass case, the butler told me it was gone,” the Princess drooped her head.

“Were there any people near the necklace?”

Priscilla thought for a moment and replied, “Only royalty or servants can enter. There was Evelyn the maid who swept the floor of the display room. Sir William the butler went inside and discovered the necklace was missing, and my brother Neptune was in the room.” Her brows furrowed. Then she ended the conversation.

The next day, Judge Pao received a message from Priscilla: “Come to the throne room. The suspects are summoned.”

Pao hurried to the throne room. Priscilla and three other people were waiting. “This is Sir William, the butler who discovered the necklace missing, Evelyn the maid, and Prince Neptune,” the Princess introduced. “You were all in the display room of my necklace, so explain yourself what you were doing there.”

“I went in to mop the room. There were water droplets on the floor,” Evelyn stuttered.

“And I was passing by when I noticed the door was ajar. So I checked if everything was alright, but the necklace had gone. I noticed the windows were also wet, and Prince Neptune stood beside,” the butler said.

“Well, I was in the display room. But I did nothing!” the Prince claimed.



"It must be you Neptune! You were the only one in there with no apparent reason!" Priscilla accused.

"It's not me! I only wanted to see the necklace, just to find that it's gone!" Neptune interjected.

"Princess, we need evidence to prove that Prince Neptune is guilty. We can't throw him in jail for no reason," Pao objected.

"I shall give you one day's time to solve this. Tomorrow he will be thrown in jail," Priscilla decided.

Pao excused himself and went to the display room. He stopped when he saw some water marks on the window. Pao followed the trail into the garden, and it led him to a well with a sign "Wishing Well".

"Wishing Well?" Pao muttered, "Worth a try." He fished a coin from his pocket and threw it inside the well, thinking "I wish the Princess will get her necklace back."

The coin dropped down into the well. There was silence, until...

"OW!" A tiny voice yelled. The water's surface rippled as a figure flew out, hovering metres away from Pao. It was a tiny fairy, with blue wings and black hair draped across her pale face.

"Oh, hello," she squeaked nervously, "Your coin hit me on the head!" She pointed at the lump on her head. "You're helping Priscilla to find her necklace, right? Lucky for you, I was the one who gave it to her."

The fairy told Pao Priscilla loved to make wishes when she was small, so she decided to gift the Princess a necklace. As Priscilla grew older, she began to give up on wishes. The necklace lost its shine, and the fairy was forced to take it back.

A smile flickered on Pao's face. He knew how to get the necklace back. He went to the Princess's quarters, and beckoned her to the wishing well.

"Make a wish," Pao suggested. Priscilla frowned, "This is a waste of time." "You never know," Pao insisted. The Princess rolled her eyes and made a wish.

The well flashed, and the tiny fairy emerged. Priscilla was terrified before the fairy explained everything to her.

"Wishing seems so silly when you reach adulthood. I am incredibly sorry! I will wish every day from now on," Priscilla promised.

"You can wish again," the fairy reminded.

Priscilla closed her eyes. "Guess what my wish is," Priscilla opened her eyes and shot Pao a smile. "Thank you," Pao whispered, "I will never forget you." And the Judge disappeared.

Pao opened his eyes. He was laying on the library floor. "Was I dreaming?" he muttered sleepily. He felt something in his palm and opened it, only to find a shining crystal gifted from the future...

# The Story of Judge Pao

*Creative Primary School, Lee, Ochs Clement – 9*

OZ was the most mystical and influential city in the world thousands of years ago. But over time, OZ was becoming more and more deserted. People started doing the wrong things to bury their conscience. The only light left came from a coarse bell which a music dream monster named Hoi-Tong lived in. Hoi-Tong can perform music that made people relaxed and fall into their dreams. However, Hoi-Tong did not like to perform his magic, and a few years before, Hoi-Tong stealthy stole the fire monster named Fai Chigh's firework powers. He wanted to play a trick on Fai Chigh and show off his ability to steal Fai Chigh's power.

Unfortunately, Fai Chigh noticed him and captured Hoi-Tong. At that moment, Hoi-Tong suddenly lost all its magical powers and could not use sound waves to escape. OZ got dark, and this terrible news transferred quickly to the Buddhas' ears. Buddhas saved Hoi-Tong from Fai Chigh's hands and told him that he must forever live in the bell and perform his magical music when someone rings the bell.

One day, an unknown boy who had lost all hope rang the bell, and Hoi-Tong heard it. Then he quickly jumped out of the bell and performed his music. Soon after, something magical happened. Everyone simultaneously dreamt about a man standing 185cm tall with dark skin. He had a pointy face with a moon-shaped birthmark on his forehead. He had a pair of big fierce eyes and a straight nose. He was named Judge Pao.

The civilians thought independently about the bad things they did in their dreams, and Judge Pao stood majestically before them. Some saw a clear image of Judge Pao while others saw blurred images. The picture in which the people saw of Judge Pao depended upon how everyone hoped to face themselves. However, the voice of Judge Pao was unique. His tone was deep and loud. When he shouted at them, all would be scared and kept quiet immediately because they knew they were guilty for their wrongdoings. Some were evil and tried to hurt others. Some were poor and tried to steal money and jewelry. Some wanted to get the highest marks and cheated in the exams. However, the people were also not honest about their wrongdoings. Judge Pao thoughtfully responded, "I know you are not telling the truth. You have done this before." He first spoke to the people who cheated on the exam, "You usually do not achieve ideal grades, but you have managed to get a better score this time. Only this time. In the following tests, you got poor results. You get full marks in this exam, but full of scribbled words, meaning you copied the exam as fast as possible. Also, your breathing frequency is the password. Although you do not reply, when I hear your breathing speed and heartbeat, I know you must be hiding something, and I can use this password to open your criminal file."

Then, he angrily told the people who hurt others, "I predict you have tried to hurt others. They resist you by force, even though there are not obvious scars on your body. Nevertheless, some have been extremely bashed and scratched to teach you a lesson. There is no one to speak. But everything here has magic. I can hear all the truth through an invisible mouth. Your abnormally dark circles is powerful evidence to show that you have continue to stay in fear for your wrongdoings. Why are your eyebrows and your facial movement are so stiff? Please be honest with yourself and the others."

After lecturing the people who hurt others, he seriously said stealing is a crime. Judge Pao lent a sinister smile and disappeared in a foul-smelling gas suddenly.

A few seconds later, Judge Pao returned with a more ferocious attitude. Next, he went on to tell the people who stole things. "Why did no one see you in the night? Aren't there any strong-smelling animals and people who smelt you? Why did you buy some new shirts and a cap to hide? Huh? Tell me why! Tell me!" "But you cannot hide the stolen money and jewelry. These stolen things have their particular smell. However, it is a significant difference in the scent that comes from your body. We can trace your footprint to show the fact in front of us. Whatever you did to hide your wrongdoings, the environment also can give us hints to find the actual situation. The truth will come out somehow."

Finally, after much lecturing, Judge Pao began to calm down, and his body began to flash. He said to the rest of the OZ civilians. "I didn't deliberately say you are bad people, but that doesn't mean you are right. One day the actual state of affairs would emerge."

When they woke up, they wanted to find Judge Pao and thank him for teaching them. However, they could not find him. In their mind, Judge Pao was just and strict. His appearance was like the moon in the sky shining on them. The truth could not change because Judge Pao lived in everyone's hearts. With his presence, the citizens were reminded of the way Oz once was, peaceful and harmonious. He would help them solve all their problems in the light of OZ. Through Pao, people worked hand in hand to rebuild the city of OZ.

# The New Tale of Judge Pao

*Creative Primary School, Man, Jolis – 10*

“Hand it over!” Siu Ming the prince yelled. “No!” Farmer Siu Fan refused, holding on to the old scroll for dear life. “This painting belongs to my great-grandfather, and it has been in our farmhouse for decades!” the farmer shouted, while backing off to the farmhouse behind him. Siu Ming, an arrogant prince who lived in ancient China a century ago, was determined to get the old tattered painting that he believed was stolen from the palace many years ago.

“You will regret this!” Siu Ming warned as he got on his carriage, slamming the door so hard that the hinge fell off. The servants of the prince scurried over to repair the door that was half swinging, worried that the prince’s anger would escalate. The prince was notorious for using extreme methods to get his way, and the farmer watched apprehensively as the horse and carriage disappeared down the road.

It was only a few days after the heated argument between the prince and the farmer, when early one morning, even before the roosters crowed, Farmer Siu Fan woke up startled from a terrible nightmare. He rubbed his eyes, trying to understand what the dream had meant. From the corner of his eye, he saw an orange and red light at the edge of the farmland. The light emitted an ominous glow that grew warmer by the second, and he realized that his prized crops were on fire! With no time to spare, Farmer Siu Fan ran out barefoot and in his pajamas. The bathhouse was located right next to the farmhouse, and the wooden barrel at the door came in handy. After filling up the barrel with water from the well, he sprinted towards where the flames were roaring. One barrel of water did not make any difference at all, the tongues of flames were licking up all the persimmon he had grown to be sold at Chinese New Year. Watching the fruit get engulfed by the flames, Farmer Siu Fan yelled to his family in desperation. “Siu Baaaooo!” he hollered. “Our trees! Our crops! Wake up! Do something!” All the hard work that the farmer’s family had put in was destroyed within minutes. The fire left the farmland charred and barren. Where luscious persimmon trees once stood, there remained only ashes. Farmer Siu Fan collapsed on the floor weeping, worried about how he could feed the family with a burnt farmland. In the silence of dawn, he heard giggles, and the silhouette of a horse and carriage passed by. He knew, at that moment, who had done this terrible act.

The very next morning, Farmer Siu Fan came to a grand mansion with golden knockers that looked like lion heads. Bang! Bang! Bang! He knocked three times. The door creaked open, and two stern-looking guards looked him in the eye and asked, “What is it you want?” Farmer Siu Fan hesitated, taken aback, and feeling slightly intimidated. “I... I would like to see Judge Pao,” he stuttered. “Come in and wait in the hall,” the guards instructed him. As he walked through the entrance, he couldn’t help but admire the decor around him, “Wow!” he gushed. The intricately carved beams above his head were so majestic! There were gold and silver decorations everywhere, each one more ornate and embellished than the last! “How can I satisfy you?” Judge Pao barked. “I...I... um” Siu Fan stuttered, no longer fixated on the picturesque architecture. “I w—want to report Prince Siu Ming...He burnt all of my crops and claimed th—that one of my most valuable paintings is his...” Judge Pao stood there emotionless, almost as if he were a statue. Pausing for a minute or two, Judge Pao finally said, “Hmm...Let’s invite the prince here and hear his side of the story.”

As if the stars had aligned for the farmer, Judge Pao had the connections needed to call the prince for a summons. The prince waltzed into the kitchen, dressed in royal and elegant clothing. Judge Pao did not care for appearances, and saw the two men standing before him as equals in the eyes of justice. When the dust had settled, he proceeded with his intelligent plan. “I see that neither of you are willing to part with this beloved painting, as it seems to be of great value. Since both of you insist that this painting belongs to you, I suggest tearing it into two equal portions – one for you, Prince Siu Ming, and one for you, Farmer Siu Fan. Would you find this fair?” Judge Pao’s deep voice boomed through the halls. “Oh yes! Let’s do that as soon as possible!” the prince blurted out, clapping his hands, unable to contain his delight. “No! Please don’t! That is my precious family heirloom!” the farmer shook his head profusely, with tears in his eyes he fell on his knees. By observing the two men’s reactions, the truth was clear to the judge. “The painting belongs to none other than Farmer Siu Fan.” In a final bid of desperation, Prince Siu Ming pleaded his case in vain. In the end, it was revealed that the prince’s great-grandfather, King Tai Ming, had run away from the palace during an invasion and found himself at Farmer Siu Fan’s great-grandfather’s farm. The great-grandfather had extended his

kindness to the King by allowing him to seek shelter and lodge in his farmland. To repay this act of goodwill, the King gifted an extremely valuable painting to him and told him that if he ever encountered financial difficulties, he could sell the painting for a small fortune. As a final punishment for Prince Siu Ming's misdeeds, he was required to work on the farm as a servant to Farmer Siu Fan. The once noble Prince was forced to live and work the life of common folk due to his wrongdoings. This story tells us that no matter who we are, we should always think before we act, especially in times of anger!

# The Vengeful Father and Judge Bao

*Creative Primary School, Mok, Aquila – 11*

“Bring forth the execution!” said Judge Bao, as he threw the red guard. The guards dropped the blade on the convict’s head, who was accused and convicted for murder. He was only 19 years old, and bore the name Xingqiu. As his head fell to the ground, the guards cleaned the mess that was made, and Judge Bao walked back to his situ to rest. But what he saw in his office would truly shock him to his very core. His right hand man was Zhan Zhao lying dead on the floor, blood pouring everywhere around him, his corpse mangled and disfigured, it was a truly gory and terrifying scene. Judge Bao screamed in terror, and servants rushed into the room.

Months later, Judge Bao still had no leads on the death of Zhan Zhao. So he decided to look back at the case involving Xingqiu, perhaps he could get some clues there? And he did just that, he had found out about Xingqiu’s father, who was always overprotective over Xingqiu. The dots were connecting, so began the hunt for Xingqiu’s father. They first went to Xingqiu’s house. As Judge Bao looked around the worn down property, he realized an unfinished letter on the table, with an address written on it. So now, with a new lead, Judge Bao set off to avenge his right hand man. Although his crew urged him to wait for them, Judge Bao ignored their warnings, as he saw this not as any ordinary case, but a quest to protect Zhao Zhan’s honour.

As he walked up the hill to the coordinates that were written on the letter. As he approached the little wooden hut at the top of the mountain, something felt wrong, Xingqiu was from Shengxian, so his father had to be as well, but this hut was way further away from any form of civilization in Shengxian. As he made his way up the hill, there stood a tall, old tree, on it was a carving of a temple within a forest, it looked so familiar to Judge Bao, yet it seemed as if he had never seen it before, he was so close yet so far, the feeling was maddening. But then it snapped, it was the temple of the God of Geo, Morax, believed to be able to control the structures and landscapes. Although he was not completely sure, he chose to visit the temple regardless, as there were no other leads he could follow. Had he not followed this hypothesis he would not have found the final piece of the puzzle.

Although he had found all the clues he needed to find the culprit, something had felt fishy. Yes, he was a finger’s length from his final destination, but it felt too simple, too easy, too few clues. All these thoughts crowded Judge Bao’s head, but the voices were soon broken by a final conclusion, it was an ambush, Xingqiu’s father was probably waiting there for Judge Bao, waiting for the chance to avenge his son. And with that information in mind, Judge Bao quickly gathered some scraps and materials around a cave he was near. As Judge Bao put the last candle down, Morax appeared, “Who dare awaken me without my permit!” the god said angrily, Judge Bao quickly explained what had happened. After listening to Judge Bao, Morax agreed to help him, and with that, Judge Bao set off to the last destination, the temple.

Step by step, Judge Bao walked up the stairs to the temple with a vengeful heart and a final stage of grief to conquer. As the terrain of the temple slowly averted, Judge Bao felt a chill go down his spine, a feeling he never thought would ever experience. But he had no choice but to gather up his last bit of courage if he wanted to avenge Zhao Zhan. Like the place where the tree stood, there was nothing, or so Judge Bao would think. While he was about to leave after finding nothing useful, Judge Bao turned to leave. Suddenly, he heard a loud bang coming from the roof, smoke emerged all around the entrance. And out came Xingqiu’s father, who began to introduce himself.

“I was expecting you, Bao Qing Tian.” Judge Bao felt fear passing through his veins, the temple alone was creepy enough, now with the added knowledge of a mere man who dared to call him by his real name. Judge Bao found it not only as a nightmare come true, but a stain on his silver platter honour. “After you killed my only son, my wife fell into a great depression, and had committed suicide, therefore I killed Zhao Zhan as revenge for my wife and son. I knew you would come here to avenge him, so that’s why I hid here, waiting for months on end until you would walk into my trap.” the old man said. Instead of surrendering in fear and accepting his fate, Judge Bao smirked, “My comrade, you must not understand who you have bothered, I executed your son for he had wronged. And think again, have I fallen into your trap, or have you fallen into mine?” The old man was confused out of his mind, he had made sure that Judge Bao had come here alone, and if he had sent men to the temple prior, he would’ve known. All these thoughts manifested into pure fear as the old man glanced behind Judge Bao, as the

God Of Geo, Morax stood before him. “You dare attempt to sin in my quarters?” Morax asked the terrified old man. Before he could answer Morax had smitten him with rocks, and concealed him within them, granting him immortality as an immovable object without any power to speak.

Judge Bao profusely thanked Morax after he had saved his life, and had headed back to his home, where he and his crew enjoyed a delicious feast in celebration of avenging their fallen comrades.

# Judge Pao and the Dragon Servant

*Creative Primary School, Sze, Ching Fung Leo – 10*

A long time ago, there was a very famous Chinese official named Judge Pao. He was honest and just. He had a very strange appearance, with a dark face and a crescent moon on his forehead. He had a few servants. One of them knew a lot of martial arts, all of them were extremely loyal and exceptionally intelligent.

1000 years ago in the hot summer, Pao and his followers wanted to have a holiday. Judge Pao and his servants went for a walk nearby his home and found a nice mountaintop to observe the view. They saw a village so they wanted to go inside to rest. There was a sign outside the village, that said the village's name "Dragon Village".

When they went inside the village, they thought it was a nice village with everything you need and a bunch of villagers worshipping a man. Judge Pao thought this was odd because in China they only worshipped gods rather than people. He said we should find out what happened. All his servants stared at him. They asked, "Isn't it your holiday? You haven't been on a holiday for nearly two years!" He replied, "Just do it!" The crescent moon on his forehead flashed, and they immediately went to investigate. They searched and searched and asked many villagers. After a few days, one of his servants named Mr. Ma spotted a dragon mark that randomly appeared in the village field. Everybody crowded around it and for some reason, there was a fire on the other side of the village at the same time. The "dragon mark" saved everybody. All was peaceful until the dragon mark appeared again a few days later in a field outside a man's house. The owner of the house, whose hair was long and grey with a strange moustache, claimed he was sent by the Dragon God but nobody believed him at first. Suddenly a lot of villagers got sick and the man gave them some food to eat. After consuming the food, they were healed. Everybody started worshipping him and some people said the villagers have been getting sick lately and the man keeps on giving them more food. Judge Pao sent Mr. Zhan Zhao, one of his most trusted servants, to search for details. He stayed around in the village and after a few days he went back to report to Judge Pao. He said he saw some people putting poison into the river. They got into a big fight. He recognized one of them as the person who claimed himself to be sent from God.

Soon after, Judge Pao invited the man for tea. The man wore a white robes and had a customized crown on his head and introduced himself as "The Dragon Servant". Judge Pao thought to himself, "I like his clothing and it really suits a dragon servant." They had a little chat while enjoying some dragon-shaped cakes. Judge Pao poured a cup of tea for himself and poured a cup of tea for the man. Both of them drank the tea and Judge Pao asked the man, "Villagers say you're good at foretelling the future. With that said, what do you think will happen today?" The man said, "Today will be a normal joyous day." Judge Pao continued, "I don't think so. You'll probably have a stomachache and the possibility of getting your head chopped off is quite high." Then the man suddenly felt a little sick, he asked Judge Pao what was in the tea. Judge Pao replied, "Oh, it's just some water from the river you poisoned yesterday." The man was like, "What do you mean?" Then Judge Pao yelled, "Bring out the guillotine." His servants suddenly rushed in with the guillotine. The man was petrified. He explained everything he did, including cutting the grass to look like a dragon, intentionally to fool around. However, when it saved the villagers, he came up with a new plan. He made another Dragon Mark outside his field. When nobody believed him, he put poison into the river and the food he had was just an antidote. He was now constantly putting poison in the river to gain more trust. However, he did not know anything about the fire. He believed that it was a natural occurrence. Then the man had a question, "If I drank the poisoned water then, didn't you drink it too? How are you still fine now?" Judge Pao said, "I have a special tea pot that is called The Assassin's Teapot. You can pour two different kinds of liquid." This made him so terrified that he peed all over the floor in front of the villagers. The villagers were mad for trusting and being betrayed. They reacted by throwing fruit, eggs and rocks and muttered among themselves! Judge Pao said shouted, "Silence!"

The man promised that he would give back all his money that he took from the villagers, if Judge Pao would spare him a second change. Judge Pao did not think that was enough. He said the man had to drink all of the poisoned water and go to jail for 10 years. The man cried, "Thank you! Thank you!" Judge Pao said, "Don't be so happy yet!" Then he ordered his servants to beat him with a wooded stick 50 times! Suddenly, the crescent moon flashed again. Finally, the village was at peace. Everybody thanked Judge Pao and he could finally return to his nice holiday. Judge Pao and his servants returned back to the hills to admire the beautiful scenic views of China.



# We are Innocent!

*Creative Primary School, Wong, Hei Nam Sophie – 9*

Have you ever been blamed before? How did you feel? I am sure you would like someone fair to be there for you, right?

One usual day at school, Ming and Lok, two twelve-year-old boys, were having detention for failing their History test. They had no idea that something unusual was waiting for them.....

During their detention class, they encountered a new substitute teacher, Mr. Moon. He had tanned skin and a crescent shaped scar upon his forehead. Ming and Lok were amused by his appearance which cracked them up!

“Hey, you look exactly like Judge Pao!” they teased.

Instead of getting irritated, Mr. Moon smiled and said, “It seems that you two are fascinated with Judge Pao. You must be eager to learn some history of him!”

Before the boys could object, Mr. Moon had begun, “Judge Pao’s real name was Bao Zheng (999–1062). He was a politician during the reign of Emperor Renzong in China’s Song Dynasty. Bao was an uncompromising judge, fearlessly impeaching corrupt officials and castigating powerful imperial families. He hated corruption and “spoke truth to power”, becoming a symbol of justice. As prefect of Kaifeng, Bao initiated reforms ...”

“It’s boring as beans!” the boys interrupted.

“Why don’t we learn through drama? It’s way more fun! Let’s go on a field trip to collect information in an enthralling way!” Mr. Moon suggested enthusiastically.

In no time, they got into Mr. Moon’s car and began their journey. When they arrived, Mr. Moon instructed them to get off first while he went parking. However, the boys got overexcited, they wandered off and soon got lost.

They passed by an ancient Chinese village and noticed a kid sitting alone on the street crying. Before they could help, they saw some men drawing near. Thus, they quickly hid and peeked. They overheard the kid say that he lost the money he earned from selling youtiao. He alleged that he put his bag of coins by the stone beside him prior to napping but it was gone when he woke up!

Unexpectedly, one of the men spotted Ming and Lok hiding suspiciously and presumed they were the thieves. “Get out of there! How dare you steal this kid’s money!” the man hollered. He seized the boys’ collar and dragged them out from the corner.

Ming and Lok were scared out of their wits. They did not know what to do. They had to think fast.

“Sir, we are innocent. Trust us, we can help find the real thief.” Lok protested.

“Ha ha, every thief says they are innocent! Give the kid back his money before we send you to jail!” commanded the man.

Ming and Lok gazed, horror-struck, at the men. How they wished Mr. Moon was there to help!

Out of the blue, a dignified man came up and said, “Okay, by the presumption of innocence, we allow you to help ferret out the truth.”

The boys were relieved and swore that they would put in their utmost effort. After that, the dignified man gave the poor kid a bucket of water to clean his face and urged him to recall more details. Ming and Lok strived to observe everything meticulously, attempting to look for clues. They espied that the bucket of water turned oily, which reminded them of something, though the idea was not concrete yet. Hence, they summoned the man to have a look. He just smiled and seemed to have a plan.

“Did you steal this kid’s money?” he yelled at the stone where the kid placed his money. Of course, the stone did not answer. So, he bawled again with an ear-piercing voice. At this moment, they were surrounded by a swarm of people.

Suddenly, someone spoke up, “Judge Pao! Aren’t you nuts? Stones can’t talk! People said you’re smart, I think you’re dumb as a rock!” Everyone started guffawing.

“He’s Judge Pao?” Ming and Lok could not believe their ears.

Judge Pao was outraged. “How dare you all! Every one of you have to be punished by dropping a coin into this bucket of water for mocking me!” he bellowed furiously.

The crowd dropped their money one by one, while Pao stared at the bucket of water until he saw oil coming out from a coin.

“He’s the one who stole the money, arrest him!” commanded Pao.

The teenage thief looked down without a word. He admitted to his crime and began his story. “My parents are critically ill and we need money to save them. I didn’t mean to steal, but I have no way out. I’m sorry!” he pleaded.

Ming begged Pao not to execute the thief by the guillotine. Everyone looked confused while Pao signaled him to keep quiet.

“Despite his sad story, stealing is still amiss. With that said, penalty is a must. I hereby sentence him to clean the streets for a month. In return, he could take all the coins from the bucket to treat his parents.” Pao announced.

Everyone was impressed with his judgement. Ming and Lok were freed. Pao thanked them for inspiring him to solve the case.

“Are you really Bao Zheng?” Ming asked.

“Of course, I am!” Pao replied.

“Which one is Zhan Zhao? We’d love to meet him!” The boys could not conceal their excitement.

“You two are really weird!” Pao exclaimed.

Upon leaving, they bumped into Mr. Moon who had been looking for them desperately.

“Mr. Moon looks more like Judge Pao than the real one!” Lok whispered to Ming.

Finally, they returned back to school. They did more research on Pao and realized that not everything in dramas were real. The genuine Pao did not have the crescent shaped birthmark which merely symbolized brightness and purity on TV. Sadly, Zhan Zhao was just a fictional character! After all, they were grateful that they had met Judge Pao who saved the innocent them from being sent to jail. Above all, they were proud of themselves for inspiring the one and only Pao.

# The Missing Stone

*Creative Primary School, Wong, Lok Ka Elizabeth – 9*

Once upon a time, far far away in the jungles of Changbaishan, China, Judge Pao was in the middle of refereeing a game staged in an exotic sleeping volcano when a fire breathing dragon with golden scales, soared right at him and broke his door. The dragon was gasping for air, desperately asking, “Are you Judge Pao?” Judge Pao replied, “Yes, I am.” Dragon Jin said, “I’m from the Eastern Sea and I need your help. Someone stole the infamous Stone of Fire from our Dragon Temple. It’s a sacred stone that can control fire intensity. We need the warmth it gives out because without it, our kind will become extinct in no time. I have always guarded this stone with my life but I was hit over the head so I fainted.” Judge Pao firmly assured Dragon Jin, “We have a case, let’s solve this mystery of the missing Stone of Fire now!”

Judge Pao took with him, five spies and Dragon Jin who brought five golden spiders used to track the thief. The search was on. Starting from dashing through long gushing rivers and cascading waterfalls, to venturing through the mysterious woods and rugged mountains. They had no luck finding anything. They started to ask villagers if they have seen a stone with a fire symbol on it but many said, “No way! Everyone knows it’s too dangerous to even touch.” Meanwhile, the spies and golden spiders were hiding on roof tops around the crowded village when one of the golden spiders saw a suspicious person dressed in black, running with a glowing stone in his pocket and quickly pointed this out to his fellow spiders.

The investigation team all closed in but the sneaky thief threw a dozen swords to distract them. Suddenly, they all fell into a deep hole and Dragon Jin could not fly to escape as the cave was too small. The moldy walls were too slippery to climb. They were stuck for a long hour until one of the golden spiders returned to the hole and excitedly said, “Great news! I dug a route out!” “Great!” said Dragon Jin, “Now it’s time to get out of here!” and regained his flying ability once they left the hole. “I’ve got a plan!” said Judge Pao. “There’s a catapult nearby, we can lure him into it then shoot him into the prison, but we need a bait.” All eyes turned to Dragon Jin, “Wait, why are you all looking at me?” Dragon Jin did not like the idea of being a bait but finally agreed.

When they continued searching the village, one of the golden spiders found a secret note hidden in a garden. The note had the word “Poison” and 3 lines. Under each of these lines were the numbers 9, 21 and 25. On the back of the note, there was another message saying:

*“If you crack my codes, you will find the Stone of Fire.”*

Dragon Jin wandered and asked, “Then, do I still need to be the bait?” Everyone cried out in unison, “Yes!”

Judge Pao took the note and said, “Let’s first find the meaning of this note. Numbers 9, 21 and 25. Let’s see if it corresponds to the alphabet. The 9th letter is an I, 21st, a V and 25th is a Y. IVY!” They all cried out. “POISON IVY, we need to find a poison ivy!” So, they looked around in this secret garden for poison ivy. One of the golden spiders found a bed of poison ivy and shouted, “I found the second clue. There’s another note with a poem that sounds terrible. Look!”

*“As they too ate  
The turtle dove  
A bell did ring  
In clouds above  
Run to that place  
With its blossoms white  
You will find it  
One night”*

Judge Pao said, “From all my years of solving riddles, *too ate*, may mean twenty eight? *A bell did ring in clouds above*... Maybe there’s a bell tower somewhere and *Run to that place with its blossoms white*, Maybe meaning the full moon is at the top of the bell tower? Hmm, it’s located on the 28th Bell Tower that has been under the moon at night!” He suddenly realized

“Great thinking!” said Dragon Jin. Then they rushed to the 28th Bell Tower. There, another golden spider found a burning stone with a symbol on the top with rings of fire burning around it and cried, “Guys, I found the Stone of Fire!” “Hold on”, Dragon Jin warned, “It might be a trap. Aww no!” The thief jumped out of nowhere and laughed, “Hahaha! Looks like you fell into my trap or should I say, Ring of Fire! I don’t think you

can escape this time!” Dragon Jin recognized his voice and replied, “So it’s you, Stone Swiper! I don’t think so fool, not with my stone!” While fighting the Stone Swiper and sucking the burning fire back into his mouth, he shouted to his team, “You all go on without me.”

The rest of the crime solvers quickly set a plan to trap Stone Swiper. “Dragon Jin is busy fighting, he won’t be able to be the bait. Since Stone Swiper loves stones, let’s find a glistening crystal to attract the him, then put it right inside the catapult. When he gets lured into the catapult, we will launch him, hitting those three drums and gongs along the way. Finally, he will bounce off that dart board and fall right into prison!” suggested Judge Pao.

Judge Pao was right, the crystal did attract the Stone Swiper, who fell for the trap and landed in prison. Every creature at the Eastern Sea had a huge celebration. Dragon Jin bounced with joy because he got his Stone of Fire back and did not have to be the bait. He fought Stone Swiper with courage. Yet again, Judge Pao solved another mystery and restored peace in his country.

# New Tales of Judge Pao

*Creative Primary School, Wong, Matthias – 10*

During the Song dynasty, it was divided into two periods: Northern and Southern. The Northern Song dynasty was from 960 to 1127. The capital city was in the Northern city of Bianjing (now Kaifeng, Henan). In 1057, the Northern Song dynasty had several enemies to the north including the Jin, Mongols and the Western Xia. The Song dynasty's biggest enemy were the Jins, but they would send ambassadors to keep peace by sending riches and livestock. However, one time the Jins had a secret plan to send ambassadors to assassinate the famous and skilled war general: Di Qing, who was best known for his night raids.

One of the ambassadors was named Shao Han. On the night of his 9th birthday, he was celebrating with his family, suddenly the Song dynasty's soldiers broke into his house and killed his family. His own life was spared as he managed to cover himself in a corner. Five months later, he was an orphan but no one wanted to adopt him. He was lonely and upset until one foggy night, he escaped from the orphanage and decided to dedicate his life on taking revenge on the Song dynasty. A decade later, he joined the Jin's military programme. Soon, he was the bravest and talented assassin in the army. He became the head of assassins' team and killed many soldiers and villagers from their enemies. Now, he is in his mid-20's with a tall and muscular stature. He carries a gold dagger with the Chinese character "Jin" engraved on it.

Meanwhile, there was a very famous judge that lived in Northern Song dynasty. His name was Bao Zheng, better known as Bao Gong. He was born with brown skin and had a crescent moon-shaped birthmark on his forehead but his brother thought he was ugly so he disliked him. When he was young, his parents could afford to send him to school. As he grew up with low working-class families, he dedicated his life to justice for all. Later on, he became a top judge and he helped many innocent people through justice with his intelligence to detail.

One night, the Jin's sent a group of ambassadors to the Song to execute their secret plan, their target was the popular war general, Di Qing. One of the ambassadors was Shao Han and he was desperate to kill the Emperor Renzong's most beloved skilled military general. Di Qing's house was by the sea, he would go on the beach for peaceful short walks every day at the time of sunset. So, Shao Han planned to assassinate Di Qing with a dagger on the beach. At one sunset, Shao Han went to the beach trying to act unsuspecting, Shao Han got close to Di Qing, and immediately stabbed Di Qing a dozen times with his sharp dagger. Shao Han threw his dagger into the sea and went to the Emperor Renzong's palace to report that his beloved war general was murdered. He told, "Your majesty, I wanted to meet the general to send him gifts, but when I arrived at his house, I found him murdered in cold blood. Emperor Renzong was devastated and upset. Immediately, Emperor Renzong called for Judge Pao to solve the case.

Judge Pao, Shao Han and the Emperor immediately arrived at the crime scene at midnight and the villagers knew and followed them because they too, loved the war general Di Qing very much. Judge Pao was very anxious because there were no witnesses nor evidence. The villagers were also very worried because it seemed impossible for Judge Pao to solve the case. Judge Pao closed his eyes and started to think quietly and deeply for an hour. Meanwhile, the villagers were annoyed because Judge Pao did not make a sound or even move a muscle. Suddenly, Judge Pao said, "When the moon is gone, the sea will tell us who the murderer is." Some of the villagers muttered about Judge Pao and one shouted, "You idiot! How could the sea tell us the answer!? The sea can't even talk!" Judge Pao calmly responded, "The sea will tell, the sea will tell." Judge Pao kept silent for the next couple of hours.

A few hours passed. The sun rose, while the sea water retreated gradually. Then a villager saw something shimmering on the shore. Judge Pao immediately grabbed the dagger and saw the engraved Chinese character "Jin". When Shao Han saw his own dagger, he attempted to escape and run away. Fortunately, Judge Pao had four superior body guards. The four body guards responded immediately and chased Shao Han as fast as they could. Shao Han was out of stamina and so were the body guards. Luckily, Shao Han accidentally ran into a dead end and had no other choice than to surrender. Moments later, Judge Pao and the villagers went to the dead end. Judge Pao then pointed at Shao Han and said, "You're the murderer!" Shao Han gasped and said, "How did you know that I am the murderer?" Judge Pao replied to Shao Han, "I knew that the murderer would be scared and act anxiously when the evidence was in sight as he killed the war general, Di Qing. The murderer would be in a panic and throw his weapon away at the crime scene. I made use of the high tide and low tide phenomenon to find the weapon. High tide is when water covers the shore, and associated with the moon's gravitational pull on the earth. When the moon is gone, low tide will come and the water retreats to its lowest level. That's why I said the sea will tell us the answer eventually." The villagers and the emperor gasped and said, "Judge Pao is so intelligent!" The soldiers immediately took Shao Han away. The emperor and the villagers thanked the legendary Judge Pao for solving yet another case and restoring peace to the land.



# Young Judge Pao's Journey to Hong Kong: The Mysterious Case of the Plum Juice Shop

*Creative Primary School, Weng, Timoi – 10*

There's a small temple located in south Wan Chai of Hong Kong, the neighborhood believes that it was built to memorialize Judge Pao. Legend says, when he was young, the judge himself came to Hong Kong, and solved a complicated case.

In A.D.1019, the 20-year-old Judge Pao ranked number two (Tanhua 探花) in the final imperial examination (Dianshi 殿試) that was presided by the emperor, while Wong, another young candidate, ranked number one (Zhuangyuan 狀元). The two admired each other, and both expressed their strong dedication to the Song Dynasty. To young Judge Pao's surprise, Wong was sent to work as a junior judge in a remote island called Daxishan (大奚山), which was many years later known as Hong Kong. Judge Pao stayed in Kaifeng (開封), the capital city. He farewelled and promised Wong that they would meet one day. Years later, when a group of junior judges from Northern China was offered to visit the South, with Daxishan as the destination, Judge Pao joined without hesitation.

Judge Wong was so glad and desperate to show his friend how vibrant this island was. While they were enjoying views on a high street, excitedly exchanging experiences as young judges, they heard continuous shouting, "Someone fainted! Call help! Oh no! He has no breath!" They immediately rushed on site and found a man lying on the floor.

"What happened to this young man?" Judge Wong questioned. "It's an extremely hot day, it might be heat stroke," an old man answered. Judge Pao observed the body and saw foam coming out from the mouth, "Looks like poison", he thought. They then heard loud sobbing from a close distance, it was the mother, her face was red and blotchy, tears welled up in eyes, she could barely speak, but kept crying. Finally, the pedestrians managed to comfort her, she explained the deceased man was her younger son, whom, just a short time ago, had plum juice at her elder son's shop. Judge Pao promised the mother he would try his best to find the truth, and they all moved to the shop.

The elder son was drinking a glass of juice next to a round table. His mother, with teary eyes, told him his younger brother just passed away. "My poor brother, I feel so sorry for you," he sobbed, holding a piece of cloth and wiping. "My righteous Judge Wong, did you find the cause? He looked healthy when left." Judge Wong sadly responded, "It could be heat stroke," Judge Pao instead, was examining the whole shop, his eyes stopped on those jugs of juice for a while and hesitated for minutes. Finally, he decided to announce his conclusion.

"Please explain," begged the mother. "Mrs. Chiu," Judge Pao began, "Your son was clearly poisoned, I noticed white foam on his mouth, and the murderer is...your elder son." "What?" shouted the elder brother, face turning white, "I would never murder my brother!"

"I agree, "a voice came from behind, it was Judge Wong. "Mr. Chiu's a wealthy and decent man, he even donates to unfortunate people, besides...his ancestors are related to the royal Chiu family." "That's right! Also, my brother and I had the same glass of juice. Mother, could you witness me?" "Right, I remember now, my two sons did drink the same glass. Mr. Pao, I heard your incredible stories, but you are wrong this time."

Judge Pao remained silent then replied seriously, "First, my friend Judge Wong, being rich or even royal wouldn't stop a man from committing crimes. We focus on clues; Mrs. Chiu, let me explain. Your elder son must've put an ice cube injected with poison in the glass. Although expensive and rare, through the trip I found ice already used on some occasions in south China."

While Judge Pao was talking, the elder son had drops of sweat rolling down.

"He only took a few sips in the very beginning," Judge Pao continued, "but when your younger son started drinking, the ice was melting, so he slowly took in the poison, this also explains why he fainted sometime

later.” Judge Pao asked everyone to look closely, the juice in the iced glass is a little lighter compared to that in the jug. All eyes are now on the elder brother, who kept gulping. “You may also touch the glass, I’m sure it’s still a bit cool as the ice has just fully melted.” Before Judge Pao finished, the mother did so and quickly gave her elder son a fierce look. “Shall I continue, Mr. Chiu, or you finish the rest of the juice?” Judge Pao urged.

The elder brother knelt and confessed in a hopeless tone, “I...I’m the murderer.” “Speak louder,” Judge Pao ordered. “My brother and I’ve been fighting about large fortunes our deceased father left. I came up with this perfect plan. To ease my brother’s suspicion, I took a few sips first. Surely Judge Wong wouldn’t figure out. Being rich and well-known, everyone would think it’s heat stroke that killed my brother, not me at all. I deliberately left the iced juice on the table to remind my mum that we shared the same glass. But you, Judge Pao, came out of nowhere, ruined the whole thing...”

Now Judge Wong’s face turned red, but soon after he felt lucky to have such a great friend, not only for his remarkable observing skills, but also his fairness when making judgements. “Remember, only evidence that counts,” Judge Pao seemed to read his friend’s thoughts, they both laughed. Within one day, Judge Pao’s name rang bells across the island. But humble as Judge Pao, he started strolling on high streets the next day, as if nothing happened. He knew he still had much to learn as a young judge, for more mysterious cases awaiting him in the future!



# The Mystery Murder

*Creative Primary School, Yip, Chit Tung Dustin – 9*

Once upon a time in the spooky dark woods of Hefei, China, a woman found a mysterious dead body, so she quickly reported to the police. Soon after, a police with a tough and buff physique arrived at the crime scene. They quickly found out the poor victim was an old Chinese football legend, Chao Yip.

After they found out that the poor old victim was Chao Yip, they were desperate to find who the murderer was. First, they told Chao Yip's mother. After his mother heard the terrible news, she said in a mournful voice: "God, my treasure is gone! Sniff, sniff. Can you please find who killed my treasure? Can you kill them or give them a life-time sentence. Sniff, sniff." After that, the tough and buff police went to find Chao Yip's ex-wife with attempts to find evidence. After a two hour talk with her, they found some evidence. She said that she thought the murderer could possibly be a drug dealer, because a few days ago, a few big and chunky drug dealers came and had an argument with Chao Yip. After days of investigation, they still could not find any direct evidence, so they had no choice than to find the best detective in the world. They were not talking about Sherlock Holmes, but about the legendary Judge Pao. They wrote a letter to Judge Pao to tell him about the mysterious murder that happened in the creepy and dark woods in Hefei China, where he lived.

Judge Pao stood 5'9 tall with dark skin and always wore a serious look upon his face. When Judge Pao went to the crime scene, he tried to find evidence. First, he searched around the body's wounds and investigated the cause of the injuries. After the investigation, he thought the wounds were caused by knife cuts. Then, he pulled out a fingerprint powder kit and began searching for fingerprints. He searched the trees, grass and even the dead body, but there was no luck, except for one tree. He found a fingerprint. However, he found another fingerprint nearby. Something was off and out of the ordinary. The fingerprints led him to the middle of the spooky dark woods and there were two sets of fingerprints which meant that there were two murderers. Judge Pao predicted that after the murder, the murderers went into the woods to hide. Therefore, he and the police went on to search the frozen forest. They went across rivers, lakes and even came across the bears. Eventually they came across a cave and found a camp. Judge Pao began to look for fingerprints again and he found the same two.

In the camp, Judge Pao also found a note, which spoke of Chao Yip. In the note, it read, "Oh man, Oh man! I hate that man. I became his friend just to kill him. Ha, Ha!" According to the notes, Judge Pao decided to find all of Chao Yip's friends and brought them in for questioning while using an old Chinese lie detector test invented by Pao. Judge Pao inquired. "Do you know Chao Yip was killed? Do you like him? What is the purpose of being his friend?" The lie detector test required some super dried rice. The rice was placed inside his or her mouth. The suspects were asked questions. If they lied, their rice would become congee, which meant the person was lying. Based on lie detector test results, Judge Pao found four people who were lying. Among these four persons, Judge Pao asked more questions as to whom they thought was the killer, and when was the last time they saw Chao Yip. After asking all four suspects, three of them thought it was suspect number two, Lao Chu. However, Lao Chu thought Chao Yip killed himself. Lao Chu said he last saw Chao Yip a few weeks ago in the woods and Chao Yip took his knife and ran away. Judge Pao thought it was a lie so he arrested Lao Chu and put him into trial. In court, Judge Pao said that Lao Chu killed Chao Yip, but Lao Chu said that Chao Yip took his knife and ran away. Judge Pao challenged him and asked why he had a knife? Lao Chu said he had a knife to protect himself in the dark. All the evidence pointed to Lao Chu and so he was sentenced to life in prison. Judge Pao asked the murderer Lao Chu who was his partner in crime. Lao Chu sighed with an unhappy face, and said the partner was his brother, Rao Chu. He was there to clean off the crime scene like throwing away the knife. The police and Judge Pao tried to find Rao Chu but they unfortunately he was nowhere to be found.

Seven years later, a man named Rao Chu came to the police claiming that he killed Chao Yip several years ago. The police arrested him and put him in the prison with his brother Lao Chu, who had been in prison for seven years. In the prison, the Chu brothers felt regret.

This mystery murder case was solved because of Judge Pao's intelligent brain. If the case was not solved, Chao Yip's mum would not have found justice for his son, the Chu brothers would never have received their punishment and consequences for their murder of Chao Yip. The worst damage of unsolved crime cases is that people will recommit crimes again. Judge Pao brought justice and peace throughout the country of China.

# The Drowned Prince

*Creative Primary School, Yuen, Kayla – 12*

While everyone in the palace was still sleeping, a servant was tending to the sweet-scented osmanthus in the garden. As he inched closer to the pond, he saw a hand, sticking out like a sore thumb. A flash of fear ran through his spine, he could've ignored it. However, he instinctively dug the specimen out of the water. Only to see the corpse of his master's son.

Yan Xiu was sitting next to her mother, Yan Li, who was sobbing quietly. Her father Yan Feng, the head of the house, was shouting commands. Yan A, who had just lost her son, Yan Yu, was looking dissatisfied as always. Yan A was heartless, but Yan Xiu knew her half-brother's death affected her father greatly. You just had to know where to look.

Just then, a familiar figure entered the hall, and silence descended the room. It was Bao Zheng, an imperial scholar who was also a politician. Now, gasps and whispers spread across the room. Yan Feng looked relieved, Yan A looked amused and Yan Li sobbed even harder. Bao Zheng started with a calm tone of voice, explaining his arrival, but Yan Xiu was three steps ahead. "Of course he would be here," She thought with a hint of pride, she managed to predict his arrival, like a spy.

The Yan family were wealthy nobles who were famous for iron-making. Their family have been a great help to Emperor Ren Zong. Allies but not friends, it would be dishonourable for an emperor to favour one noble family the most.

The emperor had many government officials working for him. Bao Zheng was one of them, who wrote the law and upheld justice. He was a capable detective. Yan Yu's death was murder, and Bao Zheng was going to help them find the murderer. "Before he gets to me," Yan Xiu thought, then stopped that train of thought. An insanely suicidal idea. Wouldn't it be better if she stopped the murderer before he got to her?

She had made her insanely suicidal idea partly come true. All she had to do was to find the murder. She and Bao Zheng were investigating every part of the palace. Bao Zheng had done most of the talking and so far nothing interesting had come up. Yan Xiu was barely paying attention, but Bao Zheng seemed to consider this as the most exciting thing he worked on.

As Bao Zheng inspected the murder scene, Yan Xiu's perspective of the old man was changing. She recalled first hearing about Bao Zheng, how he managed to stop his cruel uncle from gaining more power. When the emperor refused to listen to his theories, Bao Zheng grabbed him by the sleeve until he gave in. He could have been executed for that, but it didn't stop him. Yan Xiu admired Bao Zheng for that. But now that she was working with him, she found him incredibly dull. From time to time she found herself doubting his abilities. Biased but reasonable thoughts.

"My lady, if I could have your attention, please," said a voice behind her. Yan Xiu whipped around to find a servant. Not just any servant, but the one who found Yan Yu's corpse. "Of course," she replied. He shuffled his feet. "Your mother requested that I brought the two of you to her." Yan Xiu transferred her gaze to Bao Zheng, who nodded and strode forward. As he passed her, she heard him mumbling to himself, "Everything about this is discombobulated."

At first glance, the person in front of her looked like Yan Li. As they got closer, Yan Xiu saw that her mother's smile was strained. They're in her room with the door shut. Three chairs were set in front of them and Yan Li signalled them to sit. "I have something to tell all of you," Yan Li exclaimed. Yan Xiu's thin impatience took over and hinted Yan Li to continue. Instead, she howled and started sobbing. It's the most heart-wrenching thing Yan Xiu's ever seen that she had no idea how to react. Bao Zheng's on his feet first, then kneeling beside Yan Li. "When a loved one dies," he says, his expression turned weary. "Most—" Yan Li banged her fists on the floor making all of them jump. She spoke, and she's practically stuttering. "The murderer was me."

Everyone in the Yang family hall was engrossed in Bao Zheng's story. "In conclusion, the murderer was a drifter. However, when I found him, he had hung himself. He left no evidence of his crime, except for the jade necklace that Yan Yu always had around him." He whipped out the necklace, and everyone turned wide-eyed. As if he was appointed to, Yan Feng stepped out. He thanked Bao Zheng for his help, which made Yan Xiu smirk. The drifter was only a coverup.

That night, she found her mother in the garden, while her father was arranging the funeral. She cradled her mother, who was so fragile and weak. "How poetic," she thought, considering this was where her mother had thrown Yan Yu in the pond. Then, she stopped herself, her mother killed Yan Yu because of Yan A, it was partly her fault. Yan A was the one who had tormented her mother, and her father couldn't do anything about it. So she wasn't mad at him either. "I regret it, I really do. But I wanted to make her feel pain." That was how much Yan A made Yan Li hate her. "I thought of various ways and then that night I saw Yan Yu. Alone. 'What if she lost her child?' I thought, then I had done it." She remembered how she flinched, hearing her mother saying such venomous things. They feared that they'd have to expose Yan Li. Luckily, Bao Zheng gave them an out. Yan Xiu was flabbergasted, however he said, "Sometimes you have to bend the law, this is one of those times."

Yan Xiu looked up at the moon. It reminded her of Li Bai's poem about the moon. Of Bao Zheng's forehead mark that looked like the crescent. Of Yan Yu's pale skin. And of her mother's white shawl, that was wrapped around the both of them.

# The Prime Minister's Case

*Diocesan Boys School Primary Division, Chee, Chung Yui Sean – 10*

Judge Pao turns on the television to watch the news, and learns the Prime Minister has been assassinated. Judge Pao says, "Dante! The Prime Minister has been killed and assassinated!"

Dante replies "What? When?"

Judge Pao says, "Yesterday he was killed during his speech." He then quickly tells his young sidekick to start digging up some useful information to investigate the Prime Minister's death.

Dante says, "Judge Pao, I did some digging and found some information about the assassinator's whereabouts."

Judge Pao demands, "So, where is he?"

Dante replies, "His hideout is an abandoned underground food and drinks factory hidden in a mountain."

Judge Pao answers, "What are you waiting for? Let's go!"

Judge Pao and his sidekick have information about the assassin's whereabouts. When entering the villain's hideout, the villain then proceeds to throw a barrage of knives at the two – WHOOSH! Luckily, the sidekick notices it and they both duck down and dodge them. CLANG! Then Judge Pao realizes the entire floor is covered in tripwires which trigger bombs all over it. But Dante hasn't seen the tripwires yet and accidentally trips on the tripwires...BOOM! KABOOM! Judge Pao pushes Dante away from the explosion. Dante says, "Phew! That was a close one." But then the assassin throws yet another barrage of knives. WHOOSH! CLANK! The two duck again and the knives hit the wall with a bang.

The mysterious assassin circles behind them and says, "My name is Saw and I will bring about your demise!" He then again throws another barrage of knives, WHOOSH! CLANK! Later, he summons his henchmen to fight Judge Pao and Dante in hand-to-hand combat. After weakening one of the henchmen, the henchman baits the two into the tripwires, causing another explosion. Luckily, Judge Pao pushes Dante out of the way again, saving his life for the second time. While Judge Pao is fighting two henchmen, Dante's arm gets kicked hard by one of the henchmen, but he manages to kick the henchman's head hard and knock him out and helps Judge Pao defeat the last henchman.

Now, Saw finally appears in front of them both and they start to fight. He starts attacking Dante first because Dante's arm is already injured. Judge Pao tries to make Saw focus his attention on him, but it doesn't work. Minutes after Judge Pao's attempts on making Saw focus his attention on him, WHOOSH! Saw's leg kicks Dante's head, causing Dante to be knocked out and falling on the floor. But Judge Pao is ready to fight Saw. Saw activates yet another tripwire with his remote, BOOM! BANG! KABOOM! Judge Pao jumps out of the way again and kicks Saw's right eye, causing his right eye to be blinded temporarily. Saw activates another tripwire with his remote yet again, and this time, the explosion hits Judge Pao and he gets sent flying away. Judge Pao's head is now bleeding, and he is at the corner of the old warehouse. Saw finally has him cornered, but Judge Pao lands a strong uppercut to Saw's jaw and lethally stuns him. Then Judge Pao grabs a nearby katana on the floor and impales Saw like a master samurai, killing him for good.

But then, one of Saw's henchmen wakes up and threatens to kill Dante if Judge Pao takes a step closer, Dante says, "It's fine, Pao, just let him do it. I'll be fine." Judge Pao now approaches him but then the henchmen suddenly kill Dante, before ending his own life.

One day later, Judge Pao and the Prime Minister's family attend to both Dante's and the Prime Minister's funerals. After the funeral, Judge Pao says to the Prime Minister's wife, "This case has been closed."

# Judge Pao and the Terrifying Truth

*Diocesan Boys School Primary Division, Cheung, Cheuk Dai Steve – 9*

WHOOOSH!! The storm walked into the village. ROAR!! The sound of the violent storm screeched in everybody's ears. All of the people panicked and screamed as loud as crying babies. Things were scattered everywhere like at the dump. "Help me!" cried a small child. "Help me!!" A building was about to fall onto the poor little child. But just before it collapsed, a superhero, Judge Pao, saved the baby and lifted the building back where it belonged. But in the small corner in the distance, he found a note that said: ಡಾ. ಏಂಜೆಲ್.

Judge Pao returned to his secret base where his sidekick, Super Duck, was waiting for him. "It seems like the storm was not a natural phenomenon, something was causing it," said Judge Pao as he continued his sentence. "We suspect that something, or someone, was causing this storm."

"Who's we?" asked Super Duck.

"The 'We' is the Duck Army! I invited the Duck Army to help us solve the case" replied Judge Pao.

Later, the Duck Army, a team of ducks, hurtled to the beach like a cheetah. WOOSH! The trees waved at them, the waves roared at them and the sun shone brightly down on them. He blinked his eyes, the sunlight making it hard to look around clearly. They inspected the beach until they found a person wearing a black robe. When the person saw them, they began running away from them!

"Stop! Stop!" screamed Judge Pao, breathing heavily as he chased the mysterious person across the beach.

"Maybe you should have skipped those donuts today, copper!" mocked the person in black as he slowly ran to a car, teasing Judge Pao who was still twenty meters behind him.

But it was too late, the person in black had already gotten into the car and sped away. "We need a new plan to catch the criminal," said Judge Pao.

The next day, Judge Pao was walking through the woods, trying to find any clues about the crime. Suddenly, he heard a queer noise, the noise of the woods shaking and the wind roaring at him. He turned around only to find out that there was no one behind him, so he continued to walk. But then, a gloomy shadow appeared in the distance, as if an invisible person walked in front of him.

Judge Pao was really confused about the sounds and the shadow. His brain was spinning, he noticed another piece of paper in the bushes that wrote: ಡಕ್ ಕರಾವಳಿಯಲ್ಲಿ, ಭೇಟಿ ಮಾಡಿ, ಎಡಕ್ಕೆ 6 ಹೆಜ್ಜೆಗಳು, ಬಲಕ್ಕೆ 9 ಹೆಜ್ಜೆಗಳು, ರಹಸ್ಯ ರಂಧ್ರಕ್ಕೆ ಹೋಗಿ ಮತ್ತು ನೀವು ಅಲ್ಲಿಯೇ ಇರುತ್ತೀರಿ. As he returned to base, he pondered its meaning. After a while he realized what the note meant.

It meant: Meet at the duck coast, 6 steps to the left, 9 steps to the right, go into the secret hole and you will be right there. Judge Pao and his army then went to the scene to investigate. When they arrived, they saw a weird room which had a floor made of many tiny steps and there was lava as orange as an orange surrounding the floor, it was as if they were in a pyramid. There was a sign that showed: If you do not take the right steps, YOU WILL DIE! MUHAHAHAHA!

Only if Judge Pao successfully took the right steps and avoided the lava, he could go to the other side of the room and catch the villain in black. A duck was really impatient and stepped on one of the booby-trapped steps, but he didn't realize it was a trap and was falling into the lava! Thankfully, Judge Pao grasped the duck's feet at the last second and saved the duck's life! Judge Pao said, "We must be really careful. Everyone, follow my steps!" One by one, the ducks reached the other side of the room.

They opened the door and made a shocking discovery! The person in black was: Dr. Angel! She was one of the most wanted villains in the world! She was known for her fighting skills. "Well, well, well, isn't it the famous detective Judge Pao! You are just in time for my grand moment! Once I press this button, the entire universe will explode into dust!" cackled Dr. Angel, like a vibrating moose.

The Duck Army was frozen in fear, as they didn't know what to do, but then, it was too late, Dr. Angel had already pressed the button and the world was doomed! Or was it? "Hey! Why isn't the world exploding?? Hello?!", screamed Dr. Angel, suddenly, something won-duckful happened, Dr. Angel started to perish, as she screamed out loudly, "No!!!"

“You were lucky you didn’t die,” said a voice from nowhere. It was the Ducky Master, the ancestors of the ducks. Judge Pao and the ducks thanked the Ducky Master and went back to their base. The ducks said, “You want to go and have some pizza tonight?”

“Okay!”, replied Judge Pao as they rushed away.

# The Mysterious Note

*Diocesan Boys School Primary Division, Chiu, Lok Man Cheston – 10*

Lying lazily on the couch watching the news report, Judge Pao caught a glimpse of an interesting story about a murder. It was about a murder in a deserted house, and the murderer had left the police clueless. Judge Pao thought to himself with a mischievous grin, “Interesting! I’m going to call the police officer in charge to see what it is all about.”

“Judge Pao, an old man called Sam Arnold in his sixties was stabbed to death by the knife over there. It is fairly apparent that the killer has wiped out all his fingerprints before he left the scene. He even left this mysterious note, ‘You will not find me.’ We tried to find the killer’s fingerprints on this note; nevertheless, he had wiped them out as well.” Captain George, who was the officer in charge, continued briefing Judge Pao about what they had investigated so far at the scene. “What’s more, we believe that the killer should know this poor old man as we don’t see the door being broken or smashed open. In other words, the victim let the killer in.”

Judge Pao closed his eyes and wriggled his head. He had no clue either. However, he trusted himself and knew there must be a way to sniff out the murderer. That was until he remembered about the knife. He asked Captain George, “Have you checked the knife yet?” George murmured, “Oh right, not yet but I thought the killer should have wiped his fingerprints from the knife, or he wore a pair of gloves...” In a flash, a glimmer came into Judge Pao’s eyes, he said, “See the glove at the edge of the door! It might have been left by the killer when he escaped from the scene in a rush.”

Two days later, the laboratory report was released, and a couple of fingerprints were found on the glove. “Sirs, the fingerprints belong to a former serial killer, named John Benedict. He had escaped prison last week and has killed three more people since,” a young officer reported to Captain George and Judge Pao and showed them the recent photograph of John Benedict. Judge Pao looked at John’s photograph in stunned silence. John was in his forties. He was almost pale white, which made his sea rover-blue eyes stand out from his face. It’s hard to believe such a ‘gentleman’ was a serial killer.

“What is the relationship between Sam Arnold and John Benedict? Which prison did John Benedict escape from?” Judge Pao bombarded the officer with a number of questions.

“A supermax prison called Doomsday Prison, the most secure prison in town. We don’t know the relationship between them yet,” the officer replied.

Judge Pao and the fellow officers headed off to Doomsday Prison and a guard led them to Benedict’s jail cell, saying, “This was John Benedict’s jail cell.” While Judge

Pao fell into his deep thoughts, George spotted a card written with some names on it. That was when they realized that the people Benedict killed were all on the list! Sam Arnold’s name was on the list as well – second to last!

Judge Pao instantly decided to protect the last person on Benedict’s list, which was a man named Chris Crawley. The police offered to protect Chris in the coming 24 hours. It was all going smoothly, until someone mysterious came in front of Judge Pao.

Judge Pao put his hand on his chin and asked, “Is he Benedict? But he doesn’t look like the guy in the photo.” The officers replied, “No, but this person came to the police station and said he had something explosive to break to us. “Tell the man to come here.” Judge Pao said. This stranger said, “Mister, my name is Peter Smith. I know you are looking for John Benedict. Let me tell you, he is hiding in a small cottage, number 3487, in a forest right next to Doomsday Prison right now. I would like to come with you as a witness against John Benedict killing more than three people after his prison escape.”

Judge Pao scratched his head and requested Captain George to interrogate Peter while searching for information about Benedict. Judge Pao had tons of questions in his mind, such as, what were the relationships between John, Sam and Peter? Why did John put Sam and Chris on his list?

After the interrogation, Judge Pao told Peter to stay at the station for the day, and also called a bunch of officers to be equipped in full gear to go with him and Captain George to the cottage that Peter had mentioned.

When they arrived at the creepy cottage, they discovered that the cottage next to it, number 3486 was empty, so Judge Pao was determined to change the plans up a little bit. He called up twenty officers and told George to stay at the cottage for the night and he decided to do the same thing as well. Suddenly, a man came out

of cottage number 3487 when they had just settled in. In a flash, everyone rushed out and four officers arrested the man. He claimed he was in fact, Benedict, and admitted that he had killed Sam Arnold, after a bunch of forcing. Also, he said that Sam Arnold threatened him to reveal Benedict's secret of where he was hiding if Benedict didn't give him money. They used to be friends from their hometown, and when John escaped, he asked Sam for supplies. Nonetheless, Sam got greedy, and tried to squeeze a fortune from John. As a result, John said he had "no choice" but to kill Sam. The officers brought John back to the station, while Judge Pao and Captain George gave a big thank you to Peter Smith and gave him a one-thousand-dollar reward as a gesture of appreciation.

Benedict was sentenced to life in prison, and Judge Pao decided to end the case right after.



# Judge Pao on a Dangerous Mission

*Diocesan Boys School Primary Division, Chow, Tsz Ching Clinton – 10*

BOOM! In the year 3000, the fireworks lit up the stunning sky above Robot City on the planet Uranus with a spectrum of colors. As the city and the astute investigator Judge Pao celebrated Halloween, he grinned widely. He was both alarmed and worried since this night in the year would likely see a lot of violent crimes.

He was watching the news at home when the announcer abruptly yelled: "BREAKING NEWS! A scary individual emerged from the wreckage of an unidentified flying object that had just crashed into the busy area, threatening the spectators with knives." Judge Pao was astounded to learn that Bowser, the enigmatic individual, was the most sought criminal of the 30th century. Judge Pao sighed and reflected, "Well, I guess it's time for me to get back to work!

Judge Pao immediately jumped out of the window and drove his supercar to the venue. He had brought a minigun, knives and other weapons that he stored hidden in his supercar. When he arrived at the spooky scene, the place was empty other than the bodies of some unfortunate people who had been killed by the murderer. Judge Pao looked around carefully. All of a sudden, the sound of twigs breaking snapped around him. The skies grew dark quickly. The once clear-blue void above had suddenly grown gray with clouds. The wind howled, shaking the trees violently. Leaves swirled through the yard, as if running away like frightened children. Judge Pao stared around wide-eyed, shaken at nature's sudden turn. He hoped the bad weather would pass before his birthday, which is tomorrow. He continued walking and caught a glimpse of shadows moving around him. His heart was pounding quickly and he was scared.

Someone suddenly struck him in the face. When Judge Pao noticed an unfamiliar face, he turned around. Bowser WAS THERE! the two convicts murmured: "Judge Pao, wonderful to see you, but you're going to be dead meat today,"

Judge Pao didn't scare easily and he pulled his gun out, ready to fight. The murderer also took their guns out and didn't hesitate to shoot at Judge Pao. Unfortunately for him, he missed. They started running away towards a nearby haunted house in the woods. Judge Pao didn't want to go into the woods this late in the evening, but he needed to take the risk if he wanted to catch the criminal. It usually wasn't this dark so early but the thick clouds hid the evening moon and cast dark shadows on the gloomy forest floor. A strange, uneasy feeling sent shivers down his spine, but he pushed the fearful thought out of his head as he wandered deeper into the haunted house in the forest.

The haunted house was creepy and dark. Judge Pao slowly walked inside the house. All the while, he felt like someone was behind him. In the spur of a moment, someone stabbed Judge Pao directly in his hands. It was the criminal he had been tracking. As he bled profusely, Judge Pao fought for his life. He investigated the house when he found out that Bowser had left the haunted house. Therefore, he was determined to settle in this house and rest to recover from his pain. Later, he slept there for the night and prepared for the battle tomorrow.

Judge Pao realized he had to resume fighting when he woke up the following morning. He carried a firearm and moved around and looked around cautiously. He made his way out of the forest then around the street after learning that it was unusually silent. He missed the criminals who were camped up in a tree. So, he was suddenly backstabbed. As he turned around, he grabbed his knives from his belt and readied for another attack. He bravely ran towards the criminal and swung his sword. Luckily, when he was swinging his weapons, he cut off Bowser's hand. Also, he chopped Bowser's left leg off. The dangerous murderer was frustrated as he said: "Arghhhh!" Bowser decided to run away since he noticed he had lost the battle and couldn't attack Judge Pao – the brave detective. Judge Pao ran like a flash towards the bad guy. Unfortunately for the criminal, they tried their hardest to escape but since he lost his hands or legs, he couldn't run that fast.

As a result, Judge Pao caught up to him and used handcuffs to arrest them. Bowser was disappointed and felt guilty for what he did but he was still sentenced to jail for his whole life. When the whole city knew about the situation, they were joyful and the government hosted Halloween again.

Everyone was ecstatic and joyfully celebrated. Additionally, Judge Pao received the Nobel Prize. What a close call! Judge Pao thought to himself while celebrating his birthday and Halloween with his family.

# The Tale of a Wise Judge

*Diocesan Boys School Primary Division, Chwee, Ting Hei Aidan – 9*

Judge Pao heard a loud noise at the bank across the street at a park and knew a robbery was happening. The out-of-shape Judge Pao ran across the street, following the group of robbers after they emerged from the bank. There were sirens ringing and policemen running after the criminals too. It was a wild chase. Even Judge Pao's assistant, Michael, had joined the chase. Policemen fired their guns at the criminals. Bang! Bang! Before they could get away, the criminals ran into the street and got squashed by a getaway car passing in the end. The getaway driver was sent to jail.

The next day, Judge Pao sat at home looking at the cube his grandfather had given him the day before he died. He inspected it closely, just like he had done every single evening for the past ten years. He could still not understand the strange markings on it. He whispered to himself, "It might be a prophecy. This thing must be holding the secrets of the next generation."

Whoosh! A flying car flew by Judge Pao's house at high speed. That had always annoyed Judge Pao, since he was now a lazy old man who slept until ten o'clock every morning. That morning, he didn't feel like waking up, eating or even doing anything. He grabbed the remote for the television in his room to see if there was anything interesting on.

That was when he realized he was late for a meeting. He quickly got dressed and left. He ordered a bagel and a cup of cappuccino at the nearby coffee shop. Judge Pao then got in his fancy flying car and flew to the office, which was a long way from his house. In fact, it was in another city. He lived in San Rontavius and his office was in the city of Revius.

At the meeting, the people there talked about the recent crimes. The oddest thing was that the crimes were all caused by the same person, Jordan. Judge Pao knew that his nemesis was back to committing crimes like he had been ten years ago. That brought back the image of war he had against Jordan ten years ago, when his old assistant Cypher died that exact day. Now, the group knew that Judge Pao was the only one to hurt Jordan. They decided it would be better if Judge Pao fought against him since Judge Pao had the most experience.

Judge Pao said, "I was much younger and stronger back in those days."

The group still chose him to be the one who would fight Jordan.

That evening, he sat comfortably on the couch and watched television. Bang! The door fell down followed by a loud war cry. Judge Pao froze. He knew he had to do something quickly. Last time this happened, the tension grew quickly and World War 3 started just like that. Judge Pao wanted peace in all places. He hated wars and did not want to start World War 4. He quickly went to the door and punched the kidnappers. He finally decided to meet Jordan and defeat him once and for all.

For consecutive months, Judge Pao lost weight with his partner and also recruited an army. He looked up the web and located Jordan's headquarters, choosing to face him there.

He arrived at Jordan's headquarters thinking that he was ready but inside were Jordan and his army, ready for battle. Jordan said, "Finally, I shall defeat my enemy and the peace savior, Judge Pao!"

The army cheered and opened the gates to begin the battle. Bang! Bang! Bang! Bullets of different sizes flew at Judge Pao and his army. Judge Pao and his army retreated to the city of Revius. Jordan never expected Judge Pao to retreat to a city that helped raise millions of citizens. Jordan ordered, "Blow up the city!" He shouted to the terrified crowds in the city, "Revius! Behold the power and glory of the all-mighty Jordan! Judge Pao is in your city to bring destruction!"

The crowd followed Judge Pao and told him death threats. Judge Pao was forced to leave with his army but the only way out was to walk past Jordan.

Judge Pao was terrified but he was determined to defeat Jordan. When he walked past Jordan, he said to him, "You are going down the path that is not foreseeable and that path cannot be followed."

Jordan said, "Well, if you say you are better than me, fight me here!"

Judge Pao calmly just said, "I may not be able to beat you in a fight, but you cannot beat me in a test of knowledge. I am wise but not a powerful fighter."

Jordan shouted in disgust, "Lies!"

Judge Pao sneakily took out dagger and walked ahead, but no one knew he was secretly murdering the entire army.

Jordan was mad, so he told his men, "Fight! Fight like real men!"

Jordan's army didn't even move a muscle. Jordan froze in shock. Jordan had to surrender or else he would face a horrible death.

Jordan shouted, "I hate you!" Then ran into a forest nearby as fast as he could.

Judge Pao shouted into the woods, "Don't be stupid enough to poke your head out of the forest, disturb the people living outside and build a new army to forge hope to defeat me. I will be ready for your attack."

Jordan actually for once followed Judge Pao's commands. The city was never bothered by Jordan ever after.

The day Jordan disappeared in the forest was named "Day of Peace". Judge Pao later on found out the cube was a hint to Jordan's destiny and what would happen that day on Jordan's death by using a secret code used with his grandfather before he died.

# Judge Pao's Near-Impossible Mission On Catching The Thief Of Famous Panda Bubble

*Diocesan Boys School Primary Division, Fong, Kwok Fung Kiran – 10*

Judge Pao is chasing after the thief at full speed, Judge Pao is catching up, but the thief is entering an extremely dense bamboo forest. It is a vital moment in Judge Pao's journey on catching the thief.

Judge Pao is an intelligent and hardworking individual. Since he was young, he dreamt of becoming a famous and respected investigator and from that moment on, he never looked back.

China's prince tells Judge Pao the famous panda Bubble was stolen at night, and gives him a risky offer. If he catches the cunning thief and is able to return Bubble to the royal palace within one week, a fortune of one million dollars will be transferred to his bank account. However, if he can't, he will only see metal bars for the rest of his life! Since Judge Pao had a lot of confidence in himself, he decided to accept the prince's offer.

Judge Pao knew that there were many smart thieves in China, so he knew that it definitely would be the hardest task he had ever faced, not forgetting that he only had one week to save Bubble the panda.

With only one week to save Bubble the panda, Judge Pao started on his journey to save Bubble the Panda. First, he went to the royal palace to see if there were any clues that the thief left around the royal zoo. He first found a hidden security camera in a corner, so he immediately picked it up and stuffed it into his bag. He also found a few pieces of long black hair, hinting that the thief was a lady. He went back to his science lab and found out the thief had gone northwest after catching Bubble the panda. He now had a ton of useful information that he knew about the thief, but only four days left.

Judge Pao hopped into his G-wagon and then went northwest of the royal palace to a jungle called 'Jungle of danger' because of the dangerous natural disasters and fierce animals that could ambush you at any moment. So, Judge Pao thought for a while and concluded that perhaps the thief was hiding in there because most investigators wouldn't have the courage and bravery to go in. However, Judge Pao was special and talented, so he decided that he would go to the 'Jungle of danger'. He drove through sticky muddy puddles and lots of heavy rain, but his G-wagon stood strong and got to the jungle safely. After he reached the jungle for a few hours, he heard a loud rustling sound. All of a sudden, a person wearing a full green outfit, helping her camouflage in the bushes charged out of a small bush, carrying a large bag with something struggling in it. Judge Pao had an important decision to make, either chase after the suspicious person that was carrying a bag or continue investigating for more clues. And since Judge Pao had a bold and ruthless personality, he chose option one, and started galloping after the person. Judge Pao is chasing after the thief at full speed, he was starting to catch up, but the thief was entering a dense bamboo forest. But then the thief turned around and said "You are never going to catch me, with your beard in your way and your big fat stomach!" However, that only spurred Judge Pao on to catch the thief, so he pulled out a chain that was made out of iron, and launched it at the thief. Judge Pao had practiced this throw many times, so he was able to chain the thief's upper-body, and pull her with all his might into him.

Judge Pao put the metal handcuffs on the thief and shoved her into his car with no mercy at all. He looked at his watch, and amazingly, he completed the challenge of the prince with one day and two hours still in hand!

In the end, the thief was forced into the not only deepest but also the darkest dungeon of the castle, while Judge Pao was awarded one million dollars by the prince. In an interview later on, Judge Pao said something extremely inspirational for people of all ages, "When I was young, my family was very poor, so my dream since I was young was to become an amazing investigator, so I continued working hard every day. For example, practicing running different distances every day, throwing iron chains every day, solving riddles every day and more! So, a lesson for everyone listening to this is to work hard, be determined, keep fighting, and one day in the future you will achieve your life goal that you have worked so hard for!"

# Judge Pao and the Gangsters of Neptune

*Diocesan Boys School Primary Division, Ng, Pak Hei Edwin – 9*

Judge Pao was in bed, still not awake. Suddenly, the alarm clock went off and he instantly jumped up. He grabbed his coffee that had already been made by his butler and got his suitcase. This was his big day. The Emperor of Neptune had called and asked him to investigate something. Because he was rushing and wasn't careful when drinking his coffee and packing up his stuff, he spilled coffee all over the suitcase!

As he was walking out the door, his butler suddenly rushed over and yelled, "Faster! You have left everything at home!" He felt ashamed and thanked his butler.

"What is up with me today?" Judge Pao asked himself, puzzled. When Judge Pao and his crew arrived at the NASA corp. space station, Elon Musk told them to put on spacesuits and wait to board the number#1425354453 flight to Neptune. An hour later, he and his crew boarded the rocket to Neptune.

During the flight, his science and tech officer threw up, but lucky no one else did.

Suddenly, they heard a large explosion! Something clearly went wrong. They looked out the window and saw a huge monster looking at them. It said, "Greetings! Judge Pao! I am a guard around the outer rim of the planet! Sorry I thought this was an enemy ship and I'm in a robot! I'll teleport you guys to Bahoo City in Uranus!"

When they arrived at Uranus, there were massive buildings shaped like eggs.

They landed on a landing pad on top of the tallest building. The emperor was waiting for them at the side. He said that someone had broken into the throne room and stolen his most prized artifact: The 100% Diamond Music Box.

The emperor led them to the throne room. Judge Pao looked at the surroundings, and said, "There is no evidence of how the thief went in, unless..." He looked up and saw a hole. "AHA!" he said as he pointed up.

Suddenly, someone rushed in and said, "Emperor! I'm really sorry! Please forgive me!"

"Huh? You did it? How did that happen, chef?" said the emperor.

"I didn't mean to! Someone asked me to do it! He paid me a hundred thousand Uranus dollars! I'll lead you to the outpost!" And they all followed him.

They took a uranium speeder and zoomed off into the distance. When they were in the outposts area, which was in the cream canyon, Judge Pao took out his sword and did the "get your weapons" hand sign. They all got out of the uranium speeder except for the tech guy, Johnathan. They didn't really mind because he was no good at fighting.

Judge Pao and his crew rushed out to battle, but there was no one there. Suddenly, an arrow shot down and almost hit him! They saw someone in the corner looking at them with a crossbow. He seized the man and demanded, "Where is your crew?" the gangster said, "Right... BEHIND YOU!" They saw a band of people standing there and pointing spears at them. They instantly reacted like being bitten by a python. They fought furiously. Even though Judge Pao and his crew were excellent fighters, they were

outnumbered and the gangsters had better weapons. Just when he was about to get killed, some ion cannon blasts hit his attackers. It was from Johnathan! While everyone was busy fighting, he turned the fuel tank and engine into an ion cannon and attached it to the speeder's side.

Judge Pao found the music box in the leader's pocket and the lost treasure was restored.

# Judge Pao vs Ji Qun

*Diocesan Boys School Primary Division, Sin, Hau Ming Alexander – 9*

It was a normal day in town. Students going to school, and adults going to work. Suddenly, a scream came from the park. Judge Pao turned his head and looked, alarmed by the sudden noise. He saw a man wearing a black mask and a black ninja suit. He was chasing the famous businesswoman, Teresa Hart. “AAHHHHHHH!” Hart scrambled for her life, but tripped.

The masked man said in a deep voice “I’ve got you now! Give me all your money, or I will kill you!”

Hart said “No!” Just before the masked man raised his sword, Judge Pao ran at him and tackled him to the ground. Judge Pao grabbed the man's sword and flung it to the ground. They fought for a while, then the man shook Judge Pao off and ran into the forest near the park. Hart got up on her feet and thanked Judge Pao, then rushed off hurriedly to work. Judge Pao’s assistant, Dick, rushed to him and said “Are you hurt?”

Judge Pao replied “No. But we have got to catch that man. He is dangerous to the citizens.”

Judge Pao went to his secret lair underground and began thinking quietly: “I haven’t seen that man before. He must be a new villain. He scanned his villain database in his giant screen and didn’t find anyone like the masked man that had attacked Teresa Hart.”

Just then, Dick walked in and said “Have you identified the man yet?”

Judge Pao said “No. We must put a tracking device on him the next time he causes trouble to find out where his base is.”

The next day, there was a bank robbery at the Capital Bank. The robber was the masked man! Luckily, Judge Pao was there again. Judge Pao turned up just in the nick of time and saw the man knocking a security guard out cold and grabbing the key to the vault. He put the key into the lock and opened the vault. There was gold, money, gems, diamonds, jewels, and expensive paintings. The man still hadn’t noticed Judge Pao yet. Judge Pao shouted “STOP!!” The man saw Judge Pao and quickly sped into the big vault. He grabbed a glowing gem which Judge Pao recognised as the Sirali gem, the world's rarest gem. It also could be used to create anything the user wanted. He ran past Judge Pao before he could grab him but Judge Pao threw a tracking device onto his shoulder, unknown to the man. The man ran into the forest and disappeared in the dark, lush greenery. Everybody knew that the forest was full of unexpected dangers, and dangerous monsters lived there. Judge Pao took a look at the unconscious security guard and decided he was fine. He sealed the vault door and walked out of the bank, then took his tracking pad out. He saw that the man was heading towards the center of the forest! The center of the forest was unexplored yet and the deadliest of creatures in the forest lived there. The man probably built a hideout there. He walked into a junk store in an alley, which was actually the secret entrance to his underground base. He opened a large painting on the wall to reveal a set of dark stairs leading to his base. “I’ll get him tomorrow, I need some rest now,” he thought while walking.

The next day, he followed his tracking device into the forest. It was dark and damp. After walking for twenty minutes, he suddenly heard a loud hissing sound. He quickly drew his sword and readied for a fight. A giant snake slithered out of the trees. It was black, green, and red, and had big fangs with venom dripping from them. Its eyes were glowing red. The snake lunged forward and tried to bite him, but Judge Pao was faster. He quickly stepped away and sliced off its head. SHING! His sword was now dripping with blood. He sheathed his sword and checked his tracking device and jogged faster into the forest. He stepped into a clearing and saw a massive temple. He cautiously checked for traps and stepped onto the front step. He wondered if this was the place the ninja lived in. He opened the door and stepped inside a big room, and found himself face to face with a group of glowing warriors! On the far side of the room, the man sat on a throne. He said “I am Ji Qun. Welcome to my temple, and meet my warriors.” He laughed maniacally. In his hand was the Sirali gem. He probably used the gem to make his warriors. His warriors attacked from every direction, surrounding Judge Pao. The warriors grabbed Judge Pao by his arms and legs and dragged him to Ji Qun. Ji Qun seemed suspicious of Judge Pao because he wasn’t struggling a lot. Judge Pao was conserving strength, and broke free of the warriors. He leapt up to the throne and snatched the gem, then smashed it to pieces on the ground. Ji Qun shouted “No!!!!!!” Judge Pao quickly jumped and tried to tackle him but Ji Qun hit Judge Pao in the head and knocked him off balance. He pulled his sword and tried to attack Judge Pao, but Judge Pao dodged and put his high-tech cuffs on Ji Qun’s hands, which were cuffs that couldn’t be broken no matter what. Judge Pao said “Your criminal reign is over. Now, you will come with me.” Judge Pao returned to his base and locked Ji Qun in a cell.

Xanburg City was safe..... for now.

## No name – Classified

*Diocesan Boys School Primary Division, Wong, Chit Chak Hector Jr. – 10*

Crash! The sound of shattering glass filled Judge Pao's ears. He couldn't sleep, but he needed rest. Every time he closed his eyes, he saw his wife shattering her favorite glass vase as she turned into a monster. He tried to clear his mind, thinking about his comfort foods, counting sheep, drinking milk... but that didn't help. He saw his wife being tortured as the monster part of her was rapidly taking control. Her skin stretching, black and white stripes wrapped around her body, feet turning into gigantic paws, nails growing longer and longer until they resembled claws, pupils turning green, teeth turning into fangs. By the time she lifted her face, she was a tiger, and she was out to kill him.

Judge Pao woke up with a start. He patted his blanket to comfort himself, scared of his nightmare. He tried to clear his mind, make his mind fade to black, think about happy things, but he still couldn't get the vivid scene out of his head. He stared at the empty spot in the bed next to him, staring at the flat surface where his wife was supposed to sleep and started weeping. He thought about himself, letting his loved ones turn into monsters, raging as their spirit animal took over. His cousin, turning into a chicken was butchered a week after; his sister, turning into a dragon, flying away into the distance, too scared to show her face; his father, resting in peace in the wet earth in his garden, turned into a mountain goat which lost a fight with an eagle. So many loved ones, dead; so many unfinished goodbyes, never said; so many gone, never found again. He felt his warm tears welling up, making his vision blurry, felt his stomach knotting, his throat constricting. He wanted to die, be in heaven with his family, rejoicing together.

But he couldn't. He knew he had to save his wife, free her from her evil spirit, and change her back into a normal human being. Tears sloshed down, making damp spots on the carpet. Hands trembling, he slid into a sitting position, knees wobbling as he stood up. He got into his yellow coat and gown, sewed with loving hands by his wife. Putting on his boots, he strode, trying to remember how he used to walk when he was feared and greatly respected.

He opened his door, but what shocked him was a flash of white, flesh decaying, blood making red puddles on the snowy ground. It was gruesome, with bits of bones, still smeared with flesh. His village had become a killing ground.

He rubbed his eyes, wide with surprise, not believing that this was true. He inspected the bodies, littered across the ground; some with rotting flesh, some which were just pearly white bones, some with blood oozing out. He wondered, *How could this happen? This can't be true! I should have heard the death screams of the villagers!*

He set out to find his former loved one, salvaging what was left from the stalls, food, equipment, and other important items for his quest. He was almost done with packing when he brought out his most treasured belonging: a picture of his wife. He looked at it with tearful eyes, felt the warm tears trickling down his cheeks, but this fuelled his confidence, giving him confidence to save her.

Suddenly he fell through endless space. He felt his body numb, skin tingling with goosebumps. He couldn't do it. He couldn't go. Scared, nervous, despair, emotions churning in his stomach. He lay down on the earth, feeling the soft, moist ground, seeing tiny seedlings emerging from the ground. This is what I want, he thought, let the earth swallow me, let me die, see my family members in heaven.

But the nagging voice in his mind kept on pushing him, not letting him die. Survive! God gave us lives to live!

Suddenly, twigs snapped behind him. The weretiger bared its fangs, ready to strike. Maws open wide, it pounced on Judge Pao, but just in time he dodged the strike and slashed his sword in an upwards thrust. Sticking it in the tongue of the weretiger, Judge Pao thought he won the battle, but it spit the sword out, bent and bloody. With nothing left to fight with, Judge Pao did not cower in fear, but he stood in a wrestler stance, ready to take the weretiger full on. He spun like a whirlwind, a hurricane of force and fury, pounding the weretiger with endless punches until it was licking its wounds, sulking back slightly. Then suddenly, it pounced, jabbing to the left and right and the Judge weaved the opposite direction, dodging the attacks. Judge Pao narrowed his eyes and jumped towards the weretiger, as it opened its mouth wide, he shoved the broken sword into its open jaws, then watched as it tried to cough it out, choking in the process. Seizing his chance, Judge Pao put his arms around the beast's neck. Tightening, tightening until it was dead. It finally roared a last call of defeat, then fell, glassy eyes staring into the sky.

Judge Pao dusted his hands and wiped them on his robes. Smiling at his victory. Then suddenly, he blacked out, and fell into a black hole, as he felt like that. Time slowed, quickened, then slowed again.

He opened his eyes. Finding himself on his bed, wife next to him. He sighed one breath of relief. That was all a dream, he thought. Daylight seeped through the windows, painting the room with a soft, buttery glow. He got off the bed silently and changed his clothes. As he walked, getting out of the house, he tried to get the dream out of his head. But what he didn't know was, his wife stared at him as he left her, eyes red, an evil grin stretched across her face.

# Judge Pao and the Villain of the Inevitable

*Diocesan Boys School Primary Division, Wong, Hui Yeung Jonathan – 9*

“BOOM!” An explosion rocked a cargo ship as a jet fighter zoomed across the sky above a harbour of a city, dropping huge black bombs onto the poor sailors below. The ship sank slowly, its edge getting nearer and nearer to the glittering ocean. Large wooden boxes slid down the ship together, and with a splash, the boxes sank into the dangerous depths of the wide ocean. The plane suddenly stopped and hovered above the sinking ship for a few seconds, a hatch opened up and a solar drone flew out.

Meanwhile, in a different part of the city, sitting down on his bench and looking down far below Judge Pao saw a crowd of buildings shining in the morning sun and listened to the swishing sound of the rivers running around a mountain nearby the city. He stood up and looked around his Skycastle, satisfied. Judge Pao rose and paced around his garden breathing in the comforting smell of the plants. The wind whistled silently and the birds sang together on their branches.

The crime fighter had recently heard about an infamous villain wiping out tons of villages and towns from a show on television which was entitled “The Rise of the Inevitable”. The police suspected that it was a villain that was known to be burnt and weak, but had risen and came for revenge. Judge Pao planned to do something about it, but first he would have enough rest.

That night, Judge Pao was riding his luxury Tesla Model S car to a restaurant when suddenly his car stopped, the lampposts went out, his car lights went out, the music in a bar and grill restaurant stopped playing, and everything relying on electricity died. Then, out of nowhere, came a solar drone with a sharp pen knife attached to it. It hovered in mid-air for a few seconds, its sensors flashing bright red and beeping. After a second, it sped away at high speed, seemingly aware of Judge Pao’s presence.

Judge Pao realised that it must be the infamous villain, Lenn Lee. He deduced that Lenn had made and programmed the solar drone to cut all electricity wires in the city so that he could secretly attack. The brave detective told his impressive army of dragons and aliens, his guards, his Air Force and his Aqua Force to be ready and on guard to prepare for a breath-taking battle that Judge Pao thought would happen.

He said to his bodyguard, “Guard the Ultra Stone.”

Just as Judge Pao had expected, Lenn and his army of electric robots came charging across the sky like a herd of bulls with jetpacks shooting showers of stunning slime balls across the sky. Judge Pao shouted, “Attack!” and at once, his Air Force came into the scene.

He stood on top of his Skycastle as his energy sphere cannons aimed and threw showers of energy spheres at Lenn’s invading army. He figured that something must be powering the robots, something like an energy core. But he had no time to think, because a robot came running towards him holding a laser rifle in its rusty hands. He swiftly ducked blast after blast and hit the robot with his bare hands. With a resounding ‘crunch’, the robot fell broken onto the exterior of his damaged skycastle. ‘The energy core must be one of the robots. I have to find the robot!’

He started charging like a cheetah and smacked a robot with his sword and sent it flying into another. But the villain’s army was taking over and half of Judge Pao’s guards were lying dead.

He had to find the energy core or the battle would be lost and the universe would be destroyed. He took a deep breath, gathered all his strength and wisdom, and began looking for the core while fighting the robots. Lenn would not take over the world, he promised himself, not when he was here to stop him.

After smashing tons of robots and searching everywhere for the core, Judge Pao realised that the core must be with Lenn. He approached Lenn with caution.

“You’re in hot water,” Judge Pao said.

“You think that the world has no secrets? No, detective. It was made by a dozen gods, and the world, the universe, is just waiting for someone superior, someone like me to unleash the power within, something so great that it can create a new universe. And I, the inevitable, will be the one and only, the one who will destroy this universe of dumb monkeys and people like you, and create a new universe of which everyone only knows that I



lent them a life, and they will bow before me, and you will be extinguished. Now lend me the Ultra Stone. Bow, bow to me now, and I promise never to kill you. You killed my parents! You will pay for it.”

“You are just barking up the wrong tree, Lenn. I didn't kill your parents. They committed suicide!” Judge Pao yelled back fiercely.

Judge Pao breathed deeply in anger before jumping and kicking at the villain, battling with Lenn. “Revenge!” Lenn cried as he ducked a strike from Judge Pao and flung his sword at him. Judge Pao jumped up and the sword whipped under him and back at Lenn. Lenn caught the sword and forced Judge Pao to the edge of the Skycastle. Judge Pao hit Lenn’s sword with his katana and finally, something glowing bright red dropped out of Lenn’s sword. It was the core! Judge Pao picked it up and smashed it with his fist. Instantly, every robot dropped onto the ground, defeated. Judge Pao killed Lenn with a final katana blow to his neck, cried out jubilantly, and claimed victory at last.

Judge Pao made a long, brand new electric wire and after a week, electricity was restored and he relaxed in his Skycastle again.

# The Case of the Kidnapped Son

*Diocesan Girls' Junior School, Chan, Chin Ching Carina – 9*

A long time ago, there was a wise, fair and brave judge called Judge Pao. He was a politician during the Song Dynasty and solved numerous cases. Everyone appreciated his honesty and working attitude.

One dark midnight, the emperor's son, SongZheng, was sleeping deeply, snoring inside his room. Quietly, the three suspicious men used some tools to open the room's window quickly. They carefully tied a rope on the son's hands and knees, then put him into a brown bag and tip-toed out of the room. SongZheng, still, didn't even realize he was kidnapped and was sleeping like a koala.

After the three men left the palace, they went to an abandoned, little old house, took SongZheng out of the bag, tied him around the chair, and covered his mouth with a piece of cloth to prevent him from asking for any help.

The three men whispered to each other, "This plan really works! We are going to be rich after we trade the money for this kid from the emperor. I am not going to return him to the emperor. Ahahaha..."

The next morning, the emperor's helper was heading to SongZheng's room to wake him up. The helper screamed loudly, "Come and see! SongZheng is gone!"

All the people in the palace, including the emperor, named SongMan, ran into the room. They were terrified by the truth that the emperor's beloved son was gone without leaving a message. The shocked emperor immediately told Judge Pao while his helpers were writing a search notice of the missing boy.

On the other hand, when SongZheng woke up from a deep sleep, he found that he was tied up with ropes and couldn't talk. At that moment, he knew that he was being kidnapped. SongZheng started to panic. He has never been alone before.

"Hi, you *cute* little boy. Don't be scared. You just need to be good, or else..." one of the men came in and said sarcastically. He waved his knife in front of SongZheng. SongZheng nodded and was absolutely frightened.

Judge Pao put away all his work after he knew that the emperor's son was gone. After searching for evidence in SongZheng's room, he came out with a serious face.

Judge Pao said, "After searching, I saw that several bolts from the window were missing, and they were found outside his room. Sorry to say that, but I believe that your son is being kidnapped. Also, I found some silk on the floor, and this material can only be bought in the Southern part of this town. So that means the person or people who did this live in the Southern part of the town. We must go straight down to there to find more useful evidence."

"Kid...Kidnapped? My son... he is being... kidnapped...?" SongMan couldn't believe his ears. His face turned pale. "OK..., my guards and I will go along with you." The emperor agreed.

On the way to the south, the emperor, Judge Pao, and the helpers asked the people if they had seen the emperor's missing son. However, it wasn't as successful as they thought. When they returned to their inn to rest that night, SongMan suddenly shouted for Judge Pao.

"The...the people who kidnapped my son wanted to trade money for...for my son," the emperor muttered, shivering.

Smart Judge Pao warned the emperor, "Sir, that may be a trap. I believe the kidnappers will just take the money and leave without returning SongZheng to us."

"Then what should I do?" asked by the emperor.

"To now, the only way is to find SongZheng and look for the kidnappers as quickly as possible," Judge Pao answered thoughtfully.

The next morning, they continued looking for clues. Luckily, an old man said that he had seen SongZheng before.

"That night, I noticed three men with that boy. They just carried him, going to that direction." He pointed to the street.

Then they immediately walked down the street and checked the houses one by one carefully. Eventually, they found an abandoned house which looked very suspicious. The curtains were down, and the windows were closed. Everything was locked.

“Look carefully! The back door is not locked!” Judge Pao said in excitement.

Without making a sound, they opened the door and entered a small room. When the emperor saw that no one was in the house, he rushed to SongZheng. While he was untying the ropes, the door creaked open and the three men entered. They were the people that the old man was talking about!

“How dare you come in without *our* permission? Want to save your son? Not too easy!” one of the men cackled. He grabbed his knife and continued, “Either you live, or your son live!”

Nobody dared to move or say anything.

The three men were annoyed. When they wanted to take further actions, Judge Pao rushed to them, so did the guards. They fought for the weapon and threw them out of the window. Fortunately, Judge Pao arrested the kidnappers with incredible speed. Finally, the men surrendered. SongZheng was rescued.

Soon after they returned to the palace, SongMan thanked Judge Pao, “If it wasn’t your warning and reminder, my son would not be here. So, I have decided to give you rewards: A lot of gold and money.”

Out of his expectation, Judge Pao ignored it, “Protecting sir and your people is my responsibility, I shall not receive anything.” The emperor was amazed by his words.

In the final court, the three men blamed each other for the crime.

“You should not put the responsibility on others. Once you have kidnapped the emperor’s son, it’s already against the law. You shall all face the same consequences.” Judge Pao explained.

“Those three men have been found guilty of kidnapping our dear emperor’s son. They will stay in jail for the rest of their lives as their punishments.” Judge Pao declared and then left the court.

# The Secret Powers of Judge Pao

*Diocesan Girls' Junior School, Chan, Cho Kiu Trinity – 9*

Judge Pao knew his mission was accomplished. He turned and disappeared in a blinding flash of light, never to be seen again...

In Heaven

A long time ago, the world was full of injustice. People cheated, people stole, people snatched, and people even murdered. Wealthy nobles and lords could do whatever they wanted and always be able to worm away from trouble, leaving the poor to suffer.

God saw all the things that the people did on Earth from his seat in Heaven, and He decided to send an angel in the form of a human down to Earth to right the world's wrongs. God called the angel he trusted the most, Angel Pao, whose face was as white as snow and was always determined, compassionate, and courteous. He was naturally born to be a leader, who thrived at encouraging and influencing others.

Before Angel Pao went down to Earth, God gave him three gifts. He said, "For the first gift, I shall give you a black face to represent the darkness and injustice of the world, and it can help you to interrogate the criminals." Immediately, Angel Pao's face became ink-black.

God continued, "The second gift will be a shining white crescent moon representing the light of justice in darkness, which acts like a lighthouse, guiding you to the road of justice." Angel Pao gingerly felt the symbol burn into his forehead.

God smiled, "Lastly, I am giving you the gift of wisdom and clear-sightedness to solve cases in the shape of a human judge." Angel Pao knelt at God's feet, saying respectfully, "It is my honor to do this mission for you."

On Earth

Upon Judge Pao's arrival, the world was slightly changing. He was appointed as a magistrate of justice and had solved numerous cases. He helped many poor people, taking burdens off their shoulders, earning their trust and respect. Although Judge Pao had a fierce face, people admired him tremendously as he did not fear the wealthy and affluent nobles, nor the government officials or even the royal family. On the other hand, the powerful and corrupt lords and ladies hated him, detested him, and loathed him as they could not point the blame to the poor and innocent anymore. Instead, they now lived in fear of Judge Pao knocking at their ornate doors to take them to jail while the law-abiding people would sleep peacefully as having a clear conscience makes a soft pillow.

It was a hot June morning, there wasn't a cloud in the sky and the sun was blazing. Judge Pao was strolling in his garden leisurely. Suddenly, the blue sky turned deep gray, a gale started blowing, intricate snowflakes fell, and hard round hail dropped. Judge Pao stared up at the sky, feeling shocked and frightened. He instantly realized an unprecedented case must have occurred. Meanwhile, his secretary, Mr. Gongsun, hurried into the garden and informed Judge Pao that they had caught Chen, son-in-law of the emperor, as he was found guilty of murdering his concealed wife and two own children. Judge Pao couldn't believe what he had heard, he looked at the sky, frowning and pondering long and deeply.

The strong evidence had proved to Judge Pao that Chen was the murderer. Unlike all other evil criminals, Chen, feeling himself very privileged as a member of the royal family, refused to kneel in front of Judge Pao and denied what he had done in his own cunning way. However, Judge Pao's secret powers were invincible. The instant Chen saw Judge Pao's ink-black face and stern glare, his feet started buckling, his body shivered with fright, and his face turned white with fear. Then tears fell from his eyes. He felt guilty and admitted all his wrongdoings. For the first time in history, Judge Pao took out his golden and sharp dragon-head knife to execute a member of the imperial family. The moment Chen was dead, Judge Pao's crescent moon on his forehead gave a little shimmer, indicating the world had one less stain of injustice.

Immediately after the judging, the emperor demanded to see Judge Pao.

"You dare to decapitate my son-in-law!" the emperor thundered while rapping viciously on an ornately engraved table next to him.

Judge Pao, who apparently was quite unfazed by all this, replied calmly, "I have no fear nor any regret for doing the right thing. I take the belief that anybody, wealthy or poor, blue-blooded or ordinary, deserves the right to live fairly and deserves punishment when found guilty of wrong doings. My Lord, it isn't me the people need, what they desire most is a fair, upright, and righteous government."

Judge Pao's words were just like a sword, piercing the emperor's heart. The emperor's mouth quivered, like he wanted to say something but couldn't. For a few moments, he fell silent, as if he was absorbing the meaning of Judge Pao's words. Judge Pao bowed to the emperor and left the imperial throne room. He trusted from the bottom of his heart that the emperor would make his country a better place to live.

When Judge Pao came home, he glanced at himself in the mirror idly. He was about to turn away when he caught sight of something that made him stop in his tracks. The moon on his forehead glimmered softly with a white light. Judge Pao knew his mission was accomplished. He turned and disappeared in a blinding flash of light, never to be seen again...

# Leo Bao and the Mysterious Disappearance

*Diocesan Girls' Junior School, Chan, Ho Ching Sophie – 10*

I can still recall the time my best friend, Mia, and I went on one of the most amazing adventures any child could ever experience. Let me introduce myself first. My name is Leo Pao, age ten, I have just recently discovered I am a descendant of the world-famous Judge Pao. I'm from the 160<sup>th</sup> generation, to be exact. I was shy, quiet and basically anything but confident, but I'm not quite the same now. It all started on one particular night.

I was desperately trying to sleep, but I was afraid of the dark. Yes, I know I'm strange. Mind you, I'm not your average Hong Kong boy. I somehow managed to fall asleep. Instead of finding myself in some nightmare, I found myself sitting next to someone. The man next to me was as real as ever. I could remember every single detail etched on him, dark skin, a crescent moon on his forehead and his long flowing robes. He was Judge Pao! Astonished by his presence, I immediately leapt down from my seat and bowed at him.

"Leo." His voice echoed in the empty room. I felt the urge to cover my ears. It was like listening to a knife pierce into a piece of cloth. In other words, it was really loud.

"Uh, are you really my ancestor?" I blurted out, then realized that it probably wasn't the best thing to say.

"Leo,... Leo,..." He seemed to enjoy saying my name. "Why did you lose your confidence in the first place?" Since I didn't know what to say, I kept silent.

"Do you want to prove yourself to me that I was right to choose you as the Chosen One, the new Judge Pao?"

"Yes, I'm sure!" I mustered up enough confidence to say.

"That's my boy. Now, listen. Your friend Mia has been kidnapped. It's up to you to save her!"

"Mia is kidnapped? Is this a joke?" I gasped in shock.

"Don't worry, Leo. I'll send you some help. Look!" He held up a cage. Expecting to see a tiger or some ferocious beast inside, I wasn't really expecting much. Instead, a young dragon peeked out at me. Before I could protest, Judge Pao shoved me the cage and I woke up.

"Okay, let's see. Mia's full name is Mia Johnson. Her Dad, Mr. Johnson, a famous scientist, recently discovered a vaccine to save people from a serious illness. He wanted to produce in max volume while some rich people wanted to control the supply of vaccines to make a huge profit – wait, that's it! Mr. Johnson loved his daughter. He would pay any price for his only child. If a rich man had gotten hold of Mia, he succeeded in hitting Mr. Pao in his weakest spot. I couldn't imagine what would happen. It was morning, which meant she was in her room, sleeping, when the kidnapper took her! Should I check on her to see if it was just a trick first? Just then, a claw gently tapped me on the shoulder. It was Judge Pao's dragon! Perhaps it would be useful. I wasn't sure about riding a dragon, but I decided to try. Clutching the dragon's horns as tightly as I could, I wished with all my might to fly, and we shot forward.

After barely surviving the trip, I arrived at Mia's house. The dragon lifted me up to her window, and I could clearly see there was a struggle and –wait– a puppy? It was Mia's beloved puppy, Warrior. He was pitch-black with a tiny patch of white fur, shaped like a crescent moon. Warrior howled – a single, heartbroken, desperate cry and pushed the window open to let me in. I could feel tears streaming down my face as I searched her room for clues. "Hey. It's okay. You can do it. You will save her." I whipped my head around, surprised to hear another voice. A paw gently wiped away my tears for me.

"I'm Judge Pao, reincarnated!" the dog whispered.

I simply choked back a sob and sighed as I saw Warrior kept stepping on Mia's favourite jacket. It was all torn up, but something caught my eye – a button! It wasn't from her jacket, so....was it from the kidnapper? Warrior sniffed the button and decided to lead us as far as he could. He leapt out of the window and soared into the sky. I guess he was an extraordinary dog. After a while, he gestured to a dark alley.

"I'm...I'm going in there?" Whatever confidence I had vanished.

"Trust me, boy. Believe in yourself! You're fighting for justice!" the dog dissolved like a mirage. Taking a deep breath, I urged my dragon to go forward. I could hear muffled voices coming from an old abandoned flat. Without thinking, I charged in. It was the worst move ever. Two men, each twice my size seized me and threw me to the other side of the room, next to Mia! A fierce-looking man in a designer suit smiled triumphantly as he pointed to us, made a finger gun and slashed a finger gun across his throat. The universal sign for "kill them". The two men saluted him and raised their guns towards us. I struggled to untie the ropes, so I used all my strength to summon help. My dragon materialised in front of me and attacked the men while I finally freed Mia. The dragon was still fighting the men, but from the looks of it, he was winning. With a final flick of his tail, the men were defeated.

I linked hands with Mia and bolted for the door, Warrior suddenly appeared and pointed at a dark tunnel, then as always, dissolved again. This time, I wasn't even hesitant. We scrambled through the tunnel and found ourselves outside the alley.

"Thanks for saving me, Leo!" Mia exclaimed, embracing me.

"No problem! We need return home to stop your Dad's trade with that man!" I replied.

"Hold tight!." I called as my dragon scooped us up for our next adventure.

# Loopholes

*Diocesan Girls' Junior School, Cheung, Ka Yan – 10*

One day, I, Judge Pao Qian Tian, was reading some documents, when two men, came inside the room, arguing intensely. Looking up, I saw two men that couldn't have been more different – one was a merchant holding a metal wok with unexpectedly sincere eyes; the other was a pitiful man with a broken arm hanging uselessly beside.

At that observation, I immediately admonished myself. As a judge, I treat every suspect fairly, for I know very well that a person's honesty cannot be valued by his outlook. If I deduced that the person is telling the truth just because he looks truthful, it wouldn't be just. Objective evidence should weigh more than appearance which could be biased and judgemental. Oh – did I tell you I'm from the 21st century?

Anyhow, seeing that the two were still arguing, I struck the gable and called for order. "Pull them apart!" I bellowed. Some constables forced the two to separate and kneel.

"What is your case?" I asked them, leaning forward. The stout merchant spoke up. "Judge Pao, I am here to plead you to pass fair judgement. A week ago, I found out that the metal woks I sell for a living have been disappearing." He pointed to his sturdy wok, while continuing. "I pretended that I didn't know the stealing and decided to capture the thief. As expected, this scoundrel came again today to steal another of my fine metal woks – I caught him red-handedly! I beg you to manage this thief justly!"

I looked at the incapacitated man. "Is he telling the truth?" I questioned sternly. But the man shook his head. "Judge Pao, don't believe that dishonourable man!" he said indignantly. "Obviously I can't be the thief! I am a disabled man; how could I ever steal such a hefty thing? I implore your Judgeness to vindicate this liar!"

That lame person did give a logical point. He was disabled and I doubted if he could lift up anything so weighty with only one arm. But could that "lame" person be faking his disability to win my sympathy? If I had modern technology with me, I would have requested the suspect to go through a medical examination by qualified doctors to see how many weights that "lame" person can bear. But I didn't have a qualified doctor with me – one of the bad parts of being a judge in the past.

While lamenting, I turned to the merchant. "Do you have any witnesses or evidence?" I queried. But he shook his head. The crowd gathered around murmured in concern – how could the case be broken?

I sighed deeply in my heart and yearned of one of my old friends that always gave me evidence – CCTVs that record everything. But without them, I still have ways to solve the case – the metal wok might have some clues. Nevertheless, there are easier methods to get to the bottom of the case using modern technology, such as using fingerprinting to find out who had touched the wok.

But I didn't have those special devices to use – what could I do? I racked my brains – since there aren't any scientific methods I could employ, I needed to have a fallback solution. Aha! I thought of an idea.

The next moment, I struck the gable forcibly. "What a devious person you are!" I exclaimed at the merchant. "That so-called 'thief' is lame – how could he steal your unwieldy woks? It must be you lying through your teeth!" Ignoring the merchant's wails of despair that he had been wronged, I swept my gaze over to the lame man.

"Do not worry. I will punish this liar seriously," I promised assuredly. "Since you are lame, and have been wronged, the merchant's wok is given to you. Here, take it!"

The lame man appeared to be extremely cocky. I could almost hear him muse in his mind, "This Pao Qing Tian is rather muddled – good news for me!"

Hobbling forward elatedly, he took the metal wok with his only good arm, swiftly heaving the metal wok on his head with his right hand holding on it tightly, not once stumbling or struggling to carry it. I looked on silently as he thanked me heartily and started to shuffle out.



I suddenly shouted out in fury. “Stop, thief! Don’t you dare take another step!” The strict authority in my tone alarmed him, stopping in his tracks. The crowd around was also confused – why had I called the very person I said had been wronged “thief”?

I instantly revealed the answer. “The reason why I gave you the metal wok was to test whether you were telling the truth or not. As anticipated, you exposed a mistake –from how experienced you are in the action of taking the wok, it’s evidently not the first time you’ve done this. Grab him!” I’d known the truth when the lame person had taken the metal wok so expertly.

Actually, this plan wasn’t really the best choice – I wasn’t sure if the thief would be deceived, but it was my only idea. Comparing DNA by using strands of hair, or blood and fingerprints would have been the best; ruefully, I did not have the equipment, so I had to resort to Plan B.

The lame person knew he was tricked, and admitted the actual truth – he had really stolen the woks. I decided to sentence him fifty whippings, and the crowd cheered at my detailed observation and fair judgement.

This was how solving and judging cases in the past used to be. Since the judges back then didn’t have any technological tools or scientific methods, it was hard to measure the accuracy of the evidence. Occasionally, the judges might accuse an innocent person as the convict while the bad guy got away – if this case happened in the 21st century, the solution would be so much simpler.

# The Rock, the Murder and the Scar

*Diocesan Girls' Junior School, Cheung, Nga Ting Elana – 10*

A man was on his way home. Without any warning, a shadow leapt in front of him.

A voice said, 'Why on earth did you do that?'

The voice sounded familiar. A voice he recognized after all these years.

'What do you mean?'

'Don't lie! I *know* it's you. Own up!'

'Stop it! It's *not* me, whatever you were saying!'

'I just know it's you. I'll get you back! I'll —'

At these words, the man lost control of himself. There was a BANG in the silent night air, and the shadow thudded on the cold floor of the road.

He stared at the figure lying down in front of him, motionless. He felt heavy guilt rushing through his veins and soul, yet at the same time he felt absolute proudness raining inside him, making him feel good about what he had done. At the same time, though, the horror and guilt of all this was nearly unbearable. Just as he was about to rush home, a heavy rainstorm shed down from the sky.

Judge Pao was striding along purposefully to the court when something made him stop. Lying beneath a tree was a pile of bones. Dark-skinned and with a long beard, his normally posed face formed a frown under his moon tattoo on his forehead. He leant down to examine them cautiously. It was a skeleton with a bullet hole on the left side of the ribs. He leant even closer. On the wrist bone, he could see a bracelet resting on it, still intact but rusting. Anger began to flow inside him. How dare the murderer kill right under his nose? The murderer probably took this advantage to murder near the court as a symbol of cunningness and skill. But now, he, Judge Pao, *must* find the culprit. Judge Pao carefully plucked the bracelet — the only possible clue to the murder — away from the skeleton.

Swiftly, he carried the bracelet to the court. Through all the rust, he could still see the symbol of a rock on it. There were endless possibilities. Knowing a man called Chen Pei Pei — a rock collector, Judge Pao decided to make a trip.

Judge Pao strolled up the rocky path to the simple wooden door and knocked, and a man wearing a gray tunic opened the door. He welcomed him and showed him all his rock collections. Judge Pao studied them all carefully, and presented the bracelet to Chen Pei Pei. Frowning, he said, 'I love rocks, but I do not own a single bracelet.'

Judge Pao returned to his house. His hat resting on his head was dipped to the side as he pondered about the situation, again frowning.

A few hours later, some medical professors were examining the skeleton. Judge Pao stood a little way off, not having any intention of disturbing their work. At long last, the medical professors all pronounced the murder to have taken place exactly three years ago, and the victim was killed by a musket.

Soon, Judge Pao was armed with a pile of newspapers published three years ago. A lot was about diseases going around the neighborhood, but there were issues about missing people in the same neighborhood: politicians, Sha Peng Yao and Shek Keung Sha. Judge Pao knocked on the first door. It was opened by a smiling old lady dressed in rags. She asked, 'What made you come here? Nowadays, I don't get a lot of visitors, not after the incident...'

'May I ask what is the 'incident' you are referring to?'

'My family going away but never coming back.'

'I beg your pardon?'

'Three years ago, my family went off on a trip; they heard illegal proceedings there. However, they never came back... I wonder why?'

'May I ask you what other people went missing in this neighborhood? You seem very well informed.'

The old lady looked pleased. 'Sha Peng Yao. Old friend of mine. She always cleaned up the neighborhood until it was barely recognizable.'

Judging that it was unlikely Sha Peng Yao would own a bracelet, Judge Pao asked, 'Excuse me, who's the last missing person?'

'Shek Keung Sha, the owner of a gemstone workshop nearby. She sold natural, high-quality but expensive jewellery. She had a competitor who sold jewellery at lower prices. Shek Keung Sha, I think, knew the owner of the competing workshop. His name was Keung Po Pui.'

Judge Pao's dark-skinned hand caught a carriage. He went home to take the bracelet, and a few other useless things in his house: a shattered cup, a broken door handle, a tea tray that his wife and him hated and a bowl that was chipped and cracked. He knew the address of Keung Po Pui, so he knocked. A young man answered the door, and a trace of amusement flinted in his eye as he saw the home junk. Carefully displaying the rusty bracelet with the rock symbol catching the light on his palm, Judge Pao said, 'Also, this bracelet is for sale.' Keung Po Pui's

eyes flashed, and he suddenly sprang forward. 'That bracelet is mine! Where did you get it? I thought the rainstorm had washed all the evil —' and he stopped. Judge Pao saw the deep scar of a musket's lock in his hand.

He knew who the murderer was.

Judge Pao wasted no time. He took Keung Po Pui to the court and denounced him as the murderer. At these clues, all fight went out of Keung Po Pui. He allowed himself to be arrested, yelling, 'Fine! It was me who stole the exquisite jade from her workshop! She wanted to report the burglary! We were best friends then! How could she expect me to forgive her?'

The sky started to darken. The moon tattoo on Judge Pao's forehead unfurled itself again.

# The Disappearance of the Emperor's Vase

*Diocesan Girls' Junior School, Cheung, See Yan Deborah – 11*

Judge Pao stretched lazily.

“Finally, a relaxing vacation. Away from the corruption of the emperor’s palace. Three whole days to just sit back and relax.”

Judge Pao sank back into his wooden chair and gazed thoughtfully out the window at the stunning view of the hotel he was staying in. Peacefully he closed his eyes, listening to the songbirds chirrup cheerfully, listening to the oak tree sway and its leaves rustle soothingly, listening to the muffled murmur of traffic and hawkers pushing their carts and hollering “fresh bread” and “cup–noodles”, listening...

“MASTER! There is a visitor wanting to see you!” A servant ran up the stairs, her shrill voice cutting through the harmonious atmosphere in an instant, like a sword slicing butter.

“Can it not wait?” Judge Pao asked sharply, he had been about to doze off when the servant girl burst in and he was deeply annoyed.

The girl shook her head frantically. Groaning inwardly, Judge Pao waved her away wearily. As he strode down the stairs purposefully, Judge Pao wondered who could be this important person, who had a case so urgent that not a moment could be wasted on anything else? Especially on my holiday, he thought bitterly. Then Judge Pao turned round the corner and stepped through the doorway.

What met his eye was a middle–aged man pacing nervously on the carpet, evidently distraught. Judge Pao immediately recognised him to be one of the Emperor’s most trusted advisors, Da–fu. His face was lined with worry. When he saw Judge Pao his face seemed to brighten with relief as if a heavy load had been lifted from his shoulders. He motioned for everyone else to leave the room and closed the door.

“You must help me! Without it I will be ruined! I will lose *everything!*” Da–fu cried in despair, his hands were wringing the end of his cloak and the smooth silk fabric was becoming more and more crumpled.

Judge Pao placed a reassuring hand on Da–fu’s arm. “Tell me everything,” he said, firmly.

Da–fu drew a long shuddering breath, tried to compose himself and began:

“A month ago, the Imperial Emperor gave me a china vase as a reward for my accomplishments in spurring economic growth. When the vase arrived, I was dazzled by its beauty. In the sunlight that flooded in from the window, the vase looked so delicate and thin and it glowed in the light. However, the good luck did not last long. Yesterday, I found that my precious vase was missing!” Da–fu flung his hands in the air and flapped them helplessly like a bird in a tiny cage. “My army of servants searched everywhere, even the stables.” He paused for breath and continued, “And it gets worse! Tomorrow the Emperor will visit, he will think I do not value his gifts, and,” his voice lowered into a hoarse whisper. “I might be executed.”

Judge Pao realised the seriousness of the situation and nodded gravely. “We will set off right away.”

After a bumpy carriage ride to the lavish home of Da–fu. Da–fu brought Judge Pao to a room crammed with priceless artefacts and art. In the middle of the room on the carpet stood a lonely–looking pedestal. Judge Pao immediately started peering at the pedestal and carpet with a magnifying glass. Then, he asked, “May I have a look around?” Da–fu agreed. While Judge Pao wandered around the corridors, his eyes as sharp as a hawk’s, and in deep thought, muttering inaudible words to himself, Da–fu followed him anxiously behind him like a puppy, trying to gauge what was on his mind. Suddenly, he felt someone crash into himself and Da–fu landed with a bump on the floor. The person who had been knocked down—a small spry boy, scrambled to his feet. His vigilant beady eyes locked on Judge Pao, then Da–fu and a look of alarm came over his face and immediately he darted off into the maze of rooms without a word.

Da–fu shrugged Judge Pao’s curious look off dismissively. “That’s just my youngest son. He is six years old and too energetic, and he is always breaking things. He once disturbed me when I was at a meeting with the Finance Minister! Nowadays he is very moody though and is always disappearing off, I really can’t imagine why.” Judge Pao pursed his lips together and furrowed his brow but said no more.

Judge Pao interviewed Da–fu’s guards and servants, questioning them if they had seen anyone suspicious around. Finally, he announced, “The thief, and the vase are still in this house.” A collective *gasp* went around the room. And murmurs of “Who is it?” could be heard. Avoiding the question, Judge Pao pulled an errand–boy aside and discreetly whispered in his ear. Then the errand boy ran out of the room. Moments later, he returned with...

“Son?!”demanded Da-Fu. The boy stared sullenly at the ground. Then seeing that every single pair of eyes were fixed on him in a steely glare, he explained, “Father was always too wrapped up in his work to spend time with me. That’s why I started to break things to get his attention but that just made him annoyed with me. So I thought if I stole something then he would really start paying attention to me. Now I know I was wrong. Stealing is never the right answer. The vase is in my closet. Can you forgive me?” Da-fu nodded mutely and gave his son a hug.

After the commotion had died down, Da-fu asked Judge Pao how he had found out who stole the vase.

“Firstly, the pedestal was chipped slightly, a vase like yours would be too heavy for a small boy, so it was chipped when he lifted the vase. Also, there were scratch marks on the marble floor so I was even more sure that it was a small person who stole it—the scratch marks were made when he pushed it along the hallway.”

“But how did you know it was my son?” persisted Da-fu.

“There were biscuit crumbs on the carpet beside the pedestal, and there were still crumbs on your son’s face and shirt!” Judge Pao finished, his eyes twinkling.

And Da-fu marvelled at the perceptiveness of Judge Pao.

# An Interesting Case of Glass Bottles

*Diocesan Girls' Junior School, Fung, Hong Tai Lynette – 10*

“I wish this book could actually show me how Judge Pao solved his cases...”

Once these words escaped from my lips, blinding light filled the room. I screamed frantically, but nobody was able to hear me because I was alone in my house. Then, a deep, booming voice which seemed to come from the book boomed, “HELLO! FINALLY, MY OWNER HAS MADE A WISH!” Is my book magic? I thought.

And then I was sucked into the book.

I blinked several times to adjust to the light. To my surprise, everyone walking around was wearing Chinese robes. I looked at my arm, then the rest of my body. I was wearing Chinese robes too. I walked around, trying to figure out where I was, when suddenly somebody put his hand on my shoulder. When I turned over to see who it was, I couldn't believe my eyes. It was Judge Pao! He had the iconic crescent moon on his forehead and was also wearing a judge's zhanjiao futou hat, which was exactly how my book had described him. How unbelievable!

Judge Pao looked at me suspiciously. “Why haven't I seen you before? I check the street five times a day and I know everyone here. Who are you?”

I put my hand into my only pocket and found the book that had brought me here. Judge Pao's eyes grew as wide as saucers. If I had guessed correctly, he was surprised that it was his face on the cover.

After he flipped through the pages, he stared at me. “Did you come from the future?” I nodded.

“Um... Judge Pao? May I ask you a question?” I asked timidly.

“Yes.”

“What is the most interesting case that you have solved?”

Judge Pao thought for a long time. In the end, he said, “Can you tell me how you got here again?”

I quickly told him how and soon we were transported to court, where another Judge Pao, who was a year younger, interrogated a young, beautiful lady. The present Judge Pao pulled me by my sleeves, and we hid behind a wall.

Young Judge Pao slapped the table angrily.

“Chan Jiyou, you are suspected of throwing glass bottles at your neighbour, who is now severely injured. What do you have to say about that?” boomed the younger Judge Pao.

“I did not do any of those things. I have an alibi; I was at my best friend's party last night when the incident happened!”

“Well, is there proof?” Young Judge Pao did not seem to be convinced.

“No, but I give you my word that it is true.”

The interrogation took forever. After what seemed like an eternity, Chan Jiyou's expression had changed from confident and angry to tired and annoyed. Suddenly, a guard called, “Judge Pao, the brother of the suspect is here, and he would like to say something.”

So, the brother came in and presented his version of the story, while the poor lady looked relieved.

“That night, my sister told me to come along with her to the party that she just mentioned to you, but I wasn't interested so I stayed home.”

As soon as he finished this sentence, young Judge Pao stood up majestically and hollered, “AHA! IT WAS YOU!”

However, the young man didn't seem to feel scared. He said defensively, “No! It wasn't me! I left home a few minutes later to visit the doctor because I had a stomachache. So, I have an alibi as well and there was nobody in the house, except our monkey.”

Young Judge Pao's face lit up when the brother said their house had a monkey. After finding out that the monkey loved to throw things, Judge Pao yelled, "AHA! CASE SOLVED! Release the two suspects. They are innocent."

After the present Judge Pao transported both of us back to a year later, I said, "So, the monkey threw the glass bottles?"

Judge Pao nodded and I thanked him for telling me about the most interesting case he had solved.

"You're welcome," said Judge Pao.

"Goodbye, and thank you once again, Judge Pao!" I said, bowing.

Judge Pao bowed as well, and I quickly wished for myself to go home.

I was back in my bedroom with my Judge Pao book resting silently on my bed. I flipped through the pages to find the case that Judge Pao had shown me. I quickly sat down at my desk, grabbed a piece of paper, and began scribbling down almost exactly what I had seen with Judge Pao. I just wanted to be able to remember this forever! After I finished, I decided to read the book to see if that case was mentioned, when suddenly I realized that the last page of the book was folded.

I flipped all the way to the last page, and I saw a message that Judge Pao himself had written for me:

Dear young girl,

It was a pleasure to meet you. I hope I will be able to see you again so I can show you more interesting cases that I have solved.

—Pao Zheng (Judge Pao)

I smiled. When the rest of my family comes back, I will have a good story to tell.

# The Mysterious Time Traveller

*Diocesan Girls' Junior School, Fung, Joanne – 9*

“Ahh! The top-secret file! It’s gone! Ahh!” the teacher, Mrs. L. Yuen, yelled.

The headmistress heard her frantic shout and rushed over. “Which one? Which one has been stolen?” she asked.

“The Tales of Judge Pao! It has been here since 1862!” Mrs. Yuen yelled. Then she ran off to tell the other staff.

The headmistress gasped. “Oh, no!” she breathed.

Then she ran into the “Staff Only” room and discovered that there was a gap where the file had been. With trembling hands, she dialed the best detective’s – Sir Y. K. Pao’s – phone number. Meanwhile, she checked the CCTV. She saw the son of a powerful crime lord, JJ, who was a Year 6 in their school, sneaking into the room and staying inside for five whole minutes. But then the door finally opened and it was a girl with long, blonde hair who came out, instead of the brown-haired boy. She tried to check the CCTV inside the room, but it must have been disabled, for there was nothing to be seen.

The whole school had learnt about the theft now, but JJ had run away before anyone could question him. Also, Sir Y. K. Pao had decided to send his grandson, Junior Pao, to solve it. The headmistress was quite disappointed.

“Junior Pao is just 14 years old. How can he solve a crime like that?” she said to Mrs. Yuen.

It was midnight by the time Junior Pao walked out of the school. He was a dark-skinned boy with a crescent-shaped birthmark on his forehead with straight black hair, and he seemed to melt entirely into the shadows. Suddenly, the birthmark on his head began to glow. He saw a similar glow in front of him. He fumbled for his torch and turned it on. His mouth fell open with shock. A man stood in front of him, who had dark skin and a crescent-shaped birthmark on his forehead. His hair was covered by a headpiece that ancient judges wore.

“Hello, Junior! You are my great-great-great-great-great-great-great-great grandson,” the man looked at Junior Pao and exclaimed.

Junior Pao fainted.

Junior Pao opened his eyes groggily. He saw a man’s face, staring at him. But that person wasn’t his grandfather, Sir Y. K. Pao. Suddenly, all his memories came rushing back. He realized who the man was now and he remembered what he had revealed.

“Argh!” he cried.

The man, no, Judge Pao, whispered, “Please be quiet! Come on, Junior! Don’t you need help solving the mystery?”

“No! And my name’s Junior Pao, not Junior!” Junior Pao shouted.

“Shh! I shall call you ‘Junior’ if I want. Now come on! There is no time to explain,” Judge Pao answered.

Junior Pao was so shocked his jaw dropped to the floor. He could have stayed in that shocked state forever, but he heard Judge Pao’s voice telling him to speed up, so he caught up to him.

“Let me see the evidence,” said Judge Pao.

“You can see it on the CCTV,” Junior Pao replied.

They saw JJ, the suspect, going into the room and the blonde girl coming out, so they went into the “Staff Only” room to investigate.

“Wait! That scroll...I’ve seen it before,” Judge Pao remarked, pointing to an ancient scroll a few feet away from where the book used to be, “I solved a secret message hidden in a painting in the Song Dynasty. It was from a singsong girl called ‘Mei Mei’. The scroll helped me find the clue. Let me go get it. It might give us a clue.”



Judge Pao took the scroll out. He then poked the scroll a bit, then a slip of paper popped out.

“This...this used to be the will of Mei Mei’s husband. Now...the message has been changed!” exclaimed Judge Pao.

The message on the scroll was:

There is a hair from the criminal under the scroll’s case. Also, remember the number 654321.

They used the tweezers to pick up the hair and wrapped it in tissue paper, then he pocketed the slip of paper.

“But why are you helping me? Why are you coming here? Junior asked.

“The book JJ stole is the book I am seeking. The book has the answer. I must find it. I am not joking. I come from 1000 years ago and I am a time traveller. I am trying to solve a crime that you call ‘Civet Cat Exchanged for Crown Prince’, but I have not managed to solve it yet. Also, I got Li Fei’s and Ren Zong’s blood samples before I came here. Your grandpa Y. K. Pao helped me do the DNA test to verify mother–son relationships,” explained Judge Pao. “Now you know the reason why I have never solved a crime wrong.”

“But now we have JJ’s hair! We have proof now! We can report him!” Junior Pao exclaimed.

“No, we need solid proof. We must be fair to every person. We can’t prove the hair is from JJ. We must get a hair from JJ himself to prove that he had truly committed the crime,” Judge Pao stated. “Each person’s number of hair protein markers, combined with his or her pattern of protein markers is unique. The unique protein markers in hair could be used for human identification. If the police have a hair from the criminal to compare with this hair, and if the test results prove that the two hairs are from JJ, then JJ is guilty.”

“What does 654321 mean?” Junior Pao then asked.

“Who knows?” Judge Pao shrugged. “We’ll find out later.”

The next morning, Judge Pao and Junior Pao walked towards JJ’s locker. They thought that there might be a hair from JJ inside, but they did not expect that there would be a lock on the locker which needed a combination to open.

“*Great!* How are we going to open it *now*?” Junior Pao grumbled.

“There are 6 digits. Perhaps it could be 654321,” Judge Pao suggested.

He quickly dialed the numbers into the lock. It sprang open with a tiny “click”. Inside they found JJ’s uniform, a dress, a blonde wig and a lot of candy. Judge Pao took out his tweezers and fished about in the wig. Finally, he grasped the brown hair which was clenched between the tweezers and stuffed it into a plastic bag.

“Now, we have solid proof. Let’s hand the evidence over to the police,” exclaimed Judge Pao. “I’ll never falsely accuse a person of a crime without solid proof, even if I suspect him of doing it.”

A few days later, the police cornered JJ and he confessed to his crimes. He also handed over “The Tales of Judge Pao”. After reading the book, Judge Pao had to go back to his own time.

Before he went back, he had said to Junior Pao, “Say ‘Hello’ to your grandpa for me.”

“How do you know my grandpa?” Junior Pao asked.

“I knew him when he was as young as you, and I still do!” Judge Pao remarked offhandedly.

Then he vanished into the “Staff Only” room and he never came out again.

# Judge Pao's Adventures Through Time

*Diocesan Girls' Junior School, Ho, Ming Shum Anna – 10*

“What? Where am I? Or Should I say... *When* am I?”

Thousands of years ago, there was a judge who was famous from all over China, and he was... Bao Zheng. He was famous for his justice and his ability to handle things tactfully.

One day, he was sitting on his courtroom bench when the the gong sounded outside the courtroom. A distraught maiden with her hair flying around her head like tumbleweed stumbled into the courtroom.

“Who might you be?” asked Judge Bao in a kind voice.

“I have come all the way from Hong Kong just to see you. I am a widow called Yuelan and I have a son called Jiangyi.”

Then, Yuelan told Judge Bao about what had happened. Apparently, when she and her son were having breakfast, Jiangyi went out of the house and was instantly murdered.

Tears gushed down her face as Yuelan shook with silent sobs.

Judge Bao cocked his head thoughtfully as he thought of what to do.

Finally, he commanded, “Zhanzhao! Follow Yuelan to the scene of the crime and investigate.” Zhanzhao dipped his head respectfully to Judge Bao, agreeing.

Taking Yuelan by the hand, Zhanzhao speed-travelled to Hong Kong.

Upon arrival of the scene of the crime, Zhanzhao was disgusted by the scene that met his eyes:

The dead body of Jiangyi lay on the floor, with a pool of blood on the floor around him. Stabbed in the middle of Jiangyi's chest was a brightly coloured sword. Taking the sword in his hands, Zhanzhao decided to go back to China and give it to Judge Bao to investigate.

Zhanzhao turned around and was about to travel back with Yuelan when they heard a clear voice behind them.

“You really think that you can just take that sword away?” the mysterious man sneered. “I don't think so.”

The man in the mask was the same height as Zhanzhao, but thinner. Growling at each other, they began to fight.

After a vicious battle, the man lay dead on the floor, defeated by Zhanzhao.

Zhanzhao grabbed the sword that had been lying on the ground for the whole time and saw that Yuelan was curled up in a corner, sobbing softly. Zhanzhao took her hand, reassuring her.

Zhanzhao and Yuelan soon travelled back in the middle of the courtroom, where Judge Bao was reading a few documents.

Panting hard, Zhanzhao told the whole story, and Judge Bao called, “Wongqiu, Mahon, Zhanglong and Jiufu, come with me and Zhanzhao to revisit the scene of the crime.

“Meanwhile,” Judge Bao said, this time addressing Yuelan, “you should go back home with us.”

Arriving at Hong Kong, Judge Bao and his men began to examine the dead body of Jiangyi, while Zhanzhao was looking at the blood-soaked sword closely. He found out that there was a tiny chip on the handle of the sword.

He called Judge Bao to examine the sword. Upon touching the chip, there was a loud whooshing noise and a loud bang.

Landing hard on their feet, Zhanzhao gasped, “I—I think we have travelled through time.”

They had indeed. They were in the modern city of Hong Kong, in a dark, dank alley.

“Who are you?” a mysterious woman who was lying in the alley asked. “And why are you dressed like that?”

Without waiting for a response, the woman said, “I doubt you can help me, but I have no other choice. There is a case that I need to solve. I am Mrs. Jiang, and...”

“Mrs. Jiang???” gasped Zhanzhao. He and Judge Bao exchanged shocked glances.

“Yes,” she replied, confused at their reaction. “And both my son and my husband have disappeared mysteriously. One morning, I woke up to discover that they were gone!

“I have already guessed that it might have something to do with Mr Man. He and my son are both adults already, and my son told me that they had an argument at work.”

“Are you talking about me?” a cold voice asked. Appearing out of the shadows, Mr Man and a few muscular henchmen advanced on the group.

Unsheathing his sword, Zhanzhao questioned the man, “What did you do to Mr Jiang and his son?”

“Though I think you know already,” sneered Mr Man, “I will tell you what happened.

“His son and I discovered a certain material called crystal quartz. I wanted to use it for making a time travelling machine, but we did not find much of this crystal quartz, so Mr Jiang did not want to waste it, disagreeing angrily. As you can guess, we had a big argument. In the end, I still built a time travelling machine, which is in your hands right now. I wanted revenge on Mr Jiang, so now, I have wiped the name “Jiang” off the face of existence!”

Zhanzhao yelled a battlecry and flew at Mr Man. Mr Man gave a shriek, thinking that Zhanzhao was going to kill him. Quick as a flash of lightning, Zhanzhao tied up Mr Man and his henchmen in a tight bundle.

Then, Zhanzhao travelled back to the time before Jiangyi was murdered and stopped Mr Man from doing the terrible deed, thwarting his plans.

When he got back to the dark alley, Zhanzhao saw Mrs Jiang hugging and kissing a somewhat bewildered Mr Jiang and her son.

“Now,” Judge Bao sighed, “Mr. Man. We cannot kill you, as it is unjust, so we should just let you go. However, we will keep a close eye on you. Mrs Jiang, please tell me immediately if there is any trouble.”

After returning to the past, they saw Wongqiu, Mahon, Zhanglong and Jiufu looking very bewildered.

“What is going on?” asked Wongqiu, confused. “Where’s the dead body of Jiangyi?”

They acted even more confused as they saw Yuelan and Jiangyi hugging each other happily.

The others just laughed.

“We might explain more in the future,” laughed Judge Bao, “but not now. All in good time.”

# Judge Pao and the Abandoned Warehouse

*Diocesan Girls' Junior School, Lam, Alexia Jean – 9*

Judge Pao was in his study sipping tea when a bearded man burst into the room, accompanied by a young boy. “Judge Pao! Judge Pao!” The man said breathlessly, collapsing to his knees. “My name is Lee Man, and this is my son, Lee Yuan. Lee Yuan had been lost since last month and I only found him just now! He was kidnapped. My wife and I were heartbroken. Earlier today I decided to get some fresh air. I went for a stroll in the Imperial Garden. After a while, I heard muffled and desperate yells. I thought the voice sounded familiar, but I didn’t know why.”

Lee Man paused for breath. Then, he continued, “I was curious, so I went to investigate. As I wandered further in, I stumbled across an abandoned warehouse. So I walked into the warehouse nervously. Deep inside, I couldn’t believe my eyes. Lee Yuan was tied to a chair with duct tape covering his mouth. I glanced around and there was no one in sight, so I quickly untied him and removed the tape from his mouth. He told me everything, but he couldn’t take a good look at the kidnappers because they all wore black masks. But he said he was sure that he remembered their voices— one was deep and gruff and the other weaker. After that, we both agreed that the best thing to do was to come find you. That’s everything that happened.”

Judge Pao sipped at his tea thoughtfully. After a while, he finally said, “Bring me to the warehouse.” He rose up and gestured for Lee Man and Lee Yuan to lead the way.

“This is the warehouse.” Lee Yuan whispered, his eyes wide open with fear. Judge Pao searched the room thoroughly for any suspicious objects. Then suddenly, they heard some faint noises. The voices were rough, and they were coming from the end of the tunnel. “It’s them! It’s them! Oh no! Quickly hide!” Lee Yuan hid behind his father. “Those people are the kidnappers!” Judge Pao motioned for them to hide behind a strong and sturdy boulder. “We will listen to their conversations,” he explained. “And catch them when they say something that proves that they are guilty.” So the three people crouched down and started to eavesdrop on the kidnappers.

“Where is the kid?” demanded the taller man. “He... he... he was right here an...an hour ago.” The other younger boy shrugged and replied, “He escaped, probably! Sss..sorry! I know we needed the ransom money!” “What?” the man thundered. The man slapped the boy on his face, threw him on the ground and trampled his chest with all his might. Judge Pao and the Lees immediately stepped out and stopped the harsh abuse. Once the two kidnappers saw the dark face with the crescent moon on the forehead, they knew they were caught red-handed by the famous Man of Justice. Judge Pao grabbed them and dragged them out.

At court, Judge Pao gave the two kidnappers a chance to confess. The older man saw his chance and pointed at the younger boy. “It was all his idea!” he claimed. “He saw the kid wearing an expensive watch and knew his family was very rich. Then, he said that I was older and stronger, and forced me to kidnap him. I knew it was wrong, but he threatened me and said that if I didn’t help him, he would harm my family. So, Judge Pao, it truly wasn’t me!” Meanwhile, the younger boy kept silent with his head bowed down, facing the floor. After a long moment of silence, he finally whimpered, “I’m sorry.” Judge Pao decided to call in the boy’s parents, hoping to understand more about the boy. Only his father came. After a series of questioning, the father explained that his wife was seriously sick, a whisker away from death. The family desperately needed money to provide treatment for the wife.

Judge Pao finally understood why the boy helped kidnap Lee Yuan and he also discovered that the taller man was the true culprit behind the whole scheme of events. The boy knew that breaking the law was wrong, but he committed wrongdoings out of his love for his mother. Judge Pao sentenced the older man to eight years of imprisonment and the boy to one year of community service. Judge Pao exhorted the boy to never commit crime, even in the most desperate situations.

Both the Lees were very thankful for Judge Pao’s thorough and fair investigation. Judge Pao really was the one and only Man of Justice.

# A Heart of Gold

*Diocesan Girls' Junior School, Leong, Tsz Yan Bernice – 11*

Xi Liang was a weaver who lived in a village. She was short-tempered and often lashed out at the neighbors.

She was walking through the village market when a small boy told her, “The hem of your dress is flipped.”

“How dare you!” Xi Liang shrieked in her shrill voice as she whipped around and caught the boy’s wrist in a tight grip. She then raised her hand and slapped the boy on his face in such a brutal manner, the boy lost his balance and fell onto the ground, hitting a sharp rock that made his forehead bleed profusely. He soon lost consciousness.

In the busy bustle and hustle of the market, nobody noticed the boy’s blood slowly leaking from his head and pooling onto the ground. Xi Liang, terrified that she would be punished for hurting the boy, ran away as fast as she could and left the boy bleeding on the cobblestone. Little did she know as she ran away, her pin—a family heirloom—fell off and dropped onto the ground, beside the little boy.

Just then, Judge Pao was passing through the village. He came across the market road and everyone parted for him, except for the boy who was lying on the ground. It was only then that the people noticed the boy and started to crowd around him. Shouts and shrieks gradually sounded as they found the gaping wound on the boy’s forehead.

“What’s going on?” Judge Pao demanded authoritatively, lifting up the cover of the sedan chair.

One of the guards immediately reported back, informing Judge Pao how the people were blocking the road. “The villagers seem to be—”

“I will go and see for myself.” Judge Pao cut off the guard. “If the villagers are crowding around, then there must be something important going on.” He stepped out of the sedan chair and started to stride towards the crowd. The villagers, brought back to their senses by the presence of Judge Pao, immediately dissipated and slunk away into the background.

Now, Judge Pao could see what was happening. The small boy still laid on the ground, still as a statue. A red swollen cheek showed that he had been hit. “What happened here?” he asked.

A villager knelt down and spoke, “Judge Pao, as we parted the road for you, we saw this boy lying unconscious on the road, so we crowded around to see what happened. We, the villagers, never saw what had caused the boy to fall unconscious, as the market was too busy. We are terribly sorry that we blocked your road. Please forgive our lapse of judgment.”

“It is all forgiven,” Judge Pao replied graciously. “Guards, find someone to attend to the boy.” The guard came forward and lifted the small boy up, carrying him to the village doctor.

Soon enough, the guard returned. “There is a large gash on the boy’s forehead and a swollen mark on his right cheek in the shape of a hand. The boy is an orphan who lives in the streets. The doctor says he will survive.”

Just then, Judge Pao spotted something. A pin on the floor. “There is a pin on the floor... might it be from the crowd just now?” he thought.

“Does anyone claim this pin?” Judge Pao shouted.

A small voice—a voice that belonged to a girl not much older than the boy—then piped up. “Judge Pao, I’ve seen this pin! It belongs to Xi Liang. She once hit me for reminding her to pin up a stray piece of hair! It makes sense that she would hit the boy...”

“Where does Xi Liang live? I have to ask her a few questions.” Judge Pao knew that this was a small matter compared to the grand mysteries he was accustomed to, but his caring heart still urged him to continue and give the boy his justice.

“Xi Liang lives in the outskirts of the village.”

“Thank you, your service will be remembered.”

Judge Pao stepped back into his sedan chair and the group started on his way to Xi Liang’s residence.

After hearing a knock on the door, Xi Liang tentatively opened the door and almost fainted when she saw the guards and Judge Pao. “Judge Pao, you grace me with your presence!” She stuttered and knelt down hurriedly.

Judge Pao stepped into the house as he looked at her sternly. “Have you heard about what happened to a boy in the market? He got hit and he fell onto a sharp rock. His forehead now has a large gash on it.”

“I know not! I know not!” Xi Liang knew she was doomed, but she still denied the truth and tried to cover up her lies.

“Are you, by any chance, the one who hurt him?” Judge Pao’s sentence sounded more like a statement than a question.

“I... of course not!” Xi Liang shook her head vigorously.

“Then how can you explain this?” Judge Pao pulled out the pin. “It was found near the boy and I know this belongs to you. If you confess your wrongs willingly now, you will be given a less severe punishment than when the boy you hurt reports to the court.”

Xi Liang finally confessed and admitted her wrongs, promising that she would respect the villagers from then on. But of course, a promise was not enough, and in the end, she was sentenced to be in prison for two years.

In her time in prison, Xi Liang reflected on her actions and after two years, she emerged as a kinder and more caring woman— much different than she was before.

This tale of Judge Pao was of course not very well-known like his other cases, but this demonstrated his kind and caring heart that was willing to help anyone in need, anytime and anywhere. What we do know is that Judge Pao did not seek glory and power, but instead sought justice and peace.

# The Revenge

*Diocesan Girls' Junior School, Lie Ken Jie, Sophie Hoi Hei – 10*

Judge Pao, famously known as Justice Pao, arrived at a charming village. He took out his magnifying glass, retracing every step the victim took while searching for every possible clue. Who could the murderer be? Why did he kill the victim? What was happening? Hundreds of questions were swarming in his mind.

Two days ago, Judge Pao received a confidential letter from the Police Commissioner, asking him to solve a murder case where a forty-year-old tycoon, Li Tze Keung, was found dead in his hotel room. In the letter, it was mentioned that a hotel duty officer, named Da Li, discovered the dead body when he went into the room for routine cleaning in the morning. No scar or injury was found on the body. There was not any trace of fighting. According to Da Li, the tycoon's wife was in the room the night before, and there was a quarrel between them that led to a few complaints from the hotel guests. At around ten o'clock, the wife stormed out of the room and never came back.

After reading the letter, Judge Pao sensed a possible conspiracy behind the murder and his righteousness drove him to take up the task. Together with his investigation assistant, Gongsun Ce, they set off for the murder scene without delay. At the scene, they didn't find anything suspicious or peculiar. Not a minute to lose, Judge Pao decided to interrogate Da Li, a crucial witness who could help lay out the full picture of this mysterious case, while Gongsun Ce stayed at the scene to further investigate.

"So, what exactly happened on the night Li Tze Keung was murdered?" Judge Pao questioned while taking out his notepad.

"Um...his wife....argued with him...and some guests complained the loud noises they made," Da Li stammered, "and after she left, her husband never came out again. It must be the wife who murdered Li Tze Keung! Find her and bring her to jail at once before she hurt others again!" said Da Li emotionally.

Before meeting the wife, Judge Pao suspected that she was the murderer, but her sorrow expression was out of his expectation.

"What happened in the room that night when you were with Li Tze Keung? Did you argue with your husband?" Judge Pao quizzed the wife, who showed deep sorrow on her face.

Who would have guessed a puzzled expression hung on her face as she replied?

"Nothing special. Couples always argue over minor issues, don't they?" she shuddered. "I was having dinner with my husband and enjoying the scenic view out of the window. I left at around ten o'clock as I promised I would visit and stay with my friends that night. I shouldn't have gone. If I had stayed, my husband would not have died..." Tears instantly trickled down her sullen face.

While Judge Pao was consolidating his findings at the police station, he heard a familiar voice which was undoubtedly Gongsun Ce.

"Judge Pao! Judge Pao! I've made a shocking discovery – Li Tze Keung was suffocated to death, triggered by peanut, which was found in the desert. Also, the valuable possession of Li Tze Keung didn't go missing. I have questioned a few hotel guests and they did hear their voices," Gongsun Ce exclaimed with cold sweat on his forehead.

Judge Pao fell into silence. He started to think deeply all over again.

"Let's dig out the background of both Mrs. Li and Da Li. If Mrs. Li was the killer, we need to find out her motive. And I want to know why Da Li was so certain that Mrs. Li was the killer. I can't figure out why," muttered Judge Pao under his breath.

After two days of investigation, Gongsun Ce reported the findings to Judge Pao.

“The relationship between the couple was not as good as what was reported in the news. Mr. Li had numerous mistresses for many years which obviously upset Mrs. Li according to their maids. They quarrelled very often and sometimes they would hurt each other physically. While for Da Li, it was interesting to discover that they went to the same primary school, which was not mentioned in the interview,” exclaimed Gongsun Ce, and it made Judge Pao fall into deep thought. He decided to call Da Li for another round of questioning.

“We learned that you went to the same school as Li Tze Keung. Why didn’t you tell us last time?” demanded Judge Pao.

“There is a good reason for people to address you as Justice Pao,” Da Li replied. “I didn’t expect you to work it out so quickly before I run away. You are on the right track. I killed Li Tze Keung. I hate him and I can never forget how he treated me at school. Look at me!” Da Li took off his clothes to reveal countless red scars caused by cruel treatments all over his body.

“He always bullied me because I was poor. No one dared to be friends with me as they didn’t want to be in trouble. I was lonely and hopeless. But I never gave up my determination to take revenge. I thank God for seeing Li Tze Keung again after so many years,” Da Li showed an evil look without any regrets as he uncovered every single detail of the murder.

“After his wife left, I went into his room and gave him a desert which contained a bit of peanut. I know he was allergic...I knew it...I witnessed his last gasp of breath...” Da Li was lost in his mind.

Judge Pao had once again solved a challenging case. He was sorry for Da Li for being tortured but it still can’t justify taking away one’s life. Da Li was sentenced to jail, where he would spend ten years redeeming himself from sin. Judge Pao concluded that the murder was unfortunate and that we must never let hatred take over us.



# The Missing Crown

*Diocesan Girls' Junior School, Liu, Suet Ching Sophia – 10*

It was a dark and stormy night. The clouds were black and grey, almost camouflaged against the pitch-black sky, and Mother Nature was sobbing loudly.

“Father, I’m afraid!” cried Pao Yi, Judge Pao’s youngest son. “Do not be afraid my son,” said Pao. “Life’s full of dangerous and frightening things, but you must conquer the fear of them. Now of you go!” With that being said, Pao sent his son to sleep.

“Father,” said Pao Shou, his other son. “Can you read us a story before we snooze?” Pao agreed and started telling them an amusing story about two men arguing over the ownership of an ox.

Meanwhile, seven thousand seven hundred and seventy-nine kilometres from China, there was a King. King Harold Harefoot of Canterbury, England was heir to the royal throne. It was half past eleven in the morning and King Harold was sitting on his throne, thinking about his coronation, which was in a month. He felt anxious that something would go terribly wrong. Suddenly, as if his nightmare had come to life, one of Harold’s courtiers ran into the Main Hall.

“Sir! Your coronation crown has gone missing!” yelled the courtier. Harold leapt up from his throne and faster than the blink of an eye, barged into the treasure chamber. As soon as he saw the empty crown case, Harold started questioning everyone to see if they had seen the crown. Harold got even angrier when no one knew where it was.

“This is unforgivable!” shouted Harold in a deep voice. “When I find out who did this, they will immediately get thrown in the lions’ den! Is that clear?”

“Y–ye–yes, my King,” stuttered the servants and guards, feeling rather terrified. With that said, Harold, still fuming with rage, turned around and left for his royal chamber.

A week passed and Harold had still not found his crown. This bothered him very much and his temper got worse and worse every day. He had summoned all the detectives, investigators and judges in England to the palace to help him find the crown, but none of them had succeeded.

One day, a Persian trader came to the palace and said, “My King, I’ve heard that your crown has been stolen and I would like to recommend to you a wise man that I once heard of. His name is Judge Pao Zheng, and he is from the Far East. This man is a professional judge and has done wonders, maybe you should ask him for help instead.” Harold was desperate, so the next day a messenger was sent with a letter asking Judge Pao to come to England at the request of King Harold.

After many months of waiting, Pao finally arrived in Canterbury. King Harold was no nearer to finding the crown and had almost lost hope. The coronation had been postponed many times. When Pao entered the palace, Harold was overjoyed because Pao was his last chance to find the crown.

“You’re finally here!” exclaimed Harold. “Yes, it was a very long journey,” said Pao. “Perhaps we should get straight to business!”

“So, tell me everything you know,” said Pao.

Harold explained about finding the crown missing in the search for it and the thief. He also told Pao about his suspicions that his half-brother, Harthacnut, was the culprit, in order to stop Harold from being crowned King, since Harthacnut wanted to be King himself. Pao listened very carefully. At the end, he asked Harold if he could question all the servants in the palace. Harold agreed. One by one, Pao interviewed all the servants, not just about the crown and Harthacnut, but also about anybody doing anything suspicious at the time the crown went missing. He couldn’t find out anything new from any of the courtiers or servants. However, when he was questioning the last cook, he noticed a small boy crouched in the corner of the kitchen and didn’t hesitate to question him too.

“Well, no one has ever asked me this question before,” said the little boy in a shy voice. “But I do remember seeing Sir Godwin carrying a big sack under his cloak right next to the treasure chamber on the same day the crown went missing.”

“Sir Godwin? Impossible! He has done nothing but show kindness to me and my family,” exclaimed Harold. “He has never wanted to be a King. It can’t be him!” Pao was stroking his chin, when he suddenly asked Harold if Godwin and Harthacnut were close, and indeed they were.

“I know who did it now!” shouted Pao. “Since Godwin and Harthacnut are very close, and Harthacnut always wanted the crown, what if Godwin had stolen the crown to give to Harthacnut, so he could be King?”

“Oh, my goodness! I never thought about that!” exclaimed Harold.

“Are Godwin and Harthacnut here in Canterbury?” asked Pao.

“In fact, they are! I remember they said they were going to Woodland Park!” shouted Harold.

Immediately, Harold and Pao went to Woodland Park, and just like Harold said, in the centre of the park were Godwin and Harthacnut, with the crown under their cloaks.

“Stop! Thief!” shouted Pao. When Godwin and Harthacnut heard him, they quickly ran away. However, unfortunately for them, Harold had already called the guards and they were immediately arrested.

“Judge Pao, thank you so much for helping me retrieve my crown. As a reward, you will be rewarded with fifty thousand gold coins, as a thank you,” Harold said.

“Thank you, King Harold. You are most generous. However, I am afraid I cannot accept your gift.” said Pao, with a bright smile on his face.

“Why not, Judge?” asked Harold, confused.

“I help people, King Harold. It’s what I do. Perhaps you could use the money to build a school,” answered Pao.

“What a wise idea! It shall be done as you wish,” said Harold.

And with that, Judge Pao bade farewell.

# The Mysteries of Judge Pao's Afterlife

*Diocesan Girls' Junior School, Lo, Eilis – 11*

White. That was all I saw. *Where am I?* As different shapes and colours started materialising in my vision and my thoughts flew back into order, recent memories came flooding back into my mind: A few other archaeologists and I went to Xiongzhou in hopes of unearthing some old relics. I had discovered a secret side door hidden in the ground, having opened it, I hopped into the empty voids of darkness without thinking and I'm now here.

Regaining my ability to see, I slowly sat up and looked around. Sitting on a dirt ground, there were trees surrounding me with crimson leaves that grew into the night sky, caressing the blood moon. Getting up to my feet, I was about to slip around the trees to explore when a low voice suddenly cut through my train of thought. "Who art thou, and how *in the name of heavenly gods* did thou appear?"

Spinning around, I found myself face-to-face with an old man. He wore a long blood-red robe that glowed against his ghost-white skin, and he had a dust grey hat plopped onto his head, akin to the ones people with high positions wore in Chinese folklore. With bushy eyebrows pinched together as he frowned at me, and a long but neatly trimmed beard dangling from his chin, he resembled a wise Chinese wizard. "Who...Art...Thou...?" he repeated as if I was hard of hearing.

I struggled to find my voice and replied in a sound equivalent to a mouse's squeak. "Anne." Returning the old man's stare, I asked. "Who are you? And why am I here?"

The man stroked his beard and nodded. He claimed to be the famous Judge Pao and this stunning place is The Department of Hell, where deceased people are judged based on their actions when they were alive. According to Bao Zheng legends, he bestowed justice as a human during the day, but at night, he became the immortal Yama of the Department of Hell and worked as a judge adjudicating the deceased. After death, he continued to advocate for justice. The secret door is the one the Song installed in the border prefecture of XiongZhou in the past and is now one of the doors of Hell.

Judge Pao offered to take me on a tour. Firstly, he led me to the place where they sentenced the deceased. He allowed me to stand near him while he judged one of the new arrivals. "Welcome to the Department of Hell. Tell me what happened to thou when thou were alive." He said warmly to the newcomer. The newcomer introduced himself and his background, which was quite intriguing. He insisted on being a rich silk merchant and was one of the wealthiest people in his day. As he spoke, Judge Pao's face changed from a welcoming expression into a pitiful face and held out a black basin. "The soul of thy victim called out to me. The riches thou carry is his, why is thou greedy and a liar? I detest injustice, so thou shall not enjoy heaven." Judge Pao drew out a sword with a dog head and sliced at the newcomer. I watched in horror as the spirit of the deceased person flew out from the neck and got thrown into a low pit, his screams echoing through the place and my mind. Judge Pao sighed, "Though it saddens me to see these folk wend into hell, injustice hath no place in heaven."

After I recovered from my shock, Judge Pao led me to another section with beautiful artwork aligned neatly against the wall. Even though the details of the art were elegant, the meaning behind all the layers of paint was not appealing. For example, one of the pictures showed a man being tossed into the burning flames of Hell, flames that looked like they would catch fire and burn the picture. But one of the pictures drew my attention. It was a picture of a girl's hand entering a scroll and travelling into the story. Then an idea struck me like lightning, "Judge Pao. If you have a library here, we can find this scroll and I can go home!" I gushed, feeling excitement for the first time since landing here.

"We do, it is located in the middle of this whole structure. Alas, it hath disappeared due to a... mistake." he said. Judge Pao seemed to be disappointed in my motivations for leaving, but eventually he said "We shall look for it." and thus started the mission of finding the library.

After a long walk, we halted in front of a pile of rubble. "The library should be under here." I said. "The scroll in the picture had swirly wooden patterns and a red seal." Without any further delay, we started digging, during the long process, we came across hundreds of different scrolls, none of them matching our description. Seemingly a decade later, Judge Pao called me over and showed me a scroll that was identical to the one in the picture.

'Art thou ready?' he asked and I nodded. Unfurling the scroll, I bent down and planted my palms on the wood. "Good luck, thou shall need it," whispered Judge Pao. Taking a deep breath, I pushed into the scroll with all my might and soon, my whole arm disappeared like the mist in the morning. Soon, Hell vanished from my sight and I was back where I found the secret door. With a crazy grin etched across my lips, I ran out to find my friends and tell them about my adventure.

My eyes landed on a small group of people and I bounded towards them, yelling. Weirdly, none of them responded or looked at me. Getting closer, and hearing what they were saying: "Where's Anne?" "I don't know, I looked everywhere!"

Frowning, I spoke again—no response. Looking down at my hands, I found myself staring at wisps of tenderly white smoke—I have transformed into a ghost.

# The Curious Case of the Time–Traveller

*Diocesan Girls' Junior School, Pang, Yuet Wing – 11*

I was strolling through the streets of Duanzhou when I noticed a crowd huddled around something, making a commotion.

I approached the horde and the crowd parted for me, and I peered down at...an unconscious man.

The man was wearing a strange costume. His torso was dressed in a plain, red coat that looked drab and dull compared to our patterned coats. There was an opening in the middle of the coat which revealed a pale blue garment that resembled a tunic except without the part that concealed the legs. The man's legs were covered with green trousers that looked like our pants, except that they were much baggier. Although the man was just dressed in odd-looking clothes, I got the feeling that this man did not belong here.

I ordered the people to move the strange man to the nearest house and waited for him to awaken. After a few hours, the man's eyes fluttered open. He instantly shot up and started speaking in a language I had never heard before. Based on his body language and facial expressions, I could tell that he was trying to ask me questions, but I couldn't understand a single word of what he was saying.

The man looked around frantically, wringing his hands, and his eyes lit up when he spotted some writing utensils lying on a desk. He dashed over to the desk and began to draw. First, he drew a simple man and pointed to himself. I understood what he meant. The strange man was the little man in the picture. He wrote some symbols underneath himself in the picture and said something that sounded like 'Harf'. I assumed that was his name. Using this kind of communication, he told me his tale. Harf had been living his normal life dozens, perhaps even hundreds of years after I did, and had teleported to the distant past, with no idea how to return home. It sounded like a made-up story, but all the pieces fit together: Harf's bizarre-looking clothes, the strange language. The future would mean advanced technology, which would surely enable people to travel through time. It was certainly possible.

Although I had no idea how to get Harf back to his time, I accepted the challenge, as I couldn't bear to abandon Harf in an unfamiliar world.

I began my investigation with a detailed interview. The language barrier was still a major issue, and a few hours and a lot of illustrations later, I gathered a sizeable amount of information.

Harf had been born a mind-blowing one-and-a-half thousand years after I died and was raised in Hong Kong. Recently, he had single-handedly invented the machine that enabled the user to travel through time. Unfortunately, he had been so eager to test out the revolutionary invention that he hadn't thought about how he would get back to his time, and ended up stuck in the past with no way to go home.

Just as I was wrapping up the interview, someone knocked urgently on the door. I opened the door. One of my friends burst in and shouted my name.

"Bao Zheng! Bao Zheng!"

He then informed me that a body had just been found at the bottom of a pond, and it was estimated that it had been there for about a week before it was discovered. The victim's throat had been slit before she was dumped into the pond to hide the evidence.

Behind me, Harf made a strangled noise and I whirled around to face him, asking if he knew anything about the murder, since he was from the future. He hastily shook his head, muttering something like 'can't interfere with history.' It was only after I threatened to use torture that he reluctantly revealed what he knew. (Apparently, he wasn't aware that I never resorted to torture.)

A week before, a man (Harf was unable to say his name, due to our language barrier) was forced to marry a woman he hated. He hated his wife so much that he plotted to kill her and disposed of her body in the pond after the deed was done.

It was at that time that I began to get suspicious. Why turn to murder instead of divorce? After all, divorcing was a lot less messy, and killing would very likely lead to execution, whereas divorce wouldn't. There was something else that was off about Harf. If he really was ingenious enough to create the time-travel machine all by himself, surely

he would consider all the possibilities before he tested his invention? The more I thought about it, the more it made sense. What if Harf wasn't from the future at all? What if he had just made up the entire story to cover something up? Something like...an assassination?

I remembered 'Harf's' reaction to the news about the murder. If my suspicions were true, he could not be trusted. I looked up from my deep thoughts to study 'Harf' and advanced towards him.

Following an interrogation and some threats, he, at long last, cracked under the pressure and told me everything. He had, indeed, committed the murder, and I soon found out why. A year ago, he had lost his job and had to resort to stealing to make ends meet. Recently, his wife (whom he had recently married) had discovered his secret and 'Harf' had been forced to dispatch her in order to keep her mouth shut. He had concocted this elaborate plot in order to direct suspicion away from him, and it had worked, at least until I had discovered flaws in his story.

Then, things got even more shocking. After an investigation to find out 'Harf's' identity, I discovered that he was my daughter-in-law's brother! At that point, I was hesitant to apprehend him for a second. However, bearing justice in mind, I had no choice but to convict him of murder and sentence him to death.

Case closed.

# A Future Mystery Solved by Judge Pao

*Diocesan Girls' Junior School, Poon, Sum Yin Valerie – 9*

Have you ever thought that a historical person could help solve a mystery in the modern world? Well, it is possible in this story. One day, in a dystopian world, a burglary happened in a famous museum. One of the many artefacts was stolen! It was Judge Pao's Dragon Head Guillotine, which had been used to execute royal personages. The burglar was spotted escaping with an object on a trolley from the back door of the museum. The security guards chased him, but they were distracted by a male passer-by dressed similar to the real burglar. Therefore, without knowing that the real burglar was not the passer-by, the poor passer-by was framed, and was thrown into jail.

The next morning, five inventors were watching the news and saw the burglary that had happened the night before. One of the inventors was the passer-by's brother, and he was most astonished that his brother was imprisoned. Believing that his brother was innocent, he convinced the others to help him and use their latest invention—a time machine, and go back in time to see who the real culprit was. "Let's challenge ourselves!" said Jenny, the leader of the inventors. "Since it was Judge Pao's guillotine that was stolen, I suggest we find Judge Pao and his team to help solve the case. He's a good detective after all." The others nodded their heads excitedly. So back in time they went to seek Judge Pao!

After arriving in the ancient times, they found Judge Pao, Zhan Zhao, Gongsun Ce and his four enforcers celebrating over another success of a mystery. They were surprised to see the inventors. "Judge Pao, we are people from the present day. Your Dragon Head Guillotine has been stolen, please help us solve the mystery!" begged Jenny.

"Certainly! I have always wanted to visit the future," replied Judge Pao. "Come on, Team!"

Soon the group was back in the modern world, ready to crack a mystery. "Let us visit the scene of the crime to search for witnesses," said Judge Pao. The inventors took Judge Pao to where his guillotine was stolen. Judge Pao shook his fist at the air. "How dare he steal my guillotine!" The group went to interview the guards. At last, they came to something useful. "I wasn't there on the night of the burglary, I was sick and that guard over there replaced me," said the guard who guarded the very area of the guillotine. So the group moved on to the other guard. "Yes, yes, I did guard that area. I think I might have been in contact with the thief himself!"

Jenny had an idea, "Behold everyone! We just simply have to check the CCTV!"

"I'm afraid that's not possible," said the guard. "That passer-by was smart. He somehow managed to break all the security cameras inside the museum without anyone noticing." The guard lowered his voice into a whisper, "Please do not tell the boss this, I fell asleep during my shift."

"When?" Judge Pao enquired.

"I took a bite of my dinner, suddenly felt tired, and the next thing I knew, I was asleep! I woke up after the burglary was done."

"Did you finish your dinner?" Judge Pao asked.

"No, I didn't," replied the guard.

Judge Pao took out a thin silver needle. "May I take your unfinished dinner?" he asked hopefully.

"Sure!" replied the guard.

"Why do you need his dinner?" Jenny asked.

"See this needle here? I'm going to poke it into this half-bitten slice of pizza." He poked it in, and much to the inventors and the guard's surprise, it turned from silver to jet black.

Zhan Zhao exclaimed in delight. “Hooray! We’ve determined how the crime was committed now!” The guard rolled his eyes. “What do you mean we know how the crime was committed?” asked Jenny.

Judge Pao explained, “If you poke a silver needle into food and it turns black, that means—”

“The food was poisoned!” interrupted Gongsun Ce and asked, “Guard, who gave you the food?”

“If I remember correctly, I ordered a pineapple pizza from that nearby restaurant. Oh, and that guy did look a bit shady.”

“Yes! That guy is the wicked criminal!” Judge Pao exclaimed.

With a wave to the guard, the group headed off to the nearby restaurant. “See that?” said one of the inventors, pointing to a CCTV outside the restaurant. “I have a friend who works here.”

“How is that going to help us?” Zhan Zhao asked.

“Pizza delivery guys deliver food on motorcycles, don’t they? Well, if only we can take a peek at the security footage and identify the driver’s license plate number, we can easily track down the burglar,” explained the inventor.

After a short while, the group got the information. The number was “VP 1234”. Soon, a courtroom was in use and the man who delivered the poisoned pizza was in it. Judge Pao reminded the enforcers to go and search for any signs of drugs in the motorcycle when the suspect was being interrogated. “You got the wrong person. I didn’t do it,” pleaded the suspect.

“Then what’s this?” said Ma Han, who was one of the enforcers. He held up the packet of drugs. The criminal broke down and confessed. It turned out he was a descendent of an enemy of Judge Pao.

“I hate you! Thanks to you, my great—great—great—great—great—great grandfather Tutor Pang was killed and our family have to suffer centuries of embarrassment and hatred! You do not deserve the glory by having your artefacts on display.”

Judge Pao sighed, “Sometimes we blame our own faults on others. Take him away!”

Soon the criminal was behind bars, and the passer-by was set free. The passer-by’s brother was so delighted. Judge Pao and his team were sent back to the ancient times, and thanks to Judge Pao’s visit to this dystopian world, it was restored with what Judge Pao would think are the most important things in the world—law and justice!

# A Life of Mysteries

*Diocesan Girls' Junior School, So, Tsz Yu Tiffany – 11*

It was a mystery Macy couldn't solve.

Today marks the 6th day of the disappearance of the Mayor's corgi Duke. Nobody had any idea of his whereabouts — he just vanished all of a sudden. That day, the Mayor had an important meeting scheduled with the President. When he came back, Duke was gone. Nobody saw anyone go in or out — not even the guards at the gate. As panic struck the Mayor, he frantically phoned Macy for assistance in cracking the case.

Sixteen-year-old Macy was a famous detective. Though young, she was well-known in the country for her excellent detective skills to spot even the slightest details when solving crimes. She had never missed a spot of evidence or any reasons that may have caused the crime. It was not just because she was cautious and smart — it was in her blood; she was a descendant of the legendary judge Pao. However, this one really perplexed her. 'How could it have happened?' she thought to herself.

Tired and discombobulated, she lay down on her bed and tried to clear her thoughts.

*When Macy arose, she was in a totally different environment. The wind howled and she shielded her face and looked around — she was in a place she had seen before — not in real life, but in books and movies. It all seemed too familiar. Could it be—?*

*Suddenly, a bearded man wearing a black and yellow robe appeared out of nowhere and exclaimed, "IT IS I — THE GREAT JUDGE PAO — What in the name of Buddha are you doing here, Macy?"*

*Macy gawked at him so hard she almost drooled, and uttered uncertainly, "You— you know my name?"*

*The old man heaved a deep sigh and stroked his beard. "Of course, it is my job – my only job to know everything, especially as you are one of my descendants. Now hustle unless you have something important to say!" Then he went back to stroking his long and straight black beard and gazed into the clouds.*

*As Macy was about to leave, she remembered something, and turned back to the famous judge and bit her lip. "Well, I do need your help to solve a rather complicated mystery. Its —"*

*She was interrupted by an impatient judge Pao. "Tsk, tsk., kiddo. I don't have time for your silly games. I need a break too! A tip – remember to break the problem into smaller parts – that's what I always do." He then shoved a thick and dusty book into Macy's hands. "As you know, I rarely have visitors. Here's a souvenir for you. I'm going back to enjoy my tea. Bye!"*

*The golden words on the cover caught Macy's attention as she stared at it. It read, "Great tips for great detectives written by Pao Zheng". The baffled girl then took a final glance at the judge who was now clumsily tottering back to his temple-like home. Could it have been real? Did she really just have a chit-chat with a dead person? It was all so confusing.*

"Macy — Macy! What are you doing?" Her mother yelled worriedly, then gave Macy a firm slap in the face to snap her out of her reverie. "Wake up — it's 7 pm — time for dinner!" She left the room and closed the door, leaving a puzzled Macy alone in her room. "What just happened?" she mumbled. She shook her head. It had just been a dream.

Her attention was drawn to a thick, dusty book lying neatly on her desk, waiting for someone to open it as she arose from bed. Her face fell into a state of disbelief.

It may not be a dream after all.

Hastily, she flipped the book until she found the chapter 'How To Solve Mysteries'. "Step one," mumbled Macy, "Clear your mind and take a step back to look at the problem." Macy took a deep breath and stared intently at the messy pinboard on the wall, then glanced at the book. "Remember not to overthink!" it read in messy handwriting



that Macy assumed was the Judge's. Maybe she overcomplicated the situation. She suddenly realized it was simpler than she thought. The Mayor said he opened the windows for fresh air as he thought it was stuffy in the room and then hurriedly left. Could it be that the dog had just hopped out the window?

Panting, she rushed to the scene. Her sensitive ears immediately caught soft whining from inside the backyard. "Oh, man!" exclaimed Macy. Poor Duke had been stuck in a bush right outside the house the whole time. The Mayor thanked her over and over again, "I couldn't have found him without you! Thank you so much!" Seeing another mystery solved made Macy beam.

By the time she got home, it was already late and the sun was nearly completely gone, and the sky was ablaze with the fire of the setting sun. Glancing at her desk, she saw that the book was not there anymore. She smiled and said to herself, "I haven't even recovered from solving the last mystery and another one comes already! Just my luck..."

This time, it would really be a mystery she wouldn't be able to solve.

## Cunningness

*Diocesan Girls' Junior School, So, Yui Ka Clara – 12*

There was a day back in the Song dynasty, as Judge Pao was going, slowly, down the steps of his house in the slightly drizzling grey weather, when his always—nervous messenger dashed in, seemingly haunted, traumatised, and frightened.

“S... sir! I g... got word that someone has been m... murdered ruthlessly!” The messenger shuddered. Then he took a deep breath. “The suspects have been caught, and I was sent to call you to investigate,” he said.

The judge raised his eyebrows. “How did the murder occur?”

The wide-eyed messenger was still a bit shaky. “Y...you will get details of the murder,” he shuddered again, “later,”

“I’ll go at once,”

Judge Pao went to a nearby structure, grand, if not, slightly intimidating, and strode through the corridor to the crime scene. Sure enough, there were two people inside. It seemed like the victim was taking a walk by the seaside, when suddenly, someone ambushed him from a cluster of rocks on the sandy shores, strangled him with a belt, and left him lying on the sand, dead. It occurred at approximately six in the morning, when one hardly goes to the seashores. But sometimes a few do. There were also the witnesses, who, apparently, were on the shores since it would not get as crowded at that time of the day. They all claimed that they heard a muffled scream, a thud, and nothing else. One ventured over and was frozen with horror at the sight before her. She also shrieked when she regained her voice. More people rushed over and nearly had the same reaction. They raised the alarm and looked everywhere for any signs of a murderous snake, or in other words, a cunning, ruthless murderer. One particular witness said he was just walking along the same path with the not—yet—dead man in front of him.

“Then I saw it—a shadow—like thing hurtling towards that poor man, pulling the belt so tight his face was purple. I couldn’t bear it anymore—I ran. But oh, I think he saw me, that bloodthirsty thing,”

“Did you see the murderer’s face?” queried Judge Pao.

“Um, no, not quite, I’m afraid. I was too focused on the suffocating man. Anyway, I remember he was wearing some sort of mask. It was black. Oh yes, and his hair was black and messy,”

“Thank you.”

That didn’t quite help—the suspects’ hair was all dark and messed up.

Judge Pao went over to them.

“Do any of you have any relation with the victim? Be honest with me,”

“He was a not—so—close friend of mine,” replied one with a grey outfit.

“He was my brother’s friend,” replied the other with a green outfit.

“Did they have any disputes recently? Have you talked to him before?”

“Not that I know of, and that, yes. I just say ‘good day’ when I see him,”

Judge Pao turned to the other, “Have you seen him anywhere recently?”

“I don’t really remember,”

The judge studied him. "I'll leave you to try to remember. Now," he went back to the victim's friend's brother, "how does your brother's friend treat you?"

"I guess he was pretty nice to me. He helped me with my books,"

"Noted. You didn't ever quarrel with him, I suppose?"

"That's true, we never chatted a lot,"

The suspect in grey suddenly spoke, "I remember seeing him in a small restaurant just last week, but I told myself that he would've forgotten me, so I didn't go to him. A few days later I forgot about him. Until I, uh, you showed me the sketch of him,"

Doesn't it seem obvious that the suspect in grey was the culprit? But, be reminded that we cannot be too sure of that.

"It's him! He's the murderer! Isn't it obvious?" cried the suspect in green.

"We have to be sure before we make any judgement," Judge Pao's face portrayed no emotion.

The judge looked blank. But actually, he was thinking.

"Let me speak to your brother,"

Judge Pao went straight to the "green" suspect's brother's house and started asking him questions straight away.

"Your brother said that he was friendly with your murdered friend. Is that so?"

"Nonsense! They loathed each other. My brother was playing a trick on him for no reason at all! My friend ended up losing a lot of money afterwards. That rat! And I remember my friend was livid and a bit drunk, so he said that he was going to get him for that, while holding a butter knife and pointing it at my brother. I guess my brother got scared... If you said my brother strangled him, I would absolutely believe you," the brother proclaimed.

"And now, we will have to squeeze the truth out of him,"

Then he went back, bringing the suspect's brother with him.

"Okay! I confess! It was me! You can't blame me, can you? That friend of my brother's literally pointed a knife at me, I have the right to be scared, don't I? He could have killed me first!"

"Why didn't you try to settle things with him?" asked the judge.

"I wanted to, but he carried a knife everywhere! How was I supposed to get close with him brandishing his knife at me?"

"He did not carry a knife everywhere, liar!" argued his brother.

"Fine, throw me in jail then! Or better yet, just guillotine me!"

"Sir, calm down, I could do that, but I will, in a while, decide your punishment,"

Judge Pao's faithful messenger was outside, waiting for him.

"You're done?"

"Yes,"

“That was easier than I thought it would be, sir! How did you do it? He was so cunning!”

“Good people have to be more cunning than bad people to defeat them. Evil people cut deep, yet we, good people, strive to undercut them,”

“Good people, cunning?”

“Evil people choose to use their cunningness for bad. I just choose to use mine for good.”

# The Case Of The Sharpened Chopsticks

*Diocesan Girls' Junior School, Tung, Wing Kiu Elizabeth – 10*

During the reign of Emperor Renzong, Judge Bao was a legendary figure known for his honesty and uprightness. Now from his seat in the Infernal Bureaucracy, he watches his descendants continuing the fight for justice.

Inspector Jing (Ī) was sleeping comfortably when his slumber was rudely interrupted by the annoying ringtone of his phone. Without attempting to hide his irritation, he gruffly answered it. He abruptly changed his tone as the angry voice of his boss erupted from the phone. 'Jing, you've got two dead bodies at 100 Whampoa Garden Site Apt.100. Get down there immediately!' Jing groaned and reached for his trousers.

Jing pulled up outside the apartment and walked up to the police officer at the door. Presenting his I.D. up for inspection, Jing declared, 'I'm here to investigate the deaths.' He walked into a sumptuous, wood-panelled hall. Following an officer up the wide carpeted staircase, he was ushered into the master bedroom. He was greeted by the sight of an elderly Chinese couple lying side by side. Both were clearly dead, but the cause of death was not apparent. Jing asked who was first on the scene. Two paramedics raised their hands.

'So why am I here to investigate the deaths of two elderly people?'

One of the paramedics got to his feet and beckoned the inspector over to the bodies. 'If you look here, sir' said the paramedic, 'you can see the cause of death.' Protruding from the top of the elderly man's skull was the end of a shiny metal chopstick. The inspector was surprised by the small amount of blood matted in the man's hair. He quickly checked the elderly lady and confirmed that she also had been killed by a chopstick rammed into her skull. Jing thought to himself, it must have taken a lot of force to ram a chopstick into a person's skull, only a very powerful man could have done this.

After he walked out of the room, a weak looking middle aged man with a slight build and thinning black hair, along with a short woman came into Jing's view. The woman was crying on the man's shoulder. After he finally managed to calm them down, Jing proceeded to interview them. It turned out that the man was the elderly couple's son and the woman next to him was his wife. Both had good alibis for their whereabouts that day but the part-time maid was missing.

Later that afternoon back at his office, Jing was talking to his boss. 'The couple's son, Tom, was on a business trip to mainland China and his wife was out at the wet market. They both had evidence to back up their alibis, but the maid has packed her bags and vanished. I consider her to be our most likely suspect at this time'.

It took Jing less than an hour to track the maid's phone down and call her. Dialling her number, he was surprised when it was quickly answered. The maid quickly explained that after years of service, she had been fired and kicked out of the house with no reason or notice by the son's wife, Felicia.

Back at home, Jing settled down to watch TV. By coincidence, a Judge Bao mystery was just starting, 'The case of the two nails.' Jing nodded off and started to dream. Judge Bao was passing judgement on the coroner's wife for the murder of her first husband with a nail in the head. Suddenly Judge Bao turned to Jing and said 'So you see Bao Jing, women can kill just as easily as men. You should look into the son's wife.'

Qiáng woke up on his sofa with start, checked his watch and called the morgue for update on the autopsy. The result was shocking, not only had both chopsticks been sharpened to needle points but the couple had also been drugged and would have been unconscious. Jing knew that his earlier assumption about the attacker was wrong. The use of a sedative strongly suggested someone in the household who had access to the couples' food. Jing needed to get Felicia in for an interview as soon as possible. However, he soon found out that Felicia had already been arrested at a Triad gambling den.

Later in an interview room, Jing sat opposite Felicia with a table between them. Without saying a word, he laid out plastic evidence bags containing the sharpened chopsticks. Felicia's eyes looked everywhere apart from where the bags lay on the table. Like the dealer in a poker game, Jing laid the next piece of evidence on the table, a DVD marked 'Seafood wet market'. Quietly the questioning began, 'When were you at the wet market? What time did you get there?' After a while, Felicia started to unconsciously rub her hands together, her voice becoming increasingly shrill and cracked whenever she was asked about her alibi.

Finally, she could no longer maintain the pretence. 'STOP!' Felicia screamed, 'I can't live with the guilt any more, it was me!' Turning to the camera she said 'I'm sorry Tom, but I was so sick of looking after those horrible people. I know they were your parents but they treated me worse than a slave.'

Jing looked on impassively, not a flicker of emotion passed his stony face, although inside he seethed at the thought of such betrayal of filial duty. He turned to the police officer in the room and ordered him to take her away to be charged with the double murder.

As her hands were being cuffed behind her, Jing said 'You may try to play the victim card, but your desperate need to feed your gambling addiction is a much more likely motive. No matter murder is murder and a life behind bars is all that awaits you.'

Judge Bao looked on proudly from his seat in the Infernal Bureaucracy, knowing that Investigator Bao Jing had restored justice for the family.

# Judge Pao Rocks!

*Diocesan Girls' Junior School, Chan, Valerie Joyce – 10*

Once upon a time, there was a young boy who sold Chinese scallion pancakes. With a rare disease, his mother was very sick. He'd been working the whole day to earn money for her medicine, which was an expensive mixture of Chinese herbs. By the end of the day, the boy had sold all his Chinese scallion pancakes, and he decided to count his money. He placed each coin on a rock before him as he tallied the numbers.

"One, two, three..." he counted until he had no more, and all his money had been placed on the rock. "...ninety-nine, one hundred!" The boy found that he had earned just enough money for his mother's medicine! He wanted quite badly to go to the pharmacy immediately, but he was extremely tired from selling the Chinese scallion pancakes all day, so he fell asleep on the rock in front of him. It was quite uncomfortable, the boy felt, but it was all he had. Before he fell asleep, though, the boy remembered to place all his coins into a basket, and he kept the basket next to him.

The next day, the boy woke up to find that all his hard-earned money had been stolen! He was so upset about his day's work being wasted that he started sobbing on the side of the road. He could not afford his mother's medicine anymore! Just then, the mighty and just Judge Pao came by for his daily patrol. When he saw the boy crying, he asked him what had happened.

"Boy, why are you crying?" Judge Pao asked. Knowing that Judge Pao was reputable for his justice, fairness, righteousness and lawfulness, the boy told Judge Pao the story of the coins. Feeling sorry for the boy, Judge Pao was determined to uphold justice by retrieving his one hundred precious coins and punishing the thief as deemed appropriate. The boy lightened up instantly as Judge Pao agreed to help.

To hide himself from the crowd, Judge Pao excused himself, and took out his secret yet powerful magical tool—a Time Turner from the gods themselves. It could turn back time, and it was rather useful in solving theft. With a flash of blue light, Judge Pao travelled back thirteen hours to the time when the incident took place, based on the information as told by the boy. He arrived at the scene of the theft where he saw a suspicious figure approaching the sleeping boy slowly. Judge Pao moved as close to the figure as he dared to, trying to spot his face, and succeeded.

Judge Pao was trying his best to remember as much of the face as he could when a troubling thought struck him like a ton of bricks. In order to make the authorities and people of the nation believe him, he would have to find a way to prove what he saw with his magical tool. He took a look at the boy, seeing the oil on his hands that made them glisten, and he quickly found a solution to the problem.

"The best way to prove the truth to them is to do it the way I usually do—by holding a trial for the issue," he decided.

He checked his sundial and went forward in time to the morning when he met the boy crying. Judge Pao openly announced that he was going to hold a trial for the rock that the boy slept on! Upon hearing this, many of the people thought that he was crazy and gathered to watch the trial so that they could laugh at the wacky judge.

"Tell us where you've hidden the child's money, rock!" Judge Pao commanded the rock at the trial crowded with spectators. They all laughed at this statement, of course.

"Why on earth would he question a rock?" One man laughed. "He's really gone crazy, hasn't he?" The others in the crowd could barely hold in their chuckles before Judge Pao turned his head toward them.

"I am questioning this rock! How dare you all laugh at me! For this I shall punish you all. You must be fined one coin each!" He ordered the men to put out a tub of water, and the crowd was to take turns throwing their coins into the tub. Sighing with complaints, the crowd unwillingly threw in their coins one by one.

"Why do I have to pay the fine?" A man grumbled as he put his coin in the tub.

When another man threw in his coin, Judge Pao had only to take one look at the thin layer of oil blooming atop the tub before he commanded the men in the court to capture him.

“You have stolen the child’s money! When you threw in the coin, a layer of oil appeared on the top of the water. The oil must be from the boy’s oily hands!” The clever judge explained confidently.

“No, I didn’t!” The man appeared shocked for a moment but quickly recovered. “I was cooking for my wife, who has diarrhea, only just now. The oil on my hands was from making those dishes!” Judge Pao, of course, immediately pointed out the fact that a sick person suffering from diarrhea was not supposed to eat food that contained so much oil. The man had no way of denying Judge Pao’s wise words, and he was arrested for theft. The crowd was stunned by Judge Pao’s wits and justice. The man gave back the boy his one hundred coins, and the boy could now buy the medicine for his mother. The child thanked Judge Pao for his just actions, which brought him back not only his money but also righteousness and hope. Judge Pao’s stern, dark-coloured face gave the boy a kind and knowing smile.



# The World Isn't Going to End

*Diocesan Girls' Junior School, Wong, Abigail Yuk Huen – 12*

It had been quite a peaceful day for Judge Pao. Bored, he paced around the wooden floorboards of his three-storey mansion. Then, pulling out an antique wooden chair, he sat in front of the window and admired the crimson sunset.

Sitting down, he listened to the hustle and bustle of the nearby village. It was Chinese New Year, and there were strong men dressed in festive clothing in a carnival performing the lion dance. With a crash and a bang, all his daily stresses were soothed by listening to the jubilant lion dance; the music simply chased his stresses away. The lions were showing off their lustrous chests and their dazzling skills. Clapping and cheering, the supporters only grew more deafening as they saw the finale, the long dragon manned by nine people step out. Drinking in the carnivalesque scene, Judge Pao felt more relaxed than ever. Suddenly, everyone cheering went quiet.

He sensed that something was wrong. Jumping out of his chair, he immediately ran towards the nearby village. Silence was a secretive and deadly enemy that could not be heard. When he arrived, the crowd brushed away, revealing the back of a charming young maiden on the ground below a lofty tower. He quickly inferred that she had committed suicide. Gently, with his hands fumbling like he was holding an expensive piece of silk, he gingerly turned her over as if not to hurt her. He saw the glistening ruby red mark on her chest that was made by a knife. He guessed it was probably her neighbour who had murdered her—he was a former convict after all. Dimming, stars began to appear in the ultramarine sky, blinking in confusion.

Suddenly, he realised it was night already. He remembered his place in the Infernal Bureaucracy and immediately stood under a sliver of moonlight. Soon, he felt the cold wind fly past his ears and he was soaring through the sky towards the Department of Hell. He soon arrived at a room with timber benches, an almost forgotten untouched book where you could write down your cause of death (although nobody did so), and a bowl of amethyst liquid where you could look deep into the bowl and see a hazy image of your living relatives in the human world—it was the waiting room. Stepping through an ivory door, you would arrive at his private study. There, he would sit on an ivory chair behind a wooden table, while everyone else would only get a small wooden stool. But the most special part was the roof; the roof was the sky. There, the skies of the world below could be seen by him, reminding him of his duty.

Sitting down, he thought, "Ugh! It's going to be a frenetic day. I speculate that that lady who got murdered will drop by soon. But, on the other hand, I can ask her who murdered her." Soon, there was a knock on the door. Swinging open, the door let its first customer in with a grind and a creak. It was the lady. After she took a seat, Judge Pao did not help her solve her affairs, which surprisingly had no relation to her murder, but asked her directly who had killed her. As she was a very talkative lady, Judge Pao soon uncovered the facts. Her husband Ming had made an agreement with his friend Lee whose wife was pregnant. Lee's psychic had told him that the world would be annihilated when Lee's child was born because the earth would collapse from stress with the burden of holding too many people up. Destruction, doom, death, the psychic spoke of. He mentioned that it was too late to abort the child, and Lee's only hope was to kill others for all of them to survive. Wanting his child to grow up happily and healthily, Lee begged Ming to kill his own wife and offered one hundred dollars—a fortune in those days—as compensation. However much Ming loved his wife, he could not fight off the temptation of money and a chance to become the hero of the world. That morning before he stabbed her, Ming explained everything and begged her to forgive him. In pain, she had stood there frozen in fear, which made her an easy target, a bullseye in front of your face. Mouth gaping open, Judge Pao lowered his face and tried to hide the shock eating him up. He was on the wrong trail the whole time! That prophecy had to be fake, he thought, if it was true his friend who was head of the Prophecy Department at the Infernal Bureaucracy would have told him. Justice was like an emotional enemy—it was not biased, and sympathy could not control it.

Stroking his beard, he looked up to find that the sun was rising. Hastily, he said goodbye to the lady and headed for the human world. Letting a beam of golden sunlight hit him, he was soon swirling in the fiery whirlpool in the middle of the sun, he soon landed in a whirlwind in the human world. Landing on a bench in the carnival, slightly dazed and dizzy, he saw the whirlpool on the magenta sun close. But, he thought, maybe his friend made a mistake. The prophecy could be true. Nobody can remember everything. If it was true, then the baby would die along with everyone else. If it wasn't, then the baby would be deprived of a father. Lee would have to be jailed. Standing up assuredly, he vowed to stop that psychic and bring him to justice. But first, he would have to find Ming.

# The History of Judge Pao

*Diocesan Girls' Junior School, Wong, Tak Yee Natalie – 11*

Judge Pao is a legendary character. He is known to have a moon crescent on his head, his parents dumped him since he was born dark-skinned and ugly, so he has been living with his uncle ever since then. Legend has it that he was the incarnation of the Astral God of Civil Arts, which is very cool. Judge Pao helped a lot of villagers back then when they needed help, especially politically. But Judge Pao did it in a different way, unlike other heroes, Judge Pao did not save them, he helped them prove the bad guys wrong! When they were in despair, he led them to the path of righteousness. No wonder the villagers praised him and worshipped him.

Judge Pao helped people solve unsolvable cases, like The Case of Executing Chen Shi Mei, Civet Cat Exchanged for Crown Prince, The Case of Two Nails, The Case of the Black Basin. All these stories have a questionable background, it's so interesting to know how Judge Pao solved them. There were way more different cases!

Judge Pao is such a wise, clever and cool person, I wish I could be like him. It's such a tragedy to hear that Judge Pao's grave or resting place got looted and trashed by people during the Cultural Revolution period which was in 1966, it lasted for a whole year and ended in 1976. Ever since Judge Pao's passing, his loyal descendants preserved his portraits and his stories. They were retold and preserved particularly in the form of performance arts such as Chinese Opera and Pingshu. Pingshu refers to the traditional Han Chinese performing art of storytelling with no musical accompaniment. Some people even made his stories into TV series! One of them are called Justice Pao.

When Judge Pao is mentioned in operas or dramas, he is often portrayed with a black face and a white crescent shaped birthmark on his forehead. Even though he was born dark-skinned and extremely ugly, the emperor granted him a golden rod, which makes him special and superior, which means he was favoured by them. He was also granted an imperial sword from another emperor.

Judge Pao had brought peace amongst villagers and is still remembered till this day. Judge Pao shall always be a legend in our hearts.

## Honesty and Fairness – Judge Pao

*Diocesan Girls' Junior School, Yu, Sze Ching Charlotte – 9*

One day, in a poor family, there a woman gave birth to a baby named Bao Zheng. His parents had very high hopes for him in his future life. They were excited.

When Bao was three, he got enrolled into kindergarten and he worked on being kind and honest there.

As Bao turned eleven, he didn't have much trouble at school; he passed all his tests and his classmates liked him for his personality – but he didn't want to be liked. He wanted to fight for justice and peace.

As Bao approached his teenage years, his uncle committed some crimes. He murdered two people, stole money from banks and kidnapped someone. Bao then found out and sent him to court. As soon as Bao saw the court, he fell in love with it. He loved that the judge held so much power and he loved the feeling of intensity from the court.

“What is the case?” the judge said over the microphone. Bao raised his hand and the judge pointed at him.

“My uncle here has murdered, stolen and kidnapped. Most likely all my family members will agree.” His relatives reluctantly nodded.

“Very good. Excuse me,” the judge excused. The judges talked among each other. “Your uncle is guilty, young boy,” the judge announced.

“You'll pay for this, Bao,” his uncle growled.

Bao smiled. A moment later, he heard his uncle throwing a fit and being sent into the cells.

The next day it was stormy – China's emperor, Emperor Renzong said it was due to all the crimes that people had committed in China recently. After a morning and an afternoon of staying home and being bored, the storm had stopped and Renzong had called citizens of Hefei, Anhui to travel to his palace on horses for a private meeting with the citizens.

The emperor was already accepting people into his palace and Bao's family waited for their turn to be admitted. Bao was napping until he heard the guards of Emperor Renzong thunder out and shout, “Next family!” Bao jolted awake and he and his parents carefully got off the horses and walked into the palace, nervous.

Emperor Renzong somehow looked calmer than usual.

“Good afternoon, citizens of Hefei, Anhui,” the emperor said. “I hereby announce that because we have angered our gods by committing crimes, we are going to give blankets to our citizens in jail so that they will show us mercy.”

Bao disagreed. “But Emperor Renzong,” he shouted from the back of the throne room, “they have committed the crimes, not us. They have murdered our people. Why would we need to do that when the citizens have given nothing to us?”

Renzong nodded. “Ah, you make a good point. Do you have a job yet, or do you want me to offer you one?”

Bao shook his head. Renzong smiled. “That's great. Since you are so honest and fair, and yes, I have heard about your uncle's case, would you like to be a judge?” he altered. Bao's eyes widened.

“Really?” he asked, amazed. Renzong nodded again. “You are going to start as a beginner judge. That means you will be in training – and you won't be able to crack real cases yet,” he explained. Bao grinned.

After saying goodbye to the emperor, they headed home on their horses. Two days later, seventeen-year-old Bao started training to be a judge. He had to train for three hours a day and he was given fake cases to crack.

After a few years, when Bao was twenty-three, he became a justice fighter and a professional judge. He was allowed to crack cases in court.

As the day of his uncle's release came, Bao had visited him in jail and gave him a lecture. "Uncle, don't feel like you're completely free just yet – think about everyone else. After they're murdered, they don't exist anymore in the world. After they're robbed, they might not have enough money to care for themselves and their family. After they're kidnapped – their parents will be worried and who knows what you're going to do to them?" Bao said.

"Be more fair and more honest. The gods will forgive you. By the way, your release is in the afternoon; and I have to go. I'll see you when you're out," he further explained. His uncle smiled and waved at him.

By the time his uncle was released, Bao was roaming around the streets, collecting ideas from citizens on how to change the world. He got many "no more wars" and "world peace", but he wasn't sure if he could change that.

The more cases Bao solved in court, better he was as an honest and fair judge. The more he tried to change the world, the wiser he became.

Once there was a powerful and rich family who came with a poorer one to court.

"What is the case?" Bao bellowed. "Let the poorer family speak first!" The mother of the poor family burst into tears.

"Judge Bao, these four rich people have enslaved my family, even my daughters, to do everything for them, from cleaning the floor they walk on once an hour to worshipping them! And they didn't even give a reason to enslave us! They don't even pay us for our work!" she cried desperately.

"NONSENSE! We – we enslaved them to do our cleaning, that's all. We didn't enslave her daughters. The reason we enslaved them is – because – we were busy! We pay them two thousand dollars every month," the rich father sputtered.

"I declare that the poor family speaks the truth and that the rich family is guilty. May the rich family work for the poor one as punishment," Bao declared.

The poor family smiled at Bao.

Everyone should be like Bao, honest and fair. Fight for the good, always.

# Hometown Visit

*Diocesan Preparatory School, Chow, Hui Ching Minna – 11*

*“A man that seeks revenge keeps his own wounds green.” – Francis Bacon*

After the strenuous case in Chengdu, Judge Pao and Gongsun Ce journeyed to their hometown, Shenxian, for winter solstice – a short break they had longed for. A short break that had been postponed again and again by unanticipated events.

Upon arrival into Shenxian at dawn, Judge Pao detected a sense of obscurity and unease as their wagon wheeled through the village. The streets that were once filled with crowds of villagers were now empty, no sign of the life anywhere, shops and stands were covered in dust and cobweb and have not been occupied for quite some time. Judge Pao and Gongsun Ce exchanged agitated glaze at the state of the town. “Maybe everybody is waiting for you at your old house. It has been more than six years since your last visit, your people would be excited to see you.” Gongsun Ce broke the silence to ease the worry of Judge Pao and also perhaps himself. Judge Pao stroked his long beard, made no sound, and tapped for the wagon to stop. The wagon stopped at Judge Pao’s residency, a small Chinese cottage by the lake side.

Walking towards the entrance, a lady clothed in old torn servant robe hurried toward Judge Pao and Gongsun Ce. “Stop! Do not take another step, these grounds are off limits!” The lady exclaimed. “Wait! You’re Judge Pao, right?” Judge Pao stroke his beard and nodded slowly. “Please forgive me for my lack of respect and poor manners, Judge Pao. My name is Chen Fung.”

Judge Pao asked, “Ms Chen, where are the villagers? Did they move away or did something happen to the village?”

The lady replied skittishly as she led the two men down the long pavement towards the courtyard, “Most of the villagers here fled to the next village, the remaining ones, they... Oh, your cottage has been well maintained. Why don’t you just go in and see for yourselves.”

Judge Pao looked at Gongsun Ce and nodded, signalling him to open the courtyard’s door. Gongsun Ce slowly pushed the large double wooden doors as it opened with loud “creek” sound. There laid a pile of dead villagers in the centre of the courtyard, there was blood stains on the bricked pavement and on the walls. The icy cold weather helped preserve the bodies, but Judge Pao could tell that the villagers were dead for no more than a week. Some bodies had missing fingers while others had dismembered leg. The horrified Judge Pao and Gongsun Ce froze, their faces turned pale and in their mind, they wanted answers to who would want to kill all these innocent villagers. Judge Pao signalled for Gongsun Ce to examine the bodies. This was the first time they had encountered such massive slaughter scene.

“Gosh, it’s hilarious seeing the Great Judge Pao scared. I hope you liked your welcome gift! I had it made freshly just for you Judge Pao. Let me further introduce myself, I am the daughter of Chen Li, a woman whom you wrongfully accused in your court of tax fraud and sentence to death penalty”. The name instantly brought flashback to Judge Pao.

“Judge Pao, you took away my mother, you took away my childhood. After she was gone, I was homeless and left to riot in the street. All the villagers hated me. While you helped so many with their cases and finding justice, you did nothing for my mother’s case and you wrongfully accused a good woman for an accusation she did not commit. Without any evidence you sent her to die. All these villagers had to die for the justice of my mother. Such a shame, I could only capture two families before everyone fled... Judge Pao, you must pay for your mistake.”

Gongsun Ce confronted Chen Fung to buy time to plan for their escape. “Judge Pao takes every case seriously, upholding the law and bringing justice to all. Your mother was not wrongfully accused of tax fraud. It also does not give you the right to kill because of her. Killing all those innocent families, was it worth it?”

Although Judge Pao was disgusted by the scene, he calmly said, “Ms Chen, you must have misunderstood. Your mother did not commit tax fraud. She was arrested for murdering your father and his girlfriend. She couldn’t bear seeing him happy without her. Out of jealousy, she physically tortured them to death. Your mother did not want you to grow up to be like her, she asked me to protect you from being named daughter of a murderer, and begged me to list her sentence as tax fraud. She wanted to protect your honour.”

Chen Fung fell onto her knees, bursting in tears and screaming in pain, “No. It’s not true, you’re lying! YOU HAVE TO BE! My mother was a good person, she wouldn’t do that!”

“Chen Fung, I know it is hard to accept, but it truly happened. I know she was a good mother to you. She couldn’t bring herself to face you to say her farewell and willingly agreed to be prosecuted.” While Judge Pao tried to comfort Chen Fung, Gongsun Ce leapt at Chen Fung and strike her, causing her to loss her consciousness.

“You will have plenty of time to heal in jail, there they will take care of you and you will be safe. Trust me.” These were the last words Chen Fung heard before blacking out.

*Sometimes, out of jealousy and hatred, we do unthinkable things that affect others. We will do anything to protect our family, whether it is to cover up for them, or take all the responsibilities for their wrong doings. We would do greedy things for love. And it is completely normal to do, unless it is to kill or to hurt others.*

# New Tales of Judge Pao

*Diocesan Preparatory School, Lee, O Nigel – 10*

During the Tang period, a young queen named Chui Ling was assassinated at midnight in her sleep. During the assassination, nobody heard screams or window breaking, it was like the assassin was as fast as the wind. Minutes after the assassination, the Queen woke up, not as a human, but as a ghost! She saw her body, which was severely hurt, was getting examined by a group of well-trained officers. She thought to herself, "What should I do? I need to find a specialist to solve this case." Then somebody came to her mind, "Ah Ha! I know, I can find Judge Pao for help."

As she was walking through the town, all the citizens were talking about her death. She got extremely anxious. Finally, she found Judge Pao's home and said, "Judge Pao, I need your help. It is urgent. As you can see, I am dead."

He excitingly replied, "Finally! It's a long time since I've had one of these supernatural cases. Let me grab a book, ink and a writing brush first. Go on my Queen, tell me what happened."

The Queen precisely told him what happened. "It was about midnight, I woke up to the breaking of my window. I saw a man with a long beard, dark skin and brown hair jumping onto my bed. Then he stuffed my mouth with leaves to keep me silent. Out of his pocket, he took out a sharp and pointy knife and stabbed me right in the chest. That was all I could remember."

Pao then said, "With all this information, we will find this assassin in no time." After that, Pao sent out a detective to investigate the crime scene.

The detective got there in lightning speed, the crime scene hadn't been touched, so the evidence would not be wiped away or messed up. On the bed there as a sharp piece of glass, so it meant the assassin didn't get in from the front entrance, he snuck in by climbing the outer walls into the Queen's room. Then the detective looked at the window, he saw two fingerprints on the side of the window, now he was sure that he snuck in. There was evidence under the bed! There was a little splat of blood on the floor, the detective thought the assassin tried to hide the body but failed, so that's why the body was on the floor and not on the bed! After that he went out of the palace to ask people if they saw any suspicious man yesterday. He asked many civilians, but they all said no. He was about to lose hope. He tried one more time and asked, "Hello, sir. Did you see a man with a long beard, dark skin and brown hair by any chance?"

He replied, "Actually, I did. I saw him walking towards the Chung Kong Mountain, but he wasn't walking, he was sprinting, it was like he was running from something."

The detective said, "This was of great help!" Then the detective went back to Pao and said, "Pao! Pao! I have a great news. The suspect was last seen in the forest walking up the Chung Kong mountain!"

Pao then said, "This is EXCELLENT! We can finally find out who did this devious deed."

The next day, Pao sent out a party of his helpers to search the mountain for clues and immediately, they saw footprints on the mud, so they followed the path. Suddenly it ended without a trace. All of them agreed to split up and look for clues, suddenly one of them called out, "Look! I found a knife!" After a few hours, there wasn't anything there, so that all decided to move on and search a different area. They saw a shed without hesitation, they all dashed towards the shed and knocked, "Hello! Anyone there?"

Somebody replied saying, "Get out! I have a weapon, leave now!"

One of the helpers whispered, "It's the assassin. Quick! We need backups, we won't let him escape." One of them, without hesitation, ran back in the opposite direction to find backups. While the others keeping him in his place. Finally, the two men armed with weapons came up to the scene, then all of them barged open the door and said, "Hey! You are under arrest."

The assassin responded, "Wait! It wasn't me who killed her." They got him to court to meet Judge Pao.

Pao said, "Ah Ha! There you are, tell me why I should let you leave."

The man confidently replied, "First, I wasn't sneaking in, I was uh....uh.... giving the Queen a present. Second, the fingerprints weren't mine!"

Pao replied "Guards, check the fingerprints now!" As the guards were walking up to the man, he was shivering in fear, the guards checked the fingerprints side to side, and they were the same!

One guard shouted, "It's him! He is the assassin!"

Pao replied, "For killing a great noble and lying in front of my face, I declare he will spend life in jail!" The guards grabbed him by the wrist and brought him to prison. Pao listened to his fading screams. He then left the court to find the Queen. He knocked on the door of the Queen's room, and said "My Queen, let's meet at the forest tonight." Then he left.

Later that night, the Queen followed Pao instruction and went to the forest. She finally found Pao and said, "So, what are we doing here?"

Pao said "Stand in front of me, we will perform a ritual."

Pao used magic to create a new body for the Queen and the Queen turned into a human. The Queen cried happily, "Thank you!"

Pao replied, "No problem!"

The Queen was back and she continued to help her citizens, and they lived happily thereafter.



# New Tales of Judge Pao

*Diocesan Preparatory School, Li, Cheuk Wa – 11*

Bom! Bom! Bom! Bom! Bom! Bom! – A sudden thunder of drums bombing frightened the civilians near there, they looked at the woman who hit the gong, suspiciously. Suddenly, the gateway to Judge Pao's courtroom was opened with a tremor, Master Gong Sun was having a long nap before the gong was hit. He hopped out of the courtroom with a strange feeling, discovering that it was the young lady who hit the gong.

"Why did you hit the gong? Do you have a crime to report to our mighty Mr Pao?"

"Yes! My dad Tong has been incriminated innocently by his arch enemy. Would you please bring me to Judge Pao?" begged Tong Mei (daughter of Tong), kneeling with tears falling.

"Oh, that is interesting! You are welcomed to meet Judge Pao!" exclaimed Gong Sun with grave curiosity.

As she walked in with Gong Sun, guarded with two men armed with two spears coloured with dark red blood.

When she stepped her first step in Judge Pao's courtroom, a splendid and a magnificent picture, welcomed her, the men greeted her with respect, scales of rich rocks were place all over the walls. A bloody sharp blade for the three choppers, and Judge Pao sitting calmly, waiting with anticipation for the guest to seek help.

"Judge Pao, please help me! My dad Tong has been incriminated...."

"Calm down! Tell me all what you know."

So Tong Mei told Pao about how her father got into grave trouble with the King's First Advisor (Cheung), and how he was incriminated to have murdered another high ranking official, who was also her father's best friend. It was a long story, but Judge Pao was patient enough and to think critically at the same time.

"This seems interesting. I believe I am the right man to solve the mystery," Judge Pao added.

"Thank you for your help, Judge Pao, I believe you will do my father justice." She thanked Judge Pao and walked out of the courtroom with hope. It seemed that all her worries about her father vanished.

At midnight, Judge Pao sent three constables to the restaurant where Poon suffered from grave pain and died to look for evidence. As they were approaching, the sound of phantom yelling the curtains were moving like a ghost, with bravery protecting them. The constables rushed inside the restaurant, they went to a royal room, tiptoed in and discovered a letter which was covered with dry blood. They thought that it might be the key of solving the mystery, so they took it and sprinted like sonic, trying to escape the spirits of the dead.

The next morning, they finally arrived, their faces were as pale as snow after being chased by those phantoms thorough the night. They presented the letter to Judge Pao, hoping that the frightening and tiring experience wouldn't be wasted.

Judge Pao looked carefully at the letter and discovered that one character was incorrectly written in special way. A sudden thought popped up in his mind.

"Oh Yeah! The King's First adviser Cheung, always writes this character incorrectly! It might be him!" So, he checked every single paper written by Cheung and had enough evidence to prove Cheung guilty and saved Tong.

The next morning, Cheung was arrested. It was first time he kneeled in front of a person whose rank was lower than his. He begged Pao to set him free, but down came the sharp blade of the Tiger Chop.

Justice prevailed.

# New Tales of Judge Pao

*Diocesan Preparatory School, Mak, Hei Wan – 11*

One evening, when Judge Pao was peacefully drinking tea in his Department of Justice, the emperor's daughter came rushing in, looking worried.

"Oh, my jade necklace has gone missing!" sobbed the Princess, "I think it has been stolen."

"Calm down, your highness, let us go to your room first," said Judge Pao calmly.

The princess led Judge Pao into her own room in the palace. Then, she explained to him that she had two boxes which were made from the same wood, and that they both had the same strong scent of sandalwood. In one of the boxes, there was originally her precious jade necklace, while the other had nothing in it. And now the jade necklace, including its box, were missing!

Just then, Servant Hua, one of the princess's female servants, passed by and overheard them talking. So, she said, "I saw Servant Xin going inside your room frequently, your highness. She seems to have lots of money suddenly. She might have sold your jade necklace, your highness!"

The next day, the princess decided to ask the guards to arrest Servant Xin first. But when her family realised she had been arrested for theft, they started to get worried. Servant Xin's family went to Judge Pao and told him, "But she hasn't done anything wrong at all!" Now that they mentioned it, Judge Pao started thinking deeply. Knowing Servant Xin, she was a good and honest person, and that she would not do such thing.

Later, when Judge Pao reminded the Princess that Servant Xin is a very good person and had been serving her for a very long time, she agreed to do some investigation first.

Suddenly, a bright idea came to Judge Pao. He remembered that there was a palace dog here. Since both of the identical boxes were made from Sandalwood, they could let the dog smell the box, and tracking the other one down. The Princess praised him for such a clever idea.

First, they let the dog smell the box, then trying to let the dog know that it needs to trace this smell. Luckily, the dog knew what they meant and started to sniff the ground and search for the stolen box of jewellery.

But then, the dog led Judge Pao and the princess into Servant Hua's room and started barking all of a sudden. Both Judge Pao and the princess searched around the room until they finally found the stolen box inside one of her drawers!

Servant Hua suddenly appeared behind them and yelled in a worried voice, "I—It's not what you think, y—your highness! I just found it in Servant Xin's r—room and decided it was good for me to take it and sh—show it to you!"

But there was no point lying. Even if what she said was true, why didn't she simply take it to the princess? She was obviously just trying to frame the honest Servant Xin for this crime. The princess was really disappointed that one of her servants would not only steal her things, but frame other innocent people for it. Fortunately, the jade necklace was still inside the box, not yet sold.

Servant Hua was later taken into jail and waiting for judgment and finally confessed that she committed the crime.

The princess then went to apologise to Servant Xin, who had been accused for nothing. Servant Xin forgave her and they were happy once again.

The princess also thanked Judge Pao countless times for helping her solve this crime wisely. He said, "In the future, your highness, you need to be more careful about your things and who you put your trust in." They smiled and left each other.

This is the new tales of Judge Pao, the famous Chinese judge who was full of justice. We should all learn more about him and his ways of judging.

# New Tales of Judge Pao

*Diocesan Preparatory School, Tam, Chun Hang – 9*

I am Daniel Pao. The great...grandson of Judge Pao. I am a private detective. I have a special ability to talk to the soul of Judge Pao and ask him for hints to solve the mystery cases.

One day, I was invited by a rich man called Rick, my old friend, to celebrate his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday in his castle. When I was walking through his garden, I saw his car number plate — MAX-1980 printed on it. Max is the first son of Rick, and Nick is the second. I was walking into the castle which was shiny, and gold in colour.

Suddenly, Rick popped out of nowhere and said, “Aha, old friend! It has been a long time!”

Boom! Went the thunder. Then it started to rain cats and dogs.

“Well, you should stay here tonight. As it was raining heavily outside.....my helper will show you your room while I welcome other guests. Raya! Take him to room number seven,” said Rick.

The helper took me to my room. The room was beautiful and the bed looked comfortable.

“Wow! It looks even better than the room in my home.” I talked to Judge Pao. He didn’t reply me.

I laid down on the bed and waited for the dinner.

After a few hours, Raya knocked on my door and told me the dinner was ready downstairs.

Amazing! It was a buffet and there were a lot of my favourite food like fried chicken, steamed fish, and sweet and sour pork.

“Happy birthday to Rick! Cheers!” All the guests said loudly.

After dinner, I went back into my room and got some sleep.

The next day, I heard some voices whispered, “What happened to him?”

“I don’t know!”

“What should we do?”

I peeked out of the door of my room. Many helpers were surrounding the door of Rick’s room.

“What’s going on?” I asked.

“It’s been a long time after we prepared the breakfast but master still hasn’t come out yet, and the door is locked,” Raya said.

Suddenly, Judge Pao said in my brain, “It is strange. Some bad things must have happened! Daniel, let’s go in and check!”

I obeyed and knocked the door down with my strong arm.

Oh no. Rick lay on the bed with his right hand holding a knife near his neck. There was a lot of blood near his neck and on the bed. His eyes were wide open but didn’t move. It was obvious that he was dead.

“Stop! Everyone stays away from this room. Raya, call the police,” I said.

Raya called the police and told them what happened. After an hour, the police arrived.

“Where is the room?” The policeman asked.

“Turn around the corner and go straight ahead. Detective Daniel Pao is waiting for you,” said Raya.

“I have been waiting for you for an hour. Here, come inside,” I said.

We went into the room together.

Judge Pao just found out there was a little mud on the floor. “Hey, Daniel. Let’s check Rick’s shoes and slippers if there are any mud,” he said. Of course, none could hear what Judge Pao had said except for me.

I obeyed although I didn’t know why. I checked the shoes and slippers of the old man and found that there was no mud.

“Hm...Mr Daniel Pao,” one of the policemen said.

“Yes? What’s up?” I replied.

He said, “It is a suicide because the door and windows were locked. There is no way for anyone to come inside. He must kill himself with the knife.”

“**No!**” shouted Judge Pao, “It was never that easy. Daniel, ask the police to check the background of Rick’s two sons.”

He continued, “The second son is wearing a pair of shiny new shoes today but he wore old shoes yesterday... hm... Things start making sense. Daniel, let’s go to the rubbish bin in the backyard.”

I obeyed him and went to the backyard with the policemen.

“There will always be clues inside the rubbish bin. Let’s check if there is anything strange inside,” I told the policemen.

One of the policemen found Nick’s old shoes in the rubbish bin and there was a lot of mud on the sole of the shoes.

“Now, you bring the shoes to the garden and see if the footprints there are the same as the shoes,” said Judge Pao.

I went to the garden and found that the footprints were the same as the sole of the shoes.

“Okay, Now I know who the murderer is. The murderer is ..... **Nick**, the second son of Rick!”

“It is because the number plate of Rick’s car – MAX-1980 -- is the year when Max was born, which shows Rick likes his first son more than his second son. There was no mud in Rick’s shoes or slippers; however, there was mud in Nick’s shoes and the footprints at the backyard matched with his shoes. This means Nick used a rope to climb up the window and entered Rick’s room. Then Nick killed his father with a knife and put the knife back to his father’s hand to pretend his father’s death was a suicide. It was all because Rick refused to lend money to Nick for saving Nick’s poor business,” said Judge Pao.

I repeated the above to the police.

In the end, the police arrested Nick. Finally, Nick admitted he killed his father and the case was closed.

# The New Tales of Judge Pao

*Diocesan Preparatory School, Tang, Chun Yin – 11*

Judge Pao, as we know, was one of the most famous people till now, with his legendary stories of his fair judging famed far and wide. However, no one knew that under his normal job as a judge, he had an extraordinary career once night dawned in...

It was an exhausting ordinary day again for Judge Pao, after he had gone to write a letter to the emperor, had a crucial committee with his fellow staff on corruption, and to make decisions on a few crime cases. When he was going back home, a whoosh of wind blew, and a letter, which was quite unusual in its style, was in black and was stamped with the letters “The Infernal Bureaucracy of the Government of the Underground”. Instantly, Pao caught the letter and ripped it open. He was shocked. It told Judge Pao that he had to be at the Bureaucracy office at 21:00 sharp to solve a case.

Silently, knowing this would be a long time before he would go back home again, he glanced at his cozy home for the last time, and scuttled away. He went to a temple-like structure and stepped inside. It was freezing cold and somewhat frightening, but Pao was extremely calm and stepped into a postern. There was a keyboard, like the sort we use today. First, he muttered a few words, so the keyboard would flicker. It was changing color every second. Then, it stopped turning colors and went bright green. After that, he rolled up his left sleeve, which might be a fright to some people, revealed a branded serpent engraved into his flesh and with words “Department of Hell”. Reluctantly, he pressed it, and the mark became so fiery that even Judge Pao moaned with pain. After a moment which seemed like days to Pao, the serpent suddenly turned blue, and a carriage appeared and opened its doors automatically. He stepped inside and pressed his left arm onto a board. The carriage, as though it had speakers installed, boomed out in a loud voice, “Welcome to the Governate of Hell, Governor Bao Zheng. You have been commanded by the Council not long ago to be in the Main Council. I will escort you to the place you want to be immediately.”

The carriage zoomed down into the earth and arrived at the Main Council just precisely at 9 o’ clock. There were representatives from the governments of Hell scattered all over Asia. To Pao’s surprise, the Emperor of Hell was also here, sitting on an extravagant throne. He announced the starting of the seminar and told the people there the reason he had to hold this conference this time. The reason was that the Infernal Bureaucracy, which was used to judge severe crimes of the dead that they did when they lived, had a strange incident. The prisoners, which were originally waiting to be judged, suddenly became rebellious. They smashed through the bars and went up to the surface and became dangerous wandering ghosts. They would strangle the victims and take away their souls. Judge Pao was administered to do the mission to investigate why this peculiar incident happened. Pao was unwilling to do this, but the emperor made him do this mission and Pao could only agree.

After the meeting, Pao went back to the Infernal Bureaucracy Main Office by the swiftest way he could think of. Then, he summoned his diamond sword, which was his most prized belonging. He also took the Stone of Wisdom, which could make him much brighter while investigating, and the Stone could also transform him into anything he wanted at any time. Not wasting any time, he clicked his hands, and with a ‘poof’, he appeared at the place he wanted, the Asgard Palace. Here lived the evilest villain ever, the King of Asgard. Knowing that he wasn’t invisible from his foes, Pao took out his Stone of Wisdom, and it became an Invisibility Cloak! He was delighted and draped it across his body. He wasn’t visible to anyone anymore. After reporting his locations with the emperor, he first took out his sword, sneaked up onto the guards patrolling the throne room, and slashed onto their throats so fast, that the guards couldn’t even have time to scream for help. Then, he went inside the room and began to eavesdrop.

Judge Pao could recognise those voices, they were the voices of the King and his most trusted subjects, Lord Zhu and the Imperial General. The General cackled loudly and said softly, with a bit of danger lingering in his voice, “My Royalty, our plan has succeeded its first part. From my loyal spies Chen and Lau, they have reported that the prisoners in the Government are having a riotous rebellion, but I also heard that they would send a subject to hear us soon. What shall we do, my highness?”

The king sneered mysteriously and whispered something to Lord Zhu and the General that even Pao couldn't hear.

After that, the three of them laughed so loud that even Pao was struggling to bear the sound. He was so agitated that he screamed. The King quickly noticed it and shouted, "Guards, kill the intruder!" Pao immediately sprinted to the entrance as fast as he could. When he reached the gorgeous entrance of the Asgard Palace, he first stabbed the soldiers that were guarding the door with his sharpened sword and took away his cloak, which turned back to the Stone of Wisdom. He used the sword to cut the stone into two pieces and made a key and a bird. He put the scribble of information onto the bird, and it flew away. He took the key, and the door opened miraculously. He was relieved, and before the enraged soldiers' faces, snapped his fingers again, and he went back home in an instant, relieved. Goodness, it was only two days after he left.

Who knows what he might meet next time?

# New Tales of Judge Pao

*Diocesan Preparatory School, Yue, Yin Hang – 10*

It was night in a peaceful town, with the beautiful moon hanging high up in the dark evening sky, and in the town there lived a little boy called Lee and his mother, Chau. They were sleeping.

In the middle of Lee's sleep, a bloodcurdling scream came coming from their neighbour's house. "AHH!" the voice screamed.

Lee was frightened and he could immediately sense a hint of trouble, so he ran as quickly as he could to his mother's room. "Mother! Wake up! It's urgent!"

Her mother opened one eye sleepily and raised her eyebrows, "What's wrong?"

Lee said with wide eyes, "Mother! I just heard our neighbour screaming! It sounded like he was in trouble!"

"Really? Let's do a quick check to make sure that everything is fine."

The son and his mother hurried to their neighbour's house and knocked on his front door.

Knock! Knock!

No answer.

KNOCK! KNOCK!

Still no answer.

A feeling of dread crossed Lee's mind. What had happened to his kind neighbour who often shared his things with him? He usually stayed up really late to study books about wars until midnight. But it was only half past ten. What was going on?

"Let's take a peep through the window!" suggested Chau.

With heavy hearts, they tried to peek inside but soon realised that the window was blocked by wooden planks and chains. It was even horrifying when they saw a small splatter of blood on the edge of the window!

"Oh no!" gasped Lee, "What if...our neighbour was murdered? Let's report the crime to Judge Pao."

Lee and Chau headed to the court house, and met Judge Pao. Chau told Judge Pao what they had seen.

"This is serious. I'll go check it myself. Madame, you can follow me to investigate," said Judge Pao.

Later, Pao was with Chau and Lee, standing in front of the neighbour's house. Pao ordered a policeman to knock over the front door to investigate.

The front door was knocked over, unleashing a terrible sight. Inside, they saw a handsome looking man lying down on the floor lifelessly with blood splattered everywhere around him! A knife was poked deeply into his chest. His eyes and mouth were opened but it was not blinking or moving. The man was most certainly killed.

Pao scanned the dead body, and suddenly caught a glimpse of something that the neighbour was holding tightly in his hands. It was a letter covered with moss. It read:  
Fong,

Come to my house at midnight to talk about the money we have robbed last month. We need to discuss about how to share the money fairly. Remember to keep yourself low profile so people won't suspect you.

"What?" cried Lee, "There is no way he is a criminal! Our neighbour often shares his things with us! He never argues with us! He was just so kind!"

“So your neighbour was called Mr Fong?” asked Pao.

“Right,” answered Chau miserably.

Judge Pao sat on a chair and frowned, deep in thought.

“I think I know where the killer lives,” said Pao suddenly.

Judge guided Chau, Lee, and the policeman to a forest known as the Crimson Forest. As they walked deeper and deeper in the maze-like forest, everything went darker and darker. “Mr Pao,” asked the exhausted mother, “where are we going?”

“Madame,” explained Pao, “we are heading toward the killer’s house!”

“But how do you know where the killer lives?” asked Chau with curiosity.

“When I first read the letter, I noticed some moss on it, so I think the killer lives in the countryside. I know that there are two houses in Crimson Forest, we may find out who the killer is there,” explained Pao.

After an hour, Pao, Chau, Lee, and the guards reached one of the houses. It was covered with leaves and moss.

Pao saw an old man close by, who was cutting overgrown grass, he walked beside him and greeted him.

“Good morning!” said the old man, “It’s good to have someone talking to me because I’m dying of boredom! There is only me living in this cottage!”

After a while, Pao said goodbye to the old man, walked another few miles, and knocked on the door of another cottage.

The door opened, another rich-looking young man went to greet him. “Hello,” said Pao. They chatted a while until the man kindly invited Pao to visit his fancy house. There were displays of valuable items around the house.

They started chatting again, and the conversation didn’t seem out of ordinary until Pao asked, “Have you ever heard that there was a murder last night?”

The man suddenly had a hint of suspicion in his eyes, and said, “Oh really? Who was murdered?”

Pao’s voice suddenly became as sharp as a blade, “It’s Fong.”

The man’s hand trembled a bit and said, “Oh, what a poor guy. I was once friends with him. The killer really should have been caught and killed in the courthouse.”

Pao stood up and pointed his finger at him, “Then you should be killed, because you are the killer.”

“What?” said the man, terrified, “How... how could I be the killer?”

“It is because,” said Pao, with a fierce glance in his eyes, “You have the type of paper and the sorts of riches, all because of the robberies you have done with Fong!”

“I...I... don’t know what you are talking about.”

“Don’t act stupid, I’m very sure that the killer lives in the countryside because of the moss on the letter. The only houses here in the countryside were where the old man lives and you live. Since the old man is much weaker than you, he can’t possibly be the killer.”

All of a sudden, the young man knelt down and cried, “Sorry! I’m the killer. Please spare me! Don’t kill me. Please!”

“No choice of that. Be ready to get the punishment you deserved!” said Pao.



# Judge Bao and the Secret of the Memory Tree

*Discovery Bay International School, Bay, Amelia – 11*

In a small town located in Lu Zhou in 1029 AD lived a famous, local Judge, named Judge Bao. He had lived with his family for his whole life and they all shared incredible memories together. Ever since he was little, his family read stories about a magical world full of a variety of creatures, all powered by a Majestic Memory Tree.

It was a bright day. The whole family was in a good mood. Judge Bao, however, had become uneasy as something had caught his eye, a dark shadow. He felt that it somehow carried a dusky aura, perhaps it was The Shadow, someone – or something – that was said to be lurking around Lu Zhou since 80 years ago.

Judge Bao decided it could just be a hallucination, perhaps even just his bad eyesight playing with him. He finally chose to clear his mind on a ride. He tacked up his loving horse, Sweetie, and walked down a stone-filled path. Feeling the rhythm of Sweetie's gaits always calmed him down. After a fresh ride, he decided to join his family to enjoy the breezy, perfect day together.

As he led Sweetie back up the rough stoney pathway, towards town, Sweetie tripped on an unusually shaped rock. As Judge Bao inspected Sweetie to see if she was hurt, he noticed that the rock was in the shape of an arrow. Judge Bao was a curious person, which often led him to different problems, usually ones he got stuck in the middle of. That however did not stop him from exploring the world.

He stepped, foot by foot, in the direction of the arrow. His eyes glued to the ground looking for more clues. After a few steps, he knocked into a wall. Luckily he didn't go too quickly while searching for clues, consequenting him with only a tiny bruise on his forehead. He looked up to discover that it was not a wall. It was a decorated stone door...

Judge Bao pushed the door open slowly with the thought of it leading to a dark, hollow stone room. To his surprise, he was greeted by two magical creatures, what seemed to be an Alicorn and a Dragon situated in a room with nature climbing its way everywhere. It didn't even seem like a room anymore. It was more like a blooming paradise.

"Hello, who are you?" asked Ai the Alicorn, standing from a safe distance next to Li.

"Be careful Ai, he could be The Shadow." whispered Li the Dragon.

"Please do not be alarmed. I am Judge Bao, the trusted Judge of Lu Zhou, pleased to meet you." replied Judge Bao, hiding his shock.

"Oh Master Bao, we know of you and your many solved cases. Maybe you could help us." Ai remarked.

"How may I help you? Perhaps I may be able to solve your dilemma." Judge Bao replied, admiring the paradise around him.

"The Shadow has been stealing from the citizens here. All sorts of priceless items got stolen. The only thing known to be able to stop The Shadow is The Rainbow Lotus. We can only get it by solving the riddle on this piece of paper. I have it here, however everyone here has tried yet it seems almost impossible to find the answer." Li followed on.

“May I see this riddle of yours please?” asked Judge Bao politely.

“Of course, Li, show him the riddle.” replied Ai. Li nodded and took out the piece of paper. The paper was aged around the corners but other than that, it was easy to read. It said:

Where happiness is,

Where the past goes to fizz,

They reach out to you,

You may forget it too.

“I know exactly where it is. Do you still have the Majestic Memory Tree?” Judge Bao inquired.

“Yes we do. We have looked there yet nothing was found.” Ai replied.

“I don’t think it is something you can just find. I think you may have to get in touch with your memories to find it. It says, ‘You may forget it too’. It probably means you have lost touch with the past.” Bao remarked.

“Well then that is where we will go. Hop on. Flying is super fun. The first time is a bit of an overload, just saying.” Ai exclaimed. Ai swooped into the air alongside Li, they were both incredibly majestic, on land and on water. They did a lot of loops on the way while cheering non-stop. At last, they landed beside the Memory Tree and Judge Bao slid off Ai’s back.

“Go ahead and take a look,” said Judge Bao with a friendly smile. Ai and Li walked around the magical tree slowly, admiring each of their memories. They both almost burst into joyful tears as they embraced a warm feeling tingling inside, that had been waiting to be felt.

“I remember it all.” Ai beamed lovingly.

“I do too.” echoed Li, smiling back softly.

A flash of colours and joy sparked without warning. The Rainbow Lotus bloomed open and sat between Ai, Li and Judge Bao.

“Hello there...” muttered a raspy, distorted voice. Everyone swiftly turned around in shock at what was in front of them. The Shadow stood there, his claws unravelling by the second. Nodding to each other, Ai and Li shone The Rainbow Lotus blinding The Shadow. All the sweet memories melted the egregious villain into a pitch-black puddle.

Cheering away, Judge Bao bowed in honour of helping these magnificent sisters, Ai and Li.

“I think this calls for a celebration, with family, friends and no villains.” Judge Bao announced with a crack of a smile. With a smirk on their faces, Ai and Li nodded proudly. The next morning was bright and glorious. Ai’s, Li’s and Bao’s families, friends and Sweetie came together to celebrate this victory. This was a memory that would certainly be added to the, well, as you guessed, Majestic Memory Tree.

# The Case of Where The Precious Sapphire Went

*Discovery Bay International School, Burns, Anna Sophia – 10*

Li watched the curtain edges grow light as sunlight was pouring into her large room. She opened her eyes sleepily as she remembered what day it was. Her birthday! Li's father, Lingyun, the governor of the city said that he'll prepare an evening ball that lasts till midnight. She wasn't really excited, but she pretended she was excited because nobody disagreed with Lingyun. Li slowly but surely got out of bed as her long black hair swayed left and right like a feather gliding in the wind. She secured her hair with a green hairclip and dressed in a golden dress with yellow robes. In the dining room, about a hundred ( she thought ) of tea stained eggs and dumplings and cakes with a big bowl of rice porridge waited for her. Suddenly, before she could sit down, Lingyun's most trusted advisor ran in, red in the face and panting. " LI! WHERE IS THE GOVERNMENT'S PRECIOUS SAPPHIRE! IT HAS DISAPPEARED! LINGYUN WANTS TO SEE YOU IN THE COURTROOM . . . NOW!

"What is happening father?" asked Li as Lingyun whispered to the person next to him. Li was in the famous courtroom where Lingyun decided what to do with a traitor. The traitor would stand in the middle of the room in a small square drawn on the ground where Li was standing. "Um... everyone believes that ... that you stole the precious sapphire." There was silence before Li blurted out "But why would I steal the sapphi—"Some one gasped."PRECIOUS sapphire Li" cut in Lingyun. "What should we do with your daughter?" asked Tintu. Tintu was the man that escorted the traitors to the local prison. Lingyun took a deep breath in and let it out slowly. " T—take her to the d—death prison." Li was aghast. "Right away Lingyun" replied Tintu and grabbed Li rudely and tied her hands behind her back and threw a bag over her head.

The next thing Li knew the bag over her head was wiped off. Li was standing in a narrow corridor. When Li took a closer look at the walls she noticed that they were actually jail cells. Two guards marched her along until they reached an empty cell. One of the guards untied the ropes tying her hands behind her back and threw her into the cell and slammed the door closed. In one corner of the room there was a pile of hay and in the other a bucket. Li thought that the bucket was for her business. Li thought that she would never 'go' in a bucket because she was Lingyun's daughter but she was wrong. Li walked toward the pile of hay and sat down on it and noticed a stone was wobbly underneath her. Li stood up and brushed the hay out of the way. There was a loose stone. Li squeezed her fingers underneath the stone and heaved. It came loose! There was a long tunnel underneath!

# Revenge for the Dead‘

*Discovery Bay International School, Cai, Evelyn – 11*

CHARGE!’ panicked yells and cries could be heard everywhere around the house, Bao Zheng and his little sister, Yao Yao were hiding in a dusty corner, under a musty blanket, shivering uncontrollably. Yao Yao was sobbing silently, body shaking, with Bao holding her in his hands, who was secretly on the verge of tears. He knew if he started crying too, the enemies outside would hear and come barging in and kill them mercilessly. The war had been going on for days, and they couldn't go out to get food, so they also had been starving. There might be a worm or two, maybe some fungus if lucky, but never real food. Bao Zheng could hear through the thin walls made out of straws, “Sir, all houses have been searched, and no one else has been found.” a deep voice came outside.

“I see... Check again!” a commanding voice thundered. Upon hearing that, Bao Zheng immediately started to be filled with dread, this time, the enemy won’t miss this house, because it would be the first one they check...

“There, case solved, anything else?” Judge Bao had just finished another investigation about nails in brains. It wasn’t the most decent job, from time to time he would be asked to solve a ‘crime’ such as a stolen banana or no weeds growing in the fields, which would be a good thing. “Hmm, yes, that’s all, thank you very much. Oh, and here’s your pay,” replied Hao Yu, an average man who had just finished thanking Judge Bao for his help, “And before I go, may I ask a question?”

“Yes? Be quick with it, I don’t have much time.” he rummaged through the drawers of his office.

“Why do they call you ‘Judge’ when you are only a detective?” Hao Yu watched him as he pulled out some paper.

“Sign this, and why? I do not know, or care, what matters is not what my job is, but how well I do it.” Bao handed his customer an ink pen and returned to searching the drawers.

“Ah, I see,” and then silence, with only the sound of the pen scratching the paper, “There, done, I better get going now.”

“Yes.” Judge Bao was staring at his client’s back as Hao Yu left the office, then he sighed “Maybe it’s time to let go of the past. It’s been too long.”

“SHAO, PASS IT TO ME” the infamous thief, Harbinger of Death, and his pack was at it again, raiding another vulnerable village, “MASTER! BE CAREFUL! HERE!” Shao, Death’s comrade, was running towards their boat, with the 11th Harbinger in it, ready to set sail. “GET THEM! GO! NOW!” Soldiers charged at them, their silver spires gleaming in the dark moonlight. Loud footsteps ran across the battlefield.

“GO GO GO!!!” Death spat behind the 11th Harbinger’s back.

“ALRIGHT ALRIGHT! IS THE PACKAGE ON BOARD?!” came a booming reply.

“YES, NOW START! THEY’RE COMING!”

Back at the office, Bao was sitting quietly smoking his tobacco, trying to get to the sound of nature, searching for any yells for help that could be carried from the wind, rain splashed against the windows, he closed his eyes, hoping for a different result.

# Judge Bao and The Case Of The Emperor's Gold

*Discovery Bay International School, Gao, Won – 10*

It was a dark and stormy night in a large Chinese town, thunder roared high above the skies, wind blew as fierce as a tiger, everyone at that time was sleeping soundly despite the thundering sky roaring, but one wasn't.

And that was Judge Bao.

He was finishing a case of the afterlife, it was the dead of the night. How much time has passed, minutes? Hours? Judge Bao lost count. He was ready to take a well earned rest. It was a long day for him. But just as he was heading to bed...

Shatter!

The sound of a window breaking alarmed him. He rushed to the kitchen, where the sound was heard.

He slowly crept there and opened the door as it opened and found a shadow dash past the window, he investigated. He found claw marks on the windowsill, he searched for more clues, he found fur everywhere in the room. 'It must be a stray cat.' thought judge Bao. He went to his bedroom and prepared for sleep.

AHHHHHHH!!!

He was woken by the sounds of someone screaming, then the sounds of someone hurrying. It was coming from the emperor's palace. When he hurried to the place, there was a huge crowd gathering around the area. He trudged through the crowd and managed to get into the front of the crowd.

When he got there, he saw the emperor trembling in shock, he saw the floor and gasped, the emperor's wife was lying dead on the floor. He rushed to the body, careful to not break any evidence. He inspected the body carefully, just then the emperor's son came. When he saw the body, tears dripped down from his eyes, he started to sob. When he inspected the wife's hand, he saw some glass shards. He looked up and saw a broken window in the palace he rushed up there and saw a room with a calligraphy table and a large open chest. But then he saw something in the floor, a picture of a square with a circle in the top right inside the square. The picture was written in blood, then he investigated the calligraphy table. There was a picture of a valley with the sun and a river, the river was in the valley and the sun was in the top right. Then the son started to shout. "WHY?!?!?!?!?" Then he started to run towards the body. "STOP!" demanded judge Bao. The son didn't stop, "GUARDS!!!" Shouted the emperor, soon guards came from every door and marched towards him, they trapped him and grabbed his arm and started to take him outside. The police arrived as the guards left the room, "took you long enough" exclaimed judge Bao, but they walked past him and started to inspect the body. After a while, they started to question everyone nearby. Soon they huddled together and chattered together, then they approached judge Bao. "We got evidence and the butler said he was ringing the bell that goes off at 12 pm, the son said he was sleeping and didn't hear anything." We think it was the emperor's brother, Xiang Jing. Soon, the police arrived holding the emperor's brother, "Stop! Its not me!" He exclaimed as he tried to escape the grasp of the policeman's arm. Judge Bao thought for a moment, he tried to think of a clear image of what happened, then he remembered, the picture written in blood, then the picture on the table. He soon realised that the sun the top right in the picture was the same to the circle in the top right drawn. 'But what does the sun have to do with the murder?' thought Bao. Soon,

the police started to take the emperor's brother away. But before the emperor's brother was taken on a horse carriage. Bao shouted with his loudest voice "STOP!! HE IS NOT THE MURDERER!". The police were mystified, "How can it be?" uttered one of the policemen. "Such nonsense!" exclaimed another before trying to push him into the carriage. But before they can do anything judge Bao remarked "I have evidence!". The police stopped and waited for judge Bao to say another word. "Come with me." He asked before going up the palace, the police followed. When he came the police questioned "Why did you bring us here?". "You see the blood picture on the ground? And you see the picture on the table?" The police nodded. "There is a circle on the top right of the blood picture, there is also the sun in the top right of the picture on the table. Meaning it has to do something with the sun. Now sun is similar to son, can you get the son for me?" The police soon arrived with the son. Judge Bao inspected the sons hand. "Theres glass, just as I expected. I will now explain the story to you. It was the butler and the son. At 12 pm, I was awake, I heard a window shatter sound there. That was a window shattering from the palace, You see, the butler rings the bell at 12pm, that was meant to cover the sound of window shattering. But I was close enough to hear. The son stole the gold but the wife saw him, so he threw her out the window, but before he can do that, she wrote a die message.". Suddenly the butler and the son started to sob, "I only stole it because I wanted to make it fair, I wanted some gold but dad keeps all the gold to himself and his wife. Its all my fault, I bribed the butler.". "Well thats the end of that." declared judge Bao, as the police took the criminals away. Judge Bao was full of pride. 'All in a days work,' thought judge Bao. 'Its evening, I should get some sleep' So he paced away full of joy.

# Judge Bao and The Case Of The Disappearing Victims

*Discovery Bay International School, Grillmaier, Constance – 10*

When Judge Bao was still an innocent and clueless child, his father( Jin Bao) sadly died from a horse accident. Or so they thought...

Jin Bao was riding his horse to work, when he heard a scream. He knew it wasn't good, so he went and checked it out. When he arrived, he saw a dead corpse, lying on the floor with a pool of blood coming out. There were footprints leading from the body made from blood.

"This is suspicious." He thought to himself "just what I like!" He followed the footprints, carefully making sure he didn't get seen. He was walking for 2 minutes then suddenly, something moved out of the corner of his eye.

"Who's there? Show yourself!" He shouted, making sure he was heard. The thing leaped and jumped. Jin Bao barely had the time to scream, before he was stabbed and killed with a suspicious looking weapon, and threw the horse into the water, making everyone think it was a horse accident.

In the present day.

"Such a beautiful day!" Judge Bao exclaimed stretching in the glorious morning sun.

"Hien! Wake up! You're going to be late for work!" He told his sister, enthusiastically throwing his pillow in her face.

"Just let me sleep for once! You don't see me throwing pillows in your face while you're sleeping." She responded, half asleep. Reluctantly, she got up and started getting ready.

"How can you be so excited even though mum and dad are BOTH dead now?" She asked seriously.

"We don't talk about that. Besides, I want to go eat breakfast so don't fall back asleep or I'll have to wake you up again, and it'll disrupt my morning." He commented, trying to change the subject.

"No guaranties!" she responded, pretending to fall back asleep. Or she was really falling asleep. Judge Bao could never tell. He ate his bread, when he realised that HE was running late!

"Oh no! I have to go! Bye Hien!" She didn't respond back, but she was probably sleeping again, he thought.

He ran to work, as he was late. Once he got to work, nothing happened.

"I was probably just overreacting." He thought. He jumped into his seat and listened to what the people had to say. Nothing interesting, just 'who stole the apple?' and 'where are my groceries?' What Judge Bao was really longing for, was a real crime. A real investigation. A real story. Right when he was about to leave, a message came. It was the police! "Has my dream come true?" He thought whilst he read the letter.

"Dear Judge Bao," it read, "we are devastated to inform you, that your sister, Hien Bao, is dead... She died in a horse accident. Just like your father. What a coincidence!"

"How can he make a joke whilst my only family member has died?" He thought screaming in his head.

He went home to try to relax, though the police was already there so he couldn't even try to rest.

"Why are you here, officer?" He asked him, trying to keep calm.

"Why aren't you at the scene investigating? Who killed her?" Judge Bao didn't even know what he was saying, but it just came to him, and he couldn't help saying it.

"What do you mean? I told you in the letter that she died in a horse accident!" He replied looking very frustrated with him. The police officer was tall and he didn't seem to look like a person you would want to mess with. Judge

Bao didn't care, he knew that it was deeper than that. She had ridden the horse for her whole life, she wouldn't just have an accident! It was deeper than it looked.

"Take me to the crime scene. Now. I have to see this for myself." The police officer nodded and led the way, telling Judge Bao to follow him.

They walked for about 5 minutes and Judge Bao wanted to ask when they were arriving, when the policeman told him that they had arrived. There was no one there investigating the case. They thought that the case was as simple as walking a dog and that their work was done, when truly, it was not. Judge Bao knew this was all wrong, and angrily asked if he could go see his sister.

"She fell in the canal in the accident." The policeman grunted, clearly mad at him. Judge Bao couldn't take it and confronted him about not doing his work,

"So you'll take weeks to figure out who stole flowers, but you can't even tell that this is all a crime?" He shouted. "She was murdered! If you can't do your job then I'll do it for you!" He then pushed away all the policemen and started investigating the scene.

When he looked up, it was night, and he got ready to head home, but he saw something in the distance.

"What's that?" He thought to himself. He crept closer until he could see what it was. It looked like a door. He sighed with relief as it was not something like a monster, then he began to wonder, what was a door doing there? And more importantly, where did it lead to? He went closer, making sure that he didn't make any noise. He opened the door not expecting to see anything, but what he saw was shocking! It looked like clouds. He stepped in and was surprised that it didn't disintegrate under his feet. When he looked up, what he saw shocked him, it was his family! Jin Bao, Mai Lin, And Hien Bao!

"Where am I? How are you here?" He asked as his sister spoke up.

"You're in the world of the dead. We called you here for a reason."

"We were all killed by the same beast. It was a shadow, and it looked like you..."

"What Dad is trying to say, is that it was you from another dimension."

"What?!"

To be continued...



# The Case of The Anonymous Murder.

*Discovery Bay International School, Karpov, Yevgeny – 10*

One strikingly ominous night, our hero: Judge Bao sits at home, trying to get his well deserved rest after solving hundreds of thousands of cases around China and mainly his hometown. His hometown is famously known for being a crime city, so he has lots of work cut out for him every single day. All of a sudden, he hears a blood curdling scream and as he goes out to investigate this, he sees 2 things. 1. A dead person in a pool of some sort of red substance. 2. An immensely suspicious person fleeing this scene.

Trusting his instincts, he goes and follows this peculiar man and immediately finds himself in the middle of an open plain, after seemingly chasing this person through the main path that snakes to every single known path in this entire village. They both took the first left and as mentioned before, stumbled into an open field/plain of cows, sheep and pigs. Unfortunately for Bao, he was too distracted in working out where he was, so consequently, the presumed murderer has been able to go escape the hands of the law. Bao then realizes that the suspect left a trail of microscopic grains of rice, something that only Bao can see and properly track.

Fortunately for him, the grains of rice spell out a sentence that reads, “If you are following me, follow the rice to catch me...if you can.”

Then, all the grains that made up the sentence vanish, but there are now others that form a trail to some place that Bao rarely visits: 黑市堡, more commonly known as blackmarketburg. As you can depict from the name, this place is famous for its black markets scattered through the district. Bao then snapped out of his little dream and felt a tingle down his spine, telling him to follow the rice otherwise it would disappear.

After a quizzically long walk, which however is quite good exercise, they find themselves in a place called assassinsburg, which is the first stop on his heroic journey and is a suburb of Manzhouli. It is quite dangerous as there are assassins everywhere so all billboards say, “Look out! Don’t get any parts of your body smashed otherwise you will be dead, obviously.”. After Bao almost got sliced by some Prowler guy, he finally exited that terrible place of hell.

After five excruciating hours of walking, he decided just to go back home because he started getting emotional homesickness from his family, and mainly because he has PTSD for the fact that he doesn’t want his beloved family to die at the hands of a bloodthirsty murderer. After he got back to his faltered shack, he went to bed and had a very relaxing sleep. When he woke up, he almost had a heart attack. He had a horrifying nightmare about the fact that his parents were innocently slaughtered by this anonymous serial killer. The dream was: he was walking outside his backyard when he heard a bloodcurdling scream coming from his house. When he investigated, he saw both his mom and dad lying unconscious in a pool of a murky red liquid.

Bao has had enough. He opens the door to his measly shack/hut and after anonymous tips from a stranger, he tracks down the shameful killer and finds himself in Beijing. “How am I here?” questions Bao as he examines the surroundings. He soon realizes that this was all a sham and that actually the murderer and Bao were in a new dimension called the faker’s dimension. Here, the owner had full control over what was real and what was fake. As Bao regains balance from being bewildered by this new landscape, he follows the presumed killer, which turns out to be no easy task. As the dimension’s purpose has been explained before, the owner was the murderer in this case, so he tries to lead the Chinese Sherlock Holmes away from him by making a clone of him going in a predictable path instead of the real path. As you can imagine, Bao quickly caught up to the “murderer” and caught him red-handed. However, the second our hero reaches out to grab the “murderer”, the clone reveals itself and bursts into flame, leaving poor Bao stranded all alone.

Then, a secret power besieges our beloved hero. He calls this power: “Hunter’s tracks”. Using this unique ability, he finds the tracks of the real killer, who is a whole kilometer away from Bao. Luckily, some traits of Hunter’s Tracks include: super speed, super strength, invincibility and super jumping capabilities. He then catches up to the real killer easily and manages to get ahold of him. Unfortunately, Bao is immediately struck with immense pain and as he looks down, realizes he has been stabbed by the killer with a long, sharp knife. Knowing this, Bao pulls the murderer into the knife as well, in the end killing the murderer, while also sacrificing his very life to get this job done. With only seconds left before his inevitable death, he writes a letter to his unharmed family, telling them that he is sorry he won’t make it further in this world’s evolution and says that he will always be with them...in spirit.

Bao sends the blood-soaked letter back to the real world and takes one final breath before collapsing to the stone-cold ground, dead. Bao and the now dead murderer vanish from the Faker's Dimension and back into the real world. All the townsfolk gather around the gone hero as they weep in grief as to what happened just to save them from slaughter.

5 months later, a funeral is held with everybody in China taking part as the funeral man says, “ The sole purpose of China's survival in safety of no crimes is gone. Although this massive supporter has gone out of our lives, we will not forget him in our new civilization and shall respect what he has done for our country.” THE END

# The Case of The Missing Jewels

*Discovery Bay International School, Lau, Aiden – 10*

As he approaches the crime scene in the king's temple, Detective Bao carefully retrieves samples of broken glass in search of fingerprints. As he collects the 6th and final sample, he bumps into the King. (The king was the victim of the crime) The King screams "I've been robbed, my most precious jewel is – stolen!"

"How?" questioned Bao

"I don't know," admitted the King sounding extremely puzzled, "We're supposed to have the highest security in the country!" he added.

"Ok... I see a broken window here; is this a clue, or is it a distraction?" muttered Bao.

"Um, Bao, would you mind if I stay?"

"Well, sir, you can if you want, don't disrupt the debris and could you fill me in about what has happened in the past few days?"

"Yes, sure," the King

As the king speaks, Bao questions: "Would you mind repeating your thoughts on when the crime was attempted?"

"Well, I think it was just attempted a few hours ago! The thief may not have escaped!"

As the King says this, Bao notices a strangely suspicious shadow slinking around the palace under some decorations, the shape looks weirdly familiar as it rings a bell, but Bao just can't make out who it is. The King suddenly makes eye contact with Bao and startles him. With his good reflexes, his eyes dart back to look at the king, trying to avoid raising suspicions.

"Hold on," said Bao

"Ok..."

Before the King even finishes saying 'Ok,' Bao is already heading towards the direction of the shadow. He whips out a magnifying glass, bends down and inspects the ground for traces of footprints of some sort.

"What are you doing?" questioned the King

"Just searching for footprints" replied Bao calmly

Hoping not to be found, the mysterious man behind the suspicious shadow was hiding under a chair. As Bao searches nearer and nearer to the chair, the mysterious man begins shaking more and more frightened by the second. Bao starts to scan the area within a 1-metre radius and spots the mysterious man.

"Well, well, well. Who do we have here?" slurred the King

"Let me see if I recognise him because he does ring a bell,"

As he leans closer towards the suspect dressed in full black, he gets taken back by surprise.

He gasped, "A-A-A-Are you who I think you are, Dong Ming Wang?"

"Yes, I am" replied Dong Ming Wang

Enraged, shouts "Send him to court!"

The king suddenly put on a puzzled expression, “Why?” he asked quizzically

“Well,” Bao began “He was the robber, first of all, and secondly, he was the *killer* of my father.”

“Dong Ming Wang is a truly evil person then, according to you,” the King spat out.

As the King’s guards escort Bao, the King and Dong Ming Wang to court, Bao begins to think about his defences and attacks in court.

When they are inside the courtroom, everyone settles down. The judge asks, “what is the reason for your presence?”

Bao answers: “I am a detective, and I think I have solved the case of the King’s missing jewels. I believe that it is this lad here who stole the jewels,”

Wang continues: “I am here because Bao, has accused me of stealing,”

Bao replies, “Well then WHAT were you doing inside the King’s palace dressed in full black?”

As the debate rages on for hours on end, the argument closes as the judge orders, “Order, may the jury decide the fate of Dong Ming Wang?”

“Guilty” replies the people inside the jury box.

“Ok then, send Wang to jail!”

After Dong Ming Wang is sent to jail, a new question is raised by Bao: Where are the jewels? Bao tells the police his new question and orders the police to interrogate Wang. While the police take Wang away for interrogation, Bao heads back to the scene of the crime and starts hunting around the area. He finds a lump in the carpet and finds the precious jewels. He starts theorising: Why were they there? Perhaps Wang had left them there before he hid from the King? And if Wang did, HOW did Bao not see the lump? Bao goes to the police station and collects all the information the policemen had. The policemen said, “He confessed, he DID steal the jewels and he hid them under the carpet, did you see anything under the carpet?”

“Yes I did,” replied Bao. After the investigation concluded, the jewels were retrieved and put into an even more secure facility rather than in the King’s bedroom.

# Judge Bao and The Case Of The Missing Treasure

*Discovery Bay International School, Lee, Suhyoon – 10*

## *Prologue*

Xiu Zhao had shoulder length flyaway black hair and raspberry cheeks. She was easily the most beautiful woman in the city. She gazed at the towering green mountains outside her home. She would have stayed there and daydreamed for the rest of the day, but the sharp and clear voice of her father immediately cut through her mind. “Xiu. Have you seen my treasure chest anywhere?” He questioned her. “No. is it gone?” She asked innocently. He nodded.

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## *Present*

They were in Lingyun’s room. Judge Bao stood in front of her in his emerald coloured robes. He fingered his crescent shaped birthmark on his forehead. Her father, who’s name was Lingyun, was worriedly jogging around the dimly lit room, muttering to himself. The famous judge was staring intently at the message the culprit had left.

*Give me your daughter at midnight in the first floor female  
toilets tonight. Then I will give you your treasure back.*

“This is unacceptable! We can’t get any clues from this! Why can’t they at least tell me who they are?” Lingyun thundered. Judge Bao looked startled at Lingyun’s unwisdom. “Of course they would keep their identity a secret.” He replied. “I know.” Xiu interrupted. “Let’s pretend to give me to them and then catch them when they’re about to run!”

## *Midnight, first floor female toilets*

It was easier said than done. Xiu shivered. The toilets were dark and smelly as she waited for the culprit to come. She knew Judge Bao and her father were waiting outside the door, but Xiu felt lonely and scared even so. Suddenly, the silhouette of a person’s head came into view out of the window. The stranger slowly climbed into the toilet, quiet and careful. Xiu backed away from the window and turned to open the door. “Not so fast, missy!” The stranger shrieked. She ran and grabbed the golden doorknob, pulling open the door as fast as she could. The stranger was speedy too. He grabbed hold of her robes and threw her to the other side of the toilets. Her head slammed against the wall, and she felt like she was going to die. Pain spread through her body and she tasted blood...

## *The next day, Xiu’s bedroom*

Xiu’s eyelids slowly fluttered open. She didn’t taste or smell blood anymore, thank goodness—Where was she?! She sat up and recognized the golden wallpaper of her room. Lingyun was there, examining something, judge bao was there, deep in thought. “Father, what is that?” Her voice sounded weak and sleepy, unlike hers. He held up a pair of glistening jade bracelets. “This...The culprit left behind.” He answered. Xiu nodded. He hadn’t asked her if she was okay. She had half-expected he would.

## *Evening, crystal pond*

Crystal pond was the name of the most beautiful pond in the world. Well, maybe not the world, but to Xiu it certainly looked like it. The reason she, judge Bao and her father were here was because they were looking for someone. A friend of hers, servant Haitao Huang. Haitao suddenly appeared between the bushes. He had messy black hair and a cheeky grin. “Why is it that you called me here? Am I that important?” He asked. Xiu had wanted to see him because he knew all of the servants in Lingyun’s palace. “This.” She held out the jade bracelets for him to see. “Do you know anyone who wears this?” “Of course! Servant Yu Xi and servant Lixin. Is that why you needed me? What a strange thing to ask.” He replied. “Can you take us to them?” Lingyun questioned.

## *Evening, servants (female) room*

“WHERE IS SERVANT YU XI?!” Lingyun boomed, loud enough for all the servants in the room to hear. A pretty servant nervously stepped through the crowd of servants to face Lingyun. She had long black hair in a loose bun and orange-ish cheeks. “Here.” She whispered. “Where are your jade bracelets?” He asked her. “I—I lost—lost them.” She stammered, not knowing how Lingyun knew about her bracelets. “Right. Come with us.” He said.

## *Nighttime, servants (male) room*

“WHERE IS SERVANT LIXIN?!” Lingyun boomed once again. A servant with perfect teeth turned to face Lingyun. “I’m right here.” He said in a deep voice. “Where are your jade bracelets?” Lingyun asked. “Don’t know.

Lost ‘em.” He replied casually. “When did you lose them?” Xiu whispered to Yu Xi. “last night.” Yu Xi whispered back. “I lost ‘em yesterday night.” Lixin answered. Lingyun was confused. Judge Bao stepped towards servant Lixin and servant Yu Xi. “Both of you. Can you please lead us to the calligraphy room? There is a calligraphy room, right?” He asked. Yu Xi nodded.

*Nighttime, calligraphy room.*

The calligraphy room had red walls and paper was stacked neatly to the left. A large table almost took up the whole room and cushions were placed all around it. On the table were ink pots and different sized paintbrushes. “What a cozy place. Servants Yu Xi and Lixin, grab a piece of paper and paintbrush. I want you to write the word ‘treasure’.” Judge Bao said. They did as they were told. Xiu and Lingyun stared, confused. “Ah. Xiu, please get the message the culprit wrote to us.” The judge said. Xiu nodded.

*Nighttime, Lingyun’s room*

Xiu quietly padded across the room to get the paper. Then it struck her. Judge Bao wanted to see who’s handwriting matched the culprit’s. How did she not know?

*Nighttime, back in the calligraphy room*

Judge Bao stared thoughtfully for a moment. “Servant Lixin, how is your handwriting exactly the same as the culprit’s?” “WHAT?! I DIDN’T WRITE NO MESSAGE ABOUT GETTING XIU IN THE TOILETS AT MIDNIGHT!” Lixin thundered, enraged. Xiu could sense fear in his manly voice. “Hmmm... How did you know what the message was written when I didn’t show it to you?” Judge Bao asked.

*Epilogue*

Lixin was captured. The treasure was found. No need to worry.

# The Case of The Black Basin

*Discovery Bay International School, Lin, George Haochen – 9*

It was a dark, stormy night. The black basin I purchased from Zhao Da trembled ominously in my bathroom. I heard noises... whispering...

Standing up, panicking, I saw a ghost emerging from the basin! I felt a shiver down my spine, and I was scared out of my mind. The ghost told me: "This basin is made out of my remains." "Who are you?" I stammered. "My name is Liu Shichang." The ghost stated. "What do you want from me?" I cried. Liu Shichang responded: "I want you to tell Bao Zheng, the most trustworthy and incorruptible judge in China, that I was poisoned by Zhao Da, the owner of a pottery kiln. He poisoned me because I was rich, and he wanted my money." "Why can't you do it yourself, then?" I inquired. He answered: "Because I am a *ghost*."

"So that is why I am at your house at one o'clock in the morning," I said to Bao Zheng.

To my surprise, Bao Zheng was very calm and collected and seemed to believe my story. He was dark-skinned with a crescent-moon-shaped mole on his forehead and wore a Zhanjiao Futou hat. His stern face appeared even more fearsome under the moonlight.

He was quiet, probably thinking about what to do. "What is your name, old man?" The judge questioned. I replied: "My name is Zhang Biegu, and I have come here to tell you about Liu Shichang's gruesome death." Bao Zheng ordered: "Take me to the ghost."

When we arrived at my house, Liu Shichang was waiting for me in the bathroom. "Judge Bao!" He exclaimed. "Thank god you are here. I have crucial things to tell you."

Minutes had passed. I almost fell asleep because it was 3 AM, and I was exhausted from all the extraordinary things that had happened today. Plus, it was still raining, so I was all drenched. When the ghost finished telling Bao Zheng the whole story, I was fast asleep on the soggy couch, snoring loudly.

A few hours later, I, Judge Bao and his four enforcers, Wang Chao, Ma Han, Zhang Long, and Zhao Hu, stood outside Zhao Da's house. We were ready to find the poison as evidence to arrest him.

The house was magnificent! The ghost told us the poison was hidden behind a sunset painting, but the place was full of paintings! We searched behind *every single room* before we found it. The vial of poison! We took Zhao Da into custody *immediately*. He squirmed and writhed in the handcuffs, but the four enforcers took him into prison nevertheless.

Zhao Da's trial began the following day. The poison and the ghost's statements were sufficient evidence to prove that he was immoral. Just as the poisoner was about to be executed by the dog head guillotine, Grand Tutor Pang suddenly arrived and intercepted the execution. He argued that the evidence was circumstantial: the poison could have been rat poison, and believing in a ghost's statement as evidence was ridiculous. As Grand Tutor Pang was the Emperor's Father-in-Law, nobody could disobey him. Judge Bao said the execution could be revoked, but Zhao Da had one more day of jail time. Grand Tutor Pang agreed and left.

Judge Bao wasn't afraid of Grand Tutor Pang. He only agreed to revoke the execution so they could have more time to think of a solution.

Judge Bao discussed this with his Advisor, Gong Sun Ce, for a long time. And while they were thinking, His bodyguard Zhan Zhao discovered that Grand Tutor Pang was bribed by Zhao Da!

Finally, they settled on a plan: I would take the black basin into Zhao Da's cell, and then the ghost would jump out of it and scare him into confessing that he was the murderer.

When it was pitch dark at midnight, I cautiously made my way to the cell, my heart beating loudly. My face was pale from all the fear and tension. I was holding the black basin behind my back.

I walked down the corridor for what felt like an eternity until I finally reached Zhao Da's cell. "What are you doing here?" He said, with a smug expression on his face. "I will not tell you *anything*!" He declared. "I only have one more day of jail time left! Furthermore, I have Grand Tutor Pang on my side!"

Without warning, I pulled out the black basin behind my back. Now, Zhao Da was confused. "What is this black basin supposed to do? *Scare me?*" He taunted. Just then, the ghost appeared out of nowhere, and Zhao Da's face went as white as a piece of paper, his eyes as big as dinner plates. He dived under his bed, hoping to protect himself from the ghost.

"How *dare* you murder me! I will haunt you eternally! For as long as you live!" The ghost threatened Zhao Da menacingly. Zhao Da trembled so violently that the ground seemed to vibrate. "Please don't hurt me! Sorry that I murdered you." He cried.

Suddenly, Judge Bao, his four enforcers and his bodyguard jumped out of nowhere and captured the murderer.

Zhao Da knew he could not deny his crime and Grand Tutor Pang couldn't save him anymore. He was executed shortly after.

After everything was settled, I was *exhausted*. I felt so relieved that it was over. I could go back to my everyday life. I haven't met Judge Bao since that incident, but I felt my life has changed significantly. I now believe that fairness does exist in this world. And I become more courageous when facing difficult times.

Oh! By the way, with regard to the ghost, after Zhao Da was executed, he was so grateful to Judge Bao that he hugged him. Then I smashed the black basin, and he peacefully disappeared to wherever he belonged.



# Judge Bao and The Missing Jade Necklace

*Discovery Bay International School, Schwartz, Mika – 11*

As morning turned into noon, Bao set off to the park of Hefei to admire his wife's grave. As soon as he set foot in the park, gusts of wind blew past him, he felt a weird sensation, one he never felt before. It was as if Bao saw what really happened to his precious love, his eyes flashed and he saw his wife talking to him... Bao shook the vision away as if it was a fly. He inched closer to the grave until he finally reached it, when Bao got to it he lit an incense and watched it burn, the fire crackled, the incense went down and down until it disappeared. Bao loved the rich, woody smell the incense gave as he stared at his wife's name which was engraved on her gravestone. Suddenly, Bao got the same flash except this time his love muttered something,

"Find dragons, find peng, find phoenix, find... me"

Bao was stunned, he repeated these words in his mind again and again, he just couldn't stop thinking about it.

When the craziness of the day was finally over, Bao strode confidently so that no doubt showed but inside that wasn't the case, he refused to show any hesitation as he knew that if he did his town would no longer believe in him. As the sun went down, Bao was ready to deal with the affairs of the afterlife, when, suddenly he remembered that his daughter was coming back from school! He ran as fast as he possibly could, he finally arrived at their village and spotted Min, she was waiting outside their small cottage, reading a book she got from school.

"Baba, you're finally home!" Exclaimed Min.

"I'm so sorry that you had to wait! I just completely forgot that you were coming now," said Bao shamefully.

"It's okay, I'm just glad you are fine, I was worried about you."

Dusk turned into dawn and Bao awoke, after finally finishing his night work he went to check on his daughter, Min, she was still asleep. Bao slightly shook Min, she didn't wake up, he took a cup FULL of water and splashed it on her face. She sat up, infuriated by how her father woke her up.

"BABA!!! Why did you wake me up like that!?!?" Min shouted with a chuckle.

"Because nothing else worked," Replied Bao Zheng, exploding with laughter.

"Ok?... but why did you wake me up?"

"Uh, because there is school today?" Bao uttered unsurely.

"TODAY IS THE FIRST DAY OF CHINESE NEW YEAR HOLIDAY!" Min shouted, infuriated.

"Oops?" Bao was incredibly embarrassed.

"Let me make it up to you, I will take you wherever you want, I have a day off today."

"Ok sure," Min was overjoyed that she finally got to spend time with her father, disregarding what he had just done. They took off, and walked until they arrived at the Camellia Garden, the centre of their village.

"It was your mothers favourite place to be," Bao said sadly.

He just couldn't bring himself to talk about her as his heart broke again every time he thought about her, the exact opposite of Min, she loved imagining her and how similar they looked. Min continued caring for the plants, completely zoned out like she was in a whole other world. When suddenly, she heard someone shouting her name!

"MIN! MIN! QUICK COME!" shouted bao at the top of his lungs.

"What! Why?" She replied angrily.

And as soon as Min spotted what her father called her for she was absolutely speechless, she just couldn't believe her eyes. One of the flowers had sparkling, gold dust floating around it, like shimmery pixie dust, then the vision that Judge Bao had suddenly appeared again!

"That's the flower that mama planted, it's one of the only memories I remember with her in it!" exclaimed Min.

“Min come, help me pick this flower and I had a sort of vision, it’s complicated so I’ll explain later because there is no time now we’ve got to get going,” said Bao Zheng confidently. Min gathered all the tools she needed to pick the Camellia without damaging the whole bush, she set to work and after barely 2 minutes, she managed to get it, and a mysterious, gold portal opened up. Cautiously, the father and daughter stepped into it and a whole wonderland landscape stretched out in front of them with a beautiful pinkish–purplish sky, the clouds looked as if they were cotton candy. Both Min and Bao stared endlessly at the beautiful view there was ahead of them when they realised that the ‘wonderland’ that they were in was a bit odd it was split in three sections, the biggest one was the one they laid their eyes on first with lush, green trees and towering mountains then Min noticed beautiful flower gardens with all her favourite flowers like peonies, lotuses, Azalea & her favourite Camellia. The next section was the snowy area also beautiful but nothing compared to the first section, the tallest mountains were covered in a neverending carpet of snow. There was one last section, the least eye–catching one, it was dark and gloomy and seemed to be... spreading to the snowy region?

“Baba, that dark place looks... suspicious, do you think we should check that place out first?” Asked Min

“Sure,” Bao replied, ready to explore. They walked past every zone when they saw the dark getting closer. Bao stepped into the black first, shortly followed by Min. They travelled on, relieved to see at least some light, then they were cast upon a colossal shadow and when they looked up they saw a skyscraping castle.

“Min be careful I’m afraid you’ll get hurt so follow me and whatever you do be quiet!” Stated Bao

“Ok,” Min Responded. Silently, they walked up and found rooms scattered all the way when a huge door appeared at the end of the stairs and with instinct Min opened the door...

“MAMA?”

# Judge Bao and The Chinese Pork Bun Poisoning

*Discovery Bay International School, Skystad, Liam – 11*

The dimsum restaurant.

One stone-gray drizzling night, Chief Gong and some government authorities as well as a coroner arrived at a small dimsum restaurant in a town in Shanxi. He opened the door and saw people lying face down on a table.

“Hey Qingsheng, can you confirm the source of death?” Qingsheng the coroner later confirmed that they died from poisoning. He scanned all the tables and found half-empty pork bun bamboo steamers. They had apparently been eating pork buns. Gong then called his men to retrieve the pork buns to confirm those were the source of the poisoning. Yet another poisoned pork bun case in a city which valued pork buns. He told his men to search the kitchen to check if this restaurant was one who deliberately added poison to the pork in the buns. But they came out empty-handed which means that the poison was laced on the meat already when it was imported. Gong then called his men to probe the restaurant to see if there was some remaining evidence.

“Hey chief, I think I found something in this trash can.” Revealed one of his men.

“What is it?” Inquired Gong.

“It's a letter written by... An organization. It was written by... the five dragons? Oh yeah it has their seal on the letter.”

*To Chang Yaoting*

*Two Rivers Restaurant*

*Greetings, I have yet to announce that your business will come to a close not too far from now. In case you are wondering why, it is an order from the five dragons so you shall not question our orders. Failing to comply will mean that you will fall victim to having your imported meat laced with poison as so did the other restaurants.*

*Yours sincerely*

*The Reaper*

The Chief sighed because they had known that this organization in particular had committed notorious crimes. They had committed arson, incredibly large amounts of murder, robbery, and above all, just indefinite mass destruction across China. So much so that since their ringleader, an unknown man whose mind had been infested with immense cruelty, has been dubbed, the reaper. He was a power hungry dictator who would stop at nothing to gain power including getting rid of his interests or peers. So they had set up a new scheme for more murder because they knew too well that if they weren't careful, they could just leave one crucial piece of evidence blowing their cover. The chief pocketed the letter and took one more scan before calling his men to depart and relay the information back to the police station.

“Are you certain it was from the five dragons Duyi?” Inquired Bao, he didn't like jokes and he would be pretty fed up if someone was deliberately being an impostor. “No it is the five dragons alright Judge. Their seal was found on the letter. Only the Five Dragons know how to make that seal. No one has ever found out the materials or method used to make it.”

“Oh yes alright. Duyi, locate the importer for the meat in that restaurant. Hopefully we can find a mole there. Then we'll find Yaoting an importer. Perhaps Weishang's slaughterhouse would do good.” “Yes, judge.” Chief Gong hurried out of the room bringing his men with him. Bao felt tired from all this Five dragons business. He had

minimal hours of sleep because new cases were sprouting here and there every now and then. He was feeling exhausted and knackered.

A while later, A guard came galloping in informing that another guard died from poisoning and it was the same type used to lace the pork buns. “Judge, he was eating this at lunchtime.” The guard held up a bamboo steamer with pork buns. Bao questioned the guard. “Guangli, do you know where he bought the pork buns?”

“Our canteen sir.”

“Who is our importer?”

“Weishing’s slaughterhouse.”

Bao was dumbstruck. He knew twenty different slaughterhouse importers in Shanxi yet every single one seemed to have poisoned meat. “Tell everyone that no one is allowed to consume livestock for their safety or else we are going to have more mass murder.”

A while later, the courtyard was filled with people in complete chaos, everyone screaming at the top of their lungs due to the despicable calamity happening in Shanxi because everyone valued pork buns greatly. It was a delicacy here in Shanxi.

“Silence!” Bao beamed on the stand accompanied by some government officials. The courtyard fell so quiet that the tension could be cut through the air with a knife.

“It has come to my attention that meat is no longer consumable due to the criminal organization, the Five Dragons, having a mole in each slaughterhouse deliberately lacing livestock consumables with poison. Therefore it is advised that none of us shall consume any livestock until further notice for your safety. Shall anyone have any knowledge of this, they shall come straight to the court and report their findings. I advise each and every one of you to have your own consumables grown so then you still have something to eat. Case closed.” The courtyard ruptured with screaming once again and the guards had to forcefully push the citizens out of the courtyard and lock the gate.

Not too long after, Chief Gong came in but something was wrong. He was handcuffed by his own men and dragged into the courtroom.

“GUARDS! What are you doing? He is our Chief!” Bao bellowed dumbstruck.

“Sir, he was found giving info to a mole. We also found this in his pocket.”

The guard held up the same seal found on the letter. Bao was thunderstruck that one of his most trusted advisors was working for the five dragons. Soon, more than twenty people, handcuffed, came in. It turned out those were moles in the slaughterhouses.

“We shall announce to the people that pork buns are free to eat once again! Guangli! Call everyone into the courtyard!”

# The Case of The Unknown Murderer

*Discovery Bay International School, Van Dommelen, Henricus Milan – 11*

This is a story that will entertain and thrill you. This is a story about the forceful and intelligent Judge Pao. Judge Pao is brilliant at solving cases apart from that he also takes care of the dead. Judge Pao always tries to be positive except for the fact that he has a scar on his forehead. He hates that. Judge Pao always tries to be the best at everything. He has a couple of rivals, one of them is Judge Wang, who works a tireless 18 hours per day, extremely hard. On top of that he is also very intelligent. Judge Pao always tries to keep up with him nonetheless, doing 2 things per day, and sleeping is difficult.

Judge Pao woke up early because it wasn't a usual day today. He and all of the other judges were going to have an amusing party. This is a very exceptional party where every 4 years only 150 of the best judges are invited. The party is located in a popular, petite, prosperous town and whoever has the best speech on why they should be there, will be invited. The selection process is mysterious, only a devilish 66 people are invited. The party is impossible to enter if you don't have an invitation.

Judge Pao casted a spell and with a snap of a finger, he was transported to the village rather than the party. Judge Pao used the wrong spell.

"What is this?" Exclaimed Judge Pao curiously. He felt the breeze of wind pass him and thought to himself, where am I?

He shouted "Hello, is there somebody here?"

He felt lost and afraid. In the far, he saw a colossal tower and started walking towards it. "Over here Sir" declared the guard "The party is over here."

As he entered the party room, he started to relax and enjoy himself. He chatted with some friends and admired the scenery. Hours passed until...the lights went out.. People started screaming. Nobody noticed that somebody was in extreme pain. 5 minutes later the lights switched back on. Somebody was lying on the floor. He was covered in blood, possibly dead. It took some time for people to find out what happened, though not for Judge Pao.

Immediately, he examined the body. He knew that whoever was stabbed was dead. He studied the knife. It was a Swiss bowie knife. It had a pebble silver blade covered in blood with a fancy midnight blue grip. It was a gruesome sight. "You killed him, you murderer!" shouted someone. Soon everybody started accusing Judge Pao of murder. The police came, before the ambulance even came, the police hand-cuffed Judge Pao and dumped him in the van. He was kept in there for what felt like hours, when in reality it was only 40 minutes.

The van started driving and took him to the largest, furthest, most secured police station where he was kept imprisoned for a while. Later that day, he went to court. He thought to himself I'm meant to be the person who is supposed to be the judge of what happened. After the trial he was found not guilty and could leave the police station. However, the only way he could keep his job is to investigate this crime and figure out who'd done it..

He went to work and cooperated with the police. Judge Pao quickly found out that Judge Shu was murdered. There were just too many suspects. It was impossible to find out who did it, however one thing was sure it had to be a judge. Although Judge Pao worked diligently and for long hours, he just could not figure out who'd done it. Then he realised that probably the only way to find out who'd done it, was to set a trap for the murderer to fall into. For days he was thinking about a trap. He needed an intricate plan and one that would be successful in one go. He was planning it out on a large, thick, recycled piece of paper. He was almost certain that this plan would be the most magnificent in history. There was no doubt in his mind that this amazing and fabulous plan would entrap the murderer and clear his good name.

The plan was as follows: if there'll be fake rumours and news spreading around about Judge Shu being alive then the murderer may try to kill Judge Shu again. The murderer isn't afraid. He's rather bold which he demonstrated by killing Judge Shu in a room full of judges, therefore there is a substantial chance the murderer will try again. Especially if that fake news will contain the information where Judge Shu is located and that she isn't supervised or guarded. Just in case the reason for murdering Judge Shu is that the murderer could frame it on Judge Pao and get him into trouble, he will be present at the location. To complete this plan someone will be dressed up as Judge Shu and will pretend to be her. To make this plan as safe as possible, undercover police will be present, as well as a

S.W.A.T. team and professionals who will communicate whilst looking at hidden camera footage to directly inform the actors about what is happening around them.

8th of October 1040. The day had come where Judge Pao was going to catch the murderer. Everything went according to plan, however they waited and waited but nobody showed up. But then... At 23:08 it happened. The honourable Judge Shuan attempted to murder the actor that was dressed up as Judge Shu. He had an unloaded gun in his pocket and a super sharp knife. The police caught him in action and took him straight to jail. Judge Shuan lived the rest of his life in jail and Judge Pao was called the greatest majestic master mystery solver protecting both the living and the dead

# The Case of The Undercover Detective

*Discovery Bay International School, Wilson, Charles – 10*

Bao Zheng was a wise detective. He had a crescent birthmark on his forehead and was always taking the matter into his own hands. He would always solve the mysteries accurately and was called the master of detectives. He was born in poverty but that didn't stop him from dreaming of being a hero to the planet. One day, when Bao was on his day off, he heard the news that someone had murdered the emperor of the island.

Bao Zheng immediately ran to the scene and saw lots of detectives already there and lying there on the floor was the body of the emperor. He spotted Detective Qing in the crowd of investigators, inspecting the body for any clues. Bao quickly walked to him and found a notebook. They opened it but all they found was one word. 'Bao' When everyone saw this they all looked at Bao Zheng in suspicion. He heard people whispering and pointing at him, Bao Zheng knew that he had been framed, Just then, an alarm went off.

Bao Zheng sprinted towards the noise and saw the community bank. He ran inside and heard a bang and the lights went out. Movement was surrounding him and Just then, the noise left and detectives came crowding in, leaving Bao with the blame for robbing the bank. "I didn't do it! There was someone else around here!" Explained Bao But all the other detectives were against him now. The island citizens started walking away in suspicion.

Bao immediately got grabbed and handcuffed. The police pushed him inside the van and took him far far away. It took a whole day with no food to arrive. When he finally arrived he could only see miles and miles of desert and in front of him was a hole that was modernised with metal and elevators. He started to get worried and thought he would have to go in. Bao did as the police said and jumped in. He fell for a long time until he landed. He looked around and realised he was in the middle of a vast factory. The corner of the factory was dark and gloomy with a narrow door. Bao followed them into the door where a tall man was sitting in the middle of the shadowy room. There was a flickering light hanging above a dusky, smoky table. The man slowly said that Bao Zheng was the very first detective to commit a crime like this, or was he? Bao Zheng explained how he got framed by someone. They asked him to describe the person in detail but Bao couldn't see the person in the dark.

After a few hours of being examined, he could finally go home and rest for a while. The ride back seemed longer than the way there. As soon as he got back to the village there were tons of people crowding him and asking him questions but all Bao did was push them out of the way and get to his bed where he could sleep for a while. Bao woke up to a window smashing and he saw people in masks looking around for something. The two people were whispering to each other and Bao vaguely hear "Where's the money?" and "It could be in here!" He knew they thought Bao had stolen the money and was trying to take it.

The next morning Bao was alone with no one around him. All his valuable items were gone and the sun shone on his eyes. He saw a note by his front door saying 'It was me who robbed the bank. Bao grabbed the note and rushed downstairs to show everyone that he was innocent.

But nobody believed him, they all thought that Bao wrote that himself to try and prove himself not guilty. He tried so hard to show them that he didn't write it but it was no use. He was the suspect in these crimes. He saw a group of people looking at him and agreeing that he could be innocent, so Bao quickly ran to them and asked them for help to prove everyone wrong and that he wasn't the criminal. They nodded and agreed and asked Bao if there was any more evidence on the case.

The group spoke to detectives and professionals about the case and convinced them to be on their side in the argument. After they gathered a big team of people to help Bao with the case to prove him innocent, they spoke to the police about it and as a team tried to find who put the sign in Bao's house. They checked the cameras, but it was too dark to see anyone. They inspected the locals of the village and narrowed the people down to just four suspects. It turned out that all four of them were other detectives trying to figure out the case. This got Bao very confused but the other people thought it could still be one of them who did the crime. The next day he asked all four of them questions and found two of them were clearly innocent. The last two people seemed really nervous at first but when Bao inspected them and checked them for any weapons He found one. A knife in the back pocket of Detective Qings trousers. The whole village crowded around Qing and started interviewing him and asking him questions like 'Did you actually commit this crime?' But He said nothing and didn't want to admit it to the whole town. Qing got arrested for thirteen years and Bao got all his belongings back and lived a happy life.

# Judge Pao & the Mysterious Knight

*Discovery Mind Primary School, Dash, Sai Anvika – 8*

Judge Pao did justice by day and by night. At night he turned into a superhero helping people in difficulty.

That night Judge Pao was standing and watching the roads and suddenly heard footsteps. When he looked around he saw a Knight holding a sword and she was sitting on a unicorn. The unicorn had wings. The knight said in a rough voice, "I need you". Judge Pao asked "Why?" The knight said my parents went for a vacation and stayed in a house. People used to call that house a troll house. My parents did not believe that. And that night my parents were gone. In the neighborhood nobody knows what happened that night". Judge Pao said "We will find out what happened there". Judge Pao asked the knight's name and said, "Open your mask". She opened her mask and said that her name is Tiana. Judge Pao was surprised and said, "You are a girl!" "Yes I am a girl, because my brother was also a knight but he passed away so I took his place. So, let's fly" Tiana said. Judge Pao replied, "what do you mean by let's fly?" Tiana said, "We will go sitting on my unicorn". Judge Pao hopped onto the unicorn with Tiana. Finally they reached the house. Lights were on in the troll house and they heard some laughing "Ha! Ha! Ha!" When Judge Pao and Tiana went inside, they saw stairs which led to the basement. Tiana said, "Let's go down the basement ". " Okay "said Judge Pao. As they were going down they kept hearing laughing voices, and when they reached the basement they saw trolls!! They were all green and in large numbers and in the middle were Tiana's parents, sitting in the chair. Tiana said, "Attack"! "Stop!" said her father, " Don't you see Tiana, the trolls gave us tea and welcomed us". "Oh we are really sorry we thought they were bad and going to harm you", Tiana and Judge Pao said. "We know people think we are bad because a hundred years ago there was King Gideon, he was the king of the trolls. He attacked the city and that's why we have a bad impression." Said the trolls. "But now we have changed ". Trolls said. "We are going to help you". Judge Pao said. "But how?" asked the Trolls. Judge Pao said. "We will tell the true stories to the people that you have changed ". So Judge Pao and Tiana started telling people that trolls have changed. People started to believe! Tiana said, "Great"! And trolls and humans became friends. "Thank you for helping me," Tiana said. "Welcome!" Judge Pao said. And like this Judge Pao solved this mystery!



# Judge Bao and the Case of the Missing Gold

*Discovery Mind Primary School, Davis, Jayden – 9*

Bao woke up on a sunny day. He had to go to the court because an important case was happening and he did not want to miss it. Bao changed into a navy-blue robe with a golden dragon around it. The golden dragon represented his honour. He grabbed his hat and went to the mirror. His beard had turned grey, he was growing old. His wife made him some noodles and dumplings for breakfast. He ate it very quickly and dashed off to the court.

As he entered the majestic court, he found the emperor Renzong waiting for him. He took a seat next to the emperor's throne and read the notes of the case that another minister passed to him. "Gong Sha, a millionaire has suspected Fa Zong, a worker in his house of stealing gold from his vault," Bao read. He continued, "A while ago, a soldier inspected the house to find the gold vault open and no gold inside, a knife on the floor and blood around it. Gong Sha says that Fa Zong stole it while he was asleep. He woke up when he heard noises and Fa Zong attacked him and showed some knife marks on his hand to prove it to the soldier." Just then Gong Sha arrived, followed by some guards and Fa Zong.

"First up we have Gong Sha, the man who claims to have lost gold," said a guard. "Please explain the crime," asked Bao. "It was 2 AM, I was sleeping. I heard footsteps and when I woke up, I saw Fa Zong. He attacked me, stole my gold, and made a run." The whole court took notes and called for Fa Zong. "I didn't do anything. At 2 AM, I was asleep and my wife can prove it. I woke up at 7 am to find guards around my house saying that I had stolen gold", Fa Zong said. The emperor thought for a moment and said "this case will continue after 2 days to give time to the judges to investigate".

Bao and the other judges left the court. Bao went to Fa Zong's house first. "Hello" said Fa Zong's wife. "I am Bao and I am here to investigate the case," said Bao. "I assure you he was here all night" said Fa Zong's wife. Bao went to Fa Zong's bedroom the room was empty except for a letter on his table. "Fa Zong don't tell anybody what you saw last night or else!" Bao read. He pocketed the letter and left the house. Next, he went to Gong Sha's mansion. Bao went to the door, but before he rang the bell he spotted a symbol on the mansion wall. He opened the letter to find the same symbol on the letter head. Bao decided to speak with Gong Sha later and talk to Fa Zong now.

He visited the jail and went to Fa Zong's cell. "Hello Fa Zong, I am here to help you," said Bao. Fa Zong turned his head weakly toward Bao. "If you are here to insult and hit me, just get it over with" he said softly. "I am here to ask you about this" said Bao raising the letter in his hand. Fa Zong suddenly stood up and looked at the letter in disbelief. "That letter, how did you get it. Ok, I admit Gong Sha has a bunch of robbers on his side, he uses them to get gold. I ran into them robbing a house with Gong Sha. He told me not to tell anybody this or else he will kill me," said Fa Zong. "Where are they now" asked Bao. "I don't know, but they said something about a ship dockyard," said Fa Zong.

Bao left the jail and went to Gong Sha's house. He rang the doorbell but before he went inside, he heard voices. "Quick, hide" said a voice like Gong Sha. "Fine" said another strange voice. Gong Sha let Bao enter and Bao looked around the house. "Did you hear what I said inside?" asked Gong Sha. Bao nodded. Gong Sha asked Bao if he had known about the thieves. Bao nodded. Gong Sha begged Bao and offered a lot of money to keep quiet. Bao refused and searched the house for the thieves. The thieves had escaped through the back door! Bao knew he had just lost the only opportunity to prove Fa Zong innocent. Suddenly he remembered something Fa Zong had said, the thieves said something about a ship dockyard. Bao went to the police station and got a couple of police to go to the dockyard. They eventually found the thieves and took them to jail.

The next day Bao went to the court. He took his seat and waited for Gong Sha and Fa Zong. They arrived shortly and the case began again. "I have found some proof regarding the case," said Bao. He asked a nearby officer to bring the thieves. He continued, "these thieves have been working for Gong Sha and have been bringing gold to him. Fa Zong saw them with his master Gong Sha one day and Gong Sha sent this letter to Fa Zong threatening him. This letter head has the same symbol as on Gong Sha's house wall. Then, I went to the jail and Fa Zong explained everything to me. I also went to Gong Sha's house and heard the thieves. Fa Zong told me that the thieves could be in the ship dockyard and police now have them in custody." Then the emperor spoke "Fa Zong has been proven innocent. Take Gong Sha to jail for 2 years." Bao once again proved himself as a just, incorruptible, honourable and always-with-the-poor judge.

## Judge Pao solves the crime

*Discovery Mind Primary School, Granayak, Benedek Nimrod – 8*

Once upon a time, there was a judge called Pao. He was very brave, fair and had lots of money because he solved lots of crimes therefore people rewarded him.

One day Judge Pao was eating when someone knocked on his door. Some soldiers brought a tall man who was handcuffed, because he had stolen food from a person. Pao asked the soldiers what exactly happened. One of the soldiers stepped forward. "So, I was walking to the well to get some water when a small man ran to me and said "someone has robbed food from me!" "I need help! He ran to the East". I dropped the bucket and started to run. After about 2 minutes I saw the tall man and shouted to him: "If you don't stop right now then when I catch you, you will go to prison for 6 months. Luckily he stopped. And then I brought him here. "Now you, tall man, tell us why you robbed that other man" said. Judge Pao. "Uhh..." I robbed the man because I was poorer than that man. "You're lying! Why would you rob food if you are poor?" shouted Pao. "Actually I'm not lying because I didn't have money to buy food." "Ok, maybe you're not lying but I don't know..." said Judge Pao. "But it's nearly night time and... what's your name?" "My name is Liu Wei," said the tall man. "You will have to go to prison but just until we find out if you are guilty or not." said Pao. For one week nothing interesting happened but then, Pao heard that Liu Wei had escaped from prison. He was very angry.

The next morning, Judge Pao heard that someone was knocking on the door. He saw a man with short hair. The man said to Judge Pao. "You have got a letter." He opened it and the letter said: "Dear Pao, I want to invite you to an important meeting in Shenzhen. A horse carriage will arrive at your home and it will bring you to the meeting. Please let me know if you can come on Friday. Please make sure the letter arrives before Thursday. Sincerely, Zhong." "Hmmm..." thought Judge Pao. I don't even know where that meeting will be, I don't think I will go.

He wrote a letter saying that he can't go. Two days later, he had another letter and it said: "Dear Pao, Please come to that meeting in Shenzhen. A horse carriage will arrive at your home. Please let me know when you can come to the meeting. Sincerely, Zhong."

After Judge Pao was done reading the letter, he wrote a reply that he can go on the next Monday. Early Monday at 6 pm, Judge Pao saw the horse carriage through a window, he went outside and sat down on a seat in the horse carriage. But, before they could start going, the coachy of the horse carriage asked Judge Pao if he could use the washroom in Pao's house. Judge Pao said "Yes" but unhappily. While the coachy went to the washroom he accidentally dropped something out of his pocket. But he didn't notice. Judge Pao went to pick it up. It was a letter. He was curious what was inside, so he opened it. And, here's what it said: "After you bring Pao to our prison, I will tell him that if he doesn't pay me 5000 golden coins he will be stuck in there forever. Remember. First, go over the big bridge. Next, go into the forest, and turn left at a big oak tree, then, go straight until you find our secret house. My plan is: we should use some of our money to buy a ticket for a ship and we will go far away from judge Pao and the people who know we robbed him. And we will be rich! Sincerely, Liu Wei." Judge Pao ran into his house and showed one of his soldiers the letter. He also told him to arrest the coachy because he is one of Liu Wei's friends. The soldier arrested the coachy. Judge Pao told him about Liu Wei, the soldier called 4 more soldiers and they started to go over the bridge. Pao also went with them. It started getting dark. "Do you have a torch or a candle?" asked Pao. "Yes" said a soldier and he lit a candle. Judge Pao looked at the letter. "Turn left at a big oak tree" he read. After two minutes of walking they saw a big oak tree. "It is here" said one of the soldiers. They turned left. Afterwards, they walked straight. Sometime later, they finally found Liu Wei's house. They knocked on the door, but no one answered. Then they knocked again... and again... and again. After that they just gave up and went away. The next morning Judge Pao went to the house again. But this time he dressed as the coachy. He knocked on the door. He heard Liu Wei ask "What is your name?" "My name is Zhong" said Judge Pao in disguise. The door opened. "I will show you something" said Pao. Liu Wei followed him. Where is Pao?" asked Liu. "I will show you" said Judge Pao. When they got to Judge Pao's house Pao said "Wait here". He told a few of his soldiers that Liu Wei is here and they captured him. Liu Wei went to prison for 5 years. Judge Pao lived happily ever after.

# That One Night

*Discovery Mind Primary School, Pillay, Manha – 10*

A mouthwatering aroma was filling Lemming Street, NYC. It was coming from House 305. The house belonged to the Zheng family. A Chinese family who recently immigrated to the US. There was Dao Ming Zheng aka Mr. Zheng, a monk and former martial arts teacher, his wife Ying Yue Zheng aka Mrs. Zheng and their 18 year old son, Bao Zheng, a shy boy who just got a fullbright scholarship to Harvard University to study Political Science. Bao's parents wanted to stay with him while he was at school so they moved to the US too. Since Bao was so close to his father, he had a special connection with his father, he could always know where his father was, especially on the night of a full moon. Bao always thought the power was useless, but little did he know, he would really need it later.

It was Sunday night, the next day was the first day of school for Bao so Mrs. Zheng made Bao's favourite dish, Hot Pot. The smell of the food was drawing the neighbours in, one by one Mrs. Zheng invited them in. The pot was changed for a bigger one several times and Bao kept expanding the table with empty boxes and making chairs out of them. Eventually, almost all the people on Lemming Street had gathered in the Zheng family's house. Bao started to feel a bit uncomfortable with all the people around so he went and ate in his room and got his stuff ready for school. After a few hours, when everyone was gone, Bao came out of his room, put his plate in the dishwasher, helped his parents clean up and went to sleep.

The next day, Bao woke up early because he was nervous about making new friends and socialising in a new environment. A few months passed, Bao was doing well in school and Mr. Zheng practised martial arts in the garden every day before dinner.

One day, Mrs. Zheng called Bao before he went out, Bao answered and said, "Ma, I'm going out for dinner with my friends. Can—" as Bao was about to finish his sentence, Mrs. Zheng said while crying, "Bao! Your father has been kidnapped!" As soon as Bao heard this, he quickly took his schoolbag, informed the principal and ran home.

There were a lot of police outside the house. One policeman was interviewing Mrs. Zheng, turned to Bao and said, "Tell them about your connection, for your father's safety"

Bao hesitated at first, but he took a deep breath, and said, "I have a special connection with my dad, I get a vision about his surroundings, but I only have this power on the night of the full moon." The police officer said, "Amazing, the full moon is the day after tomorrow!" Since Bao was so close to his father, he said, "Also, before I tell you, I have one condition. You have to let me take the lead in saving my father, and I use the police as help." The police officer said, "Listen, I am not in charge of that stuff, you're going to have to speak with the head officer about that." Bao said, "Fine, I will go to the station tomorrow and talk to him." The next day,

Bao went to the station and talked with the head officer. He managed to persuade the head officer to give Bao full control over the mission. While Bao was there, he told the head officer his plan to get his father back. He said, "On Thursday, which is tomorrow, I would like to meet with the officers I'll be working with so I can learn their capabilities. Then, on Friday, at the first hit of the full moon, I will find my father's location, come to the police station, make a plan with my team, do some drills and we will leave at the stroke of midnight.

It was finally the day of the mission. Bao was tense for the entire day because nobody knew where Bao's father was kept, it could be a building, an apartment, a house or even the backseat of a car. The sun had finally set, Bao used his power to see where his father was. With the help of a police officer, Bao saw that Mr. Zheng was kept in a building on an island, not too far away. Guarding Bao's father was Bao's best friend, Zhanshi. Bao was sure that Zhanshi was doing this because he was forced to, otherwise he wouldn't harm Bao's family.

At midnight, the police officers and Bao went to the island and saw that the entrance was surrounded by a few kidnappers. The police officers handled that as Bao went to the room where his father was. There was Zhanshi and Mr. Zheng. Mr. Zheng was tied to a chair and Zhanshi said, "I never wanted to do this but if I didn't, my parents would have been killed. There is another way out of the building but since your police officers have taken down the bad guys then I suppose we could go through the entrance? However, the police hadn't been able to take down the kidnappers, so once Bao, Mr. Zheng and Zhanshi went to the entrance, Zhanshi took Mr. Zheng and Bao, with his martial arts skills, managed to knock down all of the kidnappers. The police ran and handcuffed the kidnappers! They then offered a van for Bao, Mr. Zheng and Zhanshi. However, since Mr. Zheng was low on oxygen, the van rushed to the hospital. After a few days, all went back to normal. Bao went back to college. Bao saw how easy it was to interact with people and started socialising after working with the police so closely. Mrs. Zheng often invited people over for dinner and everyone enjoyed her excellent Chinese Cuisine.

# Justice Bao, the Crime Fighter of China

*Discovery Mind Primary School, Yio, Chen Yi – 10*

It was about a millennium ago during the Song Dynasty, where there weren't many heroes in the land of China. Corruption was common and the crime rate was high. However, everything was about to change, people just didn't know it. New hope of a better nation was coming. People would be amazed as crime would lower, this is the legendary story of Justice Bao.

One of his most famous cases took place many years after he was born, in a village. Someone lit it on fire, burning much of the village's infrastructure. The people of the village rushed to get water to save their homes from burning to the ground. Suddenly, a voice popped out of the crowd, "There are two wells, the sweet water well and the bitter water well, which one should we pick?" Shortly later, another voice shouted out, "Of course we must choose the bitter water well!" After hearing this, people rushed to the bitter water well. However, a large crowd crowding a small well meant that barely anyone could get water.

The culprits were in the crowd, watching as the fire spread. However, what they didn't know was that Justice Bao had been watching. He commanded some men to split the crowd so it would be easier to collect water to put out the fire. Using this technique, the people easily put out the fire. Then, he commanded the rest of his men to capture the two men who shouted during the fire. They were caught and at once, Bao started to speak, "You two started the fire! Normally, a fire is a serious situation, if you really wanted the fire to be put out, you wouldn't have cared about the water being bitter or sweet." With that, the culprits were dragged

away.

Another amazing case of Justice Bao took place in another village, he was traveling to a part of China in a cart pulled by horses and accompanied by a guard who was riding a horse. Meanwhile a drunk man was walking on a paddy field and muttering words as he wondered. Soon, he saw a gaggle of geese. He smiled as he picked one up and put it in his basket.

Justice Bao finally reached the scene and now the man and a servant accompanied by his master were fighting. The guard escorting Justice Bao went to break up the fight and once they stopped fighting, he gave the men authority to speak. The servant spoke first, "I was bringing the geese out for a walk and I sat under a tree, then I saw this man was walking with an empty basket but when he came back, he had a duck in it." "That's not true!" said the man. With that, they started fighting again. The guard spoke to Justice Bao, "This is a small case, let the villager figure it out." However, Justice Bao would never turn down a case.

At this point, a large crowd formed around the people. The men were still arguing about whose goose it was. Justice Bao had asked a man in the crowd to look for the owner of the paddy field and bring him over. Suddenly another someone in the crowd thought of an idea and called out, "We can release the goose and see if it gets along with the servant's geese. If it does, it means it's the servants. If it doesn't, it means it is the man's." Justice Bao agreed to the suggestion and the man had to let go of the duck, and to everyone's surprise, the geese fought each other, meaning it was the man's. Just then the owner of the paddy field, who was also the master of the man, arrived and he confirmed it as his goose. After hearing this, the crows started blaming the servant for falsely accusing the man of stealing a goose.

The servant bowed down and kept insisting the goose really was his but now nobody believed him. However, Justice Bao didn't think it would be so easy. He told everyone that he would take the goose to the place he had rented for inspection. Back at his house, he thought about all the facts, he muttered from time to time. Why would the servant be so keen to say the man was a thief even after he was proven wrong? Then, out of sudden, Bao figured out what to do, he went outside to the duck's pen to look for clues and he found the owner.

The owner was the servant. Justice Bao explained in court the next day that the waste was green. He explained that where the man lived had different vegetation from where the servant lived, meaning that if the goose had lived with the man, and its waste would be yellow. However, it was green. So, the man should have dipped it in another pond's water so the other geese would attack it.

Those were some of the legendary stories of Justice Bao. His fame spread when alive and is still spreading today. During the day and night he worked hard on cases. There are still many landmarks that remind people of his impact in China. There is no denying that China's detective is one of the best in the world.

# The Vanished Gem

*Dulwich College Beijing, Cai, Dorothy – 10*

‘I know that it costs 50 million coins, but I would never dare to touch the priceless Gem of Luck and Power! Please prove my innocence, sir!’ The shop apprentice pleaded with Judge Pao and the police official, tears spilling out of his innocent brown eyes. Relentlessly, the police official shook his head resignedly.

Judge Pao was a judge, or rather, the supreme detective that could act without the king’s permission. Five tresses of silvery-grey beard hung down his chin and above his upper lip, but he was also very agile and swift. He was 50 or more, experienced and aged, and he had made China almost crime-free.

‘No chimney to slide down, no dug-out tunnel, no signs of a break-in... Who else...’ Judge Pao murmured with a sigh.

He prowled like a panther around the shop, his keen, sharp eyes darting here and there. His eyes were defeated and somber, but they had a desperate and determined glitter in them.

The shop was airy and tidy, comfortably furnished so the customers could rest or examine the delicate jewelry.

‘Bring in my bloodhound. We need a reliable dog here...’ Judge Pao instructed. The enormous canine sniffed the jewel cabinet and grew uncontrollably excited and barked furiously at the silk window. Judge Pao’s eyes brightened as he saw the tiny hole in the silk.

‘Its so small a child could barely stick his arm in!’ I exclaimed, amazed.

‘A child? Really, is that the first thing that crossed your mind?’ Judge Pao asked in some tones of mocking, ‘Never judge a book by its cover!’ along with a mysterious smile.

I was somewhat annoyed, but I had to admit that it was extremely unlikely.

As if drawn by some powerful, invisible force, it gave a whine and tugged on the leash with the strength of a dragon. Dragging us out of the door, it broke into a run down the street. Quietly watchful trees and seemingly endless meadows flashed by as we galloped behind the bloodhound. Now and then, the scent was lost, but soon recovered. After a kilometer or so of breathless running, the bloodhound came to a halt. Wandering around a tiny pile of ashes on the ground, it was unwilling to move on. The scent obviously stopped here.

Judge Pao dropped down on the ground and began peering at the ashes minutely. Pinching up some of the powder-like substance, he sniffed it cautiously. His eyebrows furrowed and he blinked thoughtfully. After a moment’s hesitation he tasted it. An expression of bliss and excitement spread itself like a soothing blanket over his face. Only a few moments later, he jerked back to reality, furious and quizzical at himself for wasting precious time.

‘Royal library! Come on!’ He beckoned as we pelted down the street towards the building.

The mutter of voices dimmed as we strolled in, but my companion’s eyes were vacant and his thoughts elsewhere. ‘A herbology book would fit my needs exactly,’ he instructed the librarian.

The huge herbology book of reference lay on the table, its pages worn and yellow with age. Flipping through the pages, he finally found what he desired. ‘Listen to this! Small, ash-like and addictive, Catha Edulis leaf is a drug that can be used to drive away depression, diabetes and other sicknesses—temporarily. A native to the horn of Africa, it is extremely rare here. It is sold only in ‘The African goods—chartered trade company.’ It can make people blissful and peaceful for a few hours but dark moods also come. The taste is tangy and astringent, and it can be in many forms—paste, fresh shoots, oh, listen to this! It comes in powder.’

His eyes shone with an excited light, and he looked like a greyhound on a scent. Eagerly, he dashed out of the library, me at his heels, towards the jewelry store. I could not fathom what had made him so confident.

The apprentice’s eyes were gazing lifelessly out the window. Mr. Xu, the shop owner was shaking his head sorrowfully. An arrest of serious theft seemed to doom both of their fates.

Judge Pao informed everyone, ‘Come at once.’

A carriage took us to a stately mansion, which was the African goods store.

‘Do you know him?’ Questioned my companion. ‘Yes sir, he kept stroking the gem as he talked to us... That’s him!’

A tall man was standing next to the counter, facing us, and stroking something in his hands.

Judge Pao’s eyes glimmered with a rare sense of mischief, and whispered to a police official, ‘Tonight, prepare bundles of straw and a bucket of water. We might get everyone and everything.’

In the moonless night, with an air of the magician who is about to perform a conjuring trick, Judge Pao, flint stones gripped firmly, struck them powerfully above the bundle of straw.

A wisp of smoke curled up, and then the straw began crackling, like baby fire dragons, reaching higher and higher. ‘Everyone shouts fire on the count of three. One, two, three, FIRE!’ we all shouted, ‘One, two, three, FIRE!’

The door flew open, and the man darted out, panic in every lineament. His eyes were crafty, his face malicious. Upon seeing us, uttered a yelp of fear and spun around to escape.

Judge Pao leapt forward with a tiger spring and pinned the criminal on the ground effortlessly. Judge Pao slipped his hand into the chest-coat pocket of the man, and drew out the gem of fortune and power. There was also a mouse, with a bundle of *Catha edulis* leaf beside it.

Hatred and astonishment flitted across the criminal’s face as Judge Pao narrated, ‘A khat leaf addicted rodent criminal and a cunning owner is what sums up our adventure. A thread of powdered drug leading the thief to its target and back to the owner. That mystifies everything without my canine friend. I do hope our next case comes soon.’

# The Case of the Missing Badge

*Dulwich College Beijing, Khoo, Megan – 8*

“Good night, Alcott,” Grandma shouted from downstairs.

“Good night, Grandma,” Alcott murmured sleepily.

*Oof! Today was so tiring!* She thought, and within a few seconds, she drifted off to sleep, listening to crickets chirping. She began to dream.

“Hi!” exclaimed a face that was black and had the shape of a crescent moon on his forehead, there was a long, black beard on his chin. He was stroking it.

“Who are you?” Alcott asked, scared but surprised.

“I am Judge Pao!” the man announced, like he was talking in a big lecture, “Suppose you haven’t heard of me before?”

“Umm, yes, I have not heard of you before,” said Alcott, now trembling. *Who is he? Why is he here?*

“I’m here—” began Judge Pao,

“ALCOTT!” Grandma screamed at the top of her lungs, interrupting her dream, “YOU ARE GOING TO BE LATE FOR SCHOOL! YOUR SISTER LOUISA MAY IS ALREADY READY TO LEAVE!”

“Ok, fine! I am coming,” Alcott yelled, “I am coming!”

She began to walk towards her wardrobe but froze. Her Student Council badge was gone! She began to search frantically. No luck. *I will just wear my uniform without the badge*, she thought. After she ate breakfast, she walked to school slowly, thinking about Judge Pao.

She got into school just in time. The lesson went on slowly, and Alcott barely listened. She just looked at the clock, then, after a few minutes, the teacher said “Pack your bags! It is time to go home!” she bounced up and raced home as fast as she could.

After she got home, finished her homework, and ate her dinner, she went to her room to think. Did Judge Pao have any connections with the missing badge? Would she be able to find the badge again? While she was thinking, she slowly became sleepy and slept.

That night, she dreamt of Judge Pao again. This time, she asked him,

“Do you solve cases?”

“Yes, of course I do! Why else would I be called ‘Judge’?”

“Well, can you help me solve a case?”

“Sure,”

She began to explain to what happened to her badge.

“Why would anyone want to have my badge?” Asked Alcott.

“I think the person/thing who stole your badge is jealous of your badge. The person/thing might want it.” Judge Pao concluded.

“Also remember, that person can have access to your home!” And with that, he vanished.

BBBBBRRRRRIIIINNNGGG! BBBRRRIIIINNNGGG! The alarm clock rang. Alcott wore her uniform without the badge and ran downstairs.

“You are very early today, Alcott!” Exclaimed her grandma, “I haven’t finished making breakfast yet, so why don’t you read a book?”

“Ok,” said Alcott, obediently, “Before I read, can I ask you a question?”

“Yes,” Exclaimed her grandma,

“Does any of the people here in the house really want my Student Council badge?” asked Alcott,

“Well, your sister Louisa May is acting pretty jealous of the badge, she might want it!” answered her grandma.

*Well, my sister could steal my badge! Alcott thought, all I must do later is to wait until she is not in her room and find out if she took my badge!*

That night, her sister said she was going to go to a friend’s house for a sleepover for the night.

“Now is the best time,” Alcott muttered to herself, just after she left, “grandma is sewing in her room, and she thinks I am doing homework! I will go now!” So, she tiptoed pasted grandma's room, and jumped into her sister’s room like a spy. She tried to avoid the creaky step. CRREEAAK! Whoops!

Then, she ran to her sister’s wardrobe. At the bottom of the closet, hid her badge. It was shining in the light, with a turquoise cover, and sparkling gold lettering that said, ‘Student Council.’

*YAY! I finally found my badge! Alcott screamed with joy in her head. Now, I can wear it again!*

She tiptoed back, making a giant leap when she came to the creaky step, then ran back into her room. Mission Accomplished!

She got back to her room, opened her workbook, and started working just as grandma checked on her.

“All right?” Asked grandma.

Alcott smiled and said “Yes!”

“I just wanted to tell you, that it is time for you to go to bed!”

That night, Judge Pao came to vision again.

“Judge Pao, I want to thank you, because you helped me find my badge,” Alcott explained.

“No problem, that was my job. I need to go now, to help other people. Bye!” Judge Pao called before he was gone again.

After Judge Pao was gone, Alcott went to sleep. She decided to tell her sister next morning about the badge.

Next morning, Louisa May came home.

“Louisa May, can you come in my room for a moment?” Alcott asked,

“What do you want?” her sister demanded,

“I’m here, to talk about this,” Alcott said, calmly, while pointing to her badge. Her sister froze. Her face went pale. Her eyes opened wide, staring at the badge. She gulped.

“Ttthhaattt’ss—”she trembled out.

“Mine.” Alcott finished, “I have a question, why did you steal it?”

Finally, Louisa May settled down, and began to speak.

“I was jealous of the badge,” she admitted



“Did you know that you earn this badge, not steal it?” questioned Alcott, “look, I can help you earn one next time and you would also have one!”

“Okay!” exclaimed her sister, “I would love to have one!”

After that, Louisa May, and Alcott wrote a speech together, and Louisa May did a great job reading it.

“Alcott, you teach me to be resilient, confident, kind, full of integrity, and responsible. You are a great sister.”

Next term, student council members were voted. Louisa May could not believe it! She was officially a member of Student Council! She loved the role and worked hard playing it. She was proud and wore the badge to school every day.

# My Ancestor Judge Pao

*Dulwich College Beijing, Koo, Hailey – 9*

My name is Hailey Pao and I am 22 years old. After several years of demanding hard study, I never gave up. Eventually, I graduated from Harvard University with a law degree. I am training to become a powerful lawyer.

Every day, I meet diverse kinds of problems. I always make sure each of them has a solution. I am cordial and have patience with everyone. I listen and think carefully, always setting the goal of being a stunning lawyer. But one case struck me. I worked day and night to solve this case, but nothing was useful.

This made me distressed, and I kept sighing.

One weekend, after keep working overnight with no clue, I decided to go back to my hometown and meet my relatives for relaxation. At night, while I was chatting with my grandpa under the shade of the birch tree in the yard, grandpa saw my face, I was bending my brow with a low mood, he asked what happened, I told him:

“Grandpa, you know I am fairly good at solving cases, but one case struck me.”

Patting my head with affection, he replied, “tell me.”

“The case I met was that company A had borrowed money from company B and that it could be a fake contract. I needed to prove it.”

“I understand, dear, I’ve always wanted to tell you something, Judge Pao was your ancestor, as you know he was a famous magistrate in history. “

I was as excited as a flower about to bloom, as curious as a fish. Being Judge Pao’s relative, I was sooo surprised with honor.

Judge Pao was a logical and efficient person. He can make decisions quickly and stick to it. He was intelligent, shows integrity, and has experience and education. He was a loyal friend and made a good leader. His ability to communicate is also exceptional, and he could solve any case which other people thought was complicated.

“Judge Pao also experienced this kind of case a few hundred years ago. That case was about person A and person B. A blamed B for taking money and not paying it back. B said there was nothing like that. Judge Pao looked carefully at the receipt. He even checked history documents and dictionaries. Eventually, he found a tiny mistake. At that time, 邛 was spelt like 丘, but A spelt it as 邱. Judge Pao knew the culprit and punished A, who later confessed.”

Grandpa continued,

“You know, being a lawyer is a laborious job, you should read some of his cases and get some ideas, just like that story I just told you!”

I blessed him and went to my office.

From this story, I got a huge inspiration, so, I decided to find problems back to the contract. Using all my time and focus, I still could not find any problem. I spent the next few days in my office working on the contract. From top to bottom, I searched. I looked it up in the dictionary, no words were different. I remembered something company A told me, they signed the contract from ANQING city, but in the contract, it says ANQIN city! I looked carefully again just to make sure. Company A had lied! On the day when the contract was signed in 1980, there wasn’t ANQIN city.

I gave Grandpa a call and thanked him for his support.

I rapidly set up company documents and told company A that they had to be punished. They immediately confessed but were still punished.

Being a lawyer can be hard but sometimes if you focus deeply, you will find the solution.

I silently thanked Judge Pao, and I am so proud I had the same blood as him. I was also his offspring! "Judge Pao, I want to thank you for your guidance, I believe I could be a great lawyer like you in the future and solve more complicated cases!"

My life went on as a lawyer and I still met problems, but remember, "Success comes from experience, experience comes from failure".

# The Murder Aboard the Ship

*Dulwich College Beijing, Lam, Aiko – 10*

Screaming.

I woke up to screaming.

I sat up with a tearing jump and gaped, partly curious and partly in horror. The menacing noise was minacious, piercing the air like black ink spilling upon a white sheet.

As I rubbed open my eyes, people were frantically pushing open their cabin doors, looking braced, as if they were ready to sprint at any point. Behind them was the river, glinting and grinning evilly at me. Looking at it made me feel as if I was being kept far away from all humanity.

Apprehensively, I glanced at the window. The sun had yet to rise, and the pale moon still hung in the sky, which was a soft flurry of blacks and greys, decorated with tints of white. When the elegant birds flew like spirits overhead, the air was cold enough to make me shiver.

A crowd, with traumatized looks on their faces, had already assembled and was blocking my view. It was too early in the morning for a nonplussed mob. However, I didn't have time to question any of these petrified people. I pushed my way through the horde.

Despite my years of experience with cases, the momentary shock always caught me.

Sir Gao Jian Ting lay motionless on his bed. It was stained with the appalling colour of crimson; most of it already dry and crusted. It was clear that he was now insentient. The large pool of dripping blood and the way that the corpse's head was eerily lolling to one side didn't help to reassure the crowd.

Instantaneously, I motioned to the captain to hurry the crowd away and lock the door of the crime scene behind me. I checked for Gao Jian Ting's pulse – non-existent – and cast the bedsheets aside. Nothing had prepared me for what I was about to see.

Nauseating red liquid flowed in every direction, more of it near a large, almost-triangular wound. It was clearly a knife wound.

I could suddenly smell that grotesque blood in my nose. It was extremely hot and unpleasant, and my head buzzed like a swarm of bees. Chills ran down my spine, but I ignored it and simply started thinking. I could feel the tension humming in the air, sparking all around me, crackling with energy like an electrical gadget.

After the sultry sun had risen, the captain gathered some of his most trustworthy men, and they began room searches. I helped, and started with the cook, Ding Xuan's room. It was rare for a girl to be on board a ship, so I personally knew her well.

By her nightstand, I found a book I recognised; the one she was always holding but not seemingly reading. Out of pure curiosity, I flipped open the front page and found a family tree inked in pen. Gao Jian Ting's name was at the bottom, written over in red. And in pencil, Ding Xuan's name was written haphazardly next to the victim's. Were they secretly related?

"Pao, you must understand. We, my husband and I, didn't want a girl. We wanted a tough young man to inherit our fortune, so we only raised Gao Jian Ting." Madame Gao (Gao Jian Ting's mother) said, on the verge of tears.

"It's not like we abandoned her. We gave the girl away to a poor couple who desperately wanted a child."

"Did you give her a name before handing her over?" I enquired.

"We wanted her to be Gao Xuan, after her grandmother, but that poor couple had the surname of Ding."

"Ding Xuan?" She nodded.

After thanking her, I left the room hastily. While processing the newfound evidence, I walked back to my room.

Opening the door, I spied the whirl of long, dark-coloured hair hiding behind my door. "Any last words?" came a hushed voice of a girl.

My life flashed before my very eyes, but I was too late to utter a single monosyllable before pitch black darkness greeted me.

# When Judge Bao Meets Sherlock Holmes and the Baker Street Irregulars: The fall of the Amazing Zalindas

*Dulwich College Beijing, Li, Gavin – 10*

Sitting next to me in a cab is the excellent Detective Sherlock Holmes. Taking out his Newspaper, Mr. Holmes lighted up his pipe. Soon, I started to get confused. Who was I? Where am I? And what am I doing in this cab with the world's best detective? Looking out of the window, this isn't the Song Dynasty; it seems more modern. Turning around the corner of a street, Big Ben came into view. This view isn't correct. I am genuinely puzzled. Thousands of questions formed in my head, making it impossible to think. Frowning, I calmed myself down and slowly accepted the truth. This place is not China anymore. This place is more like England. It's easy to tell since there is no palace around here, no stone-carved lions, no lanterns across the streets and in front of people's homes, and especially, there is not one bit of joy and prosperity around these dark and lonely ghost towns. However, my thoughts are quickly interrupted by Mr. Holmes,

"Is there any problem, sir?" he asked,

"No, no, there isn't." I slowly paused to think about how to explain my feelings, "It's just I don't recognize these places." Unable to understand my sentence, Mr. Holmes slowly looked me in the eye, utterly baffled by what I had just said. Sensing that even Mr. Holmes didn't know what to do, I quickly changed the topic.

"That was just a joke!"

"Good one!" Then, through the reflection of the rearview mirror, I saw myself. To my astonishment, I am dressed in a black suit and tie. The pale white shirt underneath stood out to the world like a glowing lamp in a dark room. My dark-shade sunglasses cover most of my face. Looking down onto my lap, I carried a small revolver in my pockets. The crescent moon on my forehead and my black face reminded me of who I am. I am Bao Qing Tian from the year 1000s. Just as I finished examining myself, Sherlock said calmly, "Mr. Bao, let's get going."

First, traveling in black suits and constantly walking around town is weird. Plus, people would avoid you so much more often. Most of the time, there would be a lot of murmuring amongst the people you are walking with, "Oh, William! Leave that man alone." Second, the only clue I have is that we are investigating a fall from the night before in a circus. Arriving there, I was amazed by its monstrosity. It must have been more than ten meters tall and had a radius of more than twenty meters. Inside, I realized a rope was hanging from two wooden towers. A fall was highly fatal. A few blood stains still lie on the floor. Without a word, I knew what had happened last night and what I was to investigate. A few kids, which I think were Sherlock Holmes's assistants, were already there. Soon, they discovered a miracle. It was a machine that cut the ropes in half to have less strength to hold the Amazing Zalindas. As they tinkered with how it might have worked. Checking there was nothing left to look at, I told Sherlock and left.

Before I left, Sherlock gave me a suspect to investigate. His name was Vile. So, I went directly up to his house. Knocking on the door, a tense feeling filled me up. I put my hand over my revolver, just in case. Finally, he opened it, and I asked him to come out.

When he finally came into the light, I could see the vulgarity on his face. His black mustache is long and shabby. He holds a cane with his left arm even though he isn't disabled. His eyes are merely open, and his nostril flares open and close when he inhales. His wrinkled skin looks so parched that the skin is like a piece of land in a drought – full of cracks.

"What do you want?" He demands. At this moment, I remember my unique investigative style, telling lies to make the suspect confess.

"My team and I have collected enough information to safely say that you are the assassin of the Zalindas. These include your knife machine that was left behind in the thick ropes. Other information is safely put into the pockets of my partner, Sherlock Holmes."

"But, no, it can't be. How did you know it wasn't the axe-throwing maniac also participating in the circus? I have done nothing wrong?"

"I guess this is you, right?" Swiftly, I took out a picture of that man and showed it in front of him. "We know it is you because you also entered this show last night and left early, just after the fall. Plus, you were so calm that it was like nothing had happened." The man gasped as his face paled. "If you confess that you did it, the police might still spare you." Trembling, the man whispered,

"I planted the machine and killed the Zalindas." Then, I took out a handcuff and escorted him back to Sherlock.

"Mr. Holmes, the case is solved. This suspect said he did it himself. You can take him away to the police station now."

"Wow! Mr. Bao. Thank you. And there, the case is closed. Mr. Bao, your way of solving cases has helped us lots today. Without you, this case would definitely expand to tomorrow or even the day after tomorrow. Thank you very much!"

Now I remember this is 800 years into the future of my time. But the pursuit of the truth will always stay the same, no matter where and when. Before going to sleep, I finished the book's last page: Sherlock Holmes and the Baker Street Irregulars: The Fall of the Amazing Zalindas.

*This story is not the real version. Nothing has been copied, and some events aren't real.*

# The Ghsot of the Door

*Dulwich College Beijing, Lu, Chloe – 10*

A long time ago, at what we now may call Legend Garden Villas was a trash recycling dump. It was situated in a remote location on the outskirts of the city. Beyond the high fences was mountains of trash, garbage and food scraps. This was caused by the careless lazy workers who rarely even came to ship off or sort this trash. This was an honest lack in truth and integrity.

One cold, foggy winter day a young girl named Dorothy was visiting her perished great aunt. She had walked more than a mile just to gift her ancestor a visit. Her dark brown hair sliced across her pale skin making her shiver. In her ice-cold hands, she clutched a not quite alive rose. She trudged through the thick snow not realizing that she had took a wrong turn and was led away from the cemetery. Dorothy gazed forward to see the gates that she had come to see. She rushed swiftly toward the massive worn-out metal gates carefully placing down each of her steps, on alert in awareness of falling. She continued cautiously through the rouged land and advanced closer to her great aunts grave. It was dark by now and it certainly impossible to see clearly in the fog. Dorothy gifted the rose to her great aunt gently. Just then, a clear plastic bag drifted upon the grave. “Could people really be littering here? I must be out of my mind!”, Dorothy wondered as she turned her head back and to her shock, it was filled with filthy trash. Mountains of garbage sat there like demons dancing in Dorothy’s eyes as she watched in horror. At that very moment she had decided she was going to stay here until all the trash was cleaned and the souls in the cemetery would receive the cleanliness they deserved. That same night, a family sat very quietly together, huddling for warmth, wondering where their daughter had gone. Little did they know, it would be a long time before she would return to the old cottage perhaps never...

Day after day, Dorothy worked in this dump. Moving heaps of trash to other places. No one gave a helping hand to her causing her to feel lonely and isolated. She was accompanied by raccoons and rats scrounging for forage in this dark dump. Her eyes were swollen, and her little delicate hands had become rough and bumpy. Her back was bruised, and her arms were lined with scars.

She went on like this for 7 years until one day she asked herself a question: Why am I doing this? She walked over to the gates and asked a passing pedestrian “Where am I?”. “You’re in the garbage disposal las.”, the old man replied as he tried to fan the stench away with his wrinkly hand. Dorothy realized very quickly that half her life had been wasted. She dug at her aunt’s grave to find nothing but dust. Her face streaked with tears as she curled up in the ditch she had dug and fell asleep. While she slept, her soul shattered and crumbled. She was too heartbroken to stay alive. She lay there very still as her body was coated with dirt and sand. Later on, houses were built, and the trash was removed. Many years later, her soul had awoken and risen from the ground. Only to find that she was trapped between a screen door and a front door of a house in Legend Garden Villas. She never left though, some say she was trapped there by god. Others argue that she had made friends with the residents of the house. But I know a very different story: She had transformed into a young girl and lived in the household she died in and that young girl is me...

# The Galaxy Snake

*Dulwich College Beijing, Pi, Olivia – 8*

It was a cheerful Saturday morning in Rosemary Village, and a little girl named Kissimi was dressing up to go to the mountains and pick some herbs for her family. Her family is troubled by a mysterious disease. It made them cough and tired all day. Although she rarely found any helpful herbs, she kept being determined and hardworking. Her father had to work in the villages cotton farm every day, so the only help left in the house was Kissimi. Her sick mother had to spend all her time taking care of her wailing little brother.

Kissimi had long, dainty hair and a pair of twinkling green eyes. Her skin was deep brown from walking in the sun all the time. Kissimi sighed, while preparing for another day of exhaustion and weariness. She slumped the basket over her shoulders and set off for the twisting mountains.

Kissimi was collecting some raspberries and ginger roots when she heard a thundering roar. Before she even knew it, she was tumbling down the mountain in an avalanche along with lots of dust, earth and rocks. The sharp rocks cut through her skin like hundreds of knives. Her painful body was bumping against many hard rocks. Kissimi closed her eyes and took a deep breath. "This is going to be all right." She whispered. "It has to." As she rolled down the mountain, she kept a firm grip on her basket of plants, not wanting to lose the precious herbs she got. Kissimi's family needs her.

Kissimi woke up inside a dark, mysterious cave. Pointed stones hung from the ceiling, there was a tiny oasis, and all the tiniest sounds echoed loudly through the clearing. But wait! Something feels wrong. Very wrong. The cave walls were perfectly smooth, and there are no dust and cobwebs at all, it was all clean in every corner, like it has been carefully cleaned every day. "Hello? Is anybody here? The answer was a loud slithering, and, from the depths of the shadowy cave, came a gigantic galaxy snake!

The snake was a towering, magnificent creature. It has smooth, stardust coloured (all kinds of blue, all kinds of violet, dotted with white spots) scales, piercing white eyes, and a pink tongue flickering in and out of its mouth. As it opened its mouth, Kissimi saw shockingly sharp, white fangs that oozed shiny, starry poison. Kissimi loved snakes. They are always loyal and kind to you if you take care of them. Her family adores them, too, but they don't have enough money to buy snakes for a pet. Kissimi reached out a hand and turned her head away. And waited. Surprisingly, she felt cool scales press against her hand, and opened her eyes to see that the enormous creature had its eyes closed and its shiny snout touching her hand. Kissimi gasped silently, not wanting to startle this beautiful, majestic creature. She gently took her hand away, aware of the snake's reaction, and headed for home.

Kissimi visited the snake every day, bringing it fish for it to eat. She learned about it when she spent time with it, such like that it likes coiling on its favorite branch, it slithers as fast as the wind, and is always patient when is doing something wrong. She even learned to ride it! One day, when she was riding it to the top of the mountain, where the rarest herbs grow, the snake suddenly slid of the mountain, with Kissimi on its back, plunging deep into the wide, blue ocean. Kissimi can't believe how fast it swam. As they passed along a coral reef, it grabbed some fish in its mouth and kept hurrying in the vast, blue ocean. Who knows where is it going to go?

While the ginormous creature sped along the currents, Kissimi was lost in thought. She was wondering about where the snake is going to take her when it came to a halt in a stardust forest. Kissimi had never been so shocked in her life. There are silver herbs everywhere, the bushes were alive with berries, and the air buzzed with life. Everywhere they looked, there are at least ten stardust greenery or galaxy animals. She gasped. The rivers are northern lights swirling all around, all the animal's paws or hooves sparkled with stardust, their eyes glinted with wisdom and all the plants had a silvery sheen. There were things that she never found on earth, such as stardust foxes, starry owls, starlight leopards, starlight anacondas, etc. This was the most amazing place Kissimi had ever seen.

As Kissimi filled her basket with starry, sparkling herbs, the galaxy snake hissed and flicked its tail, as if beckoning her to climb on. Kissimi picked some sparkling strawberries and climbed on the reptile's silvery, scaly back. It looks like that they will have to move on. Then, with one swish of the starry snake's tail, they were off for Rosemary village, Kissimi's home. She can't wait to give her family the starlight herbs and tell the story of the stardust forest.



After the encounter with the galaxy snake, Kissimi's family all got well, thanks to the magic herbs that it gave her. Kissimi always went to visit the galaxy snake whenever she had time and named it Galix. Still, visits to the stardust forest were rare. As soon as Galix was discovered by Kissimi's family, she does not need to worry about loneliness anymore. But still, it was Kissimi who really thought about her health and happiness, and only she was Galix's true friend.

# Seeing the Truth

*Dulwich College Beijing, Pi, Samuel – 9*

The trees raged in the howling wind. Lightning shone fiercely and lit up the evening sky like a huge spiderweb. The rain contained not water but fear as it showered on Agent Klarsire. It seemed like a poisonous spider waiting for the time to strike. Thunder roared as the black coated man charged at the old cave. His name tag was written like this: ***border's 758<sup>th</sup> generation, number 7<sup>th</sup> guardian. Power: Magic Eyesight***

The border alarm was ringing. It was always the border guardian's job to stop the ferocious dragons from entering the human world whenever there was this alarm. The 7th guardian, Agent Klarsire felt different from the usual alarms. This alarm has something to do with him, something important deep inside himself, something is screaming and punching, trying to take over Agent Klarsire...

This alarm came from the cave, drumming at Agent Klarsire's ears. He felt the ground shaking at his feet. Agent Klarsire ran towards the cave, and... He saw it. A dragon's footprint, fresh and clean. He estimated that this footprint was left here no longer than five minutes ago. He felt his mind screaming at him, dragging him back out the cave. He scratched at his head, trying to stop his mind from thinking about running, but it was no use.

Agent Klarsire forced himself to go deeper into the cave, creeping silently into the unknown. Sweat puddled together at his foot. ROAR! The smell of smoke rose from deeper in the cave. Agent Klarsire cautiously tip-toed towards the sound and risked a peek around the corner. There was nothing... Wait. There's something. Something like the scent of... burned pork and beef! Not only this scent was detected, but the spy also caught the stronger scent of fire... Something must be wrong Agent Klarsire knew it.

He used his magical eyesight to examine the room, inch by inch, but nothing there! His forehead was dripping sweat like a tiny stream, and as hot as a cup of boiling water. He was about to give up when a spark of light caught his attention. He stared at that light and saw something like a switch. Hesitantly, Agent Klarsire turned the switch on. Beep. Beep. Beep...CREAK! A trapdoor swung open, revealing a staircase leading down. He rested his hand on the railing but regretted it as the cold and wet surface sent a sharp chill up his spine. Goosebumps formed on his shoulders and his fingers went purple.

ROAR! An enormous dragon flew into view. Agent Klarsire pulled out an arrow, aimed at the dragon's weakest point, its reversed scale. SWISH! The arrow flew toward its target but missed at the distance of the billionth of the billionth of a billionth centimetre. The dragon didn't just stare at Agent Klarsire, but responded with a fireball. Agent Klarsire ducked sideways, barely escaping the fireball. Making this second of hesitation into an advantage, Agent Klarsire shot more arrows, but they were deflected by the dragon's hard skin. The dragon dived down, missed by an inch, but left a scratch onto Agent Klarsire's left arm with his sharp fang.

Agent Klarsire tried to distract himself from the pain and grab for the last arrow. He hid behind a pile of gold the dragon collected and aimed at the monster. Cold sweat wetted Agent Klarsire's clothes. He shivered... something INSIDE his body shivered. He tried to focus. It was impossible. Distractions everywhere. Agent Klarsire shook the feelings off and stared at the dragon's reversed scale. FIRE! The arrow flew, dancing in the wind, as if enjoying its journey. THUMP! The dragon fell to the floor, sending a shake through the earth. For one second, it seemed that the cave was going to collapse on itself.

A shimmer was coming from the room. Agent Klarsire tried to locate the source of the light. He dug under the gold, checked the doorway, but it was nowhere to be found! A tiny drop of water fell on Agent Klarsire's cheeks. He looked upwards, only to find a dragon staring at him. The creature shot a fireball at Agent Klarsire. BOOM! Then...nothing. Agent Klarsire fell to the floor, unconscious.

Agent Klarsire opened an eye. "Where... How... What..." There were thousands of questions that Agent Klarsire wanted to ask, but seeing a dark ceiling above him, his voice faltered. Agent Klarsire wondered if he should go out. Should he? Would he? Dare he go? Before he had time to act, the door slammed open, revealing a figure. As by magic, the name popped into Agent Klarsire's mind.

“Dad,” Agent Klarsire had seen this figure in one of his dreams before, in a land far, far away. This memory was fading with every moment passing by during his time as a human... The only reply from the figure was ROAR! Agent Klarsire somehow... understood. The figure at the other end said something like: “Are you my son? Crasert Klarsire?” Before Agent Klarsire could reply, he felt a sharp stab at his throat, and tried to silence the pain.

He couldn’t control himself, and he held his throat while trying to balance himself. Years of memories flooded into his mind. He saw who HE WAS before he came to the world of humankind, and who he is just NOW. The conversation between him and his dad began again seconds after Crasert recovered from the sudden pain, the conversation became roaring, and ‘dragter’ (Dragon laughter).

He felt a soft, almost imperceptible tickle under his throat. On one of his memories, he saw a female dragon’s reversed scale pulled off, removing her life as well. This must be MY reversed scale! Thought Agent Klarsire. Crasert felt himself growing, and becoming bigger, while scales popped up on his skin. “You, my son, have much to learn.” and with that, Crasert’s dad soured into the sky, disappearing into the clouds. Without hesitation, Crasert spread out his wings and followed his dad into the clouds, over rainbows, and into their real home, Dragonland.

# Who Robbed the Jewellery Shop?

*ESF Bradbury School, Durston, Leah – 8*

Judge Pao's mom, was a monster and she looks VERY weird. She has orange eyes, ten ears, five mouths, two noses, and her name is Sparkle and she's not even a little bit sparkly. She is a weird lady. Sparkle's work is literally: How to hurt your child. She's like Cinderella's Step mom to Judge Pao! She's the STRONGEST LADY ever!! Every time Judge Pao asks his mom a question, his mom SHOUTS AT HIM and puts him in TIME OUT because he doesn't know the answer. Even though Judge Pao was only a BABY his mom would kick him and hit him. But luckily, he was a strong baby boy, even when he was a baby, he could lift up a whole raft! When Judge Pao grew up, he wanted to be a kind, helpful, beautiful, boy! NOT like his mother Sparkle.

Cristy was a twenty four years old man and he only had about two hundred or one hundred dollars and was really upset about that so he went to PRETEND that he's homeless so people would give him money. His BFF called Bicky, was about twenty two years old and HE had about one thousand or two thousand and felt really REALLY bad for Cristy. Cristy asked: You are so so so so rich so do you know how to get me rich?

Steal someone's money, NO! Rob the bank, NO! But then Cristy saw what was on Bicky's finger? It was shiny, silver, patterned, and beautiful! Cristy asked Bicky: What in the world is that beautiful shiny silver patterned loop on your finger? Bicky answered: It's called a ring! My mom gave it to me a few days ago! Cristy said: Can I have one? Bicky answered: OF COURSE!! But I only have one of them... Hey!! Why don't we rob the Jewelry store hmmm? Cristy thought...YESS! As they reached the Jewelry store, they tried enter softly and slowly. As Bicky unbuckled his seatbelt because they had stolen Judge Pao's Lamborghini to get to the jewelry store, he saw in the window all the keepers sleeping and there was...A LOT. Cristy was VERY disappointed, Bicky didn't want to be a mean friend and make Cristy go in alone so Bicky went in first to cheer up Cristy.

C-mon we need to do this fast fast fast!!! We only got like about twenty four hours so we need to...RUN!!!! said Cristy. As they went under the lazers, OUCH! Bicky got stung by the lazers. Bicky was strong like Judge Pao! So Bicky didn't give up. Over the lava parkour. HOT HOT HOT! Cristy's shoe was on fire. But...Cristy just took his shoe off and kept on going! They never gave up!

The final one was the BEST piece of Jewelry. The hardest also! Jumping on a REAL SKELETON FROM REAL PEOPLE!! They were really scared, But... they came this far to rob the jewelry store so they still didn't give up! The skeletons were stinky, bloody and slippery! But at last, they reached the end but they were hot, and sweaty. They stole it and did ALL OF IT ALL OVER AGAIN! So now...THEY ARE THE MOST FAMOUS CRIMINALS!

Judge Pao woke up and put his hand into his pocket and searched for his car keys but no keys could be found. He looked in his pockets, shoes, wallet, and his favrouite bag, but...No keys. Judge Pao felt really sad so decided to FIGURE OUT who did it. Judge Pao checked the bank, the houses, and he never wanted to do this before, but... He wanted to GIVE UP! But he wanted to try one more time so he thought and thought and thought... finally he figured out where he was going to go to search for his keys and Lamborghini. The JEWELRY STORE!!!!!!

After he WALKED to the Jewelry store, he found his car keys in front of the door. He felt so happy! He even found his Lamborghini parked blocking the entrance. Why are his keys infront of the door? And his car parked messy!? Judge Pao wanted to investigate what happened.

He was still only eighteen years old but...he wanted to be a...DETECTIVE! He was really excited. He sat down for hours and hours thinking of what it would be like. Ten seconds later there were a earthquake and it made Judge Pao sooo dizzy!! But he wanted to continue the mission.

On the way to the mission, Judge Pao saw a MASSIVE pet store and had enough money to buy a pet. He started running inside, and found a cat! No...too fluffy. A parrot! Nah too dirty. A dog! No too....Perfect! A dog is perfect for a.... Guardian? Yes! He needs to give it a name! All pets need a name. Bob! No too hard, Shadow! Nah too shady, It starts with a T so what about.... Tom! Perfect! NOT! What it's already dark now!? I didn't even finish my dog name yet! Oh well, the stars are telling me to sleep, Twilight stars....Wait a Minute! I can name my dog Twilight! C-mon Twilight, we need to sleep!

Twilight started moving her legs and her nose went up and down. That looked a bit weird to Judge Pao so He decided to follow Twilight and then...

After a LONG discussion between Judge Pao and Twilight, they finally saw who robbed the Jewelry store! Bicky and Cristy were wasting time THINKING ABOUT what people would say if they saw Cristy's BEAUTIFUL peace of Jewelry but they forgot that they had to escape this place before anyone sees them! So they went to the Lamborghini and...It was NOT THERE! You know why right? Because Judge Pao took it home! They were TRAPPED next to the JEWELRY STORE! Judge Pao's guard dog, sniffed their way to Cristy and Bicky, BINGO!! They found them.

# New Tales of Judge Pao

*ESF Bradbury School, Han, Sophie – 8*

As morning came, with the sun as bright as gold, a man walked out of the house, and he was judge Pao's son. His name was Pao Jiu. He was as smart as his dad Judge Pao. Pao Jiu became a detective like his dad.

That day, the emperor gave Bao Jiu a message, the message says, "Detective Pao Jiu, there in the town is a case about missing of the giant bell in the temple. I hope you can solve the case." After reading the message, he decided to go to the temple with his men and find out who stole it. As they arrived, it was already half past 10:00 and Pao Jiu got a clue by looking at the floor! There were footprints and they led to the giant bell, so he knew it must be a people who did the crime. On the place where the bell used to be, there was water everywhere and a rope was lying on the place like a statue. Using such clues to think, Pao Jiu finally knew how the people stole the bell. A man called Tai Bo Wen asked to Bao Jiu, "Sir Pao! How do you estimate how the people stole the bell?" Pao Jiu answered, "So first, the people spread water on the floor so that the bell can slide forward, but before that, the people used the rope to tie the bell and pulled it down. Then, the people could push the bell to slide out the temple, all the way to here just now. I saw bull's footprints, so it must mean the people put the bell on the cart and let the bull pull the cart. I also can estimate that it must be a lot of people and they all must be men to put the bell on the cart. " Pao Jiu gasped, "Now we just need to find out who took the bell, and this must be hard so we all can't give up!"

Suddenly! Pao Jiu heard a sound from the wooden basket. He flipped off the lid and there stood a trembling man hugging his leg tightly in the basket. Pao Jiu questioned, "Do you know anything about the bell case?" the man stammered, "Y...yes, I...I do know so...something about the...the b...bell." Pao Jiu ordered, "Please can you tell me?" the man replied, "OK, I saw a lot of men moving the bell out. I was frightened of them, so I hid here." as he pointed the wooden basket. Pao Jiu inquired, "Can you give me some details?" the man answered, "Sure, the head of them wore black shoes, a scar on his elbow and wore a mask. That's all." Pao Jiu led his men and the guy in the basket out of the temple.

The following day, the guy in the basket was gone! Pao Jiu let all the peoples in town come to the temple to see if the men in the basket was there, and they had a conversation, "Now, I want you one by one all line up in a straight line!" ordered Pao Jiu. But so far, there were no signs of the guy and the stealer that the men told him. Pao Jiu knew that nobody was the stealer, so he thought hard...then, he thought of the guy who told him all the clues and he questioned why he would run away if he was not the stealer. Now he can make a conclusion that the stealer was actually the guy who told him the clues!

Luckily, the guy hadn't got far. So Pao Jiu's men can catch him. Finally, the guy admitted that it was him who stole the bell in the temple. From then on, the town became as usual as before!

# New Tales of Judge Pao—Human Extinction

*ESF Bradbury School, Sage, Edgar – 8*

Judge Pao was sick so he took magical medicine that he got from an evil and mysterious wizard doctor, who had plotted to get rid of Judge Pao years ago because he did not want him to investigate all his crimes. So, after Judge Pao took the medicine, he started feeling dizzy... and then a bit sick. Finally, he just lay on his bed and fell asleep for 1200 years...

When he woke up, he was far in the future and he knew it was not his own time. All the people were gone, they were dead. But he saw weird abandoned machines which were actually aeroplanes, cars and motorbikes. Everything was broken. He smelled all sorts of foul smells which were pollution from burning gas and fossil fuels.

“What happened? I’m very confused,” Judge Pao asked himself, puzzled. He started feeling boiling hot because the climate was sizzling. Suddenly, it seemed like someone was talking to him. The quiet voice said calmly, “Remember your powers.” He actually had powers that would make him have visions of the past! But he could only have visions when he was sleeping, so he would need to wait until night.

That night, in his visions of the past, he saw lots of floods with so many people struggling to survive. Meanwhile, hurricanes ravaged cities. There were so many wild fires that were burning out of control, whole forests and many houses were on fire! People were fighting for food and water! He realized how horrid it was. There were in fact bones lying around and in order to survive, they had to use the bones to make soup! Judge Pao even felt a little sickened seeing all his visions.

When he woke up from his visions, he kept on investigating why everyone was gone. He recalled his second power which was to be able to reanimate dead people, but only for a brief time. Just then, he found a dead body. He used all his magical strength until the dead body seemed to be woken up! Straight away, the resurrected man asked in shock, “Who are you and where am I?”

“You don’t know who I am. I’m the great Judge Pao, the most famous investigator in the whole of China’s history!” He continued, with a clear voice, “I found you dead so I used my powers to bring you back to life, but I am sad to say you will be alive for only a brief time. By the way, I don’t know where we are either, but... but what happened?”

There was a pause. The man finally replied, “Well, we never really looked after the environment and did not do enough to stop global warming. Sea levels rose, the summers became extremely hot and dry, the winters became colder and harsher. Every year, there were more and worse super storms like powerful tornadoes, crazy hurricanes and freezing snowstorms. All the crops died and so did the animals too. Humans started fighting with each other for food and water and eventually we all starved to death.” With those last words, he collapsed to the ground again, dead.

Judge Pao was stunned after he heard what the man said. The dead man was telling the truth because it was exactly like his visions. He felt like he needed to investigate further by questioning more people. He talked to people like scientists that studied climate change, doctors, presidents of countries, and heads of giant companies. One by one, he reanimated those people to get more information.

With sadness, Judge Pao soon realized who had murdered the human race... it was the humans themselves! They were the victims and the murderers at the same time. They were greedy, wasteful and did not care enough to change their bad habits. Basically, they destroyed their whole planet.

Judge Pao was determined to fix this massive catastrophe. He pressed his palm against his moon-shaped birthmark on his forehead while closing his eyes, using his powers to send his spirit back to the past to warn all the people to start making real and urgent changes before it was too late to save the Earth and the human race. Let’s hope Judge Pao can save us!

You are probably wondering what happened to Judge Pao himself in the end. He used nails, wooden boards and metal sheets left lying around to make a hut to live in. It was endless work but eventually he finished it. It was quite ramshackle but he did not mind because at least he had shelter. One morning, there was a knock on the door! He was so excited – maybe his mission was a success! He opened the door and saw a man right in front of the hut. He also saw that nature had returned, with the sun shining brightly in clear blue skies, birds were chirping and children were laughing and playing.

The man glared at Judge Pao and said furiously, “What are you doing on my land? This is private property!” But Judge Pao did not care, he was simply too proud of himself because his mission had clearly succeeded!



# New Tales of Judge Pao

*ESF Bradbury School, Tsang, Hui Ching Emma – 10*

“Mom, have you ever heard of Judge Pao? You know what, my friend Bao is a descendant of Judge Pao! Isn’t it great?” Asked Nia jumping up and down with excitement. Mom replied with a soft voice, “Indeed! He’s a legend! A fearless judge who spoke against discrimination and corruption. He had unusually dark skin with an iconic moon-shaped scar on his forehead.”

Nia begged mom to talk more about Judge Pao. Mom started, “Snuggle up...A famous tale about him was called *“A Civet Cat Exchanged for a Prince”*. The tale began when Emperor Zhengzong of Song Dynasty, who had no sons to be the next emperor, announced that whoever gave birth to a boy first would become the queen and the boy would be crowned prince. One year later, one of the concubines gave birth to a boy, but the other concubine was jealous and swapped the baby boy with a civet cat.

When the Emperor came to visit, all he saw was a civet cat and he was told that the concubine giving birth to a monster was an evil spirit and sent her away.

Judge Pao’s instinct told him this was not possible, even though everybody including the Emperor believed the rumour. He investigated the case and scrutinized every suspect; the evil plot of the malicious concubine was finally uncovered. The real mother and the son (who succeeded as an emperor) finally reunited.”

“Mom, another story, please!” Nia begged, “Meow!” whimpered Moona (Nia’s beloved cat) in a distance. “What was that?” asked Nia curiously. “Don’t worry, Moona just being naughty. You have passed your bedtime, goodnight!” Mom said. Then, the lights flicked off.

The next day, Nia had searched for Moona in every nook and cranny of the house, but she still couldn’t find it. Nia was devastated for losing Moona. Few days later, Nia noticed something strange about her neighbour Ms Li (an old lady with tired eyes) – her curtains were unusually closed and all the windows were locked. Nia found it even more peculiar when Ms Li came out of her house, but as soon as she glimpsed Nia, she gasped and instantly shuffled back in. On the very next day as Nia was heading to school, she heard a “meow” coming from Ms Li’s house again. That aroused Nia’s suspicion as she never knew Ms Li had a pet. At school, Nia told her friend Bao about all the odds that have been happening. After school, as Nia and Bao were walking pass Ms Li’s house, they heard another shrieky “meow” which Nia instantaneously recognized it was Moona.

Bang! Bang! Banging on Ms Li’s door, the girls were clenching their fists as their eyebrows narrowed! Ms Li opened the door and without a second of hesitation, Nia immediately raised her voice “GIVE ME BACK MOONA THIS SECOND!” Ms Li pressed her lips and shook her head as if she was innocent. Then she showed them pictures of herself and her cat – it had the same black patch, same brown and black forehead and same sparkling golden eyes as Moona. However, Nia knew the one in Ms Li’s house was definitely Moona because of the spiritual connection she felt. Nia and Bao had no choice, but to leave slamming the door with a loud...Kaboom! With her eyes boiling and smoke coming out of her ears, Nia ran to her mother and told her all about Ms Li. Mom thought her ideas were ridiculous and just brushed her aside, saying, “You’ve watched too many movies!” Nia sunk to the ground and her tears streamed down her face like a waterfall; she then dashed to her room and slammed the door shut. Nia almost cried her heart out while Bao was by her side.

The girls did not notice it was almost mid-night; until Bao’s necklace started to glow and make a sparkle sound. The girls were stunned by it and suddenly they were sucked in. At first, they did not have a single clue what had happened, but then realised they were at Judge Pao’s courtroom! The courtroom was filled with magnificent paintings and swamped with many serious guards standing upright. The solemn silence inside the courtroom made the girls feel anxious.

“Greetings Children! What seems to be the problem?” Judge Pao spoke in an ear-splitting voice, “Greetings multi-great-grandfather, my friend’s cat was kidnapped by her neighbour, but we have no way to get it back!” Bao trembled. In a click of Judge Pao’s fingers, Ms Li appeared. She seemed confused but was forced to stay silent. As Judge Pao interrogated Ms Li, she tried to ignore him and run away. With a clap from Judge Pao, two stony-faced guards grabbed Ms Li’s both arms while she squiggled and squirmed to get away “GET OFF ME!” Ms Li wailed angrily as she bit the hand of the guard which made him squeeze her arms even tighter. “Silence!” Judge Pao roared with anger and sent the guards to search her house. Ms Li chanted loudly, “Don’t you dare search my house!”

The guards came back in a few minutes with a cat. Judge Pao started to mummer with some strange sounds and the cat seemed to understand and reply with a few “meows”. After a while, Judge Pao nodded his head gracefully. “Well, for the very last time... Did you kidnap Moona?” Judge Pao demanded with a very firm voice. Ms Li broke down in tears, “Alright! I had enough! I missed my cat so much! Moona looked exactly the same as my beloved cat!” As soon as Ms Li finished her last word, a strong beam of light appeared.

“Meow! Meow! Meow!” Nia was awakened by Moona’s rough tongue. She hugged Moona as tight as she could and pressed its face against her red cheeks. Happy tears rolled down Nia’s cheeks. When she was leaving to school, she noticed Ms Li’s house was left empty without a single sight of her...

# The Pearl Necklace

ESF Bradbury School, Yeung, Hailey – 8

“Coo! Coo!”, a mailing pigeon landed on Judge Pao’s working desk. It poked the desk to alert Judge Pao to read the letter which was tied on its leg. This was the letter from the princess.

*Dear Judge Pao,*

*Sorry if I am interrupting you. I have a mystery for you to solve.*

*As you know, I have a very precious pearl necklace but it was stolen! The suspect was pointing to a skilled young man called Zhi Cha. I am not sure if he stole my necklace or not. I don’t want to let the thief escape while an innocent person takes his place. Zhi Cha was the suspected one because he was the one who was asked to catch mice in my bedroom but he knocked over my treasure box which contained my lost necklace. Thus, my maid pointed out Zhi Cha to be the thief because she witnessed Zhi Cha holding my necklace while other jewelries were on the floor. I was thinking who would help me after speaking to my dad, the king. Then I thought of you! Please help me with this mystery.*

*Best wishes,*

*the princess*

After reading the letter, Judge Pao called Zhi Cha to attend his court at once and interrogated him. However, when he asked Zhi Cha about it, Zhi Cha’s eyes were brimmed with tears and claimed that he was innocent. He did not steal the necklace at all! Judge Pao was puzzled. It was now up to Judge Pao to solve the case.

He bravely set off his investigation journey with his partner. On his way, he sensed someone following him. He looked back and got a glimpse of a young man. Judge Pao and his partner just kept alert and ignored the young man who was hiding. He went on and on until he could take a rest. When Judge Pao reached the palace where the princess lived, he asked the princess questions as soon as possible in order to get the clues of finding the necklace thief. However, he kept on having the urge to look behind.

When their conversation was finished, Judge Pao and his partner scanned the princess’s room. There was a note on the floor. It wrote “Thank you for the necklace! I will come back soon! The sentence “My arrival is every night! was “ very inconspicuous because it was written in the same colour of the note. Unfortunately for the thief, Judge Pao could still read it—the thief accidentally dropped some black ink on the light –coloured paper. Some black ink spotted the light–coloured words, creating a contrast and so the sentence was highlighted. Judge Pao informed the king about his discovery so that he could send his soldiers after him. When the king looked at the handwriting, he immediately recognized it. It was his officer, Lee Chau’s handwriting! Lee Chau the officer felt his body stiffening and held his mouth apart. The king’s soldiers promptly arrested Lee Chau while he was still in shock, and sent him to jail.

Another group of soldiers also discovered that the princess’s lost necklace was hung around Lee Chau’s wife’s neck. Lee Chau’s wife boasted that she got a valuable present from the palace. She did not know that Lee Chau stole the necklace and gave it to her as her birthday present. She showed off in the town square, arousing the soldiers’ suspicion. Judge Pao approached a group of soldiers guarding the palace’s gates. “Did you witness anything unusual the night of the robbery?” he asked the soldiers. One soldier replied,” We saw Lee Chau the officer being very suspicious. Something was bothering him and making him tense!” Now, Judge Pao was really sure who stole the pearl necklace—Lee Chau!

When Judge Pao told the princess, she smiled and gave a thumbs-up to Judge Pao and his partner. Judge Pao's eyes beamed with joy because he solved another mystery. The king's eyes sparkled with contentment and appreciation to Judge Pao. To his delight, he awarded Judge Pao a big bag of gold.

On his way back home, he felt somebody following him secretly. He shouted loudly, "Don't hide! I know you are here!". The spying man was Zhi Cha! He came out and kneeled down. He cried tears of joy and said gratefully, "Thank you so much, my dear Judge Pao! I followed after you just to make sure that you would find out the truth wholeheartedly. Now I really believe that you are the best judge." Judge Pao stroked his beard and said, "It was just my duty. No one should be wrongly prosecuted and no one who has committed crime could escape!"

# The Journey

*ESF Discovery College, Jaithalia, Aashmi – 10*

Long, long ago there lived a young boy named Judge Pao. Judge Pao was an honest and kind boy who at a very young age had lost his father. He was only nine when his father passed away so he gave up school and volunteered to work at a dumpling restaurant.

One very cold winter his mother fell ill. Since Judge Pao was an only child, he went to find a doctor. He asked his neighbours where to find a good doctor since there was none in his village. Many people suggested he go to Niuji Village. Niuji Village was a ten-hour journey by cart, but walking it was a fifteen-hour journey. So Judge Pao went home, packed some food and water and set off into the woods.

After a few hours, Judge Pao became tired and sat down to rest. All the trees were covered in snow. A few minutes had gone by and a cart came. The cart stopped and the driver asked Judge Pao where he was going. Judge Pao said that he was going to Niuji village to find a doctor because his mother was sick. The Driver said that Judge Pao was lucky since he had some medicine in his cart. Judge Pao took the medicine and thanked the driver for his help.

Judge Pao was about to enter his village when some bandits came and blocked the way. They said that they will not let Judge Pao pass unless he gives them something valuable. Since Judge Pao didn't have anything else and he desperately needed to go home, he gave them the medicine.

When Judge Pao entered the village he took off to his house. While going there he bumped into a friend. His friend—Haoyu— asked him why he was in a rush and Judge Pao told his friend the whole story. His friend gasped when he told Haoyu that a thief had stolen the medicine. Judge Pao was about to go home when Haoyu suddenly remembered something. Haoyu told Judge Pao to wait for him and Haoyu disappeared in his house. Judge Pao waited a long time until his friend came out. Haoyu handed a bowl of some herb remedy to Judge Pao and told him to give it to his mother. Since Judge Pao trusted his friend he took the herb remedy and went home. When Judge Pao reached home he gave his mother the herb remedy. Judge Pao's mother made a full recovery in a few days. Judge Pao was grateful for his friend and everyone that helped him.

# The Christmas Catastrophe

*ESF Glenealy School, John, Malaika – 8*

All was quiet on a cold December night in Harbin. Except for one tall building hidden past the ice village. This was Santa's secret factory set up to deliver presents to all the children across Asia. There was a tinkling in the air and a loud crash. Santa Claus' sleigh had just landed on the roof. In a flash he slid down the chimney with a tall sturdy man dressed in black, with brown glasses. The elves were busy getting ready to wrap the Christmas presents. "Hello my friends! This is Mr Black, the new toy inspector. He has come to check the presents," said Santa. The busy elves waved and pointed to the Toy room. Santa and Mr Black walked in. Suddenly the elves heard a loud cry. Alarmed, they rushed in.

Mr Black was standing next to Santa. Santa looked baffled. There were no presents in the room. Not even a teeny tiny one with coal inside. "What will I do? I don't have time to make new toys," wailed Santa. "I know who did this," said Mr Black. "Who?" asked Santa. "I'm sure it was Mr Cheats, Mrs Greedy or Ms Loots," Mr Black said. "How do you know?" asked Santa. "Well, they are always causing trouble in the ice village and I think I overheard something about presents." "Stop!" came a loud voice. Santa froze.

"Who said that?" asked an elf nervously. "Me," said a man with gray hair, black robes and a candy cane scarf. "And who are you?" asked Santa. "You don't recognise me? You must be getting old, I'm your old friend Pao" the man said. Suddenly Santa recognised him. "Judge Pao? I haven't seen you since the case of the missing reindeer! Mr Black, we are in luck. Judge Pao is the best detective in the world. He always figures it out." He turned to Judge Pao, "What are you doing here? Can you help us?" Judge Pao nodded "Of course! I am on vacation but this is an emergency. I heard the commotion as I was passing by. Do you have proof Mr Cheats, Mrs Greedy or Ms Loots did it?" "None of your business!" blurted Mr Black. "As if you could figure it out!" he added. "Well, I could, actually," said Judge Pao.

Judge Pao bent down. "Hmm," he said. "There's a black hat on the floor." "It must have been left by the thief!" exclaimed Santa. "We need to check if Mr Cheats, Mrs Greedy, and Ms Loots wear black hats," observed Judge Pao. "This is a waste of time, I am sure it was them," fumed Mr Black. Ignoring him, Judge Pao said, "Let's go outside and look, Santa." Suddenly he saw a white handkerchief hidden by snow. It had the initials **T.B** on it. "The thief must've dropped it," he said. "Good clue," said Santa. "Let's go question our suspects. Maybe they know something," suggested Mr Black. "Good idea," said Santa. So they left for the ice village.

The factory was far from the village and they were soon so tired that they collapsed on a bench. Santa felt something on his head. Thinking it was nothing, he trudged into the village. Mr Black started at Mr Cheats' house. After he knocked for a while, Mr Cheats flung open the door. "What d'you want?" he asked rudely. "We're here to ask you a few questions," said Judge Pao. "Were you anywhere outside the village a little while ago?" "No, I was visiting Mrs Greedy all day," Mr Cheats said. "Hmm...Interesting," said Mr Black. "Did you lose a black hat?" "No!" said Mr Cheats. "Out!" And he pushed them out.

"Maybe they planned it together," said Mr Black. Santa suddenly touched his head and cried, "My hat is gone!" "It doesn't matter. We can find it later. This is more important," Mr Black said irritably as they reached Mrs Greedy's house. "But...", began Santa. But Mr Black was pounding on the door. The door opened and there stood a mean looking tall woman. "What do you think you are doing? You could've knocked my door down!" Mrs Greedy said. "Sorry, did you leave the village with Mr Cheats today," asked Mr Black casually. "No! Who are you anyway?" Mrs Greedy asked. "I'm Thomas Black, the toy inspector and I know that you stole the presents!" Mr Black announced. "Presents? What? Get out of my house!" Mrs Greedy shouted. "Thomas Black?" Judge Pao said to himself.

As Mrs Greedy slammed the door, Judge Pao had a funny expression. “What is it, Judge?” Santa asked. “It was Mr Black! His name is Thomas Black! The initials on the hanky were **T.B!** Also it looks like he is missing a hat,” Judge Pao confirmed. “How d-dare you accuse me!” stammered Mr Black. “I know you did it and I have more proof. I know you are not the toy inspector because I was appointed this year by the city and that is why I am here! I wanted to know what you were up to,” replied Judge Pao calmly. Mr Black looked scared and started backing away. As he did, something slid out of his pocket. It was red and had a fuzzy bauble on its top. “It’s my hat! You stole it?” Santa cried. “Um, yes, okay? I stole all the presents to sell them for money and I stole the hat just for fun!” Mr Black confessed. Everyone was shocked. “You tricked me and you stole? Where’d you hide them?” Santa asked. “The cave outside the village,” Mr Black said grumpily.

After giving back the presents, Mr Black was sent to the village prison. Santa turned to Judge Pao “Thank you. You saved Christmas!” he said. “You are welcome, it was nice to work with you again,” Judge Pao said and left. So when Christmas Eve came, all the children got their presents thanks to Judge Pao.

# *Judge Pao's Important Case*

*ESF Glenealy School, Kwan, Yenny – 9*

## Introduction

Back in a 1,000 years ago, there was fighting all around and crimes every day. In that time, there was needed a crime fighter. Meet Judge Pao, he is a crime fighter and help cleans the land.

## A New Case

The bright shimmering sun rise, Diligence people were working when suddenly someone rushed into the Yamen, where Judge Pao works as a crime fighter. “Help! Help!” shouted with a huge voice. “Well, well, well, what do we have here?” assume Judge Pao. “Judge Pao, I am Lemi, this is an extremely important case!” said Lemi in a worried voice. “This morning when I woke up, I was checking on my money when I realized all of my money was gone!” “Interesting case, where did you put all your money?” asked Judge Pao. “I lock all my money in a mini locker which is brown colored.” continued Lemi. “Okay, can you estimate how much money there was in the locker? Trail Judge Pao. “I believe that there is about ten thousand dollars in my brown locker.” said Lemi.

## Finding Clues

Straight away, Judge Pao grabbed the magnifying glass and went out of Yamen now into the streets. Just like a detector, he searched up in the sky and down to the ocean, look to his left and look to his right. Judge Pao walked along the street until he enters the village. While walking though the village, there appeared a suspicious man in the back alley. He was holding a cloth bag with something inside... Judge Pao went over and asked him questions. “Excuse me, what is that inside your bag that you are holding?” suspect Judge Pao. “Um...Nothing.” replied the man with his hands shaking. “I’m sure there’s something that is making your hand shake like a dog.” said Judge Pao. “Let me see what’s in the bag or else I will ask my bodyguard (Chan Chao 展昭) to snatch it from you.” “My bodyguard is very good at kung fu and nothing can stop him.” said Judge Pao. As quick as a flash, the thief ran away with the money down the mountain. Chan Chao freed his strong moves and successfully caught the thief with the money.

## Taking Action

Within twenty minutes of walking, Judge Pao brought the thief and the money back to Yamen. Lemi was still waiting there for good results because all of her money was there. When Judge Pao opened the door, Lemi was so excited that she jumped up. “Judge Pao! shouted Lemi, have you catch the thief with my ten thousand dollars?”

“Yes Indeed, but I’m not sure if there is exactly ten thousand dollars in the bag, maybe you should check.” suggest Judge Pao. Lemi quickly checked the cloth bag and her heart released, all of her money was in the bag. “Thank goodness all my money was in the bag” said Lemi. “Thank you Judge Pao, If there wasn’t you, all of my money would have been gone!” thanked Lemi. “ Your welcome Lemi, it’s my pleasure to help people, but now I need to think how to punish the thief!” said Judge Pao.

## A Punishment

It was getting late and Judge Pao went back to Yamen with Chan Chao. “How should I punish the thief?” wondered Judge Pao. A brilliant idea came to his mind and he quickly got on with it. “Ahh, I know, the thief need to help plant food for the villagers. That way, he can also help people and do something good for others.” Thought Judge Pao. The next day, he told the thief to plant the food for the villagers but he looked a little unwilling to do it. Judge Pao reminded him what bad thing he did and the thief promise Judge Pao to help. Even though the thief was bad, sometimes humans can also be good.



## *Judge Pao and His Mini*

*ESF Glenealy School, Nair, Ira – 11*

My frigid cheeks press against the translucent window as my classmates walk past me. My wavy, black hair blows into my face while the icy wind whooshes into the hallway. The people around me shiver, but I freeze like a statue. I don't blink, don't shake, don't walk. I just stare at the mark on the paper in my hands. My first F!

"Layana! Morning!!" I'm weary and my eyelashes are blocking my sight. I leisurely get out of bed and make my way downstairs. "Did you get your paper back yet?" My face crumples, my toes twitch, my lips dry up and my stomach aches. A+ means 'cool' to my parents. A means 'try harder'. Anything below means 'come on!!'. But F? I don't even know! I've never gone below B-, and that was the worst day! "Not yet.. They're taking time on this one" My mum nods suspiciously.

Mum and I are gonna go to the mall. I still haven't told her. The disappointment, I can already see it on her face! We're about to leave when mum gets a call. I hear "Layana" and "thief". What's gonna happen!?

Inside, I'm in tears, outside, I'm tough as a rock.

"Which school do you go to?," The police asks

"HK High. I'm fourteen, grade 10. my full name is Layana Thomas," I reply dully.

"Unbelievable! My daughter, a thief!?"

I try to calm mum down but she shuts me up

."No! You're a criminal! You learned a lot from me, but this?"

I'm on the verge of breaking down. Mom abandoned me, I'm being investigated, my grades are dropping.

Everyone, even the police, are looking at me in disappointment. What did I do? Whose mistake am I suffering for!?

I've been under investigation for three weeks now and it doesn't look like I'm going to get out of it anytime soon.

I'm distracted and dazed, walking home from school. Suddenly I can feel a bump and I fall.

"I'm so sorry! Layana?," Someone says.

I look up in complete confusion.

"The design thief"

I almost cry! Everyone knows about the investigation and the accusation of stealing Dalia's prom dress design! My eyes get blurry and tears roll down my cheek.

"Sorry, I'm usually stronger. I mean it, I didn't! I can't believe the rumor is going around"

The man looks at me like he is slightly surprised but also relieved.

"I'll help you. Dalia is a liar and a criminal. I am Judge Pao, your new detective. If you want,"

The man, 'Judge Pao', says to me reassuringly. I don't understand his tricks, but after all, I'm no detective!

"Layana! There you are! Shall we get to work?," Judge Pao asks. I happily nod.

"Okay, what proof do you have?," Judge Pao asks, looking curious. I shrug innocently. He sighs. "Get up," he says.

I follow him into school. It looks dark and horrifying. I've never been here at night. Suddenly, he sprints for the bin and starts rummaging inside it. What is he doing? Will I be blamed for it?

"Aha!," He says at last. I look at the sheet in his hands. It's my dress design! I chuckle but then start to think.

"They may think we just made that today to have proof. But, I have my digital plan. Which says the date!," I exclaim cheerfully. He looks impressed. He signals for me to show him the plan so we go home. Did mom have to be home!? The more I see her the more guilty I feel about the F. I carefully sneak Judge Pao to my room and open my computer. I hand it to him. His eyes widen with surprise and eagerness.

Before anything, I rush home to find mom. "Mom! It wasn't me! I have proof," I cry. Mom comes out looking irritated. Her jaw drops. "Who? .." "I'm Judge Pao," he says. We show her the proof. She smiles and hugs me.

"..." I look at her anxiously. "I won't abandon you!!"

"You have improved with finding proof, but you lost. Dalia says that she talked about that dress since she was a kid, and her mom is here as a witness. How do I even know you didn't just make this?," the police says. "Go to version history, you'll see this was created three weeks before prom. OR one week before Dalia sent out her designs! Her MOTHER is not a fair witness. Whereas I have Judge Pao. He isn't related to me! And knows that Dalia is the liar. Is that proof enough?," I ask, overpowering him. Judge Pao grins smugly and gives me a high five. The police turns to Dalia. "Unless you have anything else, you have been out-proofed," the police says. He gets up and bolts.

“Dalia, if you have something to say, don't. If you don't, good. Good luck with your consequences,” with that, I drag Judge Pao out.

“Layana, I'm sure you are wondering why I have called you here,” Judge Pao says gently, “I saw your detective skills, and they are amazing! You may work with me if you want. My real name is Bao Zheng, but I needed a judge's name. As will you. What does your name mean?” My face cracks into a smile, “Shining, glowing, radiant, beautiful,” I say.

“Judge Pao, Judge Shine, you may show us your proof,” the police tell us. Now we are helping someone else! “Whoo Layana!!!,” I could hear mum in the crowd. Everyone could! It all started with my first F, and ended with my first case. About the F, it was cleared out two days ago. Mom was crazy mad and I was breaking down. The F, surprisingly, didn't get as big a reaction. It was me lying that she really hung onto but in the end she thought about my progress as a detective and she let it slip.

OMG, we made the cover!!  
Judge Pao and his mini!

# *The Case of the Poisoned Horse*

*ESF Glenealy School, Son Kep, Benjamin – 8*

Pao is a very famous Chinese historical person, known for his justice and abilities to solve very difficult investigation cases.

Pao was born in the Song Dynasty, on the fifth March 999 in Hefei province and passed away when he was 63 years old on the 3rd July 1062 in Kaifeng province.

He was born in a scholar family and his parents had high expectations on his studies. At school, he worked very hard.

At the age of 29, he passed the highest level of imperial exam, and succeeded to become a JINSHI, a very prestigious title but he turned it down because he had to take care of its parents.

After his parents passed away, he resumed his career starting as a magistrate of Tianchang, then as a prefect of Duanzhou. In Duanzhou, many people were corrupted but Pao abolished it.

In 1057, Pao was appointed as a prefect of Kaifeng, where he had investigated many complicated cases and helped the poor people to fight for justice against the law breakers. Pao gained much fame and popularity in this period and people gave him the name “Iron-Faced-Judge”.

Pao’s stories have been retold and rewritten in many books, series and movies. Here the story of “The case of the poisoned horse” is inspired from Pao’s investigation cases.

Once upon a time in a village somewhere in China, there was a farmer named Wang whose horse was found dead. When Wang saw his horse not breathing, a lot of things came up in his mind because his horse was in good health conditions the day before. So he went to see Judge Pao, who was known as a famous investigator.

When Pao met Wang, the judge asked him a few questions : “ How did you find him dead? “  
“ On the grass, in the fields, lying down without breathing and without bleeding” answered Wang.

Pao questioned Wang suspiciously : “ Do you have any suspects in mind ?” “ Yes” , Wang said. “ I have in mind three suspects. The butcher of the village, who might have killed the horse to make money selling the meat to its clients. Then, I also think about my employee who helps me in the farm, because he does not like the horse as he is always messing around. Lastly, I think about Mr Qian, the landlord who owns the village as he asked me to pay more taxes but I refused because it was not fair”.

Pao and Wang went to the farm so Pao could investigate the horse. After experiments on the horse body, the results were that he was poisoned by a very rare and expensive type of chemical.

Pao said, I am going to interrogate the three suspects . Firstly, Pao went to see the butcher.

“ Why would I sell poisoned meat to my clients? I do not want to lose my clients by selling uneatable food”

Then, Pao decided to visit the employee. “ Why would I have killed the horse of my employer? Now I have no more work!”

Lastly, Pao went to see the owner of the village who said arrogantly : “ I am the richest person in the region and owns this village, I did not kill that horse”.

Pao went to see Wang and said to him “ I know who killed your horse. Remember the poison that killed your horse was very expensive, and only someone rich can buy this rare chemical. The culprit is the village owner!

Pao and Wang went to see the owner of the village . Pao exposed the proof to him so he had to confess. “Yes, I did it. I did not support Wang refusing to pay more tax so I took revenge”.

In the end, Pao closed the case and the owner went to jail.

## *Judge Pao and the Trashers*

*ESF Glenealy School, To, Gemmy – 9*

In 099, a baby was delivered to the Pao family. His parents were overjoyed to have a child. Little did they know, the child was going to grow up to be a hero.

Pao was everything a parent could dream of. He did well in school and helped the neighborhood whenever they needed it.

“Little Pao! My cat is in a tree!”

“No problem. I’ll put this pillow here. Come on, kitty kitty!”

MEOW!

“Oh my hero!”

See what I mean?

But one day, he was going to have to combine his brains and brawn to the TEST!

The trashers lived in the far side of Hefei. The guys really lived up to their name. They enjoyed trashing the town, and terrorizing the green plants and animals. So one day, the trashers arrived near Pao’s home.

Pao did not expect visitors. But he greeted them lightly anyways.

“Hello! Welcome to the fragrant side of Hefei. The name’s Pao. You?”

That’s when the Trashers decided to start the fun.

“Oh, hi. I’m Shang. I feel l-like I-I w-wi- ACHOO!”

Shang dragged a cloth to his nose but didn’t responsibly dispose of it.

“Oops! I seem to have dropped my cloth! Oh well, the floor is dirty anyways,” sneered Shang.

That really struck a nerve for Pao.

“Shang, buddy. You know you’re supposed to keep this neighborhood clean, right?”, he chirped, hoping to knock some sense, or soap, into that filthy mind of his.

“Who decided about that?”

Pao stared at Shang in shock. When was the last time he ever heard anybody backsass? The leader of the Trashers was really something!

When Pao went to check on his flowers, Shang decided to tamper around with this clean environment.

“Hey. Lang, Hui, Li, Kan, gimme some acts of Fine Filthiness, will ya?” whispered Shang. Soon enough, the beautiful side of Hefei was going to turn into 灾难(chinese for disaster)!

“\*crunch\* Oh, I dropped an apple! Eh, inedible.”

“Ah, nothing like a fresh glass of milk. Oops! What’s this? A milk mustache? Mmm, excuse me woman, your hair is now my cloth.”

“Ugh, so busy!”

“Oh no! I stepped in mud! I’ll go into your house then!”

The judge knew they were intentionally annoying him. So Pao spoke his mind.

“ You will absolutely not go into my house with muddy shoes on, and you all won’t stop messing up this neighborhood! I mean all of you! This is meant to be a green neighborhood with gardens and plants and space for animals to roam around!” said Pao, a little louder and firmer.

“Oh, so Garden Boy wants to play? Sure. We’ll play a game called “Garbage Fight,” said Shang. All of them picked up a ball of trash, ready to aim for poor Judge Pao. He was cornered and defenseless. But oh! He got an idea! He stood up and waved to the birds.

“No, I don’t like Garbage Fight. How about we play a game called Hide and Seed?” Asked Pao as he scattered sunflower seeds all around the gang. The birds chased them until they were too far to see. Pao picked up all the trash and tossed it somewhere it wouldn’t harm the beautiful green world.

## *The Mystery*

*ESF Glenealy School, Tsui, Jeremy – 10*

On a silent night, while Judge Pao was peacefully sleeping, he was awakened by some footsteps. He saw two people wearing weird clothes holding a small machine. He was frightened. The people were moving closer and closer to Judge Pao. Bang! What was that? Judge Pao was shocked and accidentally dropped his writing brush. Then he fainted. When he woke up, he realized that he was in a totally different world. One of the people said, "Welcome to the future, I am Max and he is Daniel." Max and Daniel brought Judge Pao onto an airplane. He went from China to Old Trafford. Max said "Old Trafford is where professional football players play football and have training. Judge Pao said, "You just brought me to the future to see this!" "No," said Daniel "Two people were killed yesterday, and we still don't know who the murderer is. So we immediately find you. You will stay in a house. Here is the address of the house and money." Max handed money and a written paper to Judge Pao which said 8 Wilmslow Road. He took a taxi, it took him 12 minutes to arrive.

When he was sleeping. A person sneaked into his house and left a message for him. It said, don't investigate, you will fail. When he woke up, he saw the piece of paper, he showed it to Max and Daniel. Then Max and Daniel gave him some tools.

The tools were a magnifier and a torch. Max and Daniel drove him to Old Trafford and took him into the locker room. They saw blood on Luke Carper and Charlie Brown's lockers. They found two small knives covered with blood in Ryan Fletcher and the manager Sam Frederick's lockers, but they were already killed. Both of the knives had fingerprints of Charlie and Luke. The other lockers were empty. Judge Pao said "The only two suspects are Luke Carper and Charlie Brown. We will need to interview them. After a while, Charlie Brown came. He sat on the bench. Charlie Brown said "I and Luke are really good friends, we always spend time together. After the football game, we took a shower and went to a cafe called Cafe Football Old Trafford. It is where we watched football games. After that, we went back to Old Trafford's locker room and we saw Ryan and Sam. That was when the lights turned off, so I ran away. But I tripped on something hard. Then I heard someone screaming. When I went back into the locker room I saw my locker and Luke's locker covered with blood. I saw Ryan and Sam lying on the floor. They were dead. Luke disappeared. I tried to find him, but sadly I couldn't. I was worried that Luke was dead too." Then we went to Luke's house and found him. They interviewed Luke. He said "I was in the locker room with Charlie and saw Sam and Ryan lying on the floor dead." Judge Pao asked "did the lights turned off? Luke replied "No." They checked the CCTV, the lights were suddenly turned off when Charlie and Luke were in the locker room. So Luke lied because he didn't say that the lights turn off.

Judge Pao said in excitement "I know who the murderer is, it is Luke. When the lights turned off, he took out the two knives. When Charlie fell down, Charlie accidentally touched the knives. After that, Luke killed Sam and Ryan. Then he put the knives in Sam and Ryan's locker. Then Luke ran away. That was why Charlie couldn't find him.

# *The Letter for Help*

*ESF Glenealy School, Zhang, Oliana – 9*

## Chapter 1 : The Letter For Help

Judge Pao was quietly sitting in his room on a warm summer's day, when he received a letter. The letter was from Lord Wang, a rich man with a very simple lifestyle. Normally he wouldn't have asked a judge to do this, but he seemed desperate in the letter. The letter was about his wife, and how she had lost her engagement ring. It was made of jade, silver, and gold. The ring was very precious, and she was heartbroken. It was very expensive, and was her engagement ring! Judge Pao was asked to solve who took it, and why. He decided to help the man. He started packing his bags, when he started thinking about the letter. Something about it seemed off. He decided not to think about it.

## Chapter 2 : The First Investigation

Judge Pao arrived, and saw a very dramatic scene take place in the garden. Lady Wang was sighing continuously, her head in her hands. Lord Wang was drinking tea and pacing around. It looked as if a fire was there. There were paintings and pieces of furniture broken, smashed, or ripped. Now Judge Pao could see why they had called so urgently! He immediately started unpacking. He then gathered his thoughts together. He questioned Lord Wang, and found out the ring had been stolen at 1:50 pm, on Tuesday ( 2 days ago). He started by questioning the three sons Ching, Po, and Yinuo.

Yinuo's answer : I was in my bedroom studying. I wanted to start my career as a government official. I dropped out of being a doctor because they were not paying me enough. I then went to drink tea in the dining hall.

Ching's answer : I was practising the poem I planned to recite for my daughter's birthday. I then went to my father's study to search for some important papers.

Po's answer : I was playing with my children. I was planning on putting a scarf in my mother's closet.

Then, Judge Pao questioned the wives of the sons.

Jing : I was just dusting sir. How could you accuse me? I really try to help the family ,please.

Xiu : I was playing with my daughter Meixing, but I went to get my shawl because it was cold.

Fang : I was eating some mooncake and decided to sew.

Then he talked to the children of the sons.

Meixing : Haha! I was playing! But...mommy was there?

Haoyu : I was eating mooncakes with mama, then watched her sew a flower!

Meili : I was sleeping and mommy was singing!

Meizhen : We were in the kitchen! I ate cakes!

Finally, he asked the servants about the missing ring.

Ai : No sir, I don't know. Also Judge Pao, my mother, the head servant got into a fight with the lady because she promised her a beautiful house once she retired, but never gave it to her and claims she never promised that.

Huifen : Oh you heard about the fight? Yes yes, I did have a fight with the lady, but I certainly am sure that Jing did it! I talked to Xiu and Fang and they believe so too! Even though I have the key to the case, I would never steal it!

### Chapter 3 : The Lady and Lord

Lady Wang : That beastly servant of mine! Saying I promised her such splendour! How is this even possible that she would say I would give her money with a house!

Lord Wang : I swear, I do not know what happened! I just found my wife on the floor of our room! She was sobbing about her missing ring! I beg you find it sir!

Clues were adding up.

### Chapter 4 : The Spies And The Wrap-Up

Judge Pao pondered for a while. Eventually he asked if he could see the case where the ring was kept. They led him to the case, which was found perfectly unbroken. But there was no ring in it. He inspected it, and then demanded to see the head servant again.

The head servant stormed in and started questioning Judge Pao after he started suspecting her.

Huifen : Are you suspicious because I have the key? Is it because I didn't give you enough clues?" This is the only key that opens the case!

Judge Pao thought it was pretty obvious that he suspected her because of that, as she had said HERSELF that that was the only key that opened the case, and the case was in a completely perfect state.

He said he would do further investigating outside. He thanked them all for giving him information. When he got back to his house he sent two servant boys to figure out the head servant's schedule. Soon, they saw the head servant head out to the market. The two servant boys followed her to the jeweller. They overheard them talking, and soon found out that the jeweller had helped her make a fake ring, so that she could slip the key and fake ring into Jing's pocket, so that she could accuse Jing, and that the real ring was in her room. She also said that she had gotten Xiu and Fang to help her. The two servant boys returned to Judge Pao and told him everything. He thanked the two boys and went off to Lord Wang's house. He gathered everyone together in the main hall. That's when he saw what everybody else didn't see. The head servant slipping the key and fake ring into Jing's pocket. Judge Pao said he had found the criminal, when all of a sudden the head servant pulled out the fake ring and key. "Look!" she said, "the ring!" For a second, everyone believed her and started blaming Jing. But Judge Pao said " I believe this is fake." He started giving reasons why. He explained what was going on, and why she did this. He told them about the fight, and so forth. It was the end of the case.



## *Judge Pao*

*ESF Kennedy School, Ang, Sya – 10*

You probably know who Judge Pao is. If you don't, let me give a brief explanation. Judge Pao is a famous judge in Chinese history. But, you probably haven't heard of his first case: Who gets the last bowl of noodles!

Pao was at the noodle stand in his childhood town when he found two men arguing near the stand. Pao was scared, but as he walked closer and asked the noodle shop owner Mr Bao, he managed to stutter "What's happening, good sir?" Mr Bao stared at him, and replied in a whisper "These men are having a fight over my last bowl of noodles, each claiming that they haven't eaten all day!"

Although little Pao was scared, he decided to interfere with the two men. "Stop! Let's put everything together. What have you both done today?" The man sitting on the right carrying a sack and a fishing rod grinned, and said "I was fishing near the lake today, fishing for my fish market stand. As soon as I finished, I came here just to find this man wanting MY bowl of noodles!" The second man just stared at the other man, then said "I'm pretty sure he's lying. I went fishing as well as went to farm vegetables, and then I even visited my family in the house up the hill! How did he get here at the same time as me then!" The man on the right stared at him hard, his cold stare giving Pao goosebumps from his right arm to the left.

As Pao calmed down, and thought to himself: It's only sunset, how did Mr Bao sell out so fast? So looking at Mr Bao suspiciously, he asked "Are you really sold out of noodles, or are you lying?" Mr Bao looked shocked at the sudden accusation, and replied "N-no way I would! This is how I keep me and my family alive! You think I would lie because of these men annoying me! No!" Pao was shocked at the sudden reply, a strange tingle from his feet coming up to his hands. He could easily see how Mr Bao was lying from his body language. Wet eyes, nervous eyebrows, and red cheeks as he talked. He immediately looked away. Pao looked at the man as if he were his specimen. He seemed like he was hiding something. Something was wrong. Very wrong.

Pao went back to the two men. Somehow, both of them were still bickering about who gets the last bowl of noodles. At this point, Pao was tired of this and said "Can't you see that Mr Bao is busy? I'm also sure the man on the right is not lying. You can smell from his body that he smells like fish. On the other hand, we can see that you haven't been working since your hands are very clean." The man on the left glared at young Pao, while the right man smiled. Mr Bao quickly gave the man on the right some noodles. The man on the left gave one last glare, and lastly left, his feet stomping strongly out of the noodle shop.

Before Pao left, Mr Bao grabbed him by the arm, and said "Thank you, Pao! That man was actually a criminal, and he said if I didn't give him noodles, then he would unalive me! Thank you truly, Pao. Thank you." As Pao left, he never stopped wondering what happened to the man who tried to lie to Mr Bao and was a criminal. He wondered: What was he doing right now?

# *The International Hero: Judge Pao*

*ESF Kennedy School, Choi, Jasmine – 10*

## **CHAPTER 1: SUPER JUDGE!**

Listening to the accused, Judge Pao's seat was getting hard and cold. He sighed. Ben was pleading innocent to this robbery!

"Please, you've got to believe me! I was just there for... a cup of coffee!" Ben said. Judge Pao raised his eyebrows, suspicious and confused. Ben continued, "But, there is something you should know. I felt something like a ghost, floating through me when I was robbing – I mean, getting some coffee."

Judge Pao looked at his watch. It was 5:59 pm. He nodded to security and said "I need to go now to my other job." He stood up abruptly, opened the big brass oak doors and walked out. Everyone in the court stared at him until he disappeared. Where would the Judge go at this time?

## **CHAPTER 2: UNDERWORLD ENTRANCE**

Everyone in Hong Kong was aware that Judge Pao had a connection to the afterlife, and that it only happened at sundown. But no one knew what he did. As soon as Judge Pao got back home, he hurried up to the attic. The door creaked open and dust whooshed into his face. The floorboards were old and creaky, so he knew he needed to proceed with caution. He stopped in front of the magical mirror. This mirror was a family heirloom, passed to Judge Pao from his dad. From this mirror, Pao could access the Underworld. He whooshed his arms up dramatically and chanted "*Aperta ianua!*" The mirror shook violently with blinding red light. Any person new to this phenomenon would have shielded their eyes in surprise, but Judge Pao was ready. The red light then turned into a portal of blood red swirls and mesmerising patterns. Judge Pao took a deep breath, and stepped into the Underworld.

Judge Pao fell into the light until he landed painfully on his feet on the rocky floor of the Underworld. He looked around. There were goblets of fire everywhere, and caves full of bats and creepy crawlers. He made his way onto a narrow suspension bridge made of wood and rope over a huge and choking lava pit below him. It was burning hot, like his skin was on fire. Judge Pao heard some commotion coming from the largest cave and ran across the suspension bridge towards the noise. The bridge collapsed and disappeared as soon as Judge Pao reached the other side.

Judge Pao rather skillfully dodged a flying rock that was aimed at him where some Underworld citizens were sitting. One on one side, the Ghosticulli, and the other side the Rockyman. The rock had been thrown by one of the Rockyman. Judge Pao was both a judge in the real world, and also a judge in the Underworld. He quickly ran to the bench and hit the wooden gavel hard. The entire court fell silent.

"They started it!" A Ghosticulli said in a high pitched voice. Ghosticullis are white, nearly transparent ghost-like figures. They create common mischief, since they are nearly invisible. A Rockyman shook his head so hard it was about to rip off of his body. Rockyman are man-like creatures covered rocks. The Ghosticullis and Rockyman had a grudge against each since the beginning of time. Judge Pao repeatedly banged the gavel hard, as everyone started to shout and scream again. "Let's get this over with. I HEREBY DECLARE THIS COURT CASE, OPEN!"

Over the next hour Judge Pao listened to the case. It turns out that the Ghosticullis were accusing the Rockyman of murdering one of their members. The Ghosticullis provided proof. They had hidden cameras in the house. However, the video only showed what happened after the incident. Before that, the cameras were covered by something. What the video showed was a Rockyman entering the house after the Ghosticulli was murdered. The Rockyman in question explained that he only came into the house when he heard commotion.

Judge Pao was thinking: Is the Rockyman telling the truth or lying? Or is this an elaborate set up by the Ghosticulli? Judge Pao asked for the video to be replayed. He noticed that the Rockyman had blood stains on his right foot. Immediately, the Rockyman shouted that he had cut himself earlier in the day...

But this is impossible, Judge Pao thought to himself. Rockyman cannot be injured, and do not bleed. Afterall, they are Rockyman, covered in rocks! Judge Pao sentenced the Rockyman to a life in prison. The Ghosticullis all cheered. As the Rockyman was being led out of the court, Judge Pao saw the Rockyman grin... an evil grin. Judge Pao knew something was up, but he needed to go back to the real world.

### **CHAPTER 3: Rockyman's Escape Route**

The guilty Rockyman was being led out of the cave by 5 police officers, but no one had bothered to put handcuffs on him (they did not fit on his rocky wrists). One of the officers pushed him forward.

"Hurry up. Let's get you to your new home!"

"My name is Rocky!" Rocky turned around and kicked the officer to his right in the shin, followed by a quick punch to the officer on his left. The remaining policemen quickly backed away. Rocky seized the moment and took off. His footsteps shook the ground like an earthquake.

Earlier on, one of his fellow Rockymen had passed him a piece of paper with the address of where to escape and hide. But as he was running, the piece of paper flew out of his rocky hand and dropped on one of the dazed policeman. Never mind. He didn't need the paper. He knew where he was going.

## *Judge Pao and the Missing Crops*

*ESF Kennedy School, Daga, Vanya – 10*

On a warm summer's day, Judge Pao was sitting at his desk, stroking his beard, and writing notes about his latest mystery. Suddenly, his messenger burst into the room. "What have I told you, DongLei?" said Judge Pao angrily. "Knock before you come in!" "Sorry, my lord," he said and hurriedly bowed "but I thought it was quite important." "What happened?" Judge Pao asked "Say it quickly, for I have to finish this case afterwards" "I think you will have to see for yourself. I don't have much idea either." said the messenger, and beckoned Judge Pao to follow him.

Judge Pao was half-expecting to see the Emperor outside his house, but all he saw was a scrawny-looking man holding another man's hands in a fist. The first man looked angry, and Judge Pao recognized him immediately. He had a shop at the corner of the market and he supplied wheat to Judge Pao. "YuLong?" he asked "Why are you here?" "WangShu stole some of my crops!" YuLong shouted, angrily, and so loud that some of the neighbours came out of their homes to see what was going on. WangShu trembled with fear, struggling to slip out of YuLong's grasp. "Quiet, now! You're not making yourself look any better in public!" said Judge Pao, already exasperated. "Now take me to the crime scene!" YuLong grunted, then he led the way to his home.

There, Judge Pao saw a small house and a big field. It wasn't very big, so he could easily see a gap in it. It had a hill with a shed, but that was not what he was looking at. Instead he was looking at a trail of footprints that were all around the crime scene, and then went out of the field, where they could not be seen. "Now WangShu, go home and don't breathe a word about this to anyone, no matter what." said Judge Pao. Wang Shu nodded and ran home, still trembling all over.

"It's perfectly clear!" exclaimed YuLong. "Maybe too clear." mumbled Judge Pao, "Wouldn't a criminal hide his tracks?" "Yes, I suppose it could—" said YuLong but was cut off by Judge Pao. "And look at the footprints! They are quite big! I don't think that is WangShu's footprint, is it?" "Hmmm, let me think." said YuLong "I'm not sure who has done it, but it's probably not WangShu. However, I think I might have some suspects." "Oh, really?" asked Judge Pao "Tell me names, but you shouldn't judge people too quickly" "Well there's many people I know who have big feet, but I will give you the closest matches. There is XiYang and Lanzai, they both have a long history with

me," said YuLong. "Then there is my Érzy\*. I don't mean to be rude but still."

"I will go to all of them and speak to them just to see what happens when I ask them this questi—" Just then Judge Pao was interrupted by XiYang panting as he jogged across the street behind them. "Hello XiYang!" exclaimed Judge Pao. "What are you running so fast for?" "My aunt –huff– sends me out –huff– for a run –huff– every afternoon –huff– and I usually –huff– take a secret –huff– short-cut –huff– but today –huff– her neighbour told her –huff– everything so now –huff– I have to do this –huff–" said XiYang, stopping to catch his breath. "My aunt would have asked me to stop anyway, she respects you a lot." "Oh, thank you! Go on, don't disappoint your aunt! You can say that you stopped to praise me. She will probably be very happy." said Judge Pao. XiYang smiled at the suggestion. "Thank you sir!" he called out and then he was gone.

"He isn't acting too suspicious," YuLong mumbled "but I think he might have hidden behind my shed, listening to our conversation." "Oh, don't judge so quickly! Anyway, what is that little shack?" asked Judge Pao. YuLong looked a little guilty. "That's my farming house," he explained "It has all of the tools I need and a bed and some food if I ever need to stay overnight." "Oh, " said Judge Pao, a little guilty, since he made him feel bad. "I'm sorry." "It's fine," said YuLong, his tone flat. "Usually people would make it sound like it's dirty or something. But you made it sound like it was a regular shed, and I appreciate that." "Let's not waste anymore time" said Judge Pao quickly, and went to Wang Shu's house and found him reaping wheat from his field, his large basket filled to the brim, although he had only reaped a few crops.

He ran up and said "WangShu, YuLong isn't blaming you anymore!" WangShu looked up in surprise and said "Really?!" "Yes!" said Judge Pao smiling from ear to ear, and soon, WangShu did the same and ran into his house, saying "I'm going to tell my wife! She's going to be so happy!" Judge Pao went back to YuLong's house, still smiling. "I heard it from here," said YuLong, surprised, and looking at him closely "You look quite happy that he is not a suspect anymore. Is he a friend of yours?" "I'm not smiling because he's forgiven" Judge Pao said,

mysteriously “I’m happy because this case is solved.” “Wait, what—” said YuLong, but again was cut off by Judge Pao “Hush! We don’t want to alert WangShu!” YuLong was very confused but stayed quiet. Judge Pao took him to the shed and stayed there for a long time. Then after everything he took him out of the shed, YuLong looking dazed, commanded the guards to arrest someone and WangShu was questioned. He confessed, and was arrested.

Nobody knew what Judge Pao told YuLong or did to him. Everytime anyone mentioned the subject he shrugged and started talking about something else. It's been a big mystery from that day to this.

\*Son

## *Justice*

*ESF Kennedy School, Huang, Sylvia – 9*

Darkness engulfed the humid air as the sun disappeared into the horizon. I woke up with a start, heart beating like crazy, as the cold wind swept up bits of grey dust into my already-dusty lungs. Coughing, I stared at the strange ‘things’ arranged around me: three chests, two already opened; a dusty medallion; five bronze goblets; and finally, an old-looking book with yellowish pages, although I didn’t know what it was about. All I remembered was the blood of war and dead corpses lying everywhere. The wind blew harder, as if agreeing to the sadness and despair.

*Swish. Swish.*

I looked up into the air. An unpleasant greeting of brownish sand appeared before me before dissolving into the inky blackness. Everything disappeared, leaving only me and the soft clop of the galloping horses, blood-stained from years of fighting.

*Clop. Clop.*

I didn’t know who I was, or came from. I only knew that everyone called me Justice Pao. The stone in my heart became smaller as it was conquered by my memory, a stream of flowing waves that finally broke in. My heart, on the other hand, was the place that held it altogether, in such a wondrous way whom I could not describe.

*I had my memory back.*

The next thing that popped into my mind was the adventure I, Justice Pao, just went on. Memory continued to flow into my mind as I told you, the reader, a story of pure justice.

*Once, when I was venturing across the land in search of a place to stay, I met a woman with skin the colour of ripe peaches. Her plump features allowed I, Bao Zheng, to love her immediately.*

*This woman was kind, beautiful. I thought that no man could refuse marriage to her, and yet, still, I found her here, alone. I asked her what her name was, but she disappeared into the wind as I uttered the first word of my question. As for me, I stood there, open mouthed.*

*Over the years, I kept on travelling, finally arriving at someplace called Tianchang. Due to my brilliant mindset and high ranking, I was appointed magistrate and power over the county.*

*On the first full moon night of my reign, I saw a faint shadow of a woman. Even in the distance, I, the magistrate, was to see her beautiful features: Skin white as snow, Flowing black hair blended into the sky...*

*It was the woman I met.*

*All she said was: ‘Yueliang’ and left, leaving me in the exact same position as before, staring far, far away.*

*Watching the stars twinkle in the river of the sky, I fell asleep, right there on the ground and with a single word in my head:*

*Justice*

*At dawn, the word, still trapped in my mind, led to thoughts. Why was this happening to me? I had no idea. There was only one way to find out. So, from then on, I became not a ruler, nor a scholar, but someone fighting for justice.*

*One day, as I was walking along the rim of a river, a man walked to me and said:*

*“Someone cut my ox’s tongue off!”*

*I, on the other hand, stayed calm and replied:*

*“Sell it then, for money.”*

*But before the man could go, another man came and cut in:*

*“This man slaughtered a ‘beast of burden’!”*

*I realised the truth and retorted:*

“Why do you cut off his ox’s tongue, and accuse him?”

*The culprit then had to confess. And that was how my ‘life of justice’ began.*

As I told the story to you, the wind blew the pages of the book sitting next to me open, stopping at a page.

What I saw on that page was the same word I had encountered years before:

*Justice*

## *New Tales of Judge Pao*

*ESF Kennedy School, Hyde, Olivia – 10*

Mia's eyes lit up as the sun's reflection burnt her face. Mia sat up straight as a pencil and rubbed her eyes. Mia was a girl with strawberry-blond hair. Mia lived in Hong Kong where it had a nice view of the ocean. The ocean that she always saw out of her window was not polluted. It was called 'The beautiful sea' since it was very beautiful with life all around it. Her mother was Japanese, her father was English. She looked very much alike to her father and a little like her mother. Mia had a sister who looked more like her mom and less like her Dad. She thought of the nightmare she just had. As Mia walked out of her bedroom, Mia stopped dead when she overheard something she should have not heard. It was hard to hear since her mother was whispering, however, she was able to hear it.

"Honey, what are we going to do? Mia has grown old to face the truth, we have to tell her. And tell that she is related to Judge Pao." Mia's mom said.

Mia's spine tingled. Her Mother had seriousness in her voice.

The following day, Mia ran to where Judge Pao's spirit was held. It took fifty-eight minutes of running from where she lived. In her mind, she asked the spirit one straightforward question.

"Is what my mother said true?"

Mia looked behind and saw her mother walk in. As quick as a flash, Mia hid behind the nearest thing she was able to find in the temple. Her mother was putting her hands together. Mia's eyes grew wider every second.

"Oh, great grandfather, please may your spirit guide my daughter, and protect her from the evilness coming!" Mia's mum said quietly to the spirit guide.

"Of course, what do you expect, I will save her from the evil that comes until she finds her inner anger and power to fight them."

Mia was sweating so badly. Mia felt like she had been washed away in a river. 'grand grand grandfather?' What did that mean? 'Save her until she finds her inner anger and power to fight?'

After her mother had left, Mia urgently wanted to talk to the spirit guide. Mia asked so many questions that the spirit guide even gave up hiding the truth and said it to her.

"You are my Nephew's Nephew's Nephew. Mia right? You see, when I was alive, I trained to become a warrior. A warrior that saved the world. I learnt a little bit of magic and saved everyone from the bad people that knew magic. To make the story short, I put them in prison which was inescapable. But now, times have passed. The spirits are saying they are coming back to our wonderful world." Judge Pao stopped and turned into human form. Judge Pao stood there motionless for a moment. Then he shouted,

"LOOK OUT! DUCK!"

Mia looked and saw a weird-looking man with a suit walking around suspiciously. He looked around the room and touched the wall he had just broken to come in. In less than a second, the wall was healed, there was not even a single scratch. He talked in another language, which sounded like gibberish to Mia. About a dozen people came into the room. They all had a nerve racking smiles on their faces. Mia looked closely without being seen. They all flew out saying a sentence. It was:

"We must find Judge Pao's Grand Daughter and get revenge on her."

Mia's breath was quickening. The last sentence they had said was 'get revenge.'

Judge Pao was who Mia wanted to call Justice Pao.

Mia could see how Judge Pao was feeling. His eyebrows curved a 'V' shape. He looked like he had just run. Judge Pao knew it was time. So he laid out an album full of pictures and pressed it. Suddenly Mia felt like her life was draining out. She could see her hands disappearing into thin air.



She jumped as she saw that they were not in the temple anymore. Instead, she was in another world. Mia tried to form a word however, her mouth didn't let her form a word.

"WWWWWW—here are we?" Mia said in shock.

Justice Pao looked at her with a questioning look.

"We are on the magic island, where magic is taught!" He said in surprise. When he said that, he had made his voice high-pitched and shrill. He sounded like a little kid.

Every day, Mia practised magic and soon, in a blink of an eye, was a professor at it. One day, when she was out walking, Mia heard Judge Pao's voice.

"MIA! COME BACK THIS INSTANT!" He yelled. Judge Pao had a lot of seriousness in his voice, so Mia urgently ran back to her house. Judge Pao sighed.

"I'm afraid they are close to getting you. You must fight them, and win the battle." He said with his eye's not getting off the ground. Mia took a deep heavy breath and replied with a nod. Judge Pao was surprised by her reply. He added, "With me."

The next day, They heard the door burst open. Then everything changed. The 'bad people' who Judge Pao called, were in the house. Mia looked for her power and blasted it. Unfortunately, the bad people stopped it with a wave of his hand. He smiled wickedly. Mia wanted to run, however, she thought about what would happen. Judge Pao was easily defeated. Now, Mia was the only one left. Mia started to run, but she stopped running and started thinking what will happen if she did. Mia looked back and saw the house destroyed. Mia eagerly wanted to fight them. However, she knew they were too strong. Mia felt like everyone's eyes were on her, watching her every move. It was only one choice for her. Mia ran to the house...

## *New Tales of Judge Pao*

*ESF Kennedy School, Lee, Claire – 10*

Once, a great detective lived in China.

His name was Judge Pao and he tried to purify the land of crime. He appointed an orphaned apprentice to help him with this difficult task.

One night, Judge Pao was out in his pomegranate garden after a hot meal. The starry sky was framed by the Yellow Mountains of Anhui.

That night, his apprentice asked him, “What do you know about my real parents?”

This question startled Judge Pao; he had never thought that his apprentice would think of her biological parents.

“The villager who found you reported that you were from a remote village. Your parents were forced to give you up due to the famine.” Judge Pao sighed, then continued. “The village is west of here. However, I do not want you to go.”

The apprentice stared at him, surprised. “Why not?”

“It may be hard for you,” said Judge Pao, struggling to find believable words, “because perhaps they have . . .”

“Died?” The apprentice cut in. “If they died, I would like to see the place where they now rest.”

Judge Pao swallowed.

“Apprentice . . .” Judge Pao trailed off. “Please respect my wishes. It is for your own good.”

“They are my *parents*, Mentor,” said his apprentice. “I have a right to find them.”

Judge Pao did not say a word. He rose and retreated to his bedroom.

Despite his quarrel with his apprentice, Judge Pao slept peacefully. His soft sheets were warm and he was lucky that night was dreamless; he had already dealt with enough.

Little did he know what was on his apprentice’s mind. He awakened the next morning and opened his apprentice’s bedroom door.

“Wake up!” he called. He sighed at the lump on the bed, covered by a sheet. *Is she angry at me?* Judge Pao wondered.

He strode into the room. “It is morning.” She didn’t stir. Angered, Judge Pao threw the sheet off . . . and found a stack of pillows.

He growled furiously. “Where is she?”

Fuming, Judge Pao stormed out into the kitchen, where he found a note on the kitchen countertop. It was written in his apprentice’s neat handwriting.

I HAVE TO FIND MY PARENTS. DON’T LOOK FOR ME.

“That ignorant girl! She dared go against her mentor’s wishes!” snarled Judge Pao.

He rushed to his study and found a scroll which his apprentice had clearly looked at before.

It was a map of China, and Judge Pao found a wobbly line in red ink leading to a small village.

“I must find her,” Judge Pao vowed. He threw the door open and crashed into a maid. “Have you seen my apprentice?”

“She left last night, and we assumed you sent her on an errand,” said the maid with wide eyes.

"She is my apprentice, not my errand-runner!" bellowed Judge Pao, infuriated. "Get my donkey ready!" The mortified maid nodded and hurried off, stumbling.

Shortly afterwards, he mounted his donkey and set out on the road. As the time passed, he saw curious faces: why was Judge Pao riding a donkey?

With a heavy heart, Judge Pao rode day and night, until he landed in the small village.

"Judge Pao!" a villager stumbled out of his house, and bowed. "What an honour to have you here!"

"Thank you," rumbled Judge Pao. "I am searching for a young girl."

"A young . . . girl?" stammered the villager, clearly confused.

Now, many villagers were rushing out of their houses and bowing. "Is there a girl here?" shouted the man.

"A girl?" asked an elderly woman. "I took a girl to my house yesterday."

Judge Pao felt hope blossom in him. "Take me to her!" he said, trying to tame his excitement.

The house she led him to was forged of beige-grey stone bricks. The woman and Judge Pao entered through a narrow doorway.

In the middle of the chaotic

house sat his apprentice.

"I need to find my parents!" his apprentice said desperately, with a defiant look in her eyes.

"Your parents?" The elderly lady blinked at them. "Your parents?"

"I was given up by my parents during the time of famine in this village," the apprentice explained. "Judge Pao took me in. Despite that, I came to find my parents, dead or alive."

"We gave up six children, if I remember." The woman addressed the apprentice thoughtfully. "How old were you when you were given away?"

At this, the apprentice questioned Judge Pao. "She was around six months old," replied Judge Pao.

"Ah," said the lady. She nodded. "Two children that age were given up."

"The graveyard is down there. When you get to their grave . . . you will feel it, young one."

She led them down to a fenced-off area. Gravestones lined the barren land, row after row, and the granite sparkled. The wind made Judge Pao's robes billow. "Are they . . . they're *dead*?" the apprentice asked hoarsely.

"Eventually, nearly all the parents died," said the woman, bowing her head.

The woman led them to four gravestones. "The parents of the two six-month old children. These are their graves."

The apprentice did not hesitate and passed over the two starchy beige sandstone graves, then looked at two black granite tombstones.

She bent down slowly, and ducked into a bow, then requested some writing materials with a voice full of tremors. Judge Pao produced them for her and she wrote some words on a scrap of yellowed parchment. Rolling it up, she placed it in a stone pot between the two graves.

Silently, a tear trickled down her cheek. Judge Pao stood beside her, and beside him the woman, and they all bowed their heads in a kind of salute.

A thought occurred to him. *Give your apprentice some freedom*, said his inner voice. *She is a responsible child.*

A single unspoken word formed in the apprentice's mind: *Goodbye.*

And then a sentence. *I have found you, but I must say goodbye now. I will see you again.*

*Where we will rest together forever.*

# *Story Of Judge Pao's Modern Descendant*

*ESF Kennedy School, Lee, Summer – 10*

Chapter 1:

My name is Ya Zheng,

No, none of that ‘your name is Yeah?’ nonsense. I don’t think I would be bullied if the kids at school knew who the man who carried my last name 959 years ago was. Unfortunately, they don’t.

I go to Lakefield College School in Lakefield, Ontario, Canada. Barely anybody knows Bao Zheng here. Maybe if my parents agreed to move back to China, there might be people who know. But they say they absolutely will not. My dad says he has a job here in Canada and my mom has that small embroidery shop by our street. But I don’t think anyone in the modern world should own a vintage embroidery shop. Maybe mom could use her more modern talents to start another business. Maybe baking. She could definitely open a home cafe. But of course, my mother says that embroidery builds prudence more than baking, and insists I help her stitch in the shop.

She says we also can’t move shops because her business has grown a lot in Canada, so if she shuts it down, people who regularly buy her products will have a bit of a problem. My selfless mother, always thinking about others first.

Today is a weekend, so I indulge in my usual activities of begging my parents to move back to China, playing League of Legends and trying to sell some of my homemade cookies. I specialise in MnM cookies, candy cane chip cookies and peanut butter chocolate chip cookies. I suspect a lot of my neighbours don’t buy my cookies because of their uniqueness though. I mean, mint chocolate chip, peanut butter, gummy worms and skittles cookies aren’t very common.

Tomorrow, I return to school. To the same old people, same old classes and same old hallway. The same locker with the rusty hinges I need to tug on the door twice to free.

I really wouldn’t complain if it weren’t for the people.

Chapter 2:

I always wake up at 6:00 AM, Eat breakfast, get prepared, and leave for school at 6:30 AM on bike. It’s a rusted old thing which used to be a vibrant shade of cyan which had dulled to a depressing shade of grey. Just like today. I bike down the street to my school, which isn’t that far away, really. I live near Harcourt. I check my watch. 6:57 AM. I continue down closer to the campus and park my bike in a bike station. I walk the rest of the way to campus, and arrive exactly at 7:00 AM. Like I said, all down to science.

As I walk into the building, I notice the surprising lack of people. At this time, there are normally kids clamouring to get in the building first. I walk through the door, once more taking in the silence of the campus and scarcity of people. A shiver runs down my spine. Something is wrong here.

I walk through the hallway to my homeroom class to find a nasty surprise. Everything was wrecked. Most of the desks and chairs were flipped, the whiteboard was ruined, with several holes in it. Cautiously, I walked in, taking care to leave a chair to stop the door and not trip on anything. Strangely, all the windows were intact. Sparkling clean, even.

Then I heard footsteps behind me. I whirled around and took the closest thing to a weapon I could find, the teacher’s highlighter. It would honestly not do much damage, but if I could shine it into somebody’s eyes, it would hurt.

My heart pounded in my ears as the footsteps grew louder. The footsteps stopped for a moment, there was the sound of something being dropped. I scrambled behind a fallen desk. I had a narrow, willowy build, so if I crouched low enough and ducked my head, the desk could just cover me. The footsteps continued.

Adrenaline coursing through my veins, I peeked out from behind the desk. A tall, hooded figure stood in the doorway. It was hard to tell their gender. I prayed they couldn’t see me. The figure turned and proceeded down the hallway. I quietly let out a breath I didn’t know I was holding.

Carefully, I came out from my hiding place behind the desk. My muscles were sore and tense from crouching in the same position. I crept towards the doorway and peeked out to the corridor. The figure was gone.

As quickly as I could, I started to run towards the nearest exit. Once I had reached it, I shoved the doors open and stepped out. This exit was supposed to open up to the path to the dorm buildings. Except it didn't.

Chapter 3:

In front of me was fire. Everywhere, burning hot and bright. Blue flames licked the ceiling of a low cavern. Although I didn't really go around my neighbourhood much, I knew there was no place like this in Canada.

The door shut behind me with a bang, and I wheeled around, expecting to see the closed door on a wall. But there was only more fire behind me. I was trapped.

Now, I don't believe in ghosts, or magic, or monsters, or spiritual beings, but now, trapped by walls of flames after simply walking through a high school exit, it was pretty hard not to believe there was something magic afoot.

*Don't be stupid*, I chided myself, *This is probably a stupid dream created by your stupid imagination*. Just as I thought that, an old man in a flowing ancient Chinese robe appeared out of the flames, apparently unscathed. I had only seen him in pictures. Old musty paintings my parents kept in the attic.

But the man was undoubtedly my ancestor, Bao Zheng.

# *Judge Pao*

*ESF Kennedy School, Lui, David – 10*

## 1.Nightmares

His dreams couldn't have been worse. He sat awkwardly on his bed, on one chilly August morning, thinking about his horrendous dream. The man in the black mask, holding the long wicked staff.

He made himself a cup of tea and some breakfast. A few minutes later, a horse-drawn carriage halted in front of his house. He got dressed in his robes and took off onto the carriage.

That night when he arrived at the Department Of Hell, he was called to an important meeting.

The head counsellor announced: "We noticed a lot of escaping souls yesterday morning that were in groups. We have tried our best to scatter the souls, but we could not track down the four most powerful ones. But again, questions remain. Why escape in the morning when they are most powerful at night? Who are these souls? Pao, do you have anything to share?"

He raised his voice: "Yesterday I had a dream: there were four men, one in a black dress, one in a purple dress and the middle one in a red one. The man on the left held a crystal ball, the man on the right held a sword that would change into any weapon that he wanted and the man in the middle held a staff he called the staff of evil. I think that the middle man was the leader as he looked the most powerful. The man in the middle spoke to me about the future, about changing it, about controlling time and eventually ruling the world. He said that I was the biggest problem, and about killing me..." He decided not to say the last part.

"They are no doubt an ancient evil that has been plotting against us for centuries," replied Cheng Bu. "The man in the middle you described was very familiar with me... when I was alive back in the Han dynasty, when I was in High School, he was my classmate. He later was driven mad by some kind of sinister force and became evil. and himself The Beast. He could then change form into anything – even monsters. The people on the left and the right were probably some cronies he earned when he was in the underworld after he was killed by his own madness."

The clock struck two a.m.. Alarms blared around the room which was illuminated with red light.

The head counsellor shouted over the sirens: "Something large and dark is approaching. Please pick up your belongings and leave. We will make a temporary teleport and do not worry about us. Thank you!"

Pao pulled out his emergency teleportation device and plunged into the swirling mass of smoke...

## 2.Who stole my sword?

The following night, he was again called to a meeting. The department had amazingly teleported back right where it was and saved him from the trouble of finding it. To his relief, it wasn't damaged at all.

The head counsellor pulled out a golden case and handed it to Pao. "This contains the five gems, which will help you to defeat the three men and send them back to the underworld," Pao made a mere gesture for thanks "This is also the sword death, it will help you defeat two men and will fly back to the Department Of Hell."

The following night, He had a dream.

The head counsellor told him to find Bi Sheng, the inventor, to build him a time machine that contains the gems that he gave to him to travel to the future to defeat the three men.

The following day, he went to Bi Sheng's studio. He asked Bi Sheng to build a time machine for two bags of silver, and he agreed. Two days later, the time machine was done.

That night, he set off...

### 3. The duel

He stepped in, flipped on a few switches. The engine hummed lightly. The red dot traced 4500. Pao wondered if the time machine could take him 4000 years ahead, as he pressed a red button and blasted off in a rubble of smoke. After a while of unluxury travelling, he landed on a soft bouncy surface. The machine grunted and groaned as it bounced off the ground. Pao stepped out, the surface of the planet was pinkish filled with arcade rides and weaponry stores. The floor was extremely bouncy. The area was deserted and had barely no people.

He squinted. Just above the horizon, three flying figures were visible. They were black, purple and red togas and Pao was sure that one person was the beast. They suddenly closed up at him at an alarming speed and they appeared to be riding on flying plates.

The trios each dropped a packet of seeds that when it hit the ground grew into a few heavy armed robots. Pao reached for the hilt of his sword. Just as he pulled out the wicked vantablack blade and all the robots ran away.

“Well, some tricks you’ve got there Pao,” said the Beast “ looks like my message worked. Now, you want the blade? You’ll have to beat us to get it!”

Pao grunted in disapproval. He slashed at both of the men on the sides but at each slash, they disappeared, and the sword.

“Looks like you’ve got no weapons, come on Pao!”

Pao reached for his pocket and pulled out a sachet. He pulled out the five gems and threw them at the beast. The beast shrieked, let out a scream, and disappeared in a flash of light.

Pao returned to his time machine victorious. Just as he was going to go back home, he found a slip in his pocket.

I will be back. Don't put this back in your pocket again , or else...  
Your wickedly,  
The Beast

Pao did not believe it. He put the note in his pocket, and with a burst of supernova, he was gone, leaving a smoking crater in the machine...



# *The Adventures of Judge Pao*

*ESF Kennedy School, Ma, Kyle – 8*

He is half-cyborg. Why? In year 1986, he was murdered by a criminal halfway through solving a mystery. The doctors could not revive him. But, 4 months later, a genius named Malkey made a half-cyborg suit and sold it to the doctors. The suit was attached to Judge Pao and he was back!

As the news of his revival spread, Pao's phone instantly rang. It was a woman that had seen someone rob the National Malkey Bank! Judge Pao was on the case with a cyborg face! Dashing his way to the bank, he shone his flashlight on the crime scene and used his magnifying glass to find if there were any footprints. Luckily, there were! They led him to the sewer... Judge Pao climbed inside it, not knowing what was awaiting him...

It was dark, stinky and sticky in the sewer, spiders and lizards were crawling on the walls. Judge Pao walked towards three big tunnels. Judge Pao went with his gut and chose the one with gooey slime all over it. He walked for 37 minutes and stopped at a dead end—a wall of bricks. Mysteriously, one brick was scratched, with three claw marks on it. While Judge Pao was using his magnifying glass to inspect it, he accidentally pressed it. The wall opened up...

A giant, mutant lizard monster leaped out of the wall and choked Judge Pao with his tail! Judge Pao was in danger! While he was slowly losing his breath, he had an idea. He tried to shine his flashlight in the beast's eyes, but nothing happened! He glanced at the floor, realising that's because the batteries dropped out when the lizard flung him around. Running out of ideas, he just threw the flashlight at the lizard. Being hit on the face, the beast stepped back and released Judge Pao. Judge Pao then leaped on the lizard and punched the lizard's face! The lizard's eyeballs dropped out and rolled on the floor, revealing... WIRES!

Suddenly, a robotic voice came out of lizard's body said, 'Bomb explosion in 3, 2, 1...' KA-BOOM!' The robotic lizard exploded! Judge Pao was badly hurt, but had enough strength to pick up a note he saw. It said:

Dear Judge ~~Pao~~ Poo,

I have been watching your every move in my lair! I knew you would rip my robot lizard's eyes out so I made a bomb that would blow up if the eyeballs fell out! Have fun being hurt!

Worst Regards,  
Anonymous

Judge Pao was confused. There were lots of villains he fought when he was still full human that could predict the future. The Mad Clock, Terror Time, Fortune Fiend. But no villain he fought before has ever made a bomb nor a robot, so he figured it must have been a new villain who made it. Leaving the note on the floor, Judge Pao disappointedly sighed and walked to the sewer lid. Accidentally, he tripped over the robot lizard's tail and revealed a passcode under it. It was A1215900M. Judge Pao wondered what it could be used for...

We now interrupt your story with a flashback :

It was dark and creepy in the strawberry juice factory (everyone likes strawberry juice, right?). Judge Pao (still full human) was fighting against The Mad Clock, Terror Time and Fortune Fiend on a bridge that could view all the big tubes that contained chemicals. Pao whacked them all off the bridge with his flashlight which could change sizes, and he set it to maximum 100. They all screamed and landed inside a huge tube full of green slimy liquid. What they didn't know was the words at the bottom of the tube: Toxic ! Do not touch!

End of flashback

The next morning, Judge Pao went to Malkey's office. He and Malkey chatted for a while, then Judge Pao went outside. He whistled a happy tune while walking to the arcade. He walked ... And walked ... AND FELL INTO A HOLE ! "AHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH" !!! He screamed as he fell down the dark hole. His head hit the ground, then everything went black...

After Judge Pao woke up, he saw a monster with 6 legs, 6 arms and 3 heads that looked very familiar. It carried the weak Judge Pao to a table. It started to connect wires on Pao's head and walked to a control panel. He reached and wanted to press the START button when suddenly ... KABOOM! Judge Pao's head exploded. The monster was hurt , but it had enough energy to pick up a note. It said :

GOTCHA BACK !!!

This Pao is fake!

From the real Judge Pao

BLAM ! Judge Pao (the real one) kicked the wall down . He and the monster had a huge fight. Uppercut ! Hook ! Flying Elbow ! Arm Twist ! The battle raged for three hours. Until he saw it. A big , white clock on the monster's chest. He remembered that tattoo. It was The Mad Clock's symbol. Judge Pao froze. He now remembered it was : THE MAD CLOCK , TERROR TIME AND FORTUNE FIEND MUATATED TOGETHER !!!

Judge Pao gasped in shock. He quickly returned to reality, punched the mutant villain and sent it to the world's most high security jail. The monster in the cell turned around with a sneaky smile and told Judge Pao : "I will be back!" The monster had a plan about this two years ago. It hacked the entire world's jail computer system and changed the passcode to ... A1215900M .

THE END

PART TWO COMING SOON !!

## *Judge Pao*

*ESF Kennedy School, Wang, Jason – 8*

Ring! Ring! Victor woke up. “Breakfast time!” shouted Victor’s mom. “I’m coming,” said Victor. While Victor ate breakfast, his mom said, “there’s a new detective Sherlock Holmes book, want to buy it?” “No,” replied Victor, “but speaking of detectives, I want to see a real detective.” “Fine,” groaned Victor’s mom. Two months later, they built a tinkle time traveler 2000. Victor pressed the buttons. Ding! Welcome to 1999, the doors opened. “Wrong.” Said Victor and Victor’s mom at the same time. Victor pressed the buttons again, Ding! Welcome to 1379, the doors opened. “Wrong.” Said Victor’s mom. Victor pressed the buttons again, Ding! welcome to 1051, the doors opened. “Right!” Said Victor’s mom. In front of them was a big market with lots of food. “Why did you say right?” Asked Victor. Because this is the time Judge Pao lived!” Said Victor’s mom excitedly. “But he’s a judge!” “blurted out Victor. “We want detectives!” “Honey, you don’t understand this.” Said Victor’s mom. “I understand everything!” Shouted Victor, “I’m Albert Einstein!” “Excuse me, but who is Albert Einstein,” asked the passer by. “It’s the guy who invented  $E=mc^2$ .” “No such thing!” said the passerby. “How to get to Judge Bao?” Asked victor, who had totally forgotten about the detective search. “You should know! Up the hill and turn a U–turn. After that, get a taxicab and go to Judge Bao!” Shouted the passerby. But, when they reached the top of the hill, they were both sweating and exhausted. Victor’s mom brought water, but they forgot them when they went out of the time machine. They went in to a cab. And the cab–bearer said: “You can drink my spare water.” “Thanks!” Said Victor. Meanwhile, a robber was robbing the tax station. Suddenly, a man with a ninja sword jumped in front of the robber. “Why are you stealing people’s tax money?!” Shouted the man with the ninja sword. Victor and his mom walked passed. After a while, they told everything to Judge Pao. “Bring him into the court!” Judge Bao said, “for I shall kill him or kill you, in case you are lying.” The robber was in the court, and the guy with a ninja sword told Judge Bao the story again. Judge Bao said, “You are stealing people’s tax money, and you shouldn’t be doing that. So I sentence you to two years of jail.” “Yes Sir,” said the guards. “No!” Said the robber. “Thanks for busting crime!” Said Judge Bao. “It’s a great honor to capture criminals!” said Victor’s mom. “For what you have done, you can live in this house,” said Judge Bao, pointing to a nice house down the hill. At night, the robber snuck out of jail and said to himself, “I’m going to the hills.” Next morning, Victor’s mom got back Victor’s time machine, and Judge Pao told soldiers to find the missing robber. But nobody could find the robber. Victor’s mom said, “Victor, stay in this place, I’m going to time machine to see if there’s any evidence of where the robber went.” Ding! Welcome to yesterday night, 1051. The doors opened. Victor’s mom saw the robber sneaking out of the jail and said to himself, “I’m going to the hills. Victor’s mom pressed the buttons. Ding! present 1051, the doors opened. Victor’s mom said: “The robber is in the hills” A week later, the robber was caught. Judge Bao said, I sentence you to death of escaping prison secretly. No, shouted the robber. How do you plead, asked the executer raising his axe. Guil–inno–guilty, stammered the robber. Ha, said the executer, chop, the robber died. Little did anybody know, they just killed the wrong robber in the hills. Victor and his mom decided to go into the hills. Victor saw someone peeking (which was the original robber). They took him to Judge Bao, in case he was really a robber. Judge Bao said, he looks like a robber, but I don’t think we have any evidence to proof that. But, said Victor, now I remembered that the robber had a tattoo on his head. And this robber has a tattoo on his head also, plus his clothes are torn and are the same color as the robber who stole from the tax station. I think I’ll just put him in jail, just in case he isn’t the robber who stole from the tax station, said Judge Bao. Do you need to go home? Yes, said Victor. Victor and his mom went into the time machine, and pressed the buttons. Ding, present, 2023. Great adventure, ha? Said Victor’s mom. Yep, replied Victor as they ran to home.

# New Tales of Judge Pao

*ESF Kennedy School, Wu, Liam Emery – 10*

One day I was sitting comfortably in my courtyard garden, immersed in the sounds of the pristine fountain gurgling nearby. The sun rested on my face as I enjoyed the pleasant surroundings. Suddenly, a chill burst of wind slammed the cosy garden gates against the courtyard wall, and I started with an irritable grunt.

“Who so rudely interrupted my relaxation?” I grumbled.

“I deeply apologise for the terrible inconvenience, ... Y—your Honour, J—judge Pao!” stuttered the obsequious bailiff, bowing deeply.

How typical! Bailiff Jao was always pretending to be an ideal servant with his excessively polite and unnecessary chatter. It was a complete waste of time.

“Yes, yes, yes. Please hurry and tell me WHY you disturbed me in the first place?” I demanded.

“Apologies, Your Honour! An attorney informed me there is a complaint by a petitioner who is desperate to meet you,” he whimpered sheepishly.

I leisurely proceeded to my chambers to put on the traditional silk robes necessary to hear this unfortunate petitioner’s case. Although I had not yet met him, he was beginning to arouse my sympathy. Why would he be in a rush to meet me?

As I returned to the courtyard through the front entryway, I noticed that Bailiff Jao was fidgeting and peering at the sundial next to the fountain. Realising the petitioner must be suffering greatly, I quickened my pace.

Upon entering the court building, I adjusted to its bustling activities. At the end of a long hall, I found several attorneys and scribes already waiting, numerous scrolls laid out meticulously on the tables in front of them. The petitioner was there as well, exhibiting a grim but determined expression.

“My wife was almost killed on the road by a vicious murderer. He is currently being detained. I beseech you to put him on trial to preserve the honour of my family,” he uttered gravely.

“Hmm,” murmured the attorneys, carefully stroking their lengthy beards.

“We will see what we can do,” I declared simply.

After gathering the basic facts of the case, I excused myself from the meeting and, accompanied by several personal guards, made my way to the petitioner’s home. A terrible stench of manure pervaded the atmosphere around the cottage, and I wrinkled my nose reflexively, repulsed and nauseated. Upon entering the house, I almost began to regret making this visit. Before me, lying in a small, soiled bed within a dark, damp room, was the young female. Although only in her early twenties, she had aged rapidly, and her once dark—brown hair was now streaked with grey. She filled the entire cramped house with horrendous groans.

Nearing the bedside, I saw her eyes were full of dread. “Hello, I am Judge Pao,” I informed her. “I have come to investigate this terrible incident on your husband’s behalf.” Strangely, her great pain seemed to subside while her face crumpled in despair. “May I please see your wound?” I inquired. Without uttering a word, she unfolded her collar, revealing the immense gash of a violent knife just below her shoulder. Maintaining a calm demeanour despite the shocking scene, I thanked her and quickly left to examine her alleged attacker.

After a short journey, my guards and I came upon the prison, a foreboding structure casting a dark shadow over the lush fields beside it. At the entrance, I asked the chief guard to see the prisoner; but for some inexplicable reason, he failed to recognize me – an unforgivable offence. Finally, having stared at my identification documents for a long time, he grudgingly let me in.

As I arrived at cell 5482, I glanced at the prisoner through the iron bars. He was unusually small, with a height that would barely reach my waist and very underdeveloped limbs. Obviously a poor peasant, he stood silently, staring dismally at the floor. I glanced at the cell number again, wondering if I had come to the wrong location, but quickly verified that this was indeed the correct prisoner.

Concealing my thoughts, I gathered up my robes and headed to the nearest guard. “You must free the prisoner in cell 5482 and then follow me!” I demanded. The guard’s eyes widened suspiciously; but then, unlike the unwise

fellow I had met at the entrance, he quickly recognized who I was, and retrieved a massive set of keys. Fumbling with them a few long moments, he finally came upon the one for cell 5482. With atrocious screeching, the heavy, rusted door opened. Upon learning his fate, the inmate fell to his knees and bowed in gratitude.

I gestured to the guard and remarked, "Are you coming or not?"

"Of course!" he said quickly, gathering several other guards.

"I apologise for the intrusion, but you are under arrest for attempting to murder your wife!" I snarled. "The person you accused was not of sufficient height to stab your wife so violently. In fact, that poor man actually stopped you from killing your wife, and you called the authorities to have him arrested!"

Three months later:

I lethargically strolled around the neighbourhood's outer wall, surprised to find this ordinary pastime quite pleasurable. Having relaxed to my heart's content since closing the case of the murderous husband, I had become somewhat wearisome of the daily routine. As I turned a corner, Bailiff Jao unexpectedly rushed towards me in a cloud of dust, his face slick with sweat from the heavy sun.

"Excuse me, Y-your Honour!" he began rapidly. "I went to your house, but was told you had gone out. I want to inform you that a notorious criminal has been captured, and the police are demanding a trial!"

For once, I did not mind Bailiff Jao's foolish manner. A smile spread across my face. I was looking forward to serving justice.

## *New Tale of Judge Pao*

*ESF Kennedy School, Xiao, Albert – 8*

In the cold, pale streets of capital city of Dynasty Song, a short figure stood in the shadows, watching. He held his reins in his hands. They were bumpy and full of blood. Nothing interrupted him until... Crack! A wooden bar had cracked. The figure spun around. There he saw a man, a serious man carrying a sword. The man stood still. He made a hissing sound, "I demand you to go and kill Judge Pao, the supernatural judge." the man hissed. "Why?" the figure asked. "You will get rich if you kill him, Drako" the man replied. He then faded away in the darkness.

Meanwhile, Judge Pao was interrogating a guy why he had stolen treasure from a bank. "I stole nothing," the guy defended. "You did, Mr. Drako Spensily had already saw the fingerprints on the wood and they match with you!" "No! I DID NOT!" shouted the guy. "I will put you in jail, Mr." said Judge Pao coldly. "Nooooo!" echoes faded in the hallway.

Jacky Leaver woke with a start, "thank god it was a dream only, I was a scaredy cat." "Jacky, time to eat breakfast!" Jacky's mom shouted. "Coming." Jacky started searching information on the internet to find more details about Judge Pao and of course the guy he questioned. "Hmmm, it seems the guy was called Noobu Leaver. Wait a minute, he must be my ancestor!" Jacky zoomed down to the kitchen to tell his mom this news. "Mom, mom!" Jacky shouted. "Yes?" "I saw Judge Pao captured a guy which is my ancestor!" "Oh my, let's find this out together."

Jacky and his mom went to Jacky's room and searched. "Well, it seems Noobu was not a bad guy!" exclaimed Jacky's mom. "Hey, let's build a time machine and travel back to the year 1056 to see my ancestor!" Jacky suggested. "Well, OK." replied Jacky's mom. They got straight to work. After one year, *the Time Machine 2000* was ready to be tested! "I'm so excited!" Jacky said nervously. "If it doesn't work, then we'll get stuck," said Jacky's mom. They went on *the Time Machine 2000* and pressed a button. Boom! It disappeared in only one second!

Meanwhile, Judge Pao was reading a book, a judge dictionary. Boring! Boring! It was boring! Judge Pao was a black faced man with a crescent moon print on his forehead. He looked very serious. Suddenly, a knock came from the door. "Mr. Pao, the guy was right, he didn't steal treasure from the bank." "Oh." "And Mr. Drako Spensily has already killed him!" "NO!" Judge Pao shouted.

Jacky and his mom landed in a wild place at night. "I don't think it's the right place," said Jacky. Crack! A cracking noise sounded. "This gives me a bad feeling," Jacky said, trembling with fear. A door opened in the ground. It was Judge Pao, he become the immortal Yama of Department of Hell at night! "Who are you?" asked Judge Pao. "We are here to speak with you." "Come in!" said Judge Pao.

Jacky and his mom went in. Inside Jacky saw shelves and shelves of books, scrolls and even gold. Jacky sat down on a worn-out chair. "Why do you want to talk to me?" asked Judge Pao. "We are from future and want to tell you that Noobu Leaver, my ancestor, didn't steal anything." "How can you prove it?" asked Judge Pao. "Draco Spensily made up the fingerprints, and we can compare the residual DNA on the stolen treasure with Noobu. It is widely used in our time." explained Jacky. "Hmmm, interesting, but Noobu was already dead. Draco killed him." exclaimed Judge Pao. "Don't worry, we have a time machine to go back to the time before he died. We built it by ourselves." Judge Pao finally agreed.

The next day, Judge Pao came to see the time machine. They came upon a beast. "It is amazing!" Judge Pao looked shocked. In the time machine, Jacky turned the switch to one day ago, right before Noobu was killed. The time engine started, and *the time machine 2000* zoomed into action. Back in the past, the time machine landed. Gushes of smoke faded away. Jacky, his mom and Judge Pao stepped down the stairs. "That was fast!" Judge Pao was surprised.

Judge Pao led Jacky and his mom to the cells. Inside, they could hear crying. "Help, help!" They opened the door and Noobu was there. Jacky ran to him and whispered, "we are here to save you. I'm Jacky, your descendants coming from future." Jacky took a little machine from his pocket. He measured the stolen treasure first and then pricked Noobu's finger with a needle to get one drop of blood. After comparison, Jacky exclaimed excitedly, "they are not from the same person. My ancestor is innocent!" Just then, the door slammed open. A short man came in with a dagger in his hand. He was surprised to see so many people and froze there. At this moment, Jacky took out

a portable X-ray and quickly scanned the short man's body. And he shouted, "you are the one who stole the treasure!" The short man grinned, "yes, I'm Draco Spensily and I'm going to kill you all!" Jacky took a smoke bomb from his pocket again and threw it towards Draco. The bomb exploded and the smoke suddenly filled every corner of the cell. Everyone started to cough. Jacky took out some weird looking glasses and handed them to everyone. "Put on these glasses and you can see through the smoke. Let's go!"

While Draco coughing, the other people bent down on the floor and crawled to the door. They quickly ran out and Judge Pao locked the door so that Draco can't get out. Judge pao and Noobu bowed to Jacky and his mom, "thank you for helping us solve crime!" Then, the time machine vanished.

## *My New Uniform*

*ESF Quarry Bay School, Gao, Annabel – 9*

When I was in Year 2 I had once woke up to find my uniform had been cut. I was rather shocked to see that the uniform had gotten cut because it was brand new and the cut was rather unpleasant. I was very confused since no one in the house would cut like that, so I ran to find my mother. When she saw the humongous cut, her face was suddenly red with rage. She looked like an erupting volcano letting its burning lava pour out. She bit her teeth together. All of a sudden she was yelling at me! “No one but you in this entire house would cut like this!” I was shivering, the shiver shook down my spine as she shouted with anger. I stood in shock wondering how she could think it was me! Even though I wasn't the one to cut my own uniform, I decided to keep my feelings of sadness to myself anyway. I was very upset with the way she always said it was me. But the worst was to come, she refused to speak to me for days. Though it had only been a few hours, I felt like it had been an eternity. I was so upset that she did not believe me. Those days were excruciating as they passed, I started to think of a plan. After days of careful planning I still had no idea of what to do nor how to do it.

One early morning at school, my best friends ran up to me and told me about Judge Pao, who lived in 999–1062, he worked as a politician and judge during his lifetime. They also told me he was very well respected because he showed justice and was equal to every citizen, he solved many mysterious cases. He was known as the most prestigious judge in Chinese history, also called China's Sherlock Holmes. I decided to start doing something to see Justice Pao and see if he could help me in any manageable way. When I got home I started to invent a time machine, which could bring me back to the Song Dynasty. I had so many trials. After days of assembling and testing the time machine TM–10, it failed again and again. I was on the edge of giving up the hope that it would ever work, and that my mother would ever speak to me. I was disappointed and discouraged. Suddenly, a strong blue ray appeared through the machine with a loud KA–BOOM in the room and smoke floated in the air. I saw something green flashing on the screen of TM–10, I quickly typed in the year 1034 and I was sucked in by a hidden force. As I swirled into the glowing tunnel of TM–10, I arrived in a colourful garden. In front of me was a temple. With my heart thumping like a herd of running elephants, I walked towards the temple, the temple shone brightly in broad daylight, it was bright red with roofs that looked like they were made of pure gold and bronze. Slowly, as I entered the temple, I saw an old man with a dark face and a small shining moon on his forehead, a pair of small chestnut brown eyes glimmering in the light and a huge black beard was hanging down his wide chest. I can't believe it, my eyes and mouth were wide open with shock. I suspected THIS IS JUSTICE PAO. I pinched my leg very hard to make sure this was real. I was stammering when I asked if he was Justice Pao. He nodded his head quietly. I looked around the room and I saw a wall covered computer screens running with the didi sound, converted cameras, mini cameras and a huge control panel. He asked me how he could help, I instantly told him about the huge problem at home and asked if he could help. He frowned for some time. After a long time of silence, Justice Pao walked towards the screen wall, the screens on the wall started flicking, Judge Pao sat in front of the control panel and started writing some computer program. All of sudden the screens started showing a video of that dreadful night. What I saw shook me from head to toe, a frightening purple alien crept in from behind the curtains into my bedroom, the terrifying creature had dark purple skin. The creature seemed interested in everything so maybe that is the reason why he flipped through all the things in my room. When he saw my uniform, he grabbed it a treasure and after staring at it and feeling it, he suddenly tore a big hole in the centre. Suddenly, like wind he tidied the room back to how it looked when he had come then disappeared from where he had come from. After we finished watching the video, Justice Pao told me I was not allowed to bring back the video. “How can I prove to my mother that I did not cut the uniform without the video you showed me?” I asked Justice Pao, he chuckled. “You have to let her know that you are trustworthy.” he answered, still giggling and continuing “And remember at all times tell the truth. Be an honest person.” After saying thank you to Justice Pao I went back home and talked to my mother I did not cut up my uniform and I would prove to her I am a trustworthy person. At the end of the day she chose to forgive me and trusted me. From that moment

I always remembered the fact that you must be an honest person no matter who you are and where you are.



## *The Clever Judge – Judge Pao*

*ESF Quarry Bay School, Huang, Edward – 9*

Deep within the great city of Kaifeng many moons ago lived an intelligent judge, Judge Bao. He brought peace by solving mysteries that kept people arguing for a long time. As a loyal official of the emperor, he was constantly asked to solve difficult cases. A distinctive moon on his forehead made him well recognized and remembered by the people. His dark face, moon shape on the forehead, and flowing beard made him look like a monster to the criminals.

It was a chilly day and Judge Bao was drinking warm tea in the imperial botanic garden. While looking at the beautiful Chinese roses, he held his long shining beard and wondered when his next case would arrive. The emperor appeared in front of him no sooner, shouting, “The priceless fire ruby got stolen! I want it back!”

The emperor called many of the best judges in China to solve who stole it. Judge Jian Ling said the thief must be poor because no rich person would steal it. All the other judges nodded in agreement except for Judge Bao. He felt confused as security around the ruby room was so protective no one could get in. How could an outsider get it? It must’ve been an insider with access to the palace. That night, he went around the imperial palace searching for clues.

Judge Bao first went to the ruby room, checking for footprints and fingerprints. He could see some medium-sized footprints in the dust that led to Judge Jian Ling’s house. Judge Bao investigated further and crawled through the window into Judge Jian Ling’s study. He found a detailed plan on Judge Jian Ling’s table, consisting of precise planning on how to get into the ruby chamber, and the time and frequency of the guard change, and a drawing of a necklace. This scheme sheet was a great piece of evidence that showed he stole the ruby. However, without the ruby, Judge Bao cannot prove that he stole it.

The next day, when all the judges met up again, many said it was stolen by one man called Li Yi. He recently got some newfound wealth and was spending lots of money buying expensive things, so they suspected that he was the one who stole the ruby. They arrested him, broke his fingers, and beat him badly. Initially, Li Yi denied everything, but after lengthy torture in prison, he finally said yes. When Judge Bao tries to ask him some questions, he couldn’t talk anymore, his mouth was dripping blood. Judge Bao found that his tongue was cut off. Judge Bao felt there were a lot of unanswered questions. However, he had no concrete evidence, as the ruby was not found yet.

Judge Bao asked all the other judges to go to Judge Jian Ling’s house that night, to celebrate the closing of the case. He went to Judge Jian Ling’s house a little earlier and through chit-chat, he questioned him about the footprint. Judge Jian Ling looked sweaty and nervous, agitated and looking worried. Judge Jian Ling’s wife walked by wearing a jewel-encrusted necklace. Judge Bao noticed the necklace and it looked so familiar, where has he seen it before? He remembered the picture in the study. The necklace has a beautiful ruby embedded in it, emanating a special glow, but not just any, it was the emperor’s ruby. The glow was unique to this fire ruby, no other ruby has it. He pretended nothing happened and continued to dinner.

At the dinner, Judge Jian Ling’s wife came out for a toast, and she was wearing that exact necklace. She either liked it so much or think no one would recognize it in disguise. Everyone was shocked when they saw Judge Jian Ling’s wife wearing the ruby on her neck. It’s such a distinguished ruby with that special glow, no matter how you disguise it, everyone could recognize it straight away. Now with Judge Jian Ling caught red-handed with the ruby, they took him to the emperor to show he was at fault and not Li Yi. The emperor was so shocked that an official would steal such a priceless object and blame it on an innocent man. Judge Jian Ling begged for forgiveness and swore he would never do it again. The emperor was furious and shouted, “Take this man away and lock him up!” With one mighty heave from the guards, Jian Ling was out of the room and into the prison.

The case was finally solved, and one innocent man was saved. Judge Bao got offered a promotion, but he turned it down as he said he liked solving cases too much and won’t stop for a long time. The emperor respected his decision and gave a special mention to Judge Bao for holding up justice and not letting Li Yi Zheng get killed for a crime he didn’t commit.

## *New Tales of Judge Pao*

*ESF Quarry Bay School, Liu, Aiden – 10*

Finally, the day had come. It was my worst fear, which was going in a museum only with historical artifacts and people. Who was Judge Pao anyway, and how is he even that important? Right after I nonchalantly slipped out of the comforting bus, a swarm of people appeared right in front of my eyes. They seemed to be parading about something, the performers were speaking mandarin.

“What are they doing?” I asked mum.

She just walked straight forward not hearing me.

After I passed the ticket machine, a boisterous microphone started to activate.

“Welcome all to your very own self-guided tour!”

Mom pulled me tightly as I reluctantly followed her. Another clamorous speaker began to activate.

“Pao was an ordinary toddler, at least he looked like one, he was born in an enormous family with 13 children plus 2 adults, the family was between middle and low class and they all lived a happy life. Pao’s destiny was to be a trustworthy judge and to uphold justice in ancient China.”

The speaker ended my short daydream. I was starting to get in it. I walked along the path until I saw a figure. It was wearing a fancy robe and an enchanting gown. That should be Judge Pao, I thought.

The speaker emitted a muffled sound.

“Pao’s family loved him and hoped that he would live a truthful life. Judge Pao worked very hard at school and so he had high reputations. His dream job was to be a Judge, a great one. At the age of 29, Pao completed the imperial examinations and earned a place to have a qualification in being a judge. It was an honour to be able to obtain this. Heartbreakingly, before long, Pao’s parents died. Pao went to their graves and felt sorrowful for their death, because of that, he pressed pause on his career, but in China at that time, it was the rightful thing to do. Although he dropped out of his profession for quite some time, humanity let him continue his life.”

My eyes were wide open, my ears were concentrating on the speaker, and my brain was thinking. I had a change of thought about the day.

Thump! Thump! What a bummer! It was Ronald Rock. He was as sly as a fox. I did not expect to meet Ronald in this educated museum. He was extremely infamous at my school. He was very poorly educated. All he could do was to play video games. He loved to pick on kids like me. I evaded the tourists and attempted to blend in. As soon as I reached the bathroom’s front door, I felt assured that Ronald Rock wouldn’t find me. I waited and waited and waited until I began to snore.

It was quite a long time since my deep sleep started. I had a few exciting dreams, but they weren’t as exciting as this dream. In this dream Judge Pao appeared right next to me while I was sleeping.

“Let me teleport you to the Imperial Clan Court”, Judge Pao said.

A towering desk stood upon the room. Everything seemed so ancient, it wasn’t possible, was it ancient China? Judge Pao sat upon the desk: he was deciding about something.

“On the count of manslaughter, we find Wai Chu guilty”. Wai Chu looked like he was in his forties.

Pao announced to the court “Facts tell the truth! The defendant made a wrongful decision so he will pay for it!” The defendant seemed to be remorseful, but there was nothing to be done. Pao swiftly marched away. I followed Pao into his office, I accidentally eavesdropped on his conversation with a lawyer.

“It is easy to please people, but not easy to stand up to them and prove what’s right and wrong. It is up to you to determine that.” That was all I heard.

As I slowly tiptoed in the opposite direction, Judge Pao barricaded my route. His office was very antique but messy, piles and piles of paperwork were on the floor. Judge Pao should be a busy person I thought.

Judge Pao sternly looked me in the eye. “Look, all I want to say is for you to stand up to your fears and be brave to show justice and to protect yourself and your rights.” Now I was very sure that I needed to avenge myself against Ronald. Suddenly I got teleported back to earth.

Slam! I woke up to my dream in horror that Ronald Rock appeared right in front of me. He roared, “Give me ten bucks now”. He rudely pointed at me while splitting saliva at me.

Remembering Pao’s advice, I yelled, “What you are doing is wrong, and I will not be a pawn in one of your games! I am not afraid of you!” Sweat was dripping out of my chin. Quickly I dashed out of the toilet and yelped for help. My mum was the first to respond. I told her that Ronald was bullying and forcing me to give him money. She told Ronald to back away and leave me. Right after that a security guard came to escort Ronald away.

Finally, Ronald left me in alone because of my strong will.

Pao’s voice echoed.

“You are a very wise heroic young man.” The voice rapidly disappeared.

“That was very brave of you. Always stand up to bullies like Ronald.” Mum praised. “Hey mum, can we come back here again?”

“Of course, darling.” Mum said. After that we continued to stroll around the enormous museum. This wasn’t the exciting and amazing adventure I thought I would have had. A small grin burst out of my face.

# *Tales of Judge Pao*

*ESF Quarry Bay School, Low, Julia – 10*

This is the story of China's supernatural judge, the judge who hated corruption and wanted to impeach corrupt officials. In fact, some stories even say that while he brought justice as a human during the day, at night he became an all powerful being who sorted out the problems of the Afterlife. A fair but strict judge, he had a lot of power and control over who was right and who was wrong. He knew whenever someone was lying and made very fair and just rulings. Who was this judge? Well, his name was Judge Pao.

When someone committed a crime, Judge Pao would show no mercy, even if they pleaded and begged to be given a second chance. Did you know that sometimes, when someone committed a really bad crime, he would punish them by beheading the criminal. He even had three special knives for beheading, one had a dragon handle and that was for beheading royals. The second one had a tiger handle and that was for beheading nobles. The last one had a dog handle and that was for beheading normal villagers. Although Judge Pao also showed sympathy to those less fortunate than him, if he believed them to be wrong, he would be very firm on what needed to be done. He respected other people's opinions greatly, and always listened to what they had to say, even if they were poor, or had other disabilities. Also respecting those who told the truth, when there was a difference of opinion on a particular matter, he would figure out who was lying by calling someone who had witnessed the event to ask them what really happened.

Another thing to know about him is that Judge Pao was not his real name! He actually went by lots of names, but the most accurate one to use is probably Bao Zheng. When he grew up he became a judge and that was one of the reasons he became known as Judge Pao. Bao Zheng was not born into a rich family, in fact his family lived in poverty for a long time before Bao Zheng became famous. However, his family had high hopes for him, and he learnt how to read at the age of 5. He also did well in school, and at the young age of 25, he became a Jinshi (進士), the highest rank of the Imperial Scholar. Although he was expected to join the ruling classes right away, he never did. His parents were weak and frail, and he temporarily postponed his great ambitions to take care of them. Only joining the court in his late thirties, he was worried that by postponing for so long, his career would suffer. However, the citizens in China respected young folk who sacrificed years of work to care for their parents, so he was accepted into the government without any fuss.

One of Judge Pao's famous cases was when he supported an old lady instead of a very powerful and high ranking official. One day, while Judge Pao was taking a walk around the streets, he bumped into an old lady. The old lady was crying and looking very distraught, and since Judge Pao had a kind heart, he asked her what was wrong. She said that there was a man in her neighbourhood who was taking all the villagers' possessions, and recently he took her family's cow. She begged Judge Pao to punish him fairly, so he asked her to find the man and bring him to the court so he could get a fair and just ruling.

Later the old lady brought the man to the court to be judged by Judge Pao. It turned out that the man was a rich and high ranking official. Any other judge would have just glanced at the man, saw his important badge and jewellery, and just believed him over anyone who was not as important as him. However, Judge Pao was not like other judges. He was not biased and treated everyone equally, so he made the man kneel down and answer questions like any other villager. It turned out he really was guilty and the old woman was telling the truth. The official pleaded to be given another chance but Judge Pao was very strict and showed him no mercy, demanding he be punished severely with whips. So, what do you think about this case? Do you think Judge Pao should have been so strict with the official? Or do you think the man got what he deserved?

What do you think about Judge Pao now that you've heard his story? Do you approve of his methods of punishment or do you think that he could have been less strict with the criminals? Whatever you think, I hope that after reading this text you now have a better understanding of Judge Pao. More people should know about him as he was an outstanding judge who really existed in the olden days. So, when you get the chance, perhaps you could tell your family or friends more about him.

## *Judge Pao and The Case With 300 Suspects*

*ESF Sha Tin Junior School, Chan, Westley – 10*

On a nice, calm Sunday morning, Judge Pao woke up earlier than usual to get to his favourite coffee shop to buy some cappuccino before the morning crowd. After he bought his drink, he went out for a morning walk while sipping his cappuccino. As he was walking, his phone's alarm rang according to code yellow. Code yellow would activate if somebody was near his house, so as swift as a cheetah, he raced back home to see who was in front of his door, and to his surprise it was his ex-classmate from England, Quan-Tim Thicex (pronounced Thi-Sicks).

"Judge Pao, I need your help dearly! A priceless artefact from the museum I work at has been stolen! Fortunately, the security team has put the museum on lockdown, and we have narrowed it down to 300 suspects, but they all claim they have not stolen anything. I beg you, Judge Pao, please help me!"

He began to run tears down his eyes. "I'll lose my job and my good reputation if I do not find it in time. So please, I beg you!"

"Alright, I will help you with this case. And you proclaim that there were 300 suspects?" questioned Judge Pao.

"Yes, 300 suspects." replied Quan-Tim

"This case may take some time. And how many of the suspects have bags?"

"200, Pao."

When they got to the museum, they saw an angry-looking security guard staring at him.

"Oi, Quan-Tim! Heard ya got a work bonus, gimme that money now!" Yelled the security guard.

"His name's Ruffaz Birch, my childhood enemy. Ignore him."

The angry security guard stomped over, but Judge Pao's instincts kicked in.

"Put him in handcuffs," he said, "And let's go over the people."

"Sir, yes, sir!"

"How many people had bags?"

"200"

"How many of them had a suspicious look?"

"100"

"How many of them were near the exhibit?"

"Including Ruffaz, 11"

"How many of them tried to run away?"

"0"

"Did the security guard look suspicious?"

"His stomach looked larger when he ran out."

Judge Pao told the security staff. "Check under his shirt."

When they checked under his shirt, they were very surprised to see that the artefact was in fact, in there!

“WHY THE HELL DID YOU STEAL THE ARTEFACT?!!?” Scolded the head of security. Ruffaz sighed and began to tell his tale.

“I was always a failure to everyone in every job I had. Even my parents looked down on me. When I finally got a job here, I realised my enemy, Quan–Tim, was working here. I was always jealous of his grades and his reputation. I was running low on money when I was working here. My wife left me and my son to starve when she found out how much of a failure I was. I thought if I stole the artefact and sold it back to the museum, I would have enough money to support my family.”

When he finally finished talking, he broke down into tears and said “I know I must go to jail for this crime, but I only ask 1 more favour. Please support my son. He had nothing to do with this.”

After Ruffaz went to jail, Quan–Tim asked Judge Pao. “How did you know. Ruffaz was the culprit?”

Judge Pao proudly replied, “A person cannot gain weight in the exhibit, can they?”

“No, they cannot!” Replied Quan–Tim

“Exactly! So I suspected that he hid the artefact under his shirt!”

“You are very clever, Judge Pao!”

# *The Story About Boa Zheng*

*ESF Sha Tin Junior School, Cheung, Jane – 9*

## Chapter 1, The Kidnapped child

“Ring ring!” Cried the telephone. “Bao! Wake up! The telephone is ringing!” Mia, the trustworthy assistant said gently but forcefully.

“Huh? Oh, sorry for making you go in such a mess, you’ve already got loads of work to do” Bao declared.

“I’m alright, just answer the call, for goodness sake! Mia said desperately in a shrill voice , my job is to keep you on task.”

“Yes yes, Hello? Yes, this is Bao Zheng , is everything alright?.....Ah. I see. How unfortunate! I’m very sorry for you, you must be very distressed..... Yes, I’ll come over straight away! Bao said over the phone sombrely. “Okay Mia, here’s the plan. I’m going over to an orphanage with Jack, where is he?”

“I’m here Sir Bao!” Jack screamed but muffled from outside the door, I’m coming!”

When he came in, he was sweating and panting like a dog that just ran a mile for a gigantic bone! Bao observed that he was carrying a soundproof duffel bag that was big enough to carry a 5–8 year old!

“No offence Jack., but why are you carrying a giant duffel bag that’s made out of wood?! But, that doesn’t matter, a child just has been kidnapped! ”Bao cried, we must go to the orphanage at once!

And they did, once they got there, they asked for the receptionist, the founder of the orphanage, which room Luke, the elder brother of the kidnapped girl was in.

“Luke? The sweet boy that’s lovely sister has been kidnapped? Oh, he’s in room 16, go down the hallway, then turn right.” The elderly woman replied.

“That’s a very good memory, thanks! Bao complimented her.

They headed there, questioned Luke and collected some clues.

Clue 1. Chunks of wood

Clue 2. Black leather

Clue 3. Sheet of paper that says: Brickenstone Road 9 London , See u on Sunday!

Bao concluded that the paper must mean that someone is paying someone to do the kidnapping, and that they must be meeting on Sunday!

## Chapter 2, Who’s there?

As the rising sun cast a rosy hue across the sky, it woke Bao up from his study room, as he has studied all night long about kidnapped children, he found out that people are usually paid for kidnapping, he wondered if this information had anything to do with the case he was trying to solve just then did he realised it was a part of the case , he

remembered that he was supposed to go to Waterloo's Station to arrive London which was a long way for him as the trains on a Sunday were filled with passengers. He spotted Jack wandering around trying to find a seat while waiting for the train to depart so he mentioned for Jack to sit beside him so he could have company.

"Hello Jack! What are you doing on the train to London, I thought you usually liked to go hiking on "The Ridgeway" on your holiday to relax!?" Bao questioned.

"I thought to take a break from hiking and see views of London!" Jack answered weirdly, kind of wriggling.

"Hey, there's the duffel bag from two days before! Does your back hurt? Bao asked concernedly but surprisingly."

"Yeah, my back feels sore nowadays, must be because I don't keep my back straight but nice talking to you, I have to get off now!"

"Bye! Wait, this is my stop too!" Bao exclaimed.

As he had memorised the map of London, he headed towards the dark alley to reach this house but he had some sort of feeling that he was being followed so he ran to the nearest bathroom, locked himself in a stall and listened if anyone came in he thought he or she would be either the kidnapper or the person who is paying.

A while later once the bathroom was empty as Bao thought, he raced to Brickenstone Road, House 9 hoping he hadn't missed the kidnappers talking,

This was what he heard; "Jack Villan, Wilke Loughty, thank you for coming. I understand how much of this have we been through. Now, here is your fee, Crowe tells me that you have succeeded in your missions. Your next mission will be to kill the people that knows about this meeting or us. I know you're not interested in killing, but we'll get arrested in jail if the England/ London cops find out, a woman purred."

"Yes Madam!" Two people said in union.

Bao classified 3 people and one master, 4 people in total.

He had to watch out, just in case.....

### Chapter 3, The Stalker's Revenge

After what Bao had heard, he became extra hypervigilant, so aware of his surroundings that he didn't go out of his office/home often, so to keep himself busy, he thought over the case. Soon, he became bored. He said to himself, "Bao! Be lionhearted and go out of the door, into the train and back to the mansion! Today's a Sunday!"

So off he went into the dark alley again, strangely but once again, he had the feeling someone was following him, so he dashed to the bathroom to find out that it was blocked by a huge, large muscled man, so he turned around to see him facing Jack, who was smiling snootily, looking ready for a reward.

"Wilke, please pin him down with the rope, then kill him, slowly." Jack commanded.

"Jack? What is the meaning of this?!" Bao exclaimed. He thought back the day before. Jack was on his suspect list, as Jack had hurried off the train, looking like he did not want reveal anything.

"Well, since you're going to die anyway, I might as well tell you. 1 month ago, I met with my mother, who is the worst criminal you've ever seen. Anyhoo, she was old and needed a young girl to be her servant. So she called me and asked me to kidnap her from an orphanage, which I did. Her raven Crowe has been spying on you, telling me information. Now that I and Wilke have succeeded, we will be rewarded!" Jack sneered coldly.

"No, you haven't succeeded" a voice came from nowhere.



#### Chapter 4. The End

“What!? Who’s there?!?!?” Jack said in a trembling voice.

“Look up!” Wilke cried

Mia and the cops were on a roof, they heard every single word! How did they know? Mia noticed that Bao was out late in the night, thought about Jack and looked through Bao’s notes from lately and found out!

After that, Jack , Wilke, and the woman was taken to imprisonment/ such as custody, the little girl, known as Izzy was reunited with Luke , and Mia and Bao was rewarded for solving the case.

## ***Story Title: Through The Dream***

*ESF Sha Tin Junior School, Choi, Clara – 11*

I was surrounded by darkness, though there was a faint glow up ahead that intrigued me as I wandered through the shadow tension building up. There as I got closer, the shape became more clear as I realised that it was a mirror, though unlike no other, then with my last doubt I lifted a single finger and glazed the glass. Weirdly enough, ripples appeared so delicately but suddenly with a shriek I was pulled in from the darkness.

I lay face down on what seemed to be prickly and wet as I lifted myself up to see healthy green grass and hills surrounding me. Through all that happened and worry filling me I can't help but notice I faint voice calling me:

“Beatrice!”

“Beatrice!”

With panic, I asked who's there with a hoarse voice but before I could lean in to investigate something started to dart up to me with alarming speed. Horrified I was rooted on the spot waiting for the crash but a few inches away I braced for impact but it did not come as the mysterious figure skidded on the floor and grass and earth flew everywhere as I opened my eyes saw that what charged at me seemed to be a impossibly old man with wrinkly arms and saggy face.

“Welcome to Astria, young one.” muttered the man,

As Beatrice tried to thank the man but all he could do was stutter and stare.

“Ahh, a quiet one aren't you? Well we best be off, we wouldn't want to be late.”

Before she could stutter anything she managed the man ran up to her and held her mouth with a four fingered hand. With a hushed voice he said that the meadow where they stand is home to souls who died in the great war and this is sacred land, with too much noise they will rise to ban you from the land. Though it was too late as pearly white figures rose from the ground moaning, All the colour left in Beatrice's face vanished as one bald ghost floated through her as a terrible feeling of being drowned in a lake of ice water. Before anything else could happen someone swung a big axe and whispered

“Good night...”

Then with a horrifying shriek everything was silent.

Beatrice looked up curiously as she observed her surroundings, a fabulous room with precious rubies and emeralds stuck on the walls with a gorgeous velvet red carpet but suddenly all the lights went of and faint footsteps loomed closer as suddenly with a almighty boom the beautiful doors slammed open BOOM!! Then a lady glided in though she looked like no other as she wore heavy makeup and a velvet red dress that reached the floor. She would have honestly looked pretty if she didn't look like there was dung on the bottom of her nose. With a sweet high voice the woman gibbered venomously

“That friend put up quite a fight, though we took care of him easily enough. Now it's your turn to go the same way as your parents...”

Before she could continue beatrice cut in with a hint of danger in her voice

“My parents were never here, they died in a car crash”

All the woman did was laugh because she just realised what was going on. Beatrice knew of nothing of who she is and what happened to her and this scares her of what beatrice is capable of so she could only think of one solution to take away the problem that lies before her so she summons her guard

“Take her to the pit of despair where she will meet her doom”

Although Beatrice was right there she did not squirm, she has given up on everything and will meet her fate in a few minutes time but something held her back from this depressing feeling with something more powerful. Hope. Then before more action could be taken a hooded guard fell to the ground with a mighty thud and when she looked up she saw the old man standing behind with what seemed to be a giant hammer and a malicious grin, then before anyone could realise what happened all the guards were knocked out and the queen was being wrestled to the ground. Then without any hint of panic the old man said

“Well let's not make haste. We just witnessed firsthand the truth about the queen herself!”

Beatrice said with her shaking your voice

“I don't mean to bother you but I'm having a personal meltdown! You just saved me when I didn't even know your name.”

“John Wick at your service ma'am. We must transport you safely back to the real world. It's time to wake up.”

The End?

## *Judge Pao and the Identity Crisis*

*ESF Sha Tin Junior School, Hung, Josh – 10*

Near a village, a mysterious corpse on the ground aroused more and more attention in the nearby village, and the shocking news spread like frenzied wildfire, as more and more citizens came to gaze at the oddly dead corpse, that undoubtedly had been slayed by a bloodthirsty murderer.

Judge Pao was sitting peacefully in his court, when a sea of citizens clustered into the court. The citizens explained the most peculiar thing that had happened three days ago and what they gathered from other citizens during their travels. According to what they frantically yelled, Judge Pao ended up knowing that almost three men had undoubtedly been deliberately murdered by an anonymous person unknown to any of them. Judge Pao thought for a while, then came with a conclusion that it wasn't an attempted thievery or some similar cases.

Unbeknownst to Judge Pao, an inconspicuous person had been forcefully pushed in the court as Judge Pao was gathering some abnormal information.

“We have the murderer!” yelled about twenty guards as they swarmed the court, two of them holding a ragged person in their arms. Judge Pao sentenced the person to prison as the prisoner denied all faults and charges against himself. A few of the soldiers presented Judge Pao with some clothing and a blood stained sword. Judge Pao carefully inspected the sword and found that the blood seemed chemically mixed because of the faint bubbling and frothing was very distinctive for supposed blood. Judge Pao ordered the prisoner to be brought back to himself and told the person what had happened. As expected, the person had not known anything about it and was pushed into the court and then the guards found him. Judge Pao released the grateful person that most atypical turned out to be innocent.

Unraveling the secret depths of his plan, the person disguised himself as the same citizen he had been scouting the day before. He carefully already thought of what to do and struck the enemy he had targeted the same night. Carefully dropping the sword into the citizen's bag that he had disguised as, he placed the sword stained with his mixture in and stealthily leaped away, gaining an alibi which he thought of with a brief combination of deception and trickery.

Same as before, the news spread even faster and village leaders strutted around trying to calm the citizens, and again many innocent citizens were caught but released after having weapons that had an very odd quality, since sharpened iron was rarer and hard to make, and some were made from stone that had been roughly pounded on with stone tools. Most suspiciously, the clotted blood had a very weird effect when washed with water when leaving a mark that looked like the squashed skin of blueberries.

As another villain murdered a person and was caught, every person thought it was the actual murderer of an entirely separate case but when it was confirmed unwittingly, people were happy but they had let their guard down and the case was closed.

As the news spread that the so-called murderer was caught every village rejoiced in happiness and instantly loosened all the security as they celebrated at night. Unknown to the rejoicing people, the murderer was far from caught and later on some men from villages were slaughtered, each time a different person that was caught yet the murderer hiding behind the disguises was never caught. Everyone thought Judge Pao should release some other murderers from previous cases because it might be another identity mess up but Judge Pao knew that it was not a trick simply by knowing that they were caught and gave him a confession that was obviously what had happened on his previously finished cases.

The evil villain foolishly took enemies rapidly from his list, although he killed a chain of people no one actually suspected him as he only partly lived in a cave and most of the time he stayed in his small and seemingly humble home. When he found out that people weren't even taken into prison and were just inspected and set free, he decided to permanently move to his cave, since every single house was under inspection so he decided to stay safely in his cave.

The unrevealed killer devised a new plan seeing that he was in big trouble as he thought everyone knew his continued pattern of deception. He cleverly thought of a plan and set to work. He had to kill his decreasing lot of enemies to continue his plan.

Judge Pao wondered about the villain then at last, he got to the exact same plan of the deranged villain, a frame to disguise himself, or as people say: an identity crisis. After checking the old data files of the murdered people, Judge Pao found that almost everyone had rejected who he suspected, a previous sneaky thief that had been released about one and a half years ago.

Unexpectant of an attack, the killer studied his retirement plans, and decided to move out to another homely cave. He thought that it was a bit tiring as he already got rid of his previous enemies and made it unsuspecting, so he decided to retire and maybe work at a village and have a nice retired life. Never in his life had he suspected that he was about to get caught when some citizens had seen him moving about and reported him. Barging inside his cozy cave, Guards of the Emperor instantly yelled out and pointed their wickedly sharp swords and the unsuspecting villain. Life was never easy in prison – the villain had been in prison for thieving before and he never wanted to come back; yet it was prison he served for the rest of his life.

And for the citizens? Well they lived in prosperity and peace for a while. The villains always will come back but for now they lived in well-earned peace.

# *The Mystery of the Jade Seed*

*ESF Sha Tin Junior School, Lai, Ling Wa – 10*

*Dear Judge Pao,*

*A spy working for the Zhengs disguised himself as a servant and stole my most prized possession (which I will not mention in this letter, seeming it could get into the wrong hands). I need you to bring justice. Please come to my Meeting Room so we may discuss this situation.*

*Emperor*

“Hmm.” Pao started heading for the Emperor’s room.

*The Zhengs... known for their kind gifts to the ailing.* Pao pondered as he navigated the Palace’s corridors.

The Emperor was scribbling away when Pao entered.

“You’ve come!” he exclaimed, looking up.

“I received your letter,” Pao replied. “What is your prized possession?”

The Emperor chuckled. “Already into the spirit.” he sighed. “There was a man called the King of Jade; an inventor who loved experimenting with jade. He discovered that combining an apple seed with jade will make a Jade Seed. When grown to its full size, its fruit can heal anything.”

Pao listened intently. “Now I see why it’s so special...”

“Yes.” The Emperor nodded solemnly. “This is not just a case of taking something back. The Zhengs have always been betrayers; many times they have wronged me. We must take justice.” The Emperor went back to scribbling. “They sent a spy to me, I will send one to them.”

“I will head to the Zhengs Family Mansion tomorrow.”

The Emperor shook Pao’s hand. “Thank you.”

Pao nodded.

The mansion was stylish, with shelves of books lining the walls and luxurious furniture dotted everywhere.

“Hello, I am Chen. I am new.” Pao introduced himself to Tao Zheng, the father.

“Nice to meet you. My butler will show you your room. You will clean my study.” Mr. Zheng replied.

A stout man led Pao up the stairs and into a room. It had a narrow bed, a dusty closet, and a minuscule nightstand.

“Mr. Zheng’s study is across your room.” The butler closed the door.

*Find more clues...* Pao’s mind wandered as he exited his bedroom. He headed towards the door across from his. Just as he was about to enter, he heard voices drifting through.

“It *must* be tonight.” Mr. Zheng’s voice was desperate.

A baritone voice retorted, “The rubies are not ready yet.”

“I *know* the gems are ready.”

The other man let out a frustrated sigh. “Fine. Tonight, here.”

Pao stumbled backward as a man exited the study, anger painted on his face. Seconds later, Mr. Zheng followed. “Oh— it’s you. Start organizing the papers on my desk.”

Pao obeyed. The study was both messy and neat at the same time. Books and papers were piled on the desk, but neat rows of jewels shone on shelves.

*Mr. Zheng sure is a jewel collector...* Pao thought. Heading to the desk, he started moving papers around. *This is a strange bunch of papers...* Pao frowned. He spotted the words 'deal, rubies, digging, workers' and other jewel-related terms. One particularly stood out; it was a letter.

*Dear Tao Zheng,*

*The workers of your jewel-digging crew are protesting against your plans to dig for more gems as you have not paid their salary. They feel they are in an unfair position and want you to give them tips for their extra work. Please solve this as soon as possible.*

*Sincerely,*

*Xue*

Below this letter was a scribbled reply:

*Dear Xue,*

*I need the workers to continue digging. I do not have enough money to pay them, but if they find more gems, I will become a court councilor and they can have as much pay as they want. Tell them to keep going.*

— Tao Zheng

Pao's heart raced. *Mr. Zheng hasn't just wronged the Emperor, he's wronged everyone. He doesn't give food to be kind, he gives it away so people will vote for him in the upcoming election.* Pao took a sharp breath. *I must find the Jade Seed.*

Looking around, Pao noticed a small chest with glimmering jewels encrusted in it. He slipped it off its shelf and tipped the lid back, revealing a magnificent green jewel. Pao immediately knew this was the seed. Gently scooping it up, he safely nestled it into his pocket. Suddenly, Mr. Zheng entered the room.

"What are you doing, boy?" he called.

Pao seized some papers. "I was just cleaning your desk as you said."

Mr. Zheng marched to the desk and snatched the contracts out of Pao's hands. He then noticed the chest, narrowed his eyes at Pao, and shook the box. No noise came.

"What... did you... DO?" Mr. Zheng yelled.

*Oh no.* Pao thumped down the stairs and ran out of the mansion. He darted towards the Palace. Behind him, he could hear Mr. Zheng shouting his (other) name. Nonetheless, Pao stumbled into the palace and searched for the Emperor's room. Forcing the familiar golden door open, Pao took the seed out of his pocket, threw it into the Emperor's hands, and dropped to the ground in exhaustion.

The Emperor looked at the jewel in his hands, at Pao heavily panting on the floor, and back at the jewel again. A grin stretched across his face.

"You did it, Pao!" he helped Pao onto a chair. "Thank you so much!" The Emperor cradled the jewel like a baby.

"You're—" pant— "Welcome..." Pao replied. "But there's so much more, Your Majesty. You see, I found out..."

The Emperor sat down and listened to Pao's story. After much contemplation, The Emperor announced: "I will hold a court meeting and impeach Tao Zheng."

And he did, because the next day, a poster was put up:

TAO ZHENG ~ A LIAR      JUDGE PAO ~ HIGHER

*Yesterday, a court case was held for Tao Zheng after Judge Pao found evidence of Zheng only being kind to poor citizens for fame and votes for the Emperor's election for new court councilors. He has been impeached and stripped from the title of the law office.*

*Once again, Judge Pao saves the day.*

## *Judge Pao and The Beast of Ancient China*

*ESF Sha Tin Junior School, Lei, Vincent – 8*

Once in ancient China, there was a smart, brave, and courageous man named Pao Zheng. He wisely picked whoever was the criminal by being very patient and carefully looking at the situation. He smartly analyzed the information, so he could use it to his advantage when finding out who was the criminal.

One calm and peaceful day, Pao Zheng was enjoying reading a fascinating mysterious book. Suddenly one of his Yamen runners sprinted straight into his office with a shocked and confused expression on his face.

He hurriedly said “Judge Pao, at the ancient temple of the beast there have been huge sightings of gigantic shadows in the sky. A red dragon which is 6 meters long and 5.5 meters high has been known to make trouble. The beast was described with a lizard’s head, goat’s horns, the legs and feet of a bear, the tail of a komodo dragon, an eagle’s wings, and a lion’s body. The dragon had made a nest in one of the high points in the temple and is occasionally burning down parts of the temple.”

Immediately Pao Zhen gathered his troops and went to the temple of the beast to tame the horrid creature. Unluckily this hideous creature was too ferocious that it was hard to tame it. Pao Zheng and his troops came to ask for help from the old wise man who lived in a strange house that somewhat looked abandoned. When Pao Zheng and his two men arrived at the house and opened the creaky door, the old wise man was calmly on the stool. He beckoned for them to come and told them a myth. The myth was “Deep in the cave of Sac Actun lies a hidden gem of great power that could help to tame the dragon. It is guarded by a creature called ‘the Spharo’. The creature asks three riddles. It devours you if you get any of them wrong on the first try.” The wise old man told them to come back whenever they got the gem. Pao Zheng and his man rode to the cave of Sac Actun and raced toward the creature to answer the three riddles. When they arrived, there stood the great “Spharo of Sac Actun”. The two eyes locked in a long pause. After what seemed like a year, the creature started to ask riddles.

The first riddle was: “What walks on four when it’s very early, two when it’s morning and afternoon, and four when it’s night?”

Pao Zheng easily answered, “Person.”

The second riddle was: “What has a tail and has a head but has no legs?”

Pao Zheng answered eagerly, “A coin.”

The final riddle was: “What has numbers but isn’t math? What could change the world itself? ”

This took Pao Zheng quite some time but at last, he answered, “Time.”

Just a few seconds after he answered the last riddle, the Spharo vanished. In its place stood a pedestal embedded with jewels in the shape of Spharo. On the top of the pedestal was a glowing white diamond. Pao Zheng quickly grabbed the diamond and rode back to the wise old man.

When Pao Zheng and his man reached the room, the wise old man was meditating while waiting for them. He took them to a mysterious room at the bottom of the house which was full of weird objects. They stopped at a contraption labeled “Magvill”. The contraption had a hole in it and a reverse portal below. The old man told Pao Zheng to place the magic diamond into the hole. As quick as lighting, a wand came out of the reverse portal. The wise old man explained to Pao Zheng that the wand could be used to tame the dragon. Pao Zheng sincerely thanked the wise old man and quickly took the wand out of the house. Pao Zheng and his troops traveled back to the cave of the beast.

“Charge!” shouted Pao Zheng.

There was a deafening quaking sound like a lion's roar but amplified by an amplifier. When they reached the cave, the dragon regally stood before them. After a short pause, the dragon leaped out of the cave and took flight. Pao Zheng told the soldiers to make a dome shape with their shields around him, so they would be protected from the fire of the dragon. When they got out of the cave, the dragon was waiting for them. The dragon let out a burst of flames, but Pao Zheng and his soldiers quickly dodged the attack and jabbed at the beast. The beast let out a roar of fiery while violently punching the ground near Pao Zheng. Using the chance Pao Zheng hastily tamed the dragon. The dragon froze in mid-air and then obediently sat right below where it was hovering. Pao Zheng told it to stand, and it stood.

Finally, the dragon was tamed! When Pao Zheng walked onto the platform of the temple of the beast, everyone cheered. Pao Zheng was honored by people all over the world for his courage, bravery, justice, and brilliance. He lived for a long time and always succeeded.



## *The Blood Lies In My Hands*

*ESF Sha Tin Junior School, Liu, Zirui – 8*

My heart skipped a beat as I saw a bloody body figure laying in front of me. I slowly knelt on my knees and my jaw dropped.

“M—mother...?” I muttered, at loss for words. Small beads of sweat began to trickle down and my eyes began to fill with droplets of wet tears. I let out a yelp for help and...

I wailed in pain for what felt like hours before my father finally came. His eyes were already filled with tears...

While he spoke to some hospital managers, I could sense that he was desperate for immediate help. After just a few seconds, the doctors came and took her away. The scene was just too sad. After they took her away, my father went to his room sobbing his eyes out. His beloved wife was gone...

For the rest of the day, my father didn't speak because of this tragic loss. He just stayed in bed sobbing quietly.

The days went like this forever, my dad was crying until his eyes hurt and I stayed in bed trying to forget the tragic loss that just happened to me.

After a few days, I continued with school trying my best not to show my true feelings. While at home, we just sulked every day. Sometimes I also do stuff to make me happier, sometimes I also play with my friends and talking about my mother's death and her happy memories. Lately, we checked the hospital to see if there was any good news about mom. But sadly, they said the possibility of her surviving was nearly zero, so now she is buried in the grave. So, we decided to give flowers at her funeral to tell her how much we missed her in our life every morning.

A few weeks later, the loud ringing sound of the doorbell shook me wide alert. My dad quickly hurried downstairs and peeked through the glass, transparent door gap, making sure it was safe to open the door at this moment. Then he opened the door after seeing who it was.

It was Judge Pao, the most famous judge and detective!

After he went inside and spoke to my father for a short moment, just by the quite talk, I couldn't hear it. So, I leaned closer and heard them talking about my mother's death and how to find out who it was. Suddenly, my dad pulled out a drawer and took out a piece of hair like looked like his or mine. Judge pao looked like he instantly recognised it, but not exactly. I stared at Judge pao, intensely. Judge pao said he thought it was me, but I shouted that I wasn't! we kept on arguing until my father separated us apart. After what felt like centurys...

Judge Pao showed a short video on the white widescreen television. I couldn't quite see what it was showing, so I slowly leaned forwards while gripping my hands tightly together.

“The killer did a great job of masking themselves before this final court gathering”, Judge Pao said with a small smirk on his face. We made eye contact for a second before he continued, “They forgot to cover the CCTV footage”.

I gulped. I leaned backwards, sweating, trying to relieve all the stress going in my mind, though I kept my eyes glued onto the screen. The first image that came to view was a sharp, metal knife, held in a tight grip in a girl's hand. There was a long, intense pause in the room as the camera slowly tilted towards the face of the girl. Everyone's jaw dropped when they saw the features of the girl. It wasn't the face of a typical murderer. Instead, it was the face of the murdered mother's daughter... me.

# *The Secrets of Judge Pao*

*ESF Sha Tin Junior School, Ma, Hailey – 8*

Mo was a child to be fond of, a child to be yet surprisingly startled of. His story never seemed to make sense, but it was true untouched history.

This is Mo Silverwalker's content history:

1

In the forest in the mountains, there lay a creaky but sturdy wooden wall. His pet chose the chosen ones.

The wood creaked, it always creaked when Sonji came back. Sonji would swoop down from the mountains every 30 years to find a child.

Then she would carry the child in her beak, fast asleep, while she flew back up the mountains effortlessly.

"Slive went to a party, which was held at a one-story house, and was later knocked out. Why?"

"Because it was a one-storey house." Mo simply said.

"Child, one day I won't have anything to teach you anymore, and you'll have to take up my job!" chuckled Pao.

Mo was a 12-year-old boy, he was indeed a mini Judge Pao. Mo kept asking him, "Where did you find me?" but Pao shook his head, saying "I don't know."

He asked, "Who knows?" Pao said "Sonji."

Mo had no idea where Sonji was, or whoever Sonji was, but even if he knew, it would be too early or too late. And right now, Sonji was sleeping soundly in Creeper's Cove, exactly where Pao found her. It was just that it was filled with a pluck here and a pluck there with thin bedding of silk.

It was night, but Mo couldn't sleep, he kept wondering who Sonji was. Mo woke up, he locked his door tight and grabbed his boots.

He had been warned by Pao, Creeper's Cove was not to be crossed by such a youth oneself, but Mo ignored it. Mo ignored the fact that Printhera was a snake that could speak, and was very smart. Mo had known her all his life.

The muddiness all seemed lost when bushes started to loom over his head. He shivered on all sides, then there was what seemed like a mountain bush looming over Mo.

"Woah!"

\*\*\*\*\*

2

It was paradise, Mo had the temptation to just lounge in the spa-like pool, but still, he had to keep going. Mo didn't mind though.

"Sonji, Sonji!"

Mo desperately called out, but he could only hear echoes of what he yelled. Mo pulled out his pocket map and instead of showing him the whole area, there were the words keep going front scribbled neatly on the page.

Soon the map read, *here you are, the end of Creepers Cove, where Paradisia begins.*

"Where's Sonji?" Mo whispered at the map.

*Sonji Komoski the snoozer bird lives at Red temple alone, Golden Street Crums, Paradisia.*

Mo stuffed his map back into his pocket, glancing at the temple, strangely though, he noticed the purple turned brighter, and when he touched it, it was scorching hot.

"I have no more time," muttered Mo.

He had no choice now, but to scamper into the temple, to find Sonji. He walked into the temple and there lay a snoozing Sonji. WAKE UP YOU-YOU-YOU BIRD!" Mo shouted. Sonji glanced wide awake, alarmed.

Pao knocked loudly on Mo's door, beginning to lose patience.

"Wake up you snooze-head!"

\*\*\*\*\*

3

Sonji looked at the calendar, where she seemed to think something was wrong.

"Am I late for my deliveries, Boy?" asked Sonji.

Mo didn't understand the question, he had completely not a single idea what Sonji meant by deliveries.

A small note was pinned tightly to the wall next to the calendar, which said in blue ink '30 years, one child.'

"No," said Mo.

"What brings you here then?" questioned Sonji.

"What happened before you found me?" said Mo.

"Ah," replied Sonji, "Pao told me about this."

She got up and went down a long, twisty, curvy corridor. He fumbled down books like 'How to adopt a Snoozer Bird' or 'The book of endless riddles'.

"Pao used to live here," muttered Sonji, "All of these books are his."

Then she came to a stop and pulled out a thick envelope and handed it to him.

"Read it" mouthed Sonji.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### Chapter 4

#### THE LETTER

The envelope was marked with the words: TO: Mo SILVERWALKER. And it was written on a long sheet of paper.

'Dear Mo,

You may be wondering what happened to you long ago before Sonji had picked you up on the doorstep. Mr. Silverwalker passed away, so your mother married someone called Dr. Stephen, but he hated third wheels, so he kicked you out.

Now, your mother loved you so she begged him deeply for you to stay, but it didn't work. Elegantly, she then moved back up the mountain without being seen.

And now, just remember, while you read this letter, that Mrs. Silverwalker still seeks where you are, loving you.

Your friend,

Pao'

Mo clutched the sheet tightly in his hand. And walked back, all the way through to the temple where he lived.

Pao thought that it was a chance that Mo wanted to gaze at the sunny meadows for a while so he slowly walked down.

And by then Mo was already walking about down the grassy meadows.

"Mo!"

"What?" muttered Mo.

And from that day on, Pao never knew why Mo went missing. And he always thought it was because Mo got tired of the fake picture of the grassy view in his bedroom.

\*\*\*\*\*

# *A Time Travel to Kaifeng Fu*

*ESF Sha Tin Junior School, Shi, Iris – 10*

After touring the Grand Hall of Kaifeng Fu Memorial Museum to pay my respect to Judge Bao, I noticed a side room where the legendary dog, tiger and dragon knife holders sat. Accidentally my finger brushed past the tiger-head knife holder. Everything started feeling blurry, and the tiger head turned into a big blue cat face ---

Doraemon! My surroundings turned purple and I stood at the back of a time machine.

“Detective Conan, welcome to Kaifeng, 1040 AD!” Doraemon grinned.

As quick as a blink of the eye, I found myself hiding behind a red wooden pillar and I heard a deep voice declare “Bring the plaintiff up here!” A woman with a son and a daughter came in hastily. She appeared devastated.

“I am Qin Xianglian. Please help me...” she wept. “My husband Chen Shimei traveled to the capital to take the imperial examination years ago and has never returned home. I just learned that he married the Emperor’s sister. As I confronted him, he sent an assassin called Han Qi to kill us. I begged the assassin to spare the children, and the conscientious Mr. Han killed himself instead!” Xianglian presented the assassin’s sword, with Chen Shimei’s name engraved on the sheath.

“Quite a story! But is the sword a piece of sufficient evidence?” The man with the deep voice, who must’ve been Bao Qingtian, was pondering. He had silky black robes embroidered with gold thread and a long, thick beard, and spoke very seriously.

I scrambled up to my feet.

“I can help!” I chirped earnestly. “Chen Shimei can do a DNA test and compare the results with Qin Xianglian’s children!”

“Who are you?” asked Judge Bao ominously.

“Um, me? I’m from Japan, and I’m a famed detective, even though I’m young.”

I took out my iPhone and showed him my Twitter account with billions of followers.

“I was visiting your Kaifeng Fu Museum in 2023, before I accidentally touched your Doraemon-cat-head, oh no, tiger-head knife holder.”

Bao was astounded.

I was aware that my voice had started to sound like a souped-up machine gun. “Let’s deal with the case first. A DNA test container is a little box where you spit. The chemical reaction inside of it can determine if Chen is the father of the children.”

“That sounds like magical technology,” Bao nodded.

He demanded Xianglian’s children spit in the box. Then he sent Zhan Zhao to fetch Chen’s spit.

To get a control group, I also collected Wang Chao and Ma Han’s spit samples. I sloshed each pair of the samples in the container and poured the liquid into a capsule.

“Judge Bao, Chen Shimei is the father of the children,” I confirmed.

Qingtian looked relieved after such a stressful case was settled. Curious about my time travel, he took me on a walk and asked many questions. He was particularly interested in the impact of the Qing v. Chen case. I told him that in the future Chen Shimei would be a synonym of unfaithful husband lured by fame and fortune.

Bao sighed, “Shimei was a smart guy, and I wished he and I would work together for the Emperor and the people. While laws set the minimum standard for ethical behaviors, people should obey their moral obligations. I felt sorry for him.”

As we were talking, we wandered into a market. There was a small boy sobbing on a rock. He pleaded for help to recover his lost money for his sick mother.

“Everyone, put a coin in a bowl of water!” Qingtian demanded, shaking with fury.

Everyone in the market followed. Qingtian carefully looked around, and then pointed his finger at a short man. His coin left an oily trail in the water.

“That boy’s dough sticks were the only oily products on sale here!” Qingtian roared.

The man stammered, “I received this coin.... from... from... a customer...”

Bao frowned. He turned his head to consult me, “What do you think?”

I took out a microphone from my pocket attached to a small device. “Look, this microphone uses layered voice analysis. It can tell if a person is telling the truth.”

I spoke into the microphone, “Hi, I am Bao Qingtian, and I chair Kaifeng Fu.”

“LIE,” the screen of the small device flashed with red letters.

“Now, you tell me again where your tainted coin came from.” Qingtian confronted the short man.

“I got it from a buyer of my cabbages...” Before he finished his sentence, “LIE” flashed once more. Zhan Zhao seized that man.

As the sun set, we walked back to Qingtian’s residence. He asked, “What other gadgets do you have?”

I searched my pocket, and pulled out a shiny clip.

“This is the fingerprint testing device. Everyone has a unique fingerprint. After a scan, it can tell who you are.” I touched the clip with my finger, and it put “Conan Edogawa, May 4th, 1990 —” on the screen.

Qingtian looked with awe and wonder.

Next, I handed a small camera to Qingtian, “This is a facial recognition device.”

When the lens faced Qingtian, the screen printed “Bao Zheng, March 5th, 999 —”

“Wow, your future technology is so advanced! Is there crime in your time?”

“There still is! People steal undeserved benefits by breaking the laws, as ever. When the laws become more complete and sophisticated, crimes evolve and advance as well.”

“Laws and crimes are part of human society,” Qingtian sighed, “ever since Hammurabi proclaimed his legal codes 3000 years ago. Each time I punish a criminal, I reflect upon the laws as well as human nature. I am constantly confused, worried, scared, and awed.”

“Then why do you keep doing this job?” I inquired curiously.

Qingtian walked out of his room, stood in the garden, and gazed at the starry sky. “The moral law within me. It gives me courage to shoulder the responsibility that the Emperor and people bestowed upon Kaifeng Fu.”

# *New Tales of Judge Pao*

*ESF Sha Tin Junior School, Wong, Gail – 10*

## Prologue

It was a clear spring morning. A joyful afternoon dancing in the light of the sun.

Or so it would have been.

It would have been if peace had reigned supreme.

But it hadn't.

Bribery and corruption were common in the government.

A world of horror.

And with every step you take, someone is always watching you.

## Judge Pao and the Tea Deception

With a sigh, Laurel rose from praying at the altar of her ancestor, Judge Pao.

"I've been praying for a sign for days now," she thinks, "I should ask my friends for help."

She leaves the temple, strolls out into the garden and finds her best friend, Flora Guo, and her younger brother, Christian comparing strategies to reach Judge Pao through networks to the past. They came from a family of magic that had close ties with Laurel's family and had given each other tokens of gratitude. Laurel, who had a strong passion for justice, had asked them to summon her ancestor back to uncover why the government was corrupted. Flora called over, "We've found a solution!"

Laurel runs over and asks, "Well?"

Christian grinned. "We figured out that if we perform the Pisces Ritual at Judge Pao's tomb tonight, he'll materialise in front of us, and he can help you!"

Laurel was delighted, but Flora fidgeted anxiously with her rose charm necklace. "I guess. Hope this'll be okay."

That night, they went to the back of the temple. Christian knelt in front of Judge Pao's tombstone and began murmuring words over the grave, sprinkling dust over it. A vortex appeared and began to spin until it burst into rays of light!

The trio found themselves standing before an imposing figure in Chinese robes.

Christian, Flora, and Laurel were so stunned that they forgot how to speak Chinese.

Christian broke the silence first. "I thought you were darker."

"What?" Judge Pao started, staring at Christian. "What do you mean?"

Christian squeaked, "You looked darker on the TV show."

Judge Pao was a little befuddled. "What is this TV show? I have never heard of it. And where am I? Where are Wang Chao and Ma Han?"

Laurel politely told him, "Your assistants are still in China, and you are in the eastern part of a world called Paradisia."

Judge Pao was confused. "But I have never heard of this Paradisia before either. Where is it? It's not in China, right?"

It took a bit of explaining to tell him that they were *not* in the eleventh century, and they'd now brought him to the twenty-third century, where the government in control was evil and violent. Naturally, Judge Pao decided to help them.

That night, Judge Pao returned to their camp near the government building after scouring the area for clues.

"I noticed something odd about their behaviour. They weren't so terrible in the morning. After lunch, they began to get violent."

All three frowned. "That's weird."

The next day, Judge Pao got Laurel to help him scan the government building for details he could have missed.

At lunch, the cafeteria lady poured something into her glass.

"What's that?" Laurel asked.

"It's a herbal tea from the owner who runs the greenhouse. It boosts the immune system!"

Judge Pao nodded to Laurel.

Everyone in the building was drinking herbal tea.

Laurel and Judge Pao ran to the greenhouse. They found a handwritten recipe, some herbs mixed with a rose charm, and a small pot.

Judge Pao stared at the pot and frowned. "This is my family pot! But why would it be here?"

He pointed out the pot to Laurel. "Do you recognise this pot?"

Laurel looked at the pot and began to sputter. "But...we gave this pot to...and the handwriting on the note..."

She couldn't finish her sentence.

Judge Pao and Laurel went back to their hideout. Laurel hoisted Flora up, called Christian, and they took off.

"What? What's happening?" Flora hissed.

"We found the criminal!" Laurel panted.

"Oh, you found him? That's great!" Flora smiled, toying with her necklace.

The rose charm was gone.

When they arrived at the courtroom, they found a man with a hat covering his face. "Where is the accused?" Flora wondered.

A gong sounded, and the man called, "Bring in the accused!"

Flora was abruptly hoisted up and thrown to the centre of the court.

The man lifted his hat.

It was Judge Pao.

The judge rose. "The accused stands before us charged with corrupting the leaders of the government. Bring the evidence!"

The pot, charm, and handwritten note were brought out.

"What do you have to say?" Judge Pao said.

"Confess, or drink!"

He grabbed some tea from the table.

Flora screeched, “Alright. I’ll tell!”

She hissed angrily. “My family has always helped the government. But they have always rebuffed us. We’ve supported them, but they don’t believe us. I deserve more than this!”

“But it doesn’t make you right. Guilty!” Judge Pao decreed. “Wang Chao, Ma Han, send in the dog guillotine!”

“Whoa, hold it! Please don’t kill her. That’s illegal!” Christian yelled up. “Secondly, your assistants aren’t here, they’re in ancient China!”

This caused a lot of arguing, until Laurel asked, “How about we put her on an isolated spaceship? You know, the one where we isolate people who catch viruses?”

This was a good idea and everyone agreed.

Judge Pao turned back to Flora. “Your sentence will be lifelong banishment aboard an isolated spaceship.”

Flora’s eyes were feral and she kicked and screamed as the guards dragged her away.

Later, Christian asked, “What do you want to do now? Do you want to stay here?”

Judge Pao thought about it and decided, “I would like to go back and solve more mysteries in the past.”

Christian nodded gravely. “I’ll perform the Pisces Ritual to send you back.”

The next morning, Judge Pao woke up in his bed, and as the previous day’s events came flooding back to him, he knew he would always remember them.

Always.



# *Tales of Judge Pao*

*French International School, Agarwal, Aanika – 9*

Once there lived a Judge known throughout the country as Judge Pao. There were rumours about how he judged the dead in the night, but tonight, he was solving one of the most complex cases in his whole career.

Judge Pao had a reputation for being one of the most righteous judges in the whole of China. He had never been seen drinking alcohol or ever eating meat.

He was a firm believer in the holy monk Buddha. He had long grey hair and always wore an old yellow robe. Blessed with immortality, he would forever serve the Holy One by stripping the world clean of injustice. It was the year 2022, and yet again, he was up late trying to solve a murder mystery.

Unlike any other, this case had been done at the crack of dawn when the victim, a certain Mr. Zao Chin, had been awake alone. He was in the kitchen and was preparing breakfast for his children. Mrs Chin awoke because of hearing a crash she saw the body of her husband lying motionless, with blood flowing out of him and with a knife in the body. When she came to her senses and realized Mr. Chin had been murdered, it was just too much for her. She screamed and fainted on the ground.

The neighbours were woken up by Mrs Chin's scream. They arrived at the front door, and when they went inside, they saw two bodies on the ground, one gushing with blood, the other not moving. They called the police immediately and looked around for any suspicious people who might have killed their beloved neighbour. The local doctor arrived and checked the pulses of both bodies confirming Mr. Chin was dead. Relieved that Mrs Chin was unconscious and not dead, they covered Mr. Chin with an old blanket and waited for the police to arrive with their beloved detective Judge Pao. Careful not to touch anything, they closed the room door and stepped out.

When the police arrived, they closed off the crime scene and tried to revive Mrs Chin. Judge Pao started asking basic questions to neighbours; the only thing he could get out of them was that the window was open and there was a trail of sand.

These answers surprised him as there were no beaches around and no area to get sand from. Right now, he was brainstorming any possible answers that could tell him where the sand came from. Getting up, he decided to inspect the sand. Maybe it didn't come from a beach? He arrived at the crime scene, and as he opened the door, a foul odour hung in the air. As he walked closer to the room with the sand, the odour increased. Guessing it came from the body, Judge Pao quickly decided to collect the sand in a plastic evidence bag and observe it at home.

Reaching home, he opened the bag and tipped the contents out onto a tray and sniffed it. Despite not having gone to many beaches, he recognised the smell of the sea, and this was not it. It smelt like smoke, and when he touched it, it felt dry and grainy. Almost like it was fake... He decided that the sand was fake and likely came from a movie set. Wanting to get some rest, he thought he would work on this tomorrow morning with a clear head.

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The next morning, he got up drowsy and drained of sleep. Feeling unwell, he decided to make a warm cup of coffee and check any sort of movie set that may involve sand. He walked over to the kitchen tiles. Making his coffee, he curled up in a corner and opened his laptop. He checked any upcoming movies he found two that involved sand. He decided that he should talk to the director of the movie and find out if anybody might have a grudge against Mr. Chin.

He put his robes on and marched out of his house with a purpose; to find the director of the movie Beach Monster and solve this case once and for all. Judge Pao got to the movie theater Stella and tried to walk inside. Immediately the guards stopped him and demanded "What is your business in Stella?" Judge Pao was offended and told them he was the great Judge Pao! The guards finally apologised and let him in. Judge Pao decided to call his trusty sidekick Xia, a very respected person in China.

He walked over to the director and asked him a key question "Did you know Mr. Chin was killed?" He looked for any facial expressions but found none except grief and anger. "H-how? No! He was my best friend since college," his face contorted to anger. "I will find who killed my beloved Zao! I will!" He rushed out, but Judge Pao caught him just in time. He quickly handed him to security and walked out, pursuing the next movie theater, the Lascaux. This time he decided to do it a bit, well, differently.

Suddenly he collided with someone very familiar. It was Xia! Judge Pao helped up Xia and explained the entire case. Together, they walked toward the Lascaux. Xia told Judge Pao, "Why don't we ask him if he knows Mr Chin? Then if his face looks guilty or he starts fidgeting around, that means he is most likely guilty." Judge Pao thought that was the most sensible thing to do and approached the director. "Do you know Mr. Chin?" The director started laughing nervously

“Umm, Haha, I don’t know any Zao Chin”

“Wait a second I didn’t tell you his name!”

The director knew he was caught. He turned around and ran. “Oh no, you don’t! “Judge Pao and Xia quickly caught him.

“You are officially under arrest for the murder of Mr. Chin. But why?”

The director spat ‘He ruined my career! I had always wanted to be a writer, but he sabotaged my work! ’

## *Judge Pao and the Mystery of the Blue Lotus*

*French International School, Mondal, Kiaan – 9*

Long ago, in the town of Kat Hing Wai there lived a man who was famous. His name was Judge Pao. He had solved hundreds of cases that had left the smartest people scratching their heads but there was one that was special and that was the mystery of the Blue Lotus.

One day, in Kat Hing Wai, a young boy whose name was Ling Hai asked his master, Judge Pao a question. "Master, can you answer this question?"

Judge Pao said "Of course."

Ling Hai asked "I have cities but no houses. I have mountains but no trees. I have lakes but no fish. What am I?"

Judge Pao smiled and said "A map!"

Ling Hai smiled and nodded, he was about to ask another riddle, when a man ran to them. He was dressed in silk clothes and gold covered him. His eyes were tired and his breaths were quick and unsteady. The man said in a shaky voice "Your honour, my name is Pat Hai and I'm the mayor of Shenzhen, the Blue Lotus has been stolen, it is a crystal that weighs several kilograms and it is worth 2 billion Qian. Please help me find it!"

Judge Pao smiled and immediately said "All right, I will help you but first I must see where it was taken from and I must bring my apprentice along. Is that all right?"

Pat Hai nodded and then said "Yes, we can take my carriage."

As they rode through the village and into the crossway into China, Ling Hai saw that Judge Pao looked confident and had no fear or worries, he was the perfect detective, Ling Hai always wanted to be like him, he was about to start a conversation with Pat Hai, when suddenly a shadow started moving towards them and Ling Hai thought he was imagining things but Judge Pao unexpectedly hit the horses with the whip in the carriage!

The horses went crazy and galloped at full speed, Ling Hai and Pat Hai screamed in fear but Judge Pao smiled and calmed the horses down. His apprentice looked in question at his master, Judge Pao saw this and said in a calm voice "Ling Hai, look behind you, you too Pat Hai and stop cowering behind the carriage. The three looked behind and to Pat Hai and Ling Hai's horror, there where their carriage would have been was a huge boulder. Judge Pao chuckled and said, "Friends, when I saw the shadow and saw the rocky cliffs behind us, I implied that a boulder was about to crush us, but it was on purpose, as these cliffs are famous for their safety, therefore the thief must have been trying to kill us because he knows he might be exposed."

Ling Hai understood immediately and nodded, they then carried on and reached Shenzhen, as they reached a man with one eye walked towards them holding a big wooden stick and said in a croaky yet confident voice, "I am Gong Zheng, I am the livestock keeper and our mayor's trusted advisor."

He then walked away bowing. Pat Hai quickly showed them the crime scene, then Pat Hai bowed and walked away, for the two to investigate. It was chaos, with pig slop everywhere, and the wooden box in which the crystal would have been was smashed and its lock broken open. Judge Pao asked a servant who was standing there a question "My friend, was there any more evidence? Perhaps some other clues like straps or threads left by the thief?"

The servant whispered "My lord, there was a murder, the warrior who was protecting it was killed, he was hit on the head and killed and there was a dead pig."

Judge Pao took his time in checking the crime scene and going through the evidence. Judge Pao chuckled and then told Pat Hai who was waiting outside with Gong Zheng, in a confident voice "Pat Hai, I have solved the case!"

Pat Hai shouted in joy and danced around, Judge Pao smiled and said "It was Gong Zheng."

Gong Zheng shouted "How dare you accuse me!"

Judge Pao spoke again “You have access to the livestock. So, you used the pigs to steal it. You crept in at night, and killed the guard with your stick. You then placed pig slop on the Blue Lotus chest, and let the pigs in, so the pigs would try to get to it.

The pigs started fighting with each other to eat the pig slop at which time they bumped into the Blue Lotus chest stand toppling it over. It fell due to which the lock broke and a pig died. You then took the Blue Lotus, but as you knew the guards would search the place, you fed the Blue Lotus to one of the pigs. You had planned to later kill the pig and take out the Blue Lotus, as no one would think to search the pigs.

Gong Zheng’s eyes went in shock and growled, he said in a gravelly tone, “You got me”, he then ran off cackling, but Pat Hai wasn’t happy, he screamed in rage and picked Gong Zheng’s stick (which had fallen) and threw it, it smashed into Gong Zheng’s head , and he fell unconscious. Pat Hai then thanked Judge Pao and said “Thank you, I will kill the pigs and find my treasure, but did Gong Zheng try to murder ME?” Judge Pao nodded then signalled for Ling Hai to come.

When they reached their home, a letter was found, it said “Friends, I killed all the pigs and found the jewel in one pig, thank you.

Signed,

Pat Hai”

Judge Pao smiled and looked out of the window and chuckled.

And that is the case of The Blue Lotus.

## *New Tales of Judge Pao*

*French International School, Punyakoti, Ganesa – 9*

Finally, the day has arrived! I had been waiting for this day for the past two months. My friend and I were so eager to visit the world museum. I packed my bag and carried my favourite camera. We hopped onto our school bus, full of Joy. Our teacher instructed all my classmates to follow the safety instructions during the museum tour. We were all very excited!

In the museum, we found a lot of ancient artefacts like the very first sundial invented by ancient Egyptians, the first gum chewed by the Greeks, the first bicycle invented by Victorians, etc. It was amazing to see all these historical objects in one place. My friend and I finally visited the ancient China section of the museum, where we found: ancient gunpowder, paper, printing, compass and more. In the middle, from nowhere, we suddenly stumbled upon a magic golden key. We wanted to inform the teacher and started to walk towards her, but again out of nowhere, we spotted a small magical golden door just like the key. We placed the key into the keyhole and “Click”, the door opened. We stepped inside the door curiously. “Ahhhhhhhh — THUMP”, My friend and I landed instantly in ancient China!

How in the whole world did we go back in time? we were puzzled. Suddenly someone grabbed my friend and me inside and put her finger to her lips. I guessed she meant to say “Don’t you dare try to scream like a crazy monkey. I’m warning you!” but instead, she said, “你在馬路中間幹什麼，你不知道士兵會抓住你嗎？”. My friend replied in Chinese, “對不起，我是新來的，所以我不知道”. What does that mean? I don’t speak Chinese, so I am confused. “你不知道士兵正在逮捕那些不納稅的人嗎”, explains the old lady. My friend translated it for me – “Don’t you know that soldiers are arresting those who didn’t pay taxes?”. We have to be on guard and keep our eyes peeled. “你會說英語嗎？”, We asked the old lady. Oh, sorry about that, I can speak some English, said the old lady. The old lady was then suddenly interrupted by a voice “SURRENDER OR ELSE FACE THE ULTIMATE DOOM”. We three ran as fast as we could to escape the soldiers. The old lady said she needed to visit Bao Zheng (包拯). Who is Bao Zheng? I asked.

“Bao Zheng is the son of a peasant in Hefei and works with Emperor Renzong, the old lady replied. As prefect of Kaifeng, Bao helps address ordinary people’s grievances and brings justice to them.

After a long walk for days, we finally reached Kaifeng, the Northern Song dynasty’s capital. We walked through the streets, wondering how beautifully they were built during those years. We finally reached the palace, where a huge crowd gathered to hear the judgments of Judge Pao. “Oh great, Judge Pao, can you help us? The soldiers were arresting us for not paying the taxes”, cried the old lady. Judge Pao was calm and humble. “May I know why you weren’t able to pay taxes?” asked Judge Pao. “My crops this year were attacked by grasshoppers, so I could make only a little money to survive”, replied the old lady. I had been paying taxes during the good years. Judge Pao felt it was fair to demand tax payment only from those who made money and were able to afford it. He spoke to the king and announced that soldiers should not be arresting those who couldn’t genuinely pay taxes due to not making much money. All the poor people cheered as they felt it was a very fair and considerate judgement which was delivered quickly.

My friend and I were very happy for the old lady. It was an amazing journey with a wonderful experience, and in the end, we enjoyed seeing everyone happy and being treated fairly. Suddenly we noticed, again out of nowhere, the golden door reappeared in front of us. We quickly jumped in – “Ahhhhhhhh – THUMP”. We were back in the museum. It was like a dream, and the time really didn’t move. We know no one would believe what we experienced. But we really wanted to share what we learned through this journey with our friends. So, we decided to write a story, “New Tales of Judge Pao,” and include it in our library articles. We returned home with great memories and a sense of satisfaction. We decided from that time we would help the needy people by dispensing justice and standing for the right cause!

# *Judge Pao and the Murderer of the Royals*

*German Swiss International School, Khan, Owais – 11*

It was a fine day when the strong, benevolent and dominant monarchy of Nanjing announced important news. This news would change the whole life of Nanjing. After two long decades of marriage between the legendary King Ming and the respected Queen Hua, an heir was born. This was one event that the weary citizens of Nanjing had long been waiting for. It was a tradition for the monarchy to throw a huge party one week after the child was born. So a royal party was planned to celebrate the birth of the heir.

As the news of the birth of the heir and gala party started to spread, residents from different districts poured into Nanjing. It rained cats and dogs on the auspicious day which was a good luck charm in Chinese culture. However, things were going to go wrong very soon.

The grand party went on until midnight. The happy and beaming royal couple gently held the newborn in their arms as the noble citizens ate and drank merrily whilst chatting about the recent rise in murders in Nanjing. As the night dragged on, people heard a light tapping sound outside. At first, it was unnoticeable until the sound became louder. Everyone fell silent as the window was smashed open by a man who stood menacingly dressed all in black with a dark mask on his face. Within a split second the man—made swift moves and cut through the bodies of the nobles. He then overpowered the guards, snatched two daggers from them and slaughtered them as well. He turned towards the royals who were unarmed as they quivered in a corner. He threw the knives and killed them in one move. The floor was splattered with blood and the party scene was now looking forlorn and ghastly.

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The bitterly cold wind, ominous clouds and torrential rain depicted the emotions of Nanjing's citizens. The royal celebration didn't go as planned due to the havoc caused by the mysterious murderer.

Outside the palace, a dark figure appeared in the distance and out of the shadows, a man who was quite skinny limped towards a bench in the royal garden. It was Admiral Wang, one of the most respected nobles of the royal court. Admiral Wang was the sole survivor of the deadly attack carried out by the assassin. He spontaneously started sobbing. Wang couldn't believe what had happened. He continued to think about his benevolent masters. It was then he conjured a plan which put his own life at risk. He was heading for the Supreme Court.

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In Nanjing's folklore, a famous and renowned judge, Judge Pao, dispensed speedy justice to the local inhabitants. He was known for his sharp acumen and fairness to all.

As the sun rose from the horizon, the courageous admiral briskly walked his way into the sun and hot desert. After a long time searching, Wang finally spotted a small miniature temple. Lurching towards the building with a glimpse of hope, Wang sighed a breath of relief as the structure was indeed the Supreme Court.

Within a few minutes, he reached the gates of the majestic Supreme Court. With no one patrolling the area, Wang briskly slipped into the court to discover a man who looked lanky and had a white protracted beard. The mysterious man was sitting on a bench. It was the exquisite Judge Pao.

“What do you need to say?” said the Judge in a low rumble, looking up from the book his nose was buried in.

Wang started, as tears rushed from his eyes.

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“Is that all you have to say?” asked the wise and antique judge.

Wang who was already shaken up replied hesitantly, “Yes.”

The old man, with all of his strength, bent over and reached into a sack. He then pulled out some black paint and a list which consisted of criminals and staunch anti-royalists.

“Listen to my instructions very carefully,” said the judge with a grim face. “First you must spray the black paint across the shattered window until you find a fingerprint,” he said as he pointed to a specimen of the delinquent’s fingerprint, “Then, return the specimen to me. I have a list of suspects, one of which the fingerprints will match.”

Wang, who looked confused after listening to this, agreed and promised the Judge he would follow the instructions given.

However, Wang never tried to avenge the death of the monarchs. He had merely wanted to overpower all of the high-ranked nobles and so he fulfilled his dreams – by killing them all. Wang smiled cunningly, delighted that his sly and mischievous plan worked and that he had managed to fool the most ‘wise’ judge in the world. As he started to move hastily out of the court, a knife covered with dry blood and a black mask fell out of his pocket. Wang had indeed masked his love for the royals.

The ‘noble’ admiral stopped dead in his tracks, hypnotised.

“Well, well, well, what do we have here?” said Judge Pao with a mischievous chuckle.

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The word of the traitor who betrayed the monarchy spread. The so-called ‘noble’ was a mole who tried to overpower the rule of the two monarchs who had tried their best to keep the city in its best form. Nanjing was now in a state of anarchy. The ‘golden era’ of Nanjing had come to an abrupt end.

## *New Tales of Judge Pao*

*German Swiss International School, Tan, Olivia – 11*

'You may have heard of Sherlock Holmes, the famous detective created by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, or Detective Pikachu, the adorable, furry sleuth who solves cases with his pal Tim Goodman. However, have you heard of the fantastic Judge Pao? Unlike all these other fictional characters, Judge Pao actually solved many cases. One of them being—', Hearing footsteps thundering up the stairs, Estella slid the book under the covers and quickly switched off the lights. As she heard her door creak open, she feigned sleep and held her breath. When the door swung shut again and the footsteps finally faded, Estella sighed with relief. She lay there, staring at the ceiling until her eyes fluttered shut and she fell into a dreamless sleep.

When Estella opened her eyes, sunlight was streaming in through her window. Climbing out of bed, she went downstairs to eat breakfast. After having a quick breakfast of eggs and toast, she hurried down to the library. Estella spent the rest of her day there, devouring book after book. As she was finishing up a book about twin brothers who journey to find each other after being separated, Estella realised she had read right past lunchtime. Hurrying back to the house, she found her brothers gaming and her mother and father at work. Making a quick sandwich, Estella hurried back to her room as her mind flitted back to the book she had started last night about Judge Pao. 'He seems interesting,' she thought. 'I wonder if I could do my school project on him.' Jumping onto her bed, she grabbed the book and munched on her sandwich. Reading on, she discovered that Judge Pao had solved many cases, one of them which caught her eye. It was the case of Executing Bao Mian. When Judge Pao was a baby, he was raised by his older sister-in-law; Wu like her own. Years later, Wu's only son, Bao Mian, became a magistrate and was convicted of a few crimes. Finding it impossible to fulfil both concepts of Ruism; loyalty and filial piety, Judge Pao was hesitant to execute his nephew. Eventually, the real culprits confessed, and Bao Mian was released.

On Monday, Estella's teacher reminded them about their project. They had to make a poster about someone who lived long ago, including their successes and who they were. "Who are you picking?" Estella's best friend Ava asked, leaning over their desks. "I'm not too sure, maybe Judge Pao?" Estella replied. "Judge who?" Ava asked, confused. "You'll see," said Estella. "You?" she questioned. "Oh, I'm doing Cleopatra." Ava smiled. 'Cleopatra. Maybe I should do someone everyone at least has an idea about. I bet most of the class don't even know Judge Pao exists!' Estella thought. 'Although, it would be more interesting for me and the rest of the class if I research him. I wonder if the library has any books.' After school, Estella went straight to the library. There, she found a few books about Judge Pao. When she got home, she also searched for him on Google and Wikipedia. He was named Bao Zheng and was called Justice Bao. He was also believed to be a supernatural judge, meaning he also sorted out the troubles and cases of the afterlife. Judge Pao even dressed up as Yama; the Lord of Hell, to scare one of his suspects into confessing their crime. "Judge Pao is certainly turning out to be fascinating, that's for sure." Estella mumbled to herself.

Over the weekend, Estella worked on her project. She ended up with lots of information, and even had a fun section on different endings that she came up with herself for a few cases. On the day of the presentation, Estella was last. When her name was called, she walked confidently up to the front of the class. She presented her project impeccably, and had a lot of fun answering all of the questions her classmates asked about the phenomenal Judge Pao. When she had finished, her teacher applauded her and said, "That was great Estella! I like how you chose someone who not many people know about. Did you learn anything new?"

Estella replied with a huge smile, "I learnt a lot. It was really fun researching about him, and he really was an extraordinary judge." As Estella looked back at her project, she could have sworn she saw Judge Pao wink.



## *Judge Pao and The Boy in the Afterlife*

*Harrow International School Hong Kong, Cheung, Yolande – 9*

One sunny morning, the sun was shining, the birds were chirping, the trees swayed beautifully in the mornings wind like a graceful ballerina. In a small wooden cottage, lived a young boy named Henry and his loving parents Chris and Jennifer. One day, as Henry was getting ready for an exciting day at school, he remembered he was going on a school field trip, he couldn't wait. A few minutes later, Henry was all dressed, feeling fresh and ready to go to school, he joyfully skipped downstairs into the dining room and placed his bag down next to his chair and sat down. The room smelt of bacon and melted cheese. After breakfast, Henry took his empty plate and placed it in the sink for his Mom to wash.

At school, Henry was hanging out with his friends, Liam and Noah, when suddenly the school bell rang. They all put on their bags and silently walked up the stairway. "Good morning pupils," Miss Rachel said, cheerfully, "As you all know, today we are going on a field trip to the zoo!" She continued. The classroom filled up with pupils laughter and chatter about how exciting the school trip was going to be. "Settle down, class!" Miss Rachel tried to say over the chatty classroom. Everyone slowly started to calm down and listened to her speak. "Okay, as I was saying, we will have a field trip to the zoo. After a few minutes, the class was all set.

"Great, now lets get into a straight line," Miss Rachel excitedly uttered. Everybody picked up their bags and shuffled into the line. The class walked across the busy streets and before anyone could noticed they were at the entrance of the woods.

As they walked down the pathway, Henry noticed a baby tiger and its mother, but thankfully there was a gate surrounding the animals. But they didn't look cute but rather suspicious. "Look class, the sloths!" Miss Rachel softly said. Sloths are miss Rachel's favourite animal; she thinks they are very cute but Henry didn't. Henry thinks they are lazy and useless, but if you ever told her that she would have sent you to detention. The class continued to move deeper into the woods and the deeper they went the more worried Henry became. As soon as it was lunch time, Henry quickly pulled out his lunchbox. After he ate, he was so full that he felt like exploding. "Everyone full!" Miss Rachel asked the class, happily. "Obviously," Henry mentioned in his head.

Miss Rachel joyfully announced, "Let's get ready to head back to the school now,"

After arriving back at the school, it didn't feel right to the class. Oh no! It was Henry! He was lost back at the woods. Little did the class know, Henry was doing just fine, or so they thought. Henry was finding the class. After lunch, Henry decided to have a little stroll even though he had a fishy about the tigers he went to check on them. As he trudged towards the tigers, he looked up. The gate was opened! Henry didn't know what to do but run deeper into the woods. Now the class didn't know what to do. This was it. This is the chance of Judge Pao. Judge Pao, the great judge, the one who sorts out the afterlife at night and is the hero of this planet at daylight. Henry sat on a log panicking! The tigers were surrounding Henry, waiting for a sudden move. Pounce! The tigers pounced on Henry! It turned black... blood! Henry lay there dripping with blood... he was dead!

Henry lay there in the afterlife. After some time, he woke up. He looked around and saw some very old people, it felt like he was the only child there in the afterlife. Judge Pao was looking all over the woods for this young boy. He looked under the trees and in all the animal gates and still couldn't find him at all. It suddenly sparked Judge Pao's mind "The Afterlife!". But the only problem was that he couldn't go back there until the midnight came along. He had no choice but to try looking for a body for clues. After some time, Midnight came. Judge Pao got transferred from the planet earth to the afterlife in no time. He asked some of the elderly people if they saw a young boy roaming around the place, but sadly no luck. He asked and asked but they all said "no,". There was not luck. Judge Pao looked around, he saw a head but didn't think much of it, until he finally when to check it out. Henry! It was Henry! He was in the afterlife like he thought. All Judge Pao had to do was to tell Henry's Parents. So, Judge Pao waited to the next morning and got teleported down to planet earth. "Hi my name is Pao, Judge Pao," He announced.

"Oh my god!" His mum continued, "Mr Pao, what brings you here this house,"

"I am so sorry to tell you this, but your son Henry James Herbert, has been found in the afterlife, well that means he has died," Pao said, sadly. Henry's mum broke down into tears.

"Oh my, not my son Henry!" Jennifer sobbed.

"Yes, I know it is really sad to know that one of your loved ones had died, but I want to assure you that I would take good care of him at night and Henry would be very warm to the elderly and them too would take good care of him," Judge Pao assured Jennifer.

"Oh yes, yes that would be absolutely amazing!" Jennifer said, holding back her tears.

"Ok, now I need to go now, but Henry would absolutely fine," Judge Pao tried to end the conversation. After he left, Jennifer was still sad but knowing that her son was safe put her mind at ease

# *The Judge Pao Story*

*Harrow International School Hong Kong, Gan, Eric – 8*

Judge Pao is a detective from the Song Dynasty. He was a very famous detective before Sherlock Holmes and lots of people. He helps people find the people that have done bad things to them. Everyone who lived in where he controls lives a happy life and likes Judge Pao. Everyone in the Song Dynasty hopes they can learn from Judge Pao's detective skills. Judge Pao loves helping others and has solved lots of mysteries for people in all kinds of places. He has taught his kids to be great. Judge Pao has made the Song Dynasty really good Dynasty. Even the emperor listened to lots of his suggestions even if they don't know why Judge Pao is saying that because he knew Judge Pao knew what he was doing. There are lots of stories about him and people in the Song Dynasty know most of them because they want to learn from them and Judge Pao used great ease on finding out the mystery. Wherever he goes all the people there are very comfortable because they think it is safe. I am going to share a story of Judge Pao being a great detective.

One day on top of the temple, someone came up and said, "Today I noticed that my cow's tongue has been cut off!" A cow is very important to people in the Song Dynasty because people use them to plough the fields because they were stronger than humans. It was hard for people to get more than one cow because they were very expensive. "Go home and kill your cow then sell it," Judge Pao exclaimed. "B-b-but killing your cow is against the law! I won't do something against the law, or else the emperor is going to kill me!" In the Song Dynasty you weren't allowed to kill your cow because they were very precious and the government didn't want to lose them that is why the farmer didn't. "It will be OK I will tell them not to kill you just do what I say," "I know what I'm doing," Judge Pao actually thought of a way that he will make this crime come to him. He asked the person to kill the cow because he knew that the person who ripped the tongue would be looking at the person's cow and so if he killed the cow the criminal would know and come to tell him because it was against the law.

Just as Judge Pao thought, the next day a person came and told him about the person who killed a cow, he said "this morning I saw my neighbour killing a cow I think that's against the law do you want to come and kill him?" Judge Pao straight away told the servants to arrest him because he thinks that this was the crime who ripped the cow's tongue off. Judge Pao intensely asked for why he ripped the tongue off of the cow and the reply that came from him was "I wasn't the one who ripped the cow's tongue off! It was my neighbour says that a person killed their cow and if I told you would give me good stuff!" Judge Pao got a bit confused but very quickly he knew what he was going to do. He told the farmer to go back and tell the person that made him come to come to him. Later in the evening, the farmer came back with another farmer and since the farmer talked to the other farmer so he came in and said straightly "Sorry for ripping the cow's tongue off." "I only ripped the tongue of the cow off because the day before yesterday my kid and his kid got into a fight, and then the person who owned cow hit my kid very badly I got so mad I ripped the cow's tongue off." Judge Pao turned and thought for a second and came back asking the person "Do you know the rules? If you did know you would have not done that."

The person was thinking what to say when Judge Pao talked again "You might have wanted to teach him a lesson but you could have used another way." Just as Judge Pao finished talking the person started talking "I am really sorry, but when I did that I was really mad so I didn't have the feeling of thinking if it is good or not and if I can use another kind of way to teach him the lesson." It was silent for a moment and Judge Pao talked again "So why did you tell the other person to come tell me he killed his cow and he will get money" The short, cruel person shivered. He stood up but then just as that happened Judge Pao noticed a short, sharp knife hanging on the person's back.

Judge Pao realised the whole story of this and the story is like this: the person who cut the cow's tongue off was a criminal and he tried to get money without doing anything so he cut off the cow's tongue so he knew that either he was going to kill the cow or be very sad and if he could ask another person to tell the government he thought the government will give the person money and he would take it. But it turned out that Judge Pao had found out and the criminal was going to be executed.

In conclusion, Judge Pao was very famous by his detective skills and very much used in the government solving much more mystery's and helping the Song Dynasty become a better dynasty.

## *The Last Court Case*

*Harrow International School Hong Kong, Huang, Zixi – 11*

Twisting, long, thin trees towered over lush rolling hills and looming mountains reached for the eternal sky as white, majestic birds glided over the beautiful landscape. Long, hanging silk sleeves fell to the rough floor of the golden shrine. The stench of bodies filled the room as a corpse lay dead and unconscious on the white cloth stained with fresh blood.

Through the gates of hell, long, heavy thumps filled the ice-cold room, as giant, metal feet walked heavily. Large plates of shining gold armored the beast, and a gavel was placed before him. He was joining this court case, to judge his own death.

Deafening shrieks for help and bloody screams filled the room as inmates beneath the underworld lied imprisoned and caged for the rest of eternity. Cannibals appeared left and right and insanity slowly engulfed everyone in the prison, as nobody could resist the temptation to break free and roam the lively outside world once again. But this was fate, and they could not change it. Dead silence fell upon the court and Judge Pao spoke. "It was a trap," he exclaimed.

He knew the rules. The manacles of hell, that no mortal or immortal could break. Even the very person that created them couldn't break through these everlasting indestructible chains, pinned to the boiling ground of the universe. "A judge must not judge his own case, or one will face an eternity of exile behind bars..." Hell was an everlasting loop, where if you broke through the diamond chains, you would fly peacefully to the paradise of heaven like a thriving swan. Whereas if you stayed imprisoned like a caged bird, begging for freedom, you would be sent deeper into the world of hate and despair.

Suddenly, flames tumbled down from the sky as two dry, scaly, giant wings flapped down majestically. A great shadow casted upon the court and the atmosphere felt uneasy and cold yet warm from the creature's breath. Sharp, bright amber eyes sit wickedly on its empty, bony skull. Twisting white horns grew out of its rough, armored head and its tail was long and thin like a flowing river of boiling lava while its razor-sharp claws scraped the bare ground as it roared thunderously of pain and anger, yearning for freedom like the many others. This was a vicious and merciless beast. It crawled carefully and precisely, watching its every move like a game of chess and it slithered quietly – without a sound towards Judge Pao. Terrified, desperate, anxious, Judge Pao stood shakily at the nose of a colossal dragon.

He had seen this happen before. The painful screams of the defendants haunted him as they were dragged aggressively into the prisons of hell. Pictures flashed through his head of the past memories of the many court cases he went through. Crying, wailing, screeching people forced into cages of insanity and begging for freedom with tears rolling down their eyes as the others fly peacefully to heaven. But now it was his turn. He had broken the rules and he would have to face cruel and corrupted consequences. He fell to his knees and accepted his fate. Bubbles of the past popped in his head and his mind went blank as he was pulled down to the underworld. With vibrant colours slowly cracking away into the infinite abyss, he sank slowly into despair and depression, forever forgetting the joyful memories of the overworld.

## *Judge Pao*

*Harrow International School Hong Kong, Hudson, Celia – 9*

The boisterous wind ruffled on the damp street, the leaves blew as the crime fighter stood on a tall building almost hidden amongst the street. His eyes, his eyes focused like a hawk on the crime filled street. He was Judge Pao, he was fearless. But that was enough for today or so he thought.

Suddenly the leaves rustled louder than normal, Judge Pao suspicions got the best of him. Without thinking he leapt of jumping from building to building and just as he thought he heard a ear piercing screech, not just any screech, a woman screech. Judge Pao ran and ran towards the sound until he finally came to abrupt he stood properly and walked towards the woman. He stared at the woman and finally asked her what had happened. The still mourning woman replied with a sob, though Judge Pao wasn't listening all he could make out was the fact about some new criminal some criminal called Yagami light the woman then said something about her daughter being killed by this mysterious enigma.

Judge Pao set off on a journey to find this Yagami till sun set, until it was time, it was time to return to the underworld at the gate Judge Pao called for Yam wang, in the blink of an eye Yam wang popped out of a black hole in the ground, still holding his cup of wine he walked forwards and welcomed Judge Pao, but Judge Pao took none of this and walked himself in. Yam Wang had no choice but to chase Judge Pao, he cried out "you must have forgotten the deal was I let you live after 4 years of slavery" Judge Pao stumbled out of Yam Wang's grip and went to start his night shift.

After the sun rose Judge Pao ran towards the exit, after he reached the over world he grabbed his coat and his briefcase and ran towards his station. Once he arrived he immediately went on his computer to get more information on this Yagami person. After about 30 minutes that felt more like 1 hour, he then found out that Yagami was a shape shifter who came from the 1990s, he would shape-shift and kill or kidnap people. The article didn't say anything about what Yagami would do with the bodies of the victims, but he would find out ever so soon...

In the morning judge Pao awoke to the sound of a rooster, he rubbed his eyes and groaned at the sun. Outside in his garden there was a vent, there was not a vent there last night. Judge Pao being cursed with curious opened the vent and climbed into it, He heard, he heard someone calling his name calling his name it echoed it echoed through the sewers, Judge Pao started sprinting towards the sound.

There he was, there was Yagami stalking towards Judge Pao, Judge Pao saw him for the first time his face was candle white, with red stripes creeping up his pale face his grin turned into a snicker he laughed a loud laugh and approached Judge Pao. "I didn't want to do this to you we could of done this the easy way but you are forcing me to do the hard way. I was a big fan of you when I was alive... You know in the 1990s there was a killing spree, where were you when we needed you most? My family died because of you, I died because of you!"

There Judge Pao stood, his jaw dropped open as he felt the bitter taste of fear in his mouth he was stunned, emotionless he had nothing to say or do but stare into the darkness of the tunnel. Yagami called out to Judge Pao as he approached reality. Yagami locked his gaze back into Judge Pao careful to not let him escape, Judge Pao leaned back slowly backing away and and called for Yam Wang through a chip he had brought in case on the floor and in the blink of a eye teleported to Yam Wang. Before he left he heard Yagami mutter something about teleporting to his boss.

Yam Wang's eyes were as dark as the kingdom he ran, as Judge Pao arrived he was dumbfounded found at who he saw next to Yam Wang's throne. It was him it was Yagami there he was stood next to Yam Wang, a wide grin spread across his face. Judge Pao expected this but still found it sad that Yam Wang could betray him. Turns out Yagami would kill and sell their souls to Yam Wang to populate the underworld. Yam Wang slowly took another sip of the blood red wine he held in his snow, white bony hand as thin as a skeleton's hand. Yam Wang clapped his hand and two skeletons dragged him into a cage made of bones, the floor heaved at the wait of Judge Pao welcoming its new visitor. Inside the cell was a bed made out of rocks and a oil painting that dangled on the wall. As the days passed he grew weary and tired until one day, when he though all hope was lost, he heard the guard unlock the cage. The groaning lock turned as the key opened the cell. Judge Pao asked what had happened. The guard answered that in the end Yagami and Yam Wang passed away and the underworld needed a new ruler to guide the lost souls. Judge Pao was greeted with a humungous feast that spread across the table and was now the rightful ruler of the underworld.

The End

—by Celia Hudson 5Z

Harrow International School Hong Kong

# *The Chaos of the Underworld*

*Harrow International School Hong Kong, Jiang, Elton – 10*

Judge Pao, a detective, judge and politician of the Song Dynasty of ancient China. He was known for Chinese cultural personification and justice. When judging, he treated both sides equally, no matter what rank they were. The Chinese empire admired him; he is known as one of the best detectives and judges in history.

As everyone knows, he passed away in 1062 AD. But his soul has still been working for the underworld...until something happened.

One night after judging, Judge Pao confidently entered the magnificent Hall of the Underworld. He reported his judgments. Everyone's attention immediately fell on him, but they weren't admiring him; they were split between horror, panic and anxiety.

"Your Majesty, the people have been judged and sentenced," he boomed " and I will tell you when I can, the underworld is in danger.....

The king frowned "Sure..." he stopped "are you alright? The moon on your forehead has turned red instead of gold."

Right after the speech of the king, discussions burst. Judge Pao burst into evil laughter. He turned and exited mysteriously as his laugh echoed in the night sky. Nobody knew that this was a grim warning. Not long after, the underworld was gradually getting destroyed. Piles of ash were scattered where the great hall of the underworld used to stand. The book of life and death was burnt simultaneously. Fires devoured the area where the sacred temples used to be. Dangerous prisoners behind the unbreakable bars were freed to work for the evil. Innocent people in the afterlife were forced to evacuate the raging fire, and to be reborn early. The underworld was doomed.

For the judge, this wasn't enough, he wanted to control the land and heaven too. He needed something to reinforce his power, so he targeted Judge Pao's body. He would transform the body into evil, and rule the world..... He travelled from cities to towns, from towns to mountains and from mountains to plains. Every footstep turned into flames that would leave permanent scars on the underworld. The underworld was devoured by darkness, and overthrown by evil. Evil souls marched after Judge, approving the deeds he would commit. Every step neared the tomb of Judge Pao.

Judge Pao jolted awake. To his relief, he was where he should be. In his tomb and afterlife. His soul should be working for the king of the underworld. He heard loud thumps and felt that the earth was shaking. He jumped to attention. Who was it? He walked around his grand tomb, probably for the first time. His hand reached for the doorknob to the underworld. "Judge Pao! Judge Pao! Your soul..."

He had been travelling for months, and he was finally close. He led his army through the narrow, steep valley to tomb which was at the end of it. Five minutes past, and they had reached the door. He would succeed. Judge Pao reached for the battering ram...

..... BOOM! The door burst open. It wasn't opened by the battering ram. The

judge and his troops stumbled back. Just as he had been told, he saw his soul with the red moon. He was leading all the evil souls, determined to take over the world. Now they were here to take his body, they were here to kill him. "Attack!" commanded the judges. The forces marched confidently, unstoppable. The forces met. Sharp spears and arrows invaded from both sides. A battle in a narrow valley had begun. Everyone knew that it would end tragically for one side. The side with an advantage would win. Boom! Suddenly, hundreds of thousands of cannon balls were hurled across the battlefield, crashing onto the army of the evil souls. The men shrieked in terror, turned back and ran for their life. "Defeat those men! You cowards!" the soul of judge Pao thundered. He knew that he was defeated. he knew he had lost a chance to win.

The men had retreated for days. Exhausted and unable to fight, most men abandoned the army. Nobody was in the mood of obeying orders, all they wanted was peace. They preferred being locked in those compressed cells.

"They are there!"

"Look!"

"Don't let them escape!" The warriors arrived, they would defeat the evil and revive the underworld on this field. The soldiers surrounded the opposition, quickly followed by the arrival of Judge Pao.

"Pao! Listen!" exploded an evil warrior "We will not work for you! We were tortured by your underworld morons just because we broke the laws in our life! Now we are souls, and you... AAAHHH!" He groaned and fell on the ground.

"What a rude insult." exclaimed Judge Pao as he took his sword out of the soldier's chest.

"Attack!" The battle had begun. Within minutes, the enemy was defeated. Soldiers were either captured or dead.

But there was one problem. The soul of judge Pao wasn't found. This signalled judge pao to move back to the palace of the underworld.

They arrived. The supposedly destroyed palace was standing there, rebuilt. As the gates were pushed open, the hall of the underworld appeared in the distance. Everything was new. The officials and soldiers hurried in to check. They pushed open the door of the hall.

And in there stood the king.

"Hello," he started "Judge Pao. I am pleased to meet the body of you." He smiled.

"And this palace is rebuilt by the ones that have abandoned the evil army." he continued slowly, as if trying to signal judge pao something else. "So actually, the soul of you has disappeared."

"Your majesty, it seems like he's trying to do something," noted Judge Pao "I'm not surprised."

Everything was normal in my house. It was an ordinary night and I was reading in my room. The lights suddenly went off.

Creek...BANG! The door swung open. Outside stood a figure.

"From the underworld, I come up here. I am the soul.....of Judge Pao."

# *The Case of The Purple Moon Gang*

*Harrow International School Hong Kong, Kotecha, Aarya – 10*

Long ago in ancient China in the Huangshan province, lived an exceptional man called Judge Pao.

He was known across ancient China for his skills in solving crimes and proving people innocent or guilty.

“Look what the paper is saying about you, Judge Pao has solved yet another case, in record time too!” Judge Pao’s bodyguard Zhan Zhao continued praising Judge Pao until his face turned red from embarrassment. “Enough now!” Judge Pao chuckled. Their celebrations were cut short when a man wearing an elegant emerald robe charged into the room. Zhan Zhao didn’t expect the sudden intrusion surprising him making him drop his glass of wine. Shards of glass flew everywhere, Judge Pao looking very displeased at his advisor Gongsung Ce. “HOW DARE YOU INTERRUPT OUR CELEBRATIONS?!” “Master, I—” “SILENCE!” Judge Pao was having none of this. “MASTER!!!” Gongsung Ce was getting impatient now. What he needed to say had to be important for he was turning redder by the second. “There have been a series of crimes in the village all linking back to the Purple Moon Gang.” Gongsung Ce was getting frustrated. “And what is your evidence?” Judge Pao asked. Gongsung Ce said nothing.

He motioned to the window. There was a thick purple fog hanging eerily in the sky blocking out the opaque white orb hanging in the sky. There was a stunned silence in the room so quiet you could hear a pin drop. “What sort of crimes?” Judge Pao was staring in disbelief at the window— for it had been over 13 years since they have encountered the Purple Moon Gang. “Nothing that serious. Although many of the crimes have been repetitive. No murders, just stealing, vandalism, and littering.” Gongsung Ce bowed. “Ah ok. We can’t do anything about this. We are detectives, not community constables.” Judge Pao reclined back in his seat. “But, master, our people need us! We have to do something!” Gongsung Ce threw his hands up in despair. “Gongsung has a point. What will our people think of us if we don’t protect them?” “This could ruin your reputation.” Zhan Zhao said glaring at Judge Pao. “Imagine what the papers would say now!” “Yes, fine, fine, but what can we do to stop the purple Moon Gang? Fight them?” Judge Pao said impatiently. “Now then. We must continue to celebrate my glory!” “Toast to a successful year ahead: Cheers!!!”

Suddenly, there was a low, rattling noise that seemed to fill the whole space. on the other side of the door. A few moments later, vicious, imposing men dressed in long, violet gowns and wielding swords burst into the room. They brought the thick purple fog with them making Judge Pao cough. Once the fog had cleared there were no longer vicious, imposing men but weak, pleading men. “Please, great master, help us!” cried the stout man. Judge Pao, Gongsung Ce and Zhan Zhao were stunned. “YOU!...Purple.....moon....gang?....” Zhan Zhao stuttered, astonished. Once the fog cleared and a voice as cold as ice sliced through the air.

“Listen, we need your help.”

“And why would we help you?” Judge Pao’s voice was silent but dangerous. The man in the middle was not giving up.

“We’ve been framed for things we didn’t do. I know we have committed a few bad crimes in the past, but if you help us then we could try to make it up to the villagers? There were threats written in purple signed by “us”. The bank didn’t let us go in because they said that we opened the safe and stole all their money..” The thin man said, shaking his fist. “The scoundrels!” Judge Pao considered this for a moment and took it as an opportunity to build his reputation. He decided to help The Purple Moon Gang.

They started a suspect list and spent hours discussing the different criminals. Judge Pao was recollecting a memory making him bang his fist on the table. Judge Pao explained his reasoning. “I’ve seen them! The Triad Gang, the only gang that use the fog to write! It’s a very Ancient technique that the monks used to use. It became no more after the Mongols found out and used the technique for evil.” He rushed out of his chambers, his robe billowing in the wind. The others followed exchanging curious glances, secretly wondering if Judge Pao had lost his sanity.

After months of walking through snowy terrains and dry deserts they came upon a fortress with such great scale that it stretched across several streams and mountains. It was very impressive, although the structure was close to ruins. He stepped in, disturbing a colony of bats. They squeaked, some bearing their fangs. Gongsung Ce shuddered. "Master, are you sure we are in the right place?" Zhan Zhao whispered, looking around. "I AM ALWAYS RIGHT!" Judge Pao. Together the Purple Moon Gang, Judge Pao, Zhan Zhao and Gongsung Ce called out, trying to find any signs of life. Days passed, but they had no luck. Judge Pao was a very determined man, so he was not ready to admit defeat any time soon. He wondered what might happen if he didn't solve the case, but he will find out the hard way. Out of all his cases, this was the most puzzling. This is a mystery Judge Pao is yet to solve....



# *The Missing Boy*

*Harrow International School Hong Kong, Lee, Mathea – 9*

Hundreds of years old, “The Noble Boys School” was located in a bright golden brown Medieval castle with a watchtower and drawbridge and a glistening flag of “The Noble” waving in the air. All pupils were treated well and had well-scheduled school programs headed by the Discipline Master, Mr. Jones.

However, one rainy and stormy morning, the rebellious Harry Windsor Jones, the son of Mr. Jones and Mrs. Jones, nicknamed “The Wicked Prince” by all teachers, was offered a place in Class 6A. Harry Windsor was intelligent but was also a bossy and hideous boy who formed a Royal Gang with timid and loyal followers. He would direct all kinds of chaotic situations at his whim.

One peaceful recess, everybody piled out of their classrooms as usual. Harry initiated his desired Half-day Breezy Plan to escape from the school routines by sneakily faking an illness to be sent to the Medical Clinic.

Later, at the deafening sound of the glowing whistle, the boys lined up in the Assembly Hall for inspection. Mr. Jones checked the number of students and if their uniforms were immaculate. No dirty clothes, filthy shoes, or falling-apart name tags were allowed.

During the examination, Mr. Jones looked around and noticed Harry wasn’t there. His assistant immediately checked through the entire school premise and soon discovered a broken window in the Medical Clinic!

Mr. Jones hollered, “A MISSING BOY!” and reported instantly to the Headmistress who ordered Matron Bottomly to contact Judge Pao!

Within 20 minutes, Detective Pao arrived calmly to understand the situation and was escorted to Harry’s class. Harry’s gang stayed silent with tears in their eyes.

Yet, seconds after, a whispering sound of “Ssssss.....” came from a shaking voice at the back of the classroom where a tiny boy was squished into the corner, with his ears covered.

Detective Pao knelt next to him. “Tell me everything you know, please, Harry could be in danger,”

The boy knew it was unwise to get into trouble with the genius Pao and wrote on the floor “SLEEPING PILL”.

Matron Bottomly interrupted softly but in a lazy manner, “sleeping pillow.”

Mr. Jones screeched harshly, “SLEEPING PILL NOT SLEEPING PILLOW! Did you leave your glasses in the washroom?” Everybody including the teachers started to giggle dramatically and even fell to the ground.

Judge Pao ignored their laughter and, spinning on his heels, headed directly to the Medical Clinic. Upon arriving he interviewed all the medical staff but they couldn’t remember Harry and didn’t even know about the broken window.

Suddenly the alarm of the wall clock rang for the end of the school day. The clock was adjusted to 5 hours ahead. He also noticed all linings of the resting beds were tidy.

Judge Pao nodded his head which is his signature sign of catching a clue. He went on to check all CCTV camera recordings.

“Harry should be in the afterlife, with the entrance outside the broken window!”, exclaimed Judge Pao.

“Our house is situated under The Immortal Yama Department of Hell!”, asserted Mr. Jones.

Immediately, the group, including the Headmistress, entered the afterlife and Detective Pao insisted to visit The Jones’s house to explore further.

The Jones's house was as bright and elegant as a traditional Japanese Cottage, filled with flowery scents. Each room was assigned a seasonal flower, ranging from Sakura, rose, lavender, blueberry, raspberry, and strawberry. The walls were gleamingly painted and polished, with perfectly mounted Sakura flowers. The mats were washed with a lavender scent. Opening the swirls-patterned curtains, there showed an appealing river view. Streams of sunlight entered the rooms with themes of different Japanese cartoon characters. All these charming elements made The Jones' House a perfectly romantic house to live in.

"Is lavender Harry's favourite flower?" Detective Pao queried after walking through the entire house and observing a potted plant with missing flowers in the garden. He noted a lavender aroma in every corner.

"How did you know?" replied Mrs. Jones.

"Well, I saw fresh child-sized footprints in the garden and a few spots where flowers had been plucked."

Everyone nodded in agreement as they looked over the evidence. In addition, the detailed-minded Detective Pao pointed to a single tiny purple petal on the floor of the living room.

"What has Harry done to my refurnished floor?" grumbled Mrs. Jones.

"The floor is not of priority at this moment," Detective Pao cut in.

Mrs. Jones stormed to her kitchen and shrieked, "WHERE IS MY FOOD!?"

Shortly, she stomped back to the living room, serving the guests a warm cup of Japanese Matcha Tea. The Joneses' presented a box of premium teabags to Judge Pao as a sincere appreciation for all his hard work in locating their beloved boy. While sipping the tasty Green Tea, he turned with a light head nod, followed by a question, "What's left in the fridge?"

"Nothing except the beer! Harry took all the food, fizzy drinks, and lemonade!" Mrs. Jones explained.

Judge Pao remembered the traces of drink cans before he left his office at the Immortal Yama Department of Hell. He screened through all CCTV camera recordings.

Searched up high and down low.

Noticed footprints with hints.

Tracked the remains of purple petals and drink cans through the employee's office.

Went past his employees, partners, friends, and pets.

Jumped over food debris and drink cans.

Finally, Judge Bao found his target: A Dark Room, the Detention Room he used to trap any suspected people. A shimmering golden key from his pocket to open this door.

"Hurray! Our Principal Judge can discover me in the Dark!", the Wicked Prince squealed excitedly with a triumphant smile.

Judge Pao successfully unlocked the puzzle with all correlated clues, like sleeping pills to make fell asleep medical staff during clock adjustment, and traces of lavender petals, drink cans, and food debris.

# A Theft in the Palace

*Harrow International School Hong Kong, Lui-Schwille, Maia – 10*

The day started just like any other mid-autumn day in Kaifeng, a gentle breeze swaying the leaves of the ginkgo trees. Princess Fukang had finished her breakfast and returned to her room to admire her coronation crown and necklace.

She approached the secret compartment hidden in her wall, then briefly looked behind her to check no-one was in the vicinity. She unfastened the invisible clasp, and the compartment door sprung open. Within, she saw that her jewellery was all in place. She reached out to take the necklace, but it slipped out of her hands! She gasped as the jade, pearls and diamonds shattered on the floor. As she knelt to inspect the fragments, she thought to herself, diamonds don't break when dropped and neither do pearls or jade. But how could this happen? She picked up a few pieces as evidence, then sprinted to her parents' bedroom. She called tentatively, "Father? I—it's important. Really important." A few moments later, the door opened and he said, "Come in." Princess Fukang was always enthralled whenever she entered her parents' bedroom – it was larger than any normal person's living and dining room combined, and was decorated with tapestries of previous dynasties. "What is it that is so important that you need to interrupt my meditation?" he questioned, "Y—yes father, I have come to you because something truly terrible has happened," Fukang stuttered nervously and explained everything. He gasped in horror, "That can't be! Real gems don't just break on impact. Those were specially crafted by the land's finest jeweller!" She showed him the pieces she'd picked up from her room. Her father took them with shaking hands, meticulously examining them. A few moments later, he said quietly, "My dear, this is an ingeniously fabricated glass replica of your beautiful pendant and circlet. We must call upon Judge Bao Qing Tian."

Bao was having a peaceful day walking around the park, surrounded by, maple, birch and larch trees with leaves of cardinal red and ginkgo trees with fluttering golden leaves. It was definitely not a day he expected to be summoned to the emperor's palace to solve a theft. The emperor's messenger knelt at his feet, "Lord Bao, you have been summoned to the palace by the emperor himself," he stuttered for a moment, "H—he says that his daughter's coronation jewellery has been stolen and replaced by glass fakes." "Interesting... I shall investigate." Bao took his carriage to the emperor's palace, and arrived at the princess's room to inspect the damaged jewels. Fukang opened the concealed compartment for Bao to inspect, explaining how she'd been checking on them every morning. Bao felt at the back of the compartment and announced, "This can be opened from the other side. What room is next to yours?" "The maids' rooms." replied Fukang. "Then until I find another clue, our prime suspects are your maids. May I have the names of the maids? I wish to interrogate them one by one." As Bao left the room, he spotted a something glinting in the sunlight. He decided his eyes were playing tricks on him, so he moved on.

From the interviews, Bao gained nothing. The next day, Bao came up with a brilliant solution. He unhesitatingly rushed to the emperor's palace to propose this idea. The emperor agreed and sent for arrangements to be made. The plan was to make up a story that the jade jewel in the centre of the pendant was actually a key to opening a chest of treasures, and that the chest was hidden in the Emperor's Great Hall. This wasn't true of course, but the emperor sent members of the nobility to spread the rumour far and wide. The chest was an ornate mahogany trunk with intricate carvings of old Chinese heroes. It was to be left unguarded in the Great Hall.

On the first night, Bao and two assistants concealed themselves behind the pillars. They heard soft footsteps coming through the doorway in front of them. They all tensed. There were two voices; one man and one woman. They scoured every corner of the hall for the chest until, finally, its silver glint caught their eyes, "There!" And they hurried towards it. The woman took out the necklace and tried unlocking the chest, "Why isn't it working?" she hissed. "I don't know..." the man whispered back. On Bao's signal, his subordinates swiftly and soundlessly moved towards the criminals and in one fell swoop, bound their hands behind their backs. The prisoners screamed and fought but they were no match against their captors. Bao glared icily at them, "Who are you? And why did you take the princess's coronation jewels?" They cowered at his feet, "I—I am Liu Fei and this is Shen Lun," the woman replied, trembling, "We thought they would sell for a good price on the black market... W—we knew that Princess

Fukang had a secret compartment, also that it could be opened from b-behind, so we m-made a plan to go into the maids' r-room and open the c-compartment from the back to r-replace the real ones with our g-glass fakes," Fei whimpered, "So I sneaked in at midnight, following the plan exactly, but as I was leaving one of the maids stirred so I darted out as quickly as possible, but a small stone fell to the floor and I didn't have time to retrieve it so I left in a hurry." Now Bao knew that the stone he'd spotted earlier hadn't been a fake. "I will now sentence you. Five years of imprisonment and a fine of three hundred taels would be adequate wouldn't it?" he looked at them, as if daring them to contradict. Shen Lun opened his mouth to argue but closed it when Liu Fei shot him a glowering look. As their captors took them away, Bao sighed in relief. This had been a long few days and with the princess's coronation the next day, the case had finally been solved.

## *Judge Pao and The Trip to the Underworld*

*Harrow International School Hong Kong, Tiju, Junelle – 9*

On the dark and silent street, he was running. 'He, was Judge Pao. And Judge Pao was panting for breath, but he wouldn't give up. How could he? He wouldn't want to risk other people's life for this. And Judge Pao was not running for no reason, he was chasing someone, he was chasing a criminal. Dexter is the criminal's name. Dexter managed to run only slightly faster than Judge Pao, but if he slowed down at all, he would be caught. And he would rather die than that.

Dexter might have been running for 1 hour and 43 minutes, but the entire time, as he ran as fast as lightning, thoughts were flying around his mind. Not good ones, but evil ones, planning to become the greatest and most wanted criminal ever.

After a while, Dexter gave up running, so he hid near a bush. Struggling to even breathe, he sat down, and nearly fainted. Suddenly, an idea hit his head.

I will do it as soon as possible, Thought Dexter

The next day, Dexter saw a knife in the bin. It didn't matter to him how dirty it is, it only mattered to him how well it worked. He took the knife and just stabbed himself in a way that seemed like it didn't matter to him whether he was alive or dead. But what he didn't know was that he wouldn't go to Heaven. He would go to a chaotic place, the darker side — the underworld.

Not long later, Judge Pao found the dead body of Dexter, with a knife in it. Judge Pao had the ability to go into the underworld whenever he wanted, and since he knew that the criminal couldn't have gone to the bright side, he to hell.

Meanwhile, Dexter was at the underworld, as Judge Pao predicted. He looked all around the underworld, trying to decide whether to be happy about the possibility of meeting other criminals in the underworld, or disappointed about not being able to go to the side that his mother wanted him to be in.

Judge Pao knew that there was no time to waste and he had to find Dexter before it was too late.

Soon, Judge Pao found Dexter and started chasing him. Dexter was shocked, as he didn't know that Judge Pao was also in the underworld!

Soon, Judge Pao spotted Dexter in the underworld. Dexter ran, he ran for his (underworld) life. Faster and faster every second, Judge Pao sped, and Dexter sped. Dexter's palms started sweating, and he was trying hard to think of an idea. But he can't, how could he, if he was running at full speed, and panicking so much? It was just so hard, so hard that it was right next to impossible.

It was night time now. They had been running for hours and hours, and Judge Pao started to get dizzy, and so did Dexter. But Judge Pao was so tired, that he collapsed to the ground. Dexter fell asleep not long later too.

The very next day, Judge Pao got up early. He had a plan, but first, he had to get some stuff from earth. When Judge Pao arrived, he got a tracker, and some clothes to disguise himself. And this time, he used a ring that teleported him, because that makes the tracker more powerful. When he arrived, he put the tracker on Dexter, then pretended that he was asleep.

When Dexter woke up, which was not very long after, he got up, and saw Judge Pao 'sleeping'. He smirked.

Time for more chaos, Dexter said to himself.

He ran off, and that took 10 minutes.

Now no one can stop me, thought Dexter.

Meanwhile, Judge Pao got up, and took out his phone, which was connected with the tracker. He saw exactly where Dexter went, and which way he took. After putting on a different outfit, Judge Pao took a wig and put it on. Then he took off to find Dexter. When he saw Dexter, he snuck to Dexter and grabbed Dexter's arm tightly. There's no running now Dexter, said Judge Pao. Now I will have to take you back to the REAL world, then I will take you to jail.

And after that, Dexter spent the rest of his life in jail.

## 98 Willow Lane

*Harrow International School Hong Kong, Wong, Jessica – 9*

The wind rustled between the bushes as Judge Pao walked along a street. He was exhausted from a day of solving crimes. He was about to transform into his underworld form when suddenly, someone was calling him. “Hello?” Judge Pao asked. Through his phone, he could hear a woman crying. And through her sobs, he could hear the words, “Your father... He’s gone missing!”, Judge Pao then realised that the woman who was crying was his mother! “What? What do you mean?” he asked nervously. “He said he was going to go to the market to buy some clothes. But he never came back!” his mother cried.

Judge Pao got really nervous and asked his mother if she would like him to investigate where his father had gone. “O–Ok. But be really careful, I don’t want you to end up like your father... I’ll tell you about all the details. Can you just come back home and we can discuss all the details?” his mother asked. Judge Pao agreed and soon ran like a cheetah to his mother’s house. When he arrived, his mother gave all the details about what time he went to the market, how long he was gone for and what he was going to buy. “He said that he was going to go get some clothes, he’s been gone for 3 weeks, he went at about... 5:30–ish.” his mother replied. After his mother told him all the details, he rushed to the Silversea Market where his father was last seen.

After 45 minutes of walking, he finally arrived at the Silversea Market. He asked all the shopkeepers but no one had seen him. Then, he arrived at the last shopkeeper. This stall was his dad’s favourite stall “Florence’s Fast Fashion.” Judge Pao was putting all his hope into this shopkeeper. “Hi, have you seen a man about 3 weeks ago? He came here about 5:30.” Judge Pao asked with a slight crack in his voice.

“Oh! Are you talking about Mr. Pao? Yes, he did come here but after he got his order, he was taken by a strange man who had a black bandana around his mouth so I couldn’t make out who it was.” Florence quickly said as if she was hiding something. Judge Pao noticed the strange behaviour but decided to ignore it. “Ok. I just have a few more questions before I leave. Did the man say anything to you and was the man accompanied when he approached Mr. Pao?” Judge Pao asked suspiciously. Florence was silent and ignored Judge Pao’s questions and moved on to the customer beside him. “Strange...” he thought to himself, “I wonder if the man did anything to her...”, he shook his head at the thought of it. Another day, another dead end.

He found himself walking along a dark alleyway dragging his foot along the dusty floor with every step. “Hey, I heard you were looking for information on Bryan Pao...” a voice whispered from the alleyway behind Judge Pao. “Wh–Who are you and how do you know my father’s name?!” Judge Pao shouted to the voice. “I know everything and everyone in this quiet town of mine...” the voice replied with a mischievous tone in their soft, quiet voice. “I will not tell you my identity but I will tell you this...”, the voice said. A piece of paper floated into Judge Pao’s hand. The piece of paper read “98 Willow Lane. Secret code: ROUGE”. Judge Pao then shoved the piece of paper into his pocket and wanted to thank this mysterious voice but before he could say anything, he was covered with a cloud of mist and after that, the voice vanished out of thin air. “Well, that was really weird. I go to this address tomorrow.” Judge Pao thought as he walked along the quiet and ominous streets of Silversea.

When Judge Pao woke up the next day, he called a taxi to the address which was on the small, folded piece of paper that the strange... whatever it was– had given him. As he stepped out of the cab, he saw a tiny, rusted door in the corner of his eye. He walked over to it. It had a small sign saying “STAFF ONLY”, but Judge Pao had a hunch that it wasn’t a staff room. He knocked on the door. No answer... He knocked again. He saw a person unlock a small window on the top of the door.

“Secret code please?”, the person said in a croaky voice. “Rouge”, Judge Pao said with confidence in his voice. He heard a lock being unlocked. “You may enter.”, the croaky voice answered. Judge Pao walked inside. He could see a lot of stalls with elderly people, young people, even some children talking to people in the small stalls. “My name is Pedro and I am the boss of this place. You have now entered the Scavengers den. We specialise in crimes around the city of Silversea. I suspect that you’ve come here to find out some information about a crime...” he croaked. “Yes, I’m here to find out information of my father’s death.”, Judge Pao said with a slight crack in his voice, he was not eager to share the information to this stranger. “Oh yes, the death of Bryan Pao. Nice man he was, but a very stubborn man.”, Pedro said, he mumbled the last bit to himself. Pedro walked over to a small and stubby table with a shiny, crystal ball in the middle. “Come, come.”, Pedro said to Judge Pao. Judge Pao walked over to the table and sat on the small seat in front of the table. “I will now look into the crystal globe.” Pedro said. “Hmm, interesting... come here and look inside” he mumbled. Judge Pao looked into it. He saw his mother holding... a knife! He rubbed his eyes trying to forget what he saw. His mother was the murderer.

## *Hell or Heaven?*

*Harrow International School Hong Kong, Wong, Serina – 11*

Hundreds of men were gathered in hell, all together in a cold dark cell. Stomp, as Judge Pao came in, no one dared to move a inch. Not even that little mighty ant that had been trampled on around 10,000 times. All stood still like a frozen fish in the Arctic. Skin as red as ruby, his long and devil-like suit reached down to the floor, his collar, reaching up to his chin. His rough lips and his heterochromia eyes, one, a siren eye as sinful as a doll and one as red as blood. Judge Pao standing 2 meters tall above of the criminals, carefully examining them as they all stared at him like a dog begging for food. Judge Pao slowly, very slowly, walked along them smacking a metal ruler covered in splatters of blood on his palm. A shiver darted down all the criminals back. A prisoner was spotted, wearing the wrong uniform and he was smoking. The fury raced up Judge Pao's body, bursting out at the top of his head, tears bolted down the prisoners face each second. He fell down on his knees begging and snivelling to Judge Pao, begging him to not assassinate him. Without any hesitation, Judge Pao dragged the prisoner by his shirt, the ground rumbled as Judge Pao's heavy steps raced on the ground. SLAM, the door locked shut, Judge Pao and the prisoner were locked in a miniature cell, WHACK, smash blood splattered everywhere, it covered the transparent door, you could see nothing but blood.

After, Judge Pao stormed upstairs, his footsteps echoed the whole jail cell. Bursting the door open, Judge Pao dragged the most jeopardising criminal down the stairs. Judge Pao clicked his fingers.

Judge Pao was in the most dangerous criminals dungeon. Judge Pao couldn't handle the smell because he was in his angel form right now. Judge Pao's nostrils were intoxicated by the fetid smell lingering in the air. The smell of decay. Chills ran along Boston's spine as he walked closer to the deadly convicts. Judge Pao screamed "silence". His reverberating screams pierced the air, sharp and howl-like, filling the atmosphere with curdling agony. Trickle of blood slid from Boston's ears, he too howled in utmost anguish. Pop, a bomb of smoke went off in front of Judge Pao, it was from one of the psychic convicts. Judge Pao appeared in the formation of a nebulous fog, thick and grey, alluring yet repelling all at once. He faced the man who popped the bomb of smoke. Judge Pao closed his eyes, his angel form started fading away in a second. What was there was his skin, as red as ruby, devil horns on glowing on his head. The psychic now, repeatedly shaking his head, his eyes pleading for forgiveness to be forgiven. Judge Pao roared in humour, "You want me to let you go?". The man nodded rapidly, relief washing in his eyes. In a flash, Judge Pao grasped the psychic's throat, his mouth was parted in a wicked rictus. Anger enveloped his presence, emanating from his fingertips and through the man's throat. "Never." Judge Pao whispered. The light of his words were washed away by the heaviness of the air. Boston watched in fear, he blinked away the tears that had formed in his eyes. Frozen, he watched as a knife materialised, glinting in the fiery lighting. "P-please..." the man's pleas only grew more fury in Judge Pao's body. With one sway of the knife, the man's head fell to the ground with a thud.

All of a sudden, a gasp left Boston's lips and suddenly a flash of white gleamed into his eyes, rendering him blind. He couldn't move, he was like paralysed, he couldn't breathe. All oxygen was sucked into nothingness. As quick as it came, it went. He clawed at his throat, coughing hysterically as he tried to breathe. Boston found himself in a dark hallway, specks of lava flying at him and slowly burning his skin just like every other fatal convict in the dungeon. A dreaded silence had developed. Boston meandered around trying to find someone or something to ease his thumping heartbeat and his overwhelming confusion. But no one was there. Suddenly the most dangerous convict in the century appeared, she looked like a raw dead mummy. This was what every other deadly convict had to go through before they were submitted into the dungeon, but some of them were never found after that...a saying goes around saying that if you're too strong for the prison cell and too weak for the dungeons, then you shall be sabotaged. "Hello darling." Her double cooed, "How does it feel to experience your own karma?". Spiders danced below her feet, teetering closer to the lady's feet. Slowly, they crawled up her legs, sinking their sharp claws into her skin. Rapidly, a covey of spiders snuck into her mouth. Muffling her panicked screams. But she was yet to complete her torture. Swiftly, she pulled her slick belt off and swung it in the air, transforming it into a leathery whip. She began to cackle as her original's face had morphed into one full of horror. Turned away, feeling the echoes of the lady's screams rippling through the air. Trembling, his feet gave way, he fell to the ground. An assemblage of black ravens slammed me against a wall, biting, pecking and poking at me. Alarmed, Boston rapidly swatted them away with my hands. It did not stop them. Boston realised, then, that he was to face his murderer.

This time the ravens went for his eyes. Clawing at them with their hooked nails. Slashing, scratching and grazing. Intense pain lit up throughout Boston, absorbing him. He let out on last painful scream.

Numb. All of Boston was numb. He slumped his shoulders, his breathing unstable and uneven. Dark spots flitted in his dulled and dimmed vision. As soon as his finger tips grazed the warm, sticky blood, blackness consumed him.

## *Judge Pao and The Black Cat*

*Harrow International School Hong Kong, Yu, Violet – 10*

As I was walking down the damp alley. I heard a cat hissed and saw amber eyes in the darkness; fiery, amber eyes shimmering in the very little sunlight the brick walls let through. The cat glared at me and I stared back. I walked closer and felt an unusual feeling... a tingling sensation in my fingertips. I saw a gleam in the cat's eye that was not as normal as the usual gleam you see from a gem. This cat was more interesting than others.

The cat ran and I followed deeper into the alley. The deeper I got the more unusual it got. I saw things like paintings of people I saw before and that was not a good thing. In fact these are the people that were in the newspaper because of the things they have done. One of them was John Glastonberry, famous for stealing from the most expensive painting from the North pole. The Lona Misa was admired by everyone in the world.

Finally, we arrived at a door. It was decorated with the most confusing patterns carved in it with a sapphire door knob. It looked like it needed a key. Then I heard the strange cat start coughing. I turned to look and saw an abnormal object. I took a step closer, trying not to step on the spit, and I saw a key! I picked it up, trying not to vomit, and opened the door. I saw a spinning circle of vibrant colours and waffles.

I stepped through the portal and instantly went flying. Doing cartwheels and backflips. I caught a waffle and ate it. It was delicious! Anyway, after all the spinning I arrived in front of a mysterious building.

The building was very dull and boring. There were plants near the door but both were dead. I stepped inside and you will never guess what I saw: a vending machine! This was no ordinary machine – It had bones and skulls inside.

The cat ran ahead and I followed. I had to! It was the only company I had! I didn't want to get lost with no one around. It led me to a room. The door was open and I peeked inside. I saw a mysterious man sitting behind a desk of colour! It was the first thing I had seen with colour during my experience here. I planned on spying for a while but the cat pushed me forward and the man in the chair noticed me.

"AAAAH! Who are you?" screamed the man.

"My name is Max." I replied.

"Well my name is Judge Pao. You can call me Pao!"

I glanced around the room and noticed several odd things: a gavel on the shelf, a jar of sweets on his desk and a globe. The gavel confirmed he is definitely a judge but certainly not an ordinary one.

I stepped backwards in suspicion, but was too curious to leave.

He shouted "My cat is black!"

I was confused because obviously any human being could see that.

Again he yelled "I saw you in the streets!"

Now I was starting to fidget a bit. The files on his desk all had names on them. I recognised a few – they were celebrities who had died recently. One of them was me. I knew this wasn't a coincidence because it had my full name: Max Duckstein Panchak. It was then when I realised I needed to get away.

The judge laughed like he just read my mind.

He screamed "you're too late!!!"

Meanwhile, back in the city, another black cat appeared as if from nowhere. It licked its paws, then went looking for another innocent victim.



# *The Mystery Robbery of 11 Penninyingham street*

*Harrow International School Hong Kong, Zhao, Yingying – 10*

## **The Mystery Robbery of 11 Penninyingham Street**

The horses trotted down the street, making crisp clacking sounds. “I’m so sorry, Judge Pao, for my lateness. I lost my eye drops and had to go buy a new one, otherwise I couldn’t take off my contact lenses. But luckily I live nearby; just a five-minute-walk from here.” “Also, I had a evening job last night, so I was really tired.” The driver gave a hearty laugh. Judge Pao smiled back.

Stepping out of the carriage slowly, he coughed. The store manager hurried over to him, enthusiastically shaking the judge’s hand. “Judge Pao, thank goodness you are here! Our store had been a complete mess.” Judge Pao smiled at him and walked off the grey stone pavement, into the store. He could see what the manager meant. The glass windows was completely shattered into pieces smaller than dust and lay on the ground. The light bulbs that had brought warmth into the cold snowy nights flickered eerily off and on, swaying weakly on its base. The strong metal cases were left open, the prize that once was protected in it had gone. Display cases were shattered, and pieces of emerald bracelets, gold chains and diamond rings were left buried among the glass.

Judge Pao took out his notebook and started examining the store. “When did you know this happen?” The store manager shakily spoke. “This morning around one o’clock. I came to collect the store’s shop renting contract that I left in the counter yesterday.” Judge Pao deepened his eyebrows and scribbled something down. Taking his magnifying glass and a tweezer, he delicately picked up the pieces of glass, which glinted in the morning light and reflected a ray of rainbow. “Looks like the theft has barged in. There’s no sign that they could have sawed their way through.” The store manager was pale white. “I, I, I... I have no idea how this has happened. It has come to a terrifying shock when I found this. Should I call all the staff to come and be questioned?” Judge Pao nodded approvingly. Suddenly, the judge found something strange from the corner of his eye. “Store manager, do you wear contact lenses?” The manager turned around and looked confusedly at Judge Pao. “No, I have never worn contact lenses before. What’s wrong?” Judge Pao looked at him and raised up the tweezers pinching a eye drop container. The bottle was only about three centimetres in height; 1 centimetre in width. A transparent liquid flowed inside. The bottle was labelled “Contact lenses special eye drop. Flammable source.”

“This was left by the thief, I presume, if none of your workers (or you) wear contact lenses.” Judge Pao muttered. The silence carried a heavy weight of fear. The judge’s leather shoes made a clear bright noise of footsteps. Just this moment, a lady with violently purple hair and light blue shoes barged in, panting heavily. “Boss! I just saw your message, sorry that I’m so late!” Judge Pao raised an amused eyebrow. “This is one of your workers, I think?” The lady eyed him. “May I ask who you are?”

“I am Judge Pao. Do you know the crime that has happened in this shop?” The lady turned to look in the shop and screamed.

“What happened here? I spent ages cleaning the shop yesterday, and now it’s all destroyed!” The lady looked at the ruins in anguish.

Judge Pao looked at the lady calmly. “This is exactly why you are here, madam. Could you please give some more information about your schedule last night?” With wide eyes, the lady started blabbing out her schedule last night, as though memorising it from heart. “Well, I was in the shop last night from 9:00pm to 11:00pm. I didn’t notice anything weird, so I started cleaning. Then I locked the shop and went home.” She finished somewhat lamely.

“And where is your home to be exact?”

“Greenhead Ville. Around four hours for me to get here. Now all my hard work is destroyed!” she wailed. Judge Pao nodded and noted it down.

“Madam, I’m very sorry for your loss. I promise that I will get to the bottom of this mystery. You can go now.” The judge scribbled down some notes. He suddenly spoke out loud. “Well, Mr Kenyings, I think I know who is responsible for all of this. Should we go and find him?” The store manager nodded palely.

Outside the shop, the carriage was waiting silently for Judge Pao. Suddenly, the shop door opened, making twinkling noises with the welcoming bells. Judge Pao came out with the store manager briskly walking. “Driver! Let’s have a talk please.” The driver came down and walked over.

“Where were you last night?”

“I told you! Doing my evening job at Penninyinghams!”

“Then what’s this?” Judge Pao took out the small bottle of eye drop and swayed it under the driver’s nose.

“It’s some weird coincidence then!” Judge Pao raised his eyebrows and looked sternly at the driver. The driver seemed to shrink under the judge’s gaze. “We shall find all the evidence we need from this bottle.”

Judge Pao took out a hand cuff and put it on the driver.

“But first, Mr Mockingham, please come with me to the jury.”

## *Justice Pao*

*Heep Yunn Primary School, Chan, Wing Yu Chloe – 11*

Bao Zheng, commonly known as Justice Pao or Lord Pao, is a Chinese politician during the Song Dynasty and the reign of Emperor Renzong. During his twenty five years in civil service he investigated and solved a lot of interesting cases and I was lucky enough to witness one of them, because I found a time travelling machine. I took the machine and travelled to the Song Dynasty as a royal guard to witness the funny trouble in a case known as ‘The case of the missing treasure’. Let me tell you all about it.

There was a very valuable treasure chest in a museum which was filled with lots of gold, money and jewellery. The chest was locked up in a very secure room with lots of strict security, only the emperor or the empress could go in and touch the treasure. But one day it was miraculously gone. When one of the security guards found out, he immediately called out to the other guards which included me, to go search every person’s house or cottage to see if anybody had stolen the chest. But hours had passed and had no luck finding it. Luckily, Bao was just passing by and the guards told him the case immediately, since they thought that he was the only one who could help them.

Bao first called in all the investigators, guards like me and police officers to come to the meeting room to investigate the case. After a long thought, we finally had a plan, Bao said, ‘Well I know an inn where thieves and burglars hang out, and since stealing the most precious treasure chest in all of China is a pretty big deal, he would surely go around bragging about how he stole it. So tonight we will all dress up in different disguises. I will go around and chat with other thieves and see if they know anything about the theft. When I find the culprit, I will wave my left hand and we will all reveal ourselves. That person will go to court and the emperor will decide his fate.’

The other guards, including me, liked the idea so that night we all went to the inn. Everything went according to plan. When Bao heard the sentence ‘I stole a treasure chest’, he immediately went over there and asked the man, ‘Oh wow how impressive! May I ask why you stole it?’ ‘That’s because there’s this very beautiful girl I like, I’d like to buy her a very nice gift but I am broke, I stole the chest to sell it, then I will use the money to buy a gift,’ he said with a little guilt on his face. Bao thought that even though it was a very touching and understandable reason, he still broke the law. Bao waved his hands and told the thief, ‘You may have a good reason but you still broke the law, the guards will take you to court and let the emperor decide what to do with you.’ The thief didn’t fight back and just sadly nodded his head and followed the guard to court. After a few hours, I took the time travelling machine and went back to my room. Rumors have it, the thief wasn’t killed, instead he was set free because he touched the emperor so much.

Bao Zheng was a very honest and clever person. He was no doubt the best Chinese politician during the Song Dynasty. I really hope I can serve justice as a lawyer in the future like him one day.

## *Judge Yue Kong*

*Heep Yunn Primary School, Chan, Yi Ching – 10*

Everyone knows the famous ancient judge — Judge Pao, but none of them knows that Judge Pao travelled to 1991 and solved a case. After this case, I learnt a lesson, a lesson that is cruel but could change my life. The most shocking and horrible thing in this case is even people in the same family can try to murder each other for money. This complicated murdering case could only be solved by Judge Pao. However, he might need some help.

One peaceful day in ancient times, Judge Pao was walking in his garden. He found a mysterious glowing bush. He walked closer to investigate it. Suddenly, the strong wind pushed Judge Pao in the bush. The inner part of the bush was a machine. The curious judge jumped onto the machine and pressed the start button. The machine started moving. It was so quick that Judge Pao almost fell!

After ten minutes, the strange machine finally stopped. Judge Pao found himself on a land that he had never seen before. He was desperate to know why those iron horses on the road could walk so quickly. Just then, he was lost, and a kind man walked towards him. The kind man said, 'You seem frightened and lost. Are you okay?' Judge Pao replied, 'I am a bit confused. Who are you, nice man? Why are you wearing this odd outfit? Where am I?' The kind stranger said, 'I am Pao Yue Kong, I work as a judge. I am wearing a suit and you are in Hong Kong. Why are you dressing like you are a judge from a long time ago?' Judge Pao said, 'Good morning, Mr Pao. I am the well-known Judge Pao. May you lead me back to my court, please?' Pao Yue Kong thought Judge Pao was insane so he smiled and led him to the mental hospital. The judges arrived at the hospital. After a while, Judge Pao realised that the mental hospital was not his court. He yelled and begged for Pao Yue Kong's help. He persuaded Pao Yue Kong to take him away to somewhere else and followed Pao Yue Kong. Yue Kong took Judge Pao to his home and told him to change his clothes and taught him how to take care of himself.

The judges started to live together and became friends. After a few months, Judge Pao understood more about the modern world and he asked Yue Kong one day, 'Can you get me a job? I am so bored.' Yue Kong declared, 'Of course! You can work with me as a judge if you want.' 'That would be wonderful!' Judge Pao replied.

A week later, the judges received a case. It was a murdering case. A young lady was murdered by a masked man. She was killed in her house basement. There was blood everywhere. The judges worked together to solve the case. They went to the place where the murder happened. The judges searched all the corners in the house and found a knife with blood on it. They could not find any big clues. Judge Pao said, 'In my world, we always get the clues quickly with my special powers. Now, I have lost my special powers. I don't know what to do now. I don't want to give up!' Pao Yue Kong said, 'We won't give up! We have some new ways to find hints to solve the case now. Let me show you.' Yue Kong winked. Yue Kong and his professional team used some high technology skills to find the murderer's fingerprint. They succeeded! Judge Pao was very impressed. Yue Kong said, 'Now, we only need to figure out a way out to force the murderer to show up and check his fingerprint. Easy! I am going to trick the murderer to voluntary surrender.'

The judges made up a plan. They held a competition that everyone in the city had to join. They planned a DNA game. The competitors had to give the judges their real fingerprints. The competitors didn't know a thing about the case. After a week, the professional team finally found the fingerprint that matched with the murderer's. The judges soon found the murderer and arrested him. 'The murderer's name is Keith Li. He is forty years old and he is the victim's father!' The policeman told Judge Pao and Pao Yue Kong. Judge Pao cried, 'How come?' 'Simple. For money.' The policeman answered. Yue Kong realised how cruel the world could be and the darkest side of money. The judges investigated the case a little deeper as it was unusual. They searched everywhere the murderer and the victim went to and found out an evil woman dominating the case.

According to the clues, the woman was in the haunted house. People thought the house was haunted and no one dared to enter. The police and judges broke into the house and found an old woman. The old woman told the judges, 'I offered a man ten million dollars if he killed his own daughter. His daughter used to bully my son and my son is so frightened and tense.' The policemen sighed. Finally, the policemen arrested the old woman. 'This is the end of the case. Mission accomplished!' Judge Pao said. 'We still have some cases to solve!' Yue Kong laughed while saying that. The judges officially became best partners.

## *Judge Pao's New Case*

*Heep Yunn Primary School, Cheung, Ho Yan – 10*

Have you ever thought that Judge Pao would come to Hong Kong by a time machine? Last month, something impossible became possible!

After having dinner with my parents, we met our good friend, Mrs. Ann, who was a benevolent old lady. Although she was a scavenger, she still shared what she had with others generously and helped those in need. The neighbours loved this selfless lady. After greeting her with a genuine smile, we were about to cross the road. At that very moment, there was a burst of 'Vroom! Vroom!'. The sound of an engine amplified as it came closer. I turned my head and noticed that a motorcycle had just vanished into thin air after knocking Mrs. Ann down. My jaw dropped and yelled in despair, 'I wish Judge Pao were here to investigate the accident and find out who the actual suspect is! He was the most important judge in ancient Chinese history.'

Suddenly, someone tapped on my left shoulder and asked, 'Hi, are you looking for me? My eyes almost popped out and gasped as I heard the question. 'I couldn't believe my eyes! Are you Judge Pao?' I rubbed my eyes as I could not understand what was happening. Judge Pao explained that he was on vacation in the modern world. He accepted the invitation to conduct this accident analysis after gathering some details from me. He even invited me to be his assistant because he thought that I was kind-hearted. My honour!

The investigation soon started. First, we looked for evidence. We found out that there was an iPhone 14 Pro on the ground. There were cracks on the screen, but it seemed that it could still work. Thus, we tried to unlock the mobile phone. Luckily, we guessed the password right within three trials. We opened Google Maps to locate the suspect and the app showed his destination was at 103 Queen's Road. We presumed that the mobile had fallen out from the pocket of his trousers. We then arrived at the accident scene in just a snap of Judge Pao's magic fingers.

Coincidentally, the five motorcyclists who were involved in illegal road racing appeared in front of us and were about to get off their motorcycles as they almost reached the destination. With the help of the police officers in the nearby police station, we caught the partners in crime in no time.

Later, Judge Pao used the interrogatory method he used in ancient times to figure out the appearance of the actual suspect. They were all in the uniform of their team. I remembered that the shadow of the suspect was a man, so there were four suspects left, given one of the motorcyclists was a female. According to my memory, the suspect wore glasses. There were two suspects who fitted the category. After talking to my parents on the phone, they were sure that the suspect had a lightning-shaped scar on his left arm, so we filtered one more suspect out. I came up with an idea instantly. 'Probably, the suspect should have touched his mobile phone screen with his fingers, so we can do a fingerprint test and see whose fingerprint will match with it.' After a while, the criminal was confirmed: Michael Jane, David Jane's son and as everyone knew, David was a tycoon and he supported his son financially to become a superstar. As a result, millions of Michael's fans pleaded for him and even fought with the police. At first, I thought Judge Pao would leave it unsettled given the prestigious identity of Michael. Yet, he did not. He still arrested Michael. It proved that he was disinterested and just.

Having the case solved, we went to the Queen Mary Hospital to visit Mrs. Ann. Blessedly, her injury was not serious. She thanked us gratefully. I hoped Mrs. Ann would be discharged from the hospital very soon.

After solving this case, which was full of twists and turns, Judge Pao needed to return to the ancient times. He thanked me and said he had an eye-opening experience. Judge Pao got on the time machine and left. My parents and I waved until Judge Pao disappeared. What an amazing experience!

From that day on, I have learnt to be braver and tougher. Although Mrs. Ann was a scavenger, her kindness and generosity shone. She was always beloved. When she was in trouble, everyone lent her a helping hand immediately. Being caring and tolerant to each other is the key to maintaining harmony.

## *Judge Pao's Case in the Future*

*Heep Yunn Primary School, Law, Ka Yuet Yvonne – 10*

'Oh no! I think I am lost!' Ai Ning thought as she stepped into a strange building with unique buildings she had never seen. The skyscrapers shrunk into short wooden structures as the vrooming sound of cars morphed into the sound of hooves hitting the ground. In a blink of an eye, she was sitting in a red carriage that was even bumpier than the van she rode on the way home. A wave of panic swept over her when she realised that there was someone beside her. The man's face was as dark as coal and there was a crescent moon on his forehead. 'Quick! There must be a crowd in front, we must get there before they destroy the crime scene. Get ready, Chan!' he hollered. Ai Ning then found out that he had travelled thousands of years before and turned into a guy called Chan.

The carriage arrived at the crime scene soon after. The hawker was lying on the floor with a stick beside him, and his eyes were staring blankly at the sky. The crowd's murmuring silenced Ai Ning's shocked scream. Judge Bao's assistant, Zhan Zao, moved the body away and briefed Judge Bao on what happened. It seemed like a guy called Sir Ling killed the hawker and ran away, but because of his large belly formed from decadent eating, he couldn't run far until Zhan Zao arrested him.' Sir Ling yelled at the hawker to get out of the way and hit him on the head with a stick! A hawker gossiped. 'Yes! The blow was so strong that the hawker fell to the ground and never got up again! What a pity!' Another woman shook her head and sighed. Judge Bao ordered Zhan Zao to take Sir Ling to the prison. The crescent moon on his forehead tingled as a sense of foreboding seeped into him. 'The chaos has just started,' he thought as he rubbed his forehead.

In a restaurant, the body of the little prince fell to the ground. Shrouded in darkness is a closed off room, Master Ming gave a sinister smile, 'I will make you pay for what you did to my son.' The chilling smile then hardened into pressed lips as he commanded his servant, 'Here, take some money for the emperor's guards and tip them off. Tell them Zhan Zao did this. If there is a chance, do whatever it takes to get Sir Ling out.'

The next day, a wave of soldiers ran into the place where Zhan Zao was chatting with Judge Bao and seized Zhan Zao on the shoulders, dragging him away as he tried to fling off their grip. Judge Bao's face grew even darker and he raised his voice in anger, 'How dare you barge into court? Release my staff at once!' A soldier held up a badge with the emperor's insignia on it. 'We are arresting Zhan Zao in the name of murdering the little prince. Take your complaints to the emperor.' Ai Ning's palms turned clammy. 'The Emperor? Oh no, is he going to be beheaded?' She thought of the gory scenes in historical dramas and shuddered. Judge Bao's heart sank as he heard 'the Emperor', watching his assistant being shoved out of the court.

Judge Bao's brows furrowed as he looked at the report of the little prince being poisoned. Ai Ning caught the description of the tea turning blue. This must be the chemical? It should be banned. Her eyes lit up as she shouted, 'I know how to prove his innocence! Let's go!'

Sir Ling, who was assigned by the Emperor to be in charge of this case, watched in fascination as Ai Ning performed the science experiment with the powder she brought undercover in Master Ming's shop. The tea turned out blue. 'I know Master Ming was arrested before for possessing this powder. Only he has it in the entire country. Guards, release Zhan Zao at once!' Ai Ning jumped up in joy as Judge Bao sighed in relief.

The three went back in the carriage as Ai Ning showed them her Science textbook. 'And this is how I solved the case,' Ai Ning explained, 'you can have the book for solving cases by the way.' Judge Bao immediately devoured the book with his eyes in his thirst for knowledge. Zhan Zao thanked Ai Ning, 'Thank you so much for saving me. I would probably never see daylight again if it wasn't for you...' Ai Ning could only make out what he was saying faintly as his voice faded and the carriage turned into the van that Ai Ning took to get home every day. 'Well, at least I left them my Science textbook. Maybe I'll see them again tomorrow.' Ai Ning comforted herself as she hopped off the van and walked into her apartment building, missing her friends already.

## *Judge Pao*

*Heep Yunn Primary School, Lee, Ming Ki – 11*

Every time I hear the word ‘tea’, it gives me goosebumps and reminds me of the horrific case that happened a few years ago.

On my ninth birthday, I received a mysterious present, a time machine. Later, I went back home and tried using the machine. I was always curious and interested in history. I wanted to know how people lived in ancient China. Did they act like what was shown on historical TV programmes? Therefore, I set a time to the Northern Song Dynasty and the location to China. After a whirl of mist and navigation, I then appeared in a government house. I saw an officer with tanned skin and some other people. They all dressed in Song costumes. People called the officer, Judge Pao. Oh! He was the famous Judge Pao I had read about in my book. Later I bumped into him and asked if I could come with him to investigate cases. We chatted for a long while and he finally promised to let me be his assistant and help him investigate cases. Suddenly, a girl was running toward Judge Pao and said, ‘Oh no! The police want to arrest my mum for poisoning my dad and grandpa!’ We were shocked but we didn’t think much of it and went to the crime scene to investigate the case right after.

The little girl explained to Judge Pao, ‘This morning, when our family was having breakfast, my dad and grandpa suddenly had a bad stomach ache and threw up, but the rest of the family didn’t have this reaction. We immediately took them to the doctor and he said they were suffering from botulinum toxin. It is a really common bacteria found in dirty sausages. He prescribed them with aspirin. After they took the aspirin, it was still no use. My dad’s condition had deteriorated and finally he died. The police thought someone tried to poison them. The biggest suspect was my mum because she was the one who prepared the breakfast for us. Judge Pao, please help, I know she must be innocent and I don’t know what to do.’ ‘Don’t panic, girl. I’ll investigate the case for you,’ Judge Pao answered in a deep voice.

Judge Pao looked around the house. He used a silver pin to test the disgusting vomit left by the girl’s dad and grandpa. The pin turned black and this proved the food had been contaminated with arsenic. Someone might have put arsenic in the food and poisoned her dad to death. Judge Pao found that there was a hut near the house which housed logs and farm tools. Inside the hut, a bag of arsenic was discovered against piles of logs with bugs creeping around. The girl’s scarf was stuck with the same kind of bugs. Judge Pao believed that the girl had used the bag of arsenic.

Judge Pao then accompanied the girl to the police station to see her mum who had been arrested and detained at the station.

‘I want to see the girl’s mum, Mrs. Anderson, and have a few words with her,’ Judge Pao commanded the officer. The girl’s mum was brought in. Judge Pao was astonished that there were bruises on her face and that she was quite weak.

‘Mrs. Anderson, how did you get all these bruises on your face?’ asked Judge Pao.

‘My husband hurt me but it was an accident, he did not intend to hurt me!’ exclaimed Mrs. Anderson.

‘No Mum, Dad hurt you every time after he was drunk. He is fierce, he always loses his temper,’ scowled the girl.

‘Stop Lily! Judge Pao! I admit that I am guilty and killed my husband. Please don’t blame anyone. I am prepared to be put in jail,’ wept Mrs. Anderson.

‘Mrs. Anderson! You are not the murderer. There must be another inside story. Lily! Why is there a bug on your scarf? You must have visited the hut and taken the arsenic right out there. You are the one who poisoned your dad,’ said Judge Pao.

‘I umm...’ shivered Lily and she cried without a word.

‘Don’t arrest my daughter. She is only a young girl. She is a good girl and cares about me. I committed the crime. It is none of my daughter’s business,’ interpreted Mrs. Anderson.

‘Lily took some arsenic from the hut and put it into the teapot ready to be served for Mr. Anderson early this morning, before anybody would noticed. Grandpa accidentally shared the same teapot with Mr. Anderson. He, unfortunately, drank tea and was poisoned,’ examined Judge Pao.

Judge Pao finally sentenced Lily to children's jail for imprisonment and released Mrs. Anderson. Grandpa was rescued at last with a proper diagnosis.

I said farewell to Judge Pao and the guards and returned to my home. I never thought I would experience a murder case and be involved in any investigations. It was not as entertaining as I read about storybooks. In reality, it was always a tragedy. Judge Pao was in a position to deliver a fair and just judgment, and made sure no innocents were found guilty.

Poor Anderson family! Mrs. Anderson must be in despair at losing her husband and her beloved daughter.

## *Justice Pao*

*Heep Yunn Primary School, Leung, Nga Wai – 11*

‘Have you finished reading that book?’

‘No Mum, it’s boring...’

‘Boring or not, finish it before dinner or you won’t get any!’ Then she slammed the door. I stared at the book. How would anyone want to read such a boring book? Suddenly the pages of the book started turning. They flipped faster and faster. I felt someone pulling me towards the book. I screamed but no one heard me...

‘Thud!’ I landed hard on my back. I looked around, confused. It looked nothing like my room! There was a grand temple in the shape of an octagon and some smaller houses with curved roofs. In one of them, there was a crowd gathering and chattering. I walked towards the crowd and made my way to the front.

‘How can he do this?’

‘Betrayal!’

‘What’s going on?’ I asked curiously.

‘Haven’t you heard? Liu’s dead body was found this morning! And it’s minced into a basin! Even worse, our greatest suspect, Zhao, is nowhere to be found!’

‘Where is Pao when we need him?’ the crowd yelled.

‘Here I am!’ a deep voice was heard over.

Everybody’s head turned. I saw an intimidating man with a crescent moon shape on his forehead. He looked so much like Pao Zhang. In fact, after further inspection, he was!

‘Tell me who discovered the basin?’ Pao asked politely.

‘It was me,’ a shaky voice replied, ‘Zhao gave me a basin because he owed me money and couldn’t pay it back, but then I saw some bones poking out of the basin, and I also remembered Liu never came home from Zhao’s house last night. I’m pretty sure this is Liu.’

‘It is,’ a guard replied after the investigation.

Everyone looked at the basin and was astounded to see that a figure of Liu had appeared.

‘Zhao poisoned my wife. How foolish of me not to smell it first? How can you catch Zhao?’

And the ghost disappeared back in the basin. Everyone was too stunned to speak. Then, a rather strong man with armor ran in.

‘Zhao’s almost at the village gates! He’s escaping!’

Everyone snapped back to reality and started running to the gates, except for Pao Zhang and me. He looked at me surprisingly.

‘Little girl, I cannot deny I need some assistance. Could you help me devise a plan to catch Zhao? Those villagers are not enough as Zhao is cunning,’ I nodded eagerly.

‘We could send the guards around the other side of the village and catch him,’ I suggested.

‘That is not a bad idea. However, Zhao is good at disguising himself, so we have to be careful,’ Pao replied.

And so the wild goose chase began. Some guards made their way around the outside of the village, some stationed inside, but Zhao still outran them. The guards were sneaky, climbing on trees to jump down and startle Zhao. But Zhao was sneakier, weaving around bushes to avoid attack. The guards and Zhao fought violently but Zhao had the upper hand.

‘We need to think of something else, quick,’ I said worriedly.



‘We’ll have to use the oldest trick in the book. I’ll tell some guards to retreat, and dig a hole in the mud so Zhao will fall into it. He is cunning, but also foolish, something tells me it just might work.’ Pao said, trying to remain calm, but I could tell he was worried.

After a good twenty minutes, we heard the sound all of us were hoping to hear.

‘Ah! No!’

Zhao’s panicky voice boomed throughout the village, everyone cheered! Ten minutes later, Zhao appeared in the grand temple, covered in mud and his head hung low. Pao beamed. ‘Face your fate, Zhao. You killed somebody, and now I sentence you to life in the dungeons. Thank you little girl.’ Pao smiled at me.

Suddenly, I was lifted up in the air, and the world around me was spinning, faster and faster.

‘Bump!’ I fell back in my chair in my room.

‘Tales of Justice Pao.’ Now it sounds interesting...

## *New Tales of Judge Pao*

*Heep Yunn Primary School, Liang, Shuk Yiu Sukey – 11*

A murder case in Tuen Mun, Hong Kong last month horrified everyone. It happened on a cold and rainy night; Bill was having a walk around his neighbourhood as usual, when a person shot him with a gun suddenly. Bill screamed and fell onto the ground. The attacker let out a creepy smile and escaped as fast as lightning. However, he did not notice that someone was observing him.

That secret person who was watching him was none other than, the famous, Justice Pao (who was, at that time, chasing a thief in a temple in Kaifeng when he accidentally stepped on a button that sent him to modern Hong Kong last year). When we saw his name, we all knew that the legend had come back...

After the lawbreaker went away, someone called 999 immediately. After I, (Pao's partner) and the Station Sergeant of Tuen Mun Police Station, got the bad news, I led thirty officers to help with the investigation straight away. Since Pao only saw the outline of the suspect in the dark, we could only summarise a few points from his oral evidence. Firstly, the killer was a vigorous man. Secondly, the satanic person was about 170 cm tall compared to a nearby tree. Lastly, Pao suggested that the lethal weapon was Nagant M1895 Revolver, which was the only wheel gun that could install the sound suppressor. After this conclusion, I informed Bill's pregnant wife, Macy, of his death.

Later, a forensic expert found the bullet inside the dead body. We collected it as a clue and gave it to the Identification Bureau, and they made sure that the weapon was as same as Pao thought. Pao, the following officers, and I also checked the Closed-Circuit Television. However, the image was not clear as it was raining. We could not get any more information.

The next day, Pao and I were discussing the murder case in our office when a police constable rushed into the office and reported the suicide of the victim's spouse. It was such jaw-dropping news! We hurried to the site at once. The woman had hung herself using a rope. All of us checked the spot and took photos. I did not find anything suspicious so I wanted to end the investigation. Suddenly, Pao exclaimed to me, 'Simon, she was murdered by someone and the murderer is the friend last night!'

'Really?' I said, 'I think the wife killed herself as she was filled with sorrow because of her husband!'

'Of course not, Simon. What is wrong with you today? You were so intelligent before! If the woman hanged herself, there would be no vertical scratches around the streak. Moreover, there is some blood and skin tissue in her fingernails.'

'Your inference is reasonable,' I agreed. 'How do you know the perpetrator is the evildoer who killed Bill?'

'Oh, that's because Macy died two hours after he was killed, the time when we finished calling her. They are very close.'

We wrote our thoughts in our notebooks, collected the clues, and went searching for the evil, bad guy. We found out that there was a gun missing in a museum, and it was Nagant M1895 Revolver, the same as the murderer had used! Justice Pao and I had more clues; the CCTV in the museum pictured the thief's appearance. Pao set the order for an arrest, hoping that more people could give us clues.

A week later, a beautiful woman who found the man in the order of arrest went to our police station. She told us the stealer's home address. Pao led ten officers to the place, broke the man's door down, and arrested the shocked suspect. Nevertheless, when we questioned him, he admitted that he stole the gun but he had a perfect alibi for the two murders. He was in a pub during that period, and the staff would and could prove it. Who was the real murderer?

We made a mistake, we thought that the thief and the butcher were the same person, but we were wrong. We went to the crime scene again. This time, we made some more discoveries. We checked Bill's notebooks and found a man called John suspicious. Bill hated him so much. Pao found John's address and we visited him.

John was very nervous during our visit, especially when we asked him about Bill; he turned as white as a ghost did. When Pao told him that Macy was downstairs and wanted to see him, he shouted, 'No, Macy is dead already!' Justice Pao smiled, 'How do you know that she is dead? We didn't tell you about this.' John tried to run away, but we stopped him instantly and arrested him.

At last, he declared that he killed Bill and Macy as they owed him a lot of money and never returned it. John was put in jail eventually. Justice Pao and I also learned that it is okay to make a mistake, but we have to correct it and do the best we can.

# *A Strange Murderer*

*Heep Yunn Primary School, Meng, Kyra Le Tong – 10*

Once upon a time, there was a girl called Detective Meng who was a primary five student. She was doing her homework in her bedroom. It was cold and windy outside her house. The rain was hammering against her working window. Suddenly, a time machine appeared in Meng's bedroom and she found that Judge Bao was sitting inside. Judge Bao was a famous detective from the past and he was a clever and fair man. They didn't see each other for quite a long time. Detective Meng was over the moon as Judge Bao was as happy as a clam. They chatted together happily.

Just as they were talking about laws, Meng received a phone call from Anna, a girl who discovered a dead body in the forest. As Meng discovered that her best friend, Tom, died in the forest. She was very sad. Soon after that, they went to the forest to look for some clues. Luckily, they found some evidence at the crime scene. They discovered a footprint. It was very big, an EU size (50) as Meng realised that it was a limited-edition shoe from a famous shoe shop, only five people in the city owned it. They also saw someone's blood on the ground. Judge Bao and Detective Meng wondered whose blood it was, so they kept it in a small bottle.

Later, the two of them went to Tom's home. Tom's parents said that he was very cheerful. But Judge Bao accidentally found a suicide note on Tom's desk and no fingerprints could be tracked. It sounded very strange. Is it really a suicide case?

On the way to the victim's school, Meng was searching for the people who owned the limited edition shoes. Detective Meng was shocked as she found two of Tom's classmates had it and their foot size were both EU (50). They investigated one of the shoe's owners. She was a girl. She had been Tom's enemy since they were very young. But she did not agree to take the blood test. Is she the murderer?

Soon, they found the other shoe owner. Her name was Jessica, Tom's friend. She agreed to take the blood test. Not long later, the result came out, it was the same blood found in the forest. She was the murderer!

Jessica was so ashamed that she told the truth of the murder. She explained that her father loved Tom more than her very much. Her dad always helped him. Jessica's dad needed Jessica to copy everything that Tom did, even the things she did not like. Jessica was very jealous and accidentally killed Tom in the forest. Jessica was scared that the police would find her so that she tip-toed into Tom's room and made a suicide note. Eventually, Judge Bao and Detective Meng arrested the murderer, Jessica. She was in prison and was working hard to study.

Detective Meng and Judge Bao were so tired after the investigation. They finally opened the mystery of it.

## *Judge Pao in the Future*

*Heep Yunn Primary School, Wong, Hau Tan – 10*

Have you ever envisaged the crusading Judge Pao has come to modern days? If he arrives in Hong Kong, what will happen?

On a silent night in 1031, a gorgeous woman called Helen found out all her money in her handbag was gone! So she decided to tell Judge Pao about this.

‘Mmm... Who is the thief?’ Judge Pao was figuring it out in his office. Although he had solved many cases, he couldn’t find any clues about this case! This was the trickiest case for him to solve in his whole life! Therefore, he wanted to read books about crimes which could bring him some great ideas about the case. He took out an enormous book. On the first page, there was a world map inside! The book introduced different countries in 1031 since sometimes knowing where the thief is from is essential. Judge Pao accidentally touched a place on the map. ‘Ding!’

Judge Pao was on a busy road! Everyone there seemed to be in a rush. People just ignored him. Two policemen suddenly came to ask him to take out his identity card. However, he didn’t even know what that meant! The policemen thought he was a spy! They took him to the police station. Nevertheless, Judge Pao did not let them take him there since he didn’t know what ‘police station’ was! The two policemen arrested him and took him to a court after a few days.

‘Now, tell me what your name is?’ A judge questioned Judge Pao. ‘Of course,’ he replied, ‘Judge Pao.’ However, everybody seemed to be surprised! The judge was the most shocked person. His jaw even dropped! He tried to keep calm and asked, ‘Say out loud your full name.’ Judge Pao answered, ‘Pao Qing Tian.’ The judge exclaimed, ‘You are my ancestor!? But no time for arguing because an inch of time is worth an inch of gold! Let us do a DNA test to see if you are a liar.’ So they did it.

Soon, the result came out. The result stated that Judge Pao was the judge’s ancestor. The judge believed in Judge Pao from then on. He even wanted to consult! He questioned, ‘You are obviously a genius! You are so intelligent that you have solved tons of different types of cases! Do you have some skills to solve cases to teach me?’

On the other hand, Judge Pao wanted to know how to search for evidence in modern days! Accordingly, his grandson introduced him to how to use a great helpful tool — the DNA fingerprinting machine! It can know a person’s age and features. The judge gave Judge Pao one and a world map of 2022 as a gift. He told Judge Pao where they were — Hong Kong, a city with the toppest technology and the international financial centre. It has a lot of unique advantages!

When Judge Pao was testing the DNA fingerprinting machine, he accidentally touched a place on the map. Something that will make your heart stop — since it’s impressive! Judge Pao disappeared! He was back to 1031!

Judge Pao rapidly used the DNA fingerprinting machine. He scanned Helen’s handbag, and he found the thief’s fingerprint. He found out the thief was about 30 years old. Additionally, the thief was highly greedy, perhaps the meanest person you’ve ever seen! Eventually, Judge Pao saw a man robbing an older woman’s money! He stopped the thief immediately. He arrested that man.

This man was called Sam Jackson. He was a robber who stole money from everybody, including his love, friends and parents! Judge Pao suddenly thought about the DNA fingerprinting machine. Sam looked like a thirty-year-old man too! He could also be the thief who stole Helen’s money! Judge Pao asked, ‘Did you steal Helen’s money too?’ Sam nodded his head. He would go to prison. So, Judge Pao solved two cases at the same time!

Judge Pao went back to his office. He had eventually released all his stress. He was thinking about his dear grandson. ‘Is he okay now? Is he solving a complex case? Does he need my help?’ He touched a little spot on the map his grandson gave him. ‘Ding!’ He was gone again. Another thrilling adventure is waiting for him!

# *The Mystical Carpets*

HKUGA Primary School, Wu, Alvina Sum Yu – 10

“Grandma, don’t die!” wept young ShuLin. “Please don’t go!”

“ShuLin.” His grandpa called him. He was a fortune teller. “I have predicted that this carpet is the cause of Grandma’s sickness.”

Tears welled in ShuLin’s eyes. “What? How can this be possible?”

“I don’t know. Trust me, you must sell it, and she’ll be all right.”

So ShuLin sold it, and miraculously, his grandma recovered! And he even found a large pile of gold coins on the table—was it because he sold the carpet?

*40 years later*

“Carpets for sale! Get them for 2 coins each!” The sound of the boisterous market filled each passing customer’s ears. An old couple happened to stop by the carpet store, struck by their flamboyant colours. The salesman was wearing an extravagant silk jacket, contrasting the plain clothes the other people wore.

“Hey, you! Do you want to buy this carpet?” The salesman picked up a dusty carpet and handed it to the lady. The lady nodded, paid, then left. What she didn’t notice was the sinister gleam in the salesman’s eyes...

Soon the elderly couple got home. “Let’s unfold the carpet,” said the man. He reached for the carpet, but a faint devilish glow was emitting from it.

“What—” cried the man. “AAAAHHHHHHH!”

“What are you screaming about?” The woman walked out of the kitchen, and saw what was happening.

“Wh—wh—what just happened?” The elderly woman stuttered. She pulled her husband into a corner. “Maybe it was an omen from the Heavens...”

The next day, the woman was cooking in the kitchen. She was about to flip an egg when the fire unexpectedly emerged and burnt her face!

That night, the man went out for a walk. Suddenly, he tripped over a stone. He cried with agony, then limped back home. The man couldn’t sleep that night. He was wondering: why had so many unfortunate incidents happened since they bought the carpet?

**BANG!** The old man beat the drum outside Judge Pao’s court. “I need to see Judge Pao,” said the man to one of the guards. The guard escorted him and his wife to Judge Pao.

“Oh, Judge Pao!” begged the woman, kneeling on the floor. “This carpet—” She thrust out the carpet— “has been the cause of many unfortunate incidents! It’s from the local market!”

**BANG!** Judge Pao rose. “This cannot be possible! A carpet that causes *unfortunate incidents*? Pah! Fetch that salesman!” The guards rushed out.

“Your Greatness, it is true!” pleaded the man. “I tripped over a stone and my wife’s face was burnt when she was cooking!”

“Your Honor, here is the salesman!” said a guard. The salesman struggled to escape, but froze when he saw Judge Pao.

Judge Pao stiffened. “Shu...Lin?!” he faltered.

“How did you know my name?” The salesman turned to face him, then stopped.

The old couple stared at them, baffled.

“He was my neighbour.” Judge Pao said.

Outside the court, people were protesting. “I bought a carpet from ShuLin too!” “That carpet brings bad luck” A storm of people rushed into the court.

“STOP!” snarled the guards.

“SILENCE!” yelled Judge Pao. “ShuLin! Explain yourself.”

“I...I...” ShuLin couldn’t bear to be under the cold stare of his childhood friend. Suddenly, tears filled with regret spilled out from his eyes—and everything he had hidden over the years spilled out too. “My grandma was very sick, and my grandpa told me to sell a carpet that was supposedly the cause of her sickness. After I sold it, my grandma recovered and what’s more, I found a pile of money on the table. Soon I found out that when I sold carpets, I would gain money. It was because there was a ghost in every carpet I found. They would bring misfortune to the customers, then would convert the bad luck into money and bring it to me.”

Everyone gasped.

“I want my money back!”

“That greedy PIG!”

“SILENCE!” Judge Pao thundered. “Everyone, get your carpets!”

Everyone rushed to get their carpets. A moment later, all the carpets were sprawled down on the courtroom. Judge Pao’s moon on his forehead glowed a shimmering gold, its light blinding. Everyone gasped.

Gradually, the sky turned dark. Thunder flashed menacingly outside. In the courtroom, the lights flickered. It turned unbelievably chilly. Then the carpets glowed an ominous purple...and a cackle echoed around the room. Figures rose from the carpets. All the people were huddled together in a corner trembling, but ShuLin, betrayed by everyone, stood deserted. They were wide-eyed as they watched Judge Pao summon the spirits.

“Spirits.” Judge Pao calmly spoke up. “I’m sure you have overheard our conversation just now—please explain how you got in these carpets.”

One spirit glided forward. “Your Honor, we actually came from the time of Qin Shi Huang. We are the scholars that he buried alive. We were wrapped in carpets then forced underground, causing us to become the spirits we are now. The reason we bring wealth to ShuLin is because our knowledge was transformed into money.” Her voice quavered as she spoke sadly.

A soundless gasp came from Judge Pao. “ShuLin, do you know why that every carpet you sold had a spirit in it?

“I...I... dug them out from underground...” ShuLin stuttered, feeling ashamed.

Judge Pao stepped forward. “Spirits, I am sorry that you were shamed and not properly buried. We can help you bury your bodies afterwards.”

ShuLin dipped his head, and spoke in a small voice. “To make up for my mistake, I can help the scholars bury their bodies. Every one of them.”

“Thank you.” Judge Pao’s voice was less bitter. “You are forgiven. Don’t take this chance for granted.”

### *1 year later*

Blossoms were blooming everywhere on top of the scholars’ graves. ShuLin and Judge Pao visited the graves every month. Judge Pao smiled as he watched ShuLin polishing the graves from afar, and stroked his beard. Everyone who owned the carpets didn’t have any misfortunes anymore.

## *Judge Pao and the Scarlet Ruby*

*Kau Yan School (Primary), Tin, Nok Sum Ainslee – 11*

Judge Pao has been on a case for a month. Someone had stolen the Scarlet Ruby, one of the Emperor's most prized possessions. It had been held in the hands of the Emperor himself, with the most skilled guards beside him, yet the Ruby was gone. All the eye-witnesses swore that they saw the Ruby zooming out of a nearby window and disappearing into the darkness. The Emperor hired all the best detectives to find his precious jewel but no one found the Ruby. Even Judge Pao, famous for his meticulousness and just, could not solve this mystery. What was even more confusing was there was no clue, not even one. Judge Pao was baffled, but he was also very determined. He decided to visit the Emperor's palace again. Surprisingly, he found the remains of a wooden product made of yew, a poisonous type of wood, that did not belong to the palace. "Finally," Judge Pao whispered, satisfied with his discovery. He also found a world map with the countries China, France, India and Russia circled, Judge Pao frowned, there seemed to be more to this case than it meets the eye.

Judge Pao now had two leads to follow. First, he contacted the French and Indian governments, who both admitted someone stole their national treasures : the Midnight Sapphire and Mother Nature's Emerald. The two countries also found something left after the robbery, an ugly black-stoned ring, and an old battered diary that seemed to be blank. Just when these three objects seemed to have no connection and completely random, Judge Pao remembered something.

Years ago, a client told him about a magical world where there were wizards and witches, and how he himself was from that universe. Judge Pao ignored him, not believing that this 'magical world' existed. But now, he wasn't so sure. He heard that Voldemort, the big villain in this world, had a wand made of yew, just like the remains. He also knew that Voldemort was killing a lot of people, and had a black-stoned ring. By the looks of it, Voldemort wanted to split his soul and put the pieces in different objects. That way, if one of his soul pieces was destroyed, he wouldn't die, not completely. But the process was beyond evil. Each time you kill a person, you split your soul, the more pieces you split your soul into, you become less and less human. It was a terrible price to pay, but Voldemort didn't seem to mind. He had been to China, France and India to steal treasures to enclose his soul, and Judge Pao was going to stop him from stealing more.

He went to Russia, Voldemort's final destination of his journey. Judge Pao was not surprised to find that Russia too, had a beautiful jewel. It was called the Diamond of Seven Hues, a name that truly fitted the maleficent gem. When sunlight shone through the Diamond, rainbow colours would burst out, creating a majestic yet elegant scene, no wonder Voldemort would want to steal it. But Judge Pao was shocked to find that the Diamond had been taken out of its high-security vault, and was being shown to guests. Had Voldemort planned all this? Judge Pao crept over to the window nearest to the diamond, and saw a cloaked figure huddled behind some bushes. The figure was pointing a wand to different spots and muttering words under his breath. Voldemort was holding his wand rather loosely though, and looked around for a few seconds after Judge Pao took his biggest weapon.

"Who are you, old man? How dare you steal from Lord Voldemort?" Voldemort yelled in anger. "I am Judge Pao, and I am here to stop you," Judge Pao replied calmly. "Stop me? STOP ME?? You really thought you, a common Muggle, could stop me, Lord Voldemort, from doing what I want?" "Yes. STUPEFY!" Judge Pao suddenly shouted, pointing the wand at its ex-owner. Voldemort slumped to the ground, clearly unconscious. Judge Pao said nothing, he pulled out some thick ropes, bound them around the evil wizard, and dragged him to the pier, where one of the Emperor's boats were waiting to bring them back to China.

Voldemort stirred and woke. His eyes snapped into focus. He was on a boat. "Ah, you're awake," said Judge Pao, smiling slightly. "What do you want, old man?" snarled the wizard. "I want to know how and why you committed those crimes of robbery," "Well, it's a long story..." answered a smirking Voldemort. "I wanted these jewels to be horcruxes, to carry the pieces of my soul. But they were all very hard to steal. So I chose the days when they were taken out into the open, and used a Summoning Charm to make the jewels zoom into my hands. Then I Disapparated into the next country. It was simple," "But why did you leave those clues?" asked Judge Pao, "The ring, the blank diary and the remains of yew, were those yours?" "Ah yes, they were mine. Well, you see, Disapparating such a long distance might cause some...accidents. It made my old wand explode, and I guess I left the other two by mere accident,"



“ Now that I know the whole story, I'll take that,” and with that Judge Pao snatched the three glittering jewels from the hands of the villain. “ You are now free to go,” Judge Pao told Voldemort, handing him back his wand. “ Wait, aren't you going to kill me ? ” said Voldemort, confused. “ No, I'm not a fan of violence. I'll leave it to your people to do that,” So with that, Voldemort disappeared into the night, just like how the Scarlet Ruby did.

## *The Invisible Witness*

*Korean International School, Khandelwal, Sanvi Parth – 9*

Once, there was a man named Chen Shimei who had a wife, Qin Xiangliang, and two beautiful children named Dongge and Chunmei. They lived a happy life in a small town close to Kaifeng, the capital city. One day Chen had to leave the town for the Imperial Examination. His loving wife thought that her husband would return in a few days. Meanwhile, Chen started a new life with the Emperor's daughter. He neglected his wife and children and lied about his past.

Chen was craving more power and wealth. Nobody in the royal family knew about Chen's dark secret.

Years later, Qin and her children were forced to move to Kaifeng. Life in the town was difficult because of the lack of food and water caused by crop failure and drought. Qin knew that her husband was successfully selected for the state bureaucracy and hoped to find and reunite with him. Dongge and Chunmei missed their father indeed. Soon Qin learned what caused Chen's disappearance. When she finally found a way to meet Chen, she was disappointed to see his apathy towards her. She asked him to at least support both of their children. Chen looked as if he had never met her before and ordered, "Escort that woman out and don't let her enter again!" Qin felt betrayed once again.

Directly after Qin left, Chen called his trusted servant, Han Qi. Chen ordered him to follow his first wife without being seen, and to secretly murder her and their children. After all, even his children could become a threat in the future. Without asking for more details, Han followed her to a small old cottage. As Qin, Dongge and Chunmei started getting ready for bed, Han was waiting outside for the right time to enter the cottage. Half an hour later, when the family were asleep, Han climbed stealthily through the window. Han looked around, nobody was awake. He slowly removed the dagger from his pocket, when he realized that the woman was sleeping next to two young children. He couldn't just stab her in the bed, but he was aware of the consequences if he didn't finish his job. He took out a small bottle from his other pocket that contained a highly poisonous substance that would finish her off immediately. Han did not have the heart to kill the innocent children, so he left right after murdering Qin Xiangliang. Han didn't notice while escaping from the crime scene that the dagger with Chen Shimei's initials fell out of his pocket.

Suddenly Qin woke up and realized that she was floating above her lifeless body. She realized quickly that something was not right. Thankfully she saw her children safely asleep next to her body. She had to get help.

During her research about her husband's whereabouts, she remembered the name Bao Zheng who was also called 'Justice Bao'. Bao Zheng was a high ranked politician in the government of Kaifeng. This Judge was famous for being an honest and upright official, who helped poor people. He was not afraid of punishing the rich and powerful, which gave her hope to get justice. Judge Bao was against corruption and didn't tolerate injustice. Qin had to find him fast to save her children. But there was one obstacle. She was dead, how would she tell her story? After Qin's spirit arrived at Judge Bao's house, she found him in a deep sleep. She tried to wake him up but he couldn't hear her. Then she discovered that she was able to move objects. She pushed a candle stand from the table to the floor. With a loud 'BANG!' Bao Zheng opened his eyes. He inspected where the noise came from, and found the candle stand shattered in pieces on the floor. He looked around but couldn't see anything unusual. Suddenly, the candle in his hand started to flicker. That was strange. All of a sudden, the candle on Bao's desk lit up. Now it got eerie. With boldness, Judge Bao watched the desk when the feather started to write something on a blank piece of paper. Slowly Bao Zheng walked towards his desk. The writing abruptly stopped and the feather fell down leaving a black ink mark on the paper which read:

"Save my children,  
Chen Shimei will murder,  
Go to cottage next to the mill,  
He killed me, Find me  
I want justice,  
Qin Xiangliang"

After reading the letter Justice Bao was fully awake and woke up Gonsun Ce in the guest room. Gonsun was his intelligent adviser and was always ready to help. Both of them sat down and inspected the mysterious note. They could still feel the spirit of Qin in the room. Quickly, both men put on their coats and headed straight to the mill. After arriving, Gonsun and Bao saw a candle flickering just like it did with Bao's own candle. They went closer to the cottage window and saw two children sleeping next to a woman. The woman was pale and they knew it must be Qin Xiangliang's cottage. Both entered the cottage and Gonsun carried the children to his carriage to bring them to a safe place. Meanwhile, Judge Bao, who had very good observation skills, inspected the room and saw no blood or injuries on the woman's body. He noticed that the lady's mouth was open and a bitter smell was coming from it. Could she have been poisoned? He looked around the bed but saw something on the floor close to the window. It was a dagger, he picked it up. The dagger had the name 'Chen Shimei'. Judge Bao remembered the name in the letter from the spirit. This was evidence, along with the poisoned body. As nobody would believe a ghost as a witness, Bao had to investigate more and find justice for Lady Qin Xiangliang and save her children. Will Chen Shimei confess the order to the murder?

To be continued...