

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 availed, 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 160th 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 (蔣) 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 70th 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 accidently 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, 邱 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 758th generation, number 7th 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 soared 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 lazars, OUCH! Bicky got stung by the lazars. 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, Olliana – 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. Rockymen are man-like creatures covered rocks. The Ghosticullis and Rockymen 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 Rockymen 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. Rockymen cannot be injured, and do not bleed. Afterall, they are Rockymen, 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.

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.

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.

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.

“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.

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 some 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 Pao 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...

Fiction

Group 2



New Tales of Judge Pao

Kowloon Tong School (Primary Section), Chan, Sin Yu – 11

Judge Pao is known for having a strong sense of justice. If the wealthy wanted to get away from crimes by bribing Judge Pao, he would turn them down without hesitation.

Christmas had just passed, and some people were disappointed when on Boxing Day, they came to a realisation that Santa Claus broke the chimney when climbing it down to send presents. So Judge Pao went all the way to the North Pole to find him for justice. Santa was surprised for having a visitor after Christmas, but he opened the door to see the world-known Judge Pao. He anxiously bit his fingernails and said, “To what do I owe you for the pleasure of your accompany?” Judge Pao replied, “I heard from my citizens that you’ve broken their chimneys, is that true? Santa signed, “Yes, it is. But I can’t help that I’m over-weight. Also, my presents gave them happiness, so it should make up for the loss, right?” Judge Pao signed in annoyance, “Mate, I’m sorry but I still have to fine you for breaking properties. Your fine is 1,000 USD.” Santa unwillingly took out the amount of money and gave it to Judge Pao. With a satisfied smile, Judge Pao went back to give the money back to the victims. He thought he would have some free time, but not for long. He received a complaint from the Emperor.

The Emperor was making red packets the night before, but he could not find them today. He was worried that the red packets could not be delivered out in time. Judge Pao rushed to the palace, and knelt down. “Your highness, I would like to know, who was beside you when you were managing the red packets?” The Emperor spluttered all the answers Judge Pao wanted to know, and Judge Pao patiently jotted down the notes he needed. After some investigation, he finally knew that it was one of the Emperor’s guards who took the money. The Emperor could not believe his ears. He was the guard he trusted most. Judge Pao was sorry for him but he was happy to help.

Night time came, Judge Pao went to a secret place to solve a crime that people were most curious about. He saw a man who was killed, lying on the floor with blood spreading all over. A bloody knife was also beside him as the moonlight sparkled. There were no footprints nor fingerprints which made the case even more mysterious. It was an open land, anybody could cross it. But there were no buildings, so it was close to impossible that anybody witnessed the tragedy. Judge Pao looked around, the body was as pale as paper, and the skull was showing clearly. He did not want to believe in aliens, but in this case, aliens were the only exception. Judge Pao looked at his surroundings and looked at the map he brought. Originally, the place was quite crowded with lots of buildings. With lots on Judge Pao’s minds, he searched the dead man’s pocket for belongings. Surprisingly, he found a phone, unlocked. He looked for voice messages and found some recordings. Curiously, he pressed “Play” and there were creepy humming noises. Suddenly, someone screamed, “Meteorite! Run, everyone!” A big crash was recorded, then all there was left, was silence.

Judge Pao went through all the things he heard, and remembered that a tornado occurred two days ago. Perhaps the tornado collected dead bodies, swept houses away, but one remained. His assumption was that, when the meteorite hit a building, a knife fell down, stabbing the man in the heart so he died. During the tornado, the place that the man rested was not close to the tornado, so he was not captured.

Judge Pao returned back to where he lived, exhausted. He was always showered with praises and compliments, but he never was too proud. So Judge Pao had some rest and got ready for another adventure.

Bowing to the Future

Kownloon Tong School (Primary Section), Chow, Chi Wai Samantha – 9

1006 AD, Kaifeng, China.

Pao Hiren tiptoed through home, holding a hideous black cockroach. He slipped it into his dad's robe, at the nape of the neck, and giggled. Mr. Pao felt a tickle; he shook left and right; he jumped, he wiggled, until the bug flopped right into his cup of green tea.

"HIREN!" Mr. Pao roared, gripping his son's robe hard.

This was not the end of the story.

As Hiren was dragged through the village, townspeople giggled behind their sleeves. As fishermen sang coming into town, their catch glinted in the sunlight.

Finally, Mr. Pao dumped Hiren into a dry, dirty, square stone well. Hiren's head hit the bottom. His father turned away without a second look. Hiren slumped. His eyelids felt heavy. He let the light slip out from his eyelids...

Hiren sat up and rubbed his eyes. He squinted at the sky. It was light-blue, covered in sunlight, instead of the cloudless and grayness in the sky in his village. Is this paradise? He wondered, curiously.

He rose. Blue sky gave way to a row of pink buildings – the tallest and squarest he'd ever seen.

Their sweet colours clashed surreally. Before him a Chinese crowd scurried about. But they kept babbling into little black boxes. And behind him were roaring metal chariots. The air was dusty, but it was an alien, metallic fug, not an earthy dust; he felt no red dust under his feet.

There was a sign in front of him, by a tunnel releasing a stream of faces – "Sung Wong Toi". He peered closer. Chinese characters: "Fragrant Harbour." Hong Kong. Hiren looked down. He was dressed in tattered robes, as if homeless. In a way, he now was. But he'd learn his heart was here.

A man dressed in shiny black came towards him, muttering. "Hey, kid! You look down on your luck. Wanna make some money?"

Hiren hid behind crates in a school's back alley, which smelled vaguely like old butter, and his eyes caught onto a girl older than him walking into it. She was chewing something, but didn't swallow it. Hiren quickly ran over to her and handed over his packet to her. "Hey, this is for you," he said.

Here he was, a homeless person forced to sell stolen goods to survive. The girl shrugged, and suddenly grabbed it from him, even though Hiren was gripping it tightly. "Well, thanks anyway." She grinned behind her mask, then pulled it down for just a moment, to take out a sticky, gluey thing and threw it. Hiren's jaw dropped. She looked like family. "Wait—"

But she then turned her back and put something in the box. "I've changed my mind; take the stash to him – Smith! Under the tree!" She pointed out of the alleyway, towards another truant in the schoolyard. Hiren blinked, startled.

He walked towards a boy under the tree, and said uneasily, "Hello, this is a package for you." The boy took it and opened the lid. Then came a bloodcurdling scream. Inside laid a dead slug. Hiren's heart skipped a beat, and his face went white as a sheet.

"How dare you do this to me?" The boy screamed, terrified. His friendly smile now became a cold glare. "I paid for what I want, and you think you can—" Smith clenched his fists, and punched the boy in the stomach.

Suddenly, a hand grabbed Hiren. “What were you doing, Smith?” It was the girl. She took Hiren’s hand and they ran for their lives, passing street lamps and houses as tall as the sky. Hiren felt the breeze blow past his cheeks. A sea of faces swirled around them. They cut through them like a blade.

There was an aroma of jasmine, as the girl pulled him into a café and sat down. Newly invisible, they ordered a plate of what looked to Hiren like spongy flatbreads, topped with strange berries and cream. They proved perfect fortification for the coming chat.

“I’m sorry, but I didn’t mean to endanger you. Can you forgive me?”

“It is not good to play pranks on others. You should know that.” Hiren shuffled on the chair, and recalled what he did to his father.

“Let me introduce myself again. I’m Pao Hui Qing, the great–great–great–granddaughter of Pao Qing Tian?”

“R... really? What do you think about me...I mean him?” Hiren blinked, startled.

“The greatest judge of all time. A Song Dynasty Solomon. A detective too. He feared nothing and nobody. When justice demanded it, he sentenced the guilty... my parents said he was our role model, to learn from.” Her face fell a little.

“I see...” Hiren was speechless, he dared not tell the truth; I am Pao Qing Tian.

“But my dad told me: Pao Qing Tian was naughty too when he was small. So alright, I’m just like him. Look where our shenanigans took both of us.”

“That’s not an excuse for you to be like that!” But Hiren wondered how – or if – he should influence his own descendants.

Hiren decided to make a change if he could. He scrambled to his feet and asked Hui Qing the way to Sung Wong Toi station. “C’mon! I have a lot of explaining to do ...”

They stood by the square well. It was lined with centuries of dust, but its meaning shone brightly.

Hui Qing was still puzzled by how magic worked. But she promised to rethink her life. The well felt like the law, or a black hole of shame, threatening to swallow her up, like Hiren.

They hugged and crossed their fingers.

He took a very deep breath, and dived, head down, into the well. “Bye...” he thought he heard Hui Qing’s once–defiant contralto behind him. He sighed, relieved his descendant wouldn’t be bad anymore. Is being a judge really my destiny? But before Hiren could think, there was a “THUMP!”, and all was blackness...

Pao's First Case

Kownloon Tong School (Primary Section), Chu, Long Yan Coleman – 9

“Ding Dong!” the doorbell rang. Pao opened the door and saw a man standing there. “Do I know you?” Pao asked curiously. The man held a dried up marker pen and said, “It’s me!” Pao was amazed and gave him a warm big hug. But then, the man said, “Pao, the town needs you again!”

I am Pao Qing Tian. My dark skin, a distinctive crescent birthmark on my forehead together with my supernatural power to fight crime, made me a prestigious person. I have lived more than 1000 years. If I born in recent years, I was sure I would associate with the Justice League! In the past, I dispensed justice as a human during the day, but at night, I became the immortal Yama of the Department of Hell sorting out Afterlife’s affairs.

Everything started in a day when I was in the fifth grade. I was playing with Zhao, who was my best friend, in the school playground. All of a sudden, a basketball hit on my forehead. It hurt so much that I buried my forehead in my hands and there were some beams emitting between my fingers. It was my crescent glowing and shining. Zhao and I were astonished. At the same time, we heard a public announcement, “Dear students, the portrait of our schoolmaster in the school garden has been vandalized, if you have any information, please contact director Yip. Thank you.” After that, my glowing crescent went dim.

During recess, Zhao saw big bully Derek talking to Director Yip. A few minutes later, my sister Qing Hua was brought to the headmaster room. Later, Qing Hua coming out sobbing and I asked her what had happened. Qing Hua was accused vandalizing the headmaster portrait because she was in the school garden and had the same marker pen.

Then, my crescent hurt and some scenes flashed in my mind. There was a blue marker pen in a green trash bin in the first scene. I also saw a white handkerchief with some blue stains in the second scene. Derek was the only person in the last scene. Zhao related these with Qing Hua’s case and we determined to carry out an investigation so as to free Qing Hua from the accusation.

When I was comforting Qing Hua, Zhao invited another two friends, Roy and Herman to carry out the investigation. Derek was put under surveillance by Zhao. Roy was responsible for searching all green trash bins in school. Herman was responsible for finding the white handkerchief with blue stain. Under closely surveillance, Zhao only found Derek jumped the line in the tuck shop, threw trash on the floor and copied homework from others. But Zhao also noticed Derek’s marker pen set lost a blue one. Roy wearing a mask and gloves and dug into all green trash bins. “What a hard job!” Roy murmured. At last, he found a dried out blue marker pen. Herman searched all over the school playground, garden, toilets and classrooms. He only found water bottles, jackets and badmintons. He decided to return them to the school lost and found box. When Herman arrived at the lost and found box, he immediately discovered a white handkerchief with blue stains. Also, there was a letter D stitched on it. “What a joke! I should come here in the first place.” Herman yelled.

The three detectives and I met in the school garden and discussed what they had found. I gathered all information provided, closed my eyes and had a deep breath. Then I walked towards the vandalized portrait and stared at it. “We overlooked an important fact!” I opened my eyes and uttered. The other three got closer to the portrait and Herman shouted at once, “Oh my god! Originally the portrait was vandalized by a blue marker pen. But on top of it, all blue ink was almost covered by black ink. Who did it?” I followed, “The white handkerchief belongs to Derek. The stitched letter D refers to Derek.” Zhao quickly elaborated, “Derek must use his own blue marker to destroy the portrait and threw it into a trash bin.” Herman added “and he tried to wipe it with his own hanky but he did not succeed. That’s why there was some blue ink.” Roy could not understand and asked “But the marker pen I found in the trash was blue not black.” “The black maker pen belonged to Qing Hua. Derek used her black marker pen to cover the blue marks on the portrait.” I reckoned. All our eyes beamed.

We rushed to Qing Hua and embraced her merrily, “Qing Hua, you are free. We have found the true villain. You are framed.” Qing Hua asked contentedly, “Framed? Who is it?” We four shouted confidently, “Derek the big bully!” Five of us immediately seized Derek to meet Director Yip and told him all about our investigations. Derek could not deny and pleaded guilty in front Director Yip. Director Yip said sorry to Qing Hua and the headmaster gave us a compliment for our kind heart and the pursuits in truth and justice.

It was Pao's first case when I was in Grade 5. Until now, I really did not know why I would have the supernatural power to flash back the scenes of crime. Just because of the basketball hit? It was a mystery. From then on, whenever my crescent hurt or glowed, no matter small cases or serious cases, four of us worked as a team, fought against crime and helped the innocent persons for many years until the jobs were taken by police, detectives, lawyers, judges and the courts.

But now at 2023, Zhao is at my door again and my crescent is glowing. The town must be in big trouble. Some people must be facing a great grievance which no one can solve. I got to go. I need to save the town and the innocents. Wish me luck. Bye!

Meeting Judge Pao

Kownloon Tong School (Primary Section), Guo, Bing Xian Abraham – 11

When Henry woke up, he found himself lying in a dark, gloomy prison. The prison cell was full of gross hay. It was as silent as the grave. Feeling puzzled, Henry saw a man, whose face was as white as a sheet, sitting next to him, shaking mournfully. He murmured to the man, “Where are we? Where is this horrible and smelly place?” The man remained silent. Henry tried to break the silence. “What’s your name? Why are you here? What crime have you committed?” Henry asked him. Henry stared at the man, waiting for his reply, but the man didn’t give him any response.

Soon, some prison guards came and broke the silence. “Mr Wang, it’s your turn to see Judge Pao! Follow us!” one of the guards shouted at the man. Henry overheard them and remembered Judge Pao — the honest and upright judge with a black face and a crescent moon on his forehead! He learned about Judge Pao in his History class! Mr Chen, Henry’s History teacher, told them the stories about Judge Pao! Henry now realized that he was at the time of Song Dynasty. The guards were taking Wang to see Judge Pao.

After Wang left with the guards, Henry started considering himself, “Why am I in prison? What happened to me? Will I be the next one to see Judge Pao?” Although Henry jumped out of his skin and shook like a leaf, he kept telling himself, “Judge Pao is the most significant and legendary figure of justice and righteous. I am sure he can tell me what’s going on.”

Few hours later, the prison guards came again. “Mr Han, you are accused of a theft. Please follow us. You will be taken to Judge Pao for interrogation.” Henry was tied tightly that he could not move or run away but to follow the prison guards to walk slowly to the tribunal court where he met Mr Pao finally. He could not recognize Mr Pao at first as his face was not black at all! Mr Pao, who was about 50 years old then, had a crescent moon on his forehead! When Mr Pao saw Henry, he asked, “Why did you steal a kid’s coins?” Feeling puzzled, Henry questioned, “Your Honour, please may I know why am I the one who stole the coins?” Mr Pao replied, “Huh, that was because someone found you asleep on a rock next to the boy’s oil tank.” Henry remembered he heard this story before. He tried to recall his memory

When Henry tried to figure out what was happening, Mr Pao asked him, “You have to tell me why you slept on a rock next to the boy’s oil tank.” Fortunately, Henry came up with a brilliant idea. “Your Honour, I was exhausted when I was trying to help the boy find his coins, so I felt asleep next to his oil tank. Believe me please, Your Honour! I can help you search for the thief!”

The next morning, Mr Pao told the villagers that he was going to interrogate the rock, which laid right next to the boy’s oil tank. The villagers were curious, so they gathered at the tribunal hall as they all wanted to know how Mr Pao interrogate the rock. Mr Pao asked the rock angrily, but the rock was still and made no responds. Mr Pao kept scolding the rock, “If you stay silent, I will beat you! Why don’t you just tell me the truth honestly?”

All the villagers were stunned and went gobsnacked. “Was Judge Pao mentally sick?” “Why was he talking to a rock?” “Did he expect the rock to speak to him?” “Oh my god! Poor Judge Pao!” Some villagers even burst into laughter which provoked Mr Pao, hence, he took a revenge and told the villagers, “How dare you laugh at me? You are not respecting me. I will punish you!” As a result, he ordered each villager to pay a fine of one dollar. The villagers were obedient and put a one-dollar coin into a water tank one by one. Suddenly, when a man put his one-dollar coin into the water, Mr Pao said, “You are the one we are looking for!” and asked his guards to arrest the man.

Mr Pao explained, “After you put in your coin, there was oil floating on top of the water surface. The little boy sells oil, so all his coins are always oily. That’s why I am waiting for an oily coin to find out who the thief is!” Mr Pao thanked Henry for giving him such a great idea to help him catch the thief easily. Henry was on cloud nine and felt Mr Pao’s taps on this shoulder...

Tap. Tap. Tap. Henry felt Mr Pao tapping on his shoulder happily. He woke up and said, “You are welcome, Your Honour...” and suddenly found his History teacher, Mr Chen, staring at him furiously. “I’m definitely NOT Your Honour, Mr Henry!” “I’m sorry, Mr Chen. I thought you were Mr Pao...” All his classmates cheered at this laugh-out-loud moment.

A New Tale of Judge Pao

Kowloon Tong School (Primary Section), Guo, Yeuk Yee Claire – 9

Have you ever heard of Judge Pao? He is a famous judge and lives in Kaifeng, Dynasty Song, Ancient China. At first, he is like any other normal judge. But one day, an accident happened and Pao's life changed forever...

It is a cloudy day in Kaifeng, early in the morning. Pao is walking down a very quiet street while humming a little song to himself. Everything is as normal as possible when suddenly, the ground shook and opened a gap just big enough for Pao to fit in. He fell in and above him, the ground closed with a CLANG!

After a while, faint images of clocks appeared and Pao found himself floating through time. Then in a flash, a long line of images appeared and each showed a amount of time. The images went from the English kings to famous vikings to brilliant composers to American presidents. But Pao knew none of them. His eyes only grew wilder and wilder every one or two image until they almost pop out but he said nothing. At the very end a image of a group of children at the background of the Hong Kong Police Station. Suddenly, a bright flash of light and a crack of thunder. THUND! And he is there.

The sound of laughter filled the air as the children laughed and played in front of the gate. When Pao found himself somewhere unfamiliar, he went up to the children and asked "Where am I? What time is it now?" "You are in Hong Kong, China, 2016. We are now at the Hong Kong Police station." answered the children playfully. Pao asked again "What is Police?" The children burst out laughing "We will show you." They said. "And do not worry, my father is the chief police, as long as we do not do anything dangerous or run after each other, we can go in." Said the oldest child who is called Sally. "Follow me!"

As Pao followed the children, he asked "Why are there people small enough to fit inside your big and flat box?" "Those are called television." "What is the big white box stuck to your wall?" "That is the air-conditioner." The children soon found that Pao is different, so they asked "Where are you from and what is your name?" "My name is Pao and I am from Kaifeng on 1040 BC." Answered Pao, the children are amazed, "I came by accident." Pao said. The children took Pao to a room and they showed him a book, it has a picture of an old Judge Pao. The children told Pao that in the future, he will be famous and his way to judge people is still used to today. Pao asked them how did he judge the people. The children said that he used the fingerprinted of the suspect to judge people. Nowadays, people use CCTV and other technologies to solve crime.

Pao is amazed that he inspired the future of judging. The children asked him if he really fingerprint to judge people. "I didn't use that way yet, but when I go back to my home, I will use the fingerprint idea to solve crime." Then, Pao noticed a little upside down glass bowl-shaped thing on the roof. "What is that?" Asked Pao. "That is the CCTV" the one we used to solve crime now." Then the children took Pao outside to discovered new technologies. But Pao did not know that there are more amazing things for him to find...

The children took Pao to a computer shop. The shop owner showed them the new computer that just came into the shop. After they visited the computer shop, they went to the toy shop to see the electronic toys.

Suddenly, the ground shook and thunder cracked and a gap opened. The children looked back and saw Pao waving at them and saying "Thank you for the wonderful trip, I have seen many amazing things although I can not bring any of your things back to my world. I will use the fingerprint and other ideas to help me judge. The things you have shown me today have given me many new ideas. Thanks again for your help." Then, Pao jumped into the gap and travelled back in time and arrived back to the Kaifeng city, no time had passed and it is still quiet as the before. Pao went back home to think about all the amazing things he had seen today. "The world is filled with wonder and magic!"

And soon, after he used the ways he had seen at the police station he soon became famous and it is all because of the wonderful trip he had with the children.

New Tales of Judge Pao

Kowloon Tong School (Primary Section), Hung, Ching – 11

In the earlier Song dynasty, Pao was a famous judge. He was fair and humble, always admired and esteemed by people.

One day, a child was selling oily fried snacks when he fell asleep on a rusty rock. Pao was nearby patrolling when suddenly the boy let out a shrill scream as he discovered that all his money had disappeared! People laughed at the thoughtless idea that Pao scolded the rock. However, Judge Pao ignored the laughter and took a bucket of water. The pedestrians were then asked to throw their money into it. When the last person tossed the coin into the water, it floated up... Pao glared at him, the man was confused for a second and instantly realized the situation. He instantaneously dashed away, trying to get rid of Pao's emerge, and led to a long chase...

They raced down the slope, and with frustrated sighs, Pao finally caught the thief beside the jail. The thief's hands were greasy, and his face was caught red. Pao arrested him with ropes and stubbled him to jail. Right when Pao was explaining the situation to the security, in a split second the thief twisted his arm, led Pao into panic, and set free his hands like a piece of cake. He got out of the bondage and kicked Pao into the cell after a fancy combo of kung-fu moves.

Pao widened his eyes and can't believe this twist. He was searching for help from security but was disappointedly refused. "I am Judge Pao, why do you still lock me here!" Pao protested shockingly. "We have no choice..." The security pointed toward the criminal who changed into a judge uniform and held a pile of false documents reading "Blamed innocents misusing the judge's power". "Do you have any questions?" the "judge" asked. Without the chance of answering, the stubborn security slammed the steel gate leaving Pao honing over the bars.

Being locked in the cell, Pao had no access to any evidence. The ordinary cell was dusty with bar windows covered with thick curtains. The pile of hay used as a bed was beside the water tap under a mirror. Soon, this recalcitrant judge thought of an escape plan. Pao began by measuring the walking speed of the guards who inspects the corridors. Following that, he removed the mirror using a water pipe. Pao waited patiently until sunrise when the sunlight directly shot through the window. He immediately placed the mirror under the sunlight, reflecting the heat toward to lock. Pao tore the curtains when the compartment's gate broke free. With the well-designed plan and accurate measurements, he slipped through the guards when both passed by oppositely. Pao grinned from ear to ear.

In order not to be seen, judge Pao chose to escape up the ceiling. Pao flung the curtain so that it hanged on the wooden bars. This allows him to climb up efficiently and slide towards the exit. After ensuring his own safety, he slide down the bars with the curtain. "Woosh" Pao flew down swiftly creating a wave of wind that blew off the candles. The jail transformed into a dark haunted house at once. The security and the criminals all panicked and shouted for help. Judge Pao made use of this chance to get closer to the exit. Fortunately, the guards were all away from their positions, leaving Pao taking the key and set himself free.

Judge Pao sneaked away and arrived at his office by noon. Judges were astonished to see him back as they were all misled by the rumors. The court instantly filled with suspicion. "Why are you here?" "Weren't you still in jail?" "We are all really disappointed with what you've done." "Just give me an evening and I could prove that all of you have misunderstood the situation." Pao answered.

Using the newest technology of printing, Pao produced hundreds of notices which would gather witnesses of the incident the day before. To his expectation, almost half of the crowd yesterday have received the notice and came

to support Pao's stance. The witnesses all told the judges about their observation on that day. Besides, the victim selling snacks brought the water bucket that Pao used. Judge Pao collected all the evidence and proved in front of others after printing out the documents needed with the movable-type printing. Following that, this intelligent judge identified the thief by comparing the property of the oily coin and that of the snacks. To prove so, judge Pao first separately dip a wooden stick into the oil and burned it on fire. As a result, the burning characteristics of the two samples could be compared by observing their appearance, colour and intensity. To his belief, all the witnesses and judges agreed that the two fires were similar. It proved that the criminal did steal the coin from the boy and has wrongly accused judge Pao.

When they are about to leave the court, the security arrived to the clearing and ordered the people to stay away from Pao. However, the judges showed the evidence and commanded the guards to find the thief instead. Soon, the thief showed up in the court. The judges punished him for stealing and not committing to crime, feigning documents, pretending to be judge as well as misusing judge's power. At the end, the thief was penalized for at least fifteen years in prison.

Through this incident, the thief regretted his behavior and promised not to involve in any crime again. "Action have consequences", no one can slip through punishments after violating the rules. When all was said and done, Judge Pao was satisfied with the punishment. However, when the other judges asked about how did he escape of the jail... Judge Pao replied, "I have a plan."

New Tales of Judge Pao

Kowloon Tong School (Primary Section), Lam, Chun Wang – 10

Once upon a time, Judge Pao came to a town called Macondo. Upon his arrival, he saw a considerable number of people surrounding an old man. He heard someone saying “This old man stole a lot of stuff, he has stolen from almost everyone who lives here!” The townspeople felt as angry as an erupting volcano.

They planned to kill the old man. The old man's eyes were tearing up and he said, “I steal because I have a son at home and he has a broken leg”. Nevertheless, nobody trusted him. This time, Judge Pao came out and stopped the townspeople from killing the old man. Then the townspeople came up with another plan, the plan was to send him to another town.

In response to this, Judge Pao said, “No, because he will not change, he will steal those townspeople’s things!” The community were enraged and said, “Are you a judge? We planned to kill him, you said no, we planned to take him to another town, you said no too!” Judge Pao responded, “I am a judge. Your plan will not work because when you kill him, who will take care of his son? I have a plan to stop him from stealing. My plan is to give him a job to earn money honestly. If he does not change, you can come to tell me, I will ask him why he stole again.” The townspeople shouted, “We don’t care about his son, how can he even prove that he has a son? Or is he telling a lie?” Judge Pao said, “Let's go to his home and see if it is true!” They asked the old man where his house was. When they arrived at the old man’s house, they saw that there sat a boy. The boy was thin, smelly and had a broken leg. When the townspeople saw this, they all felt shocked as a rabbit in the headlights.

Judge Pao said, “See, the old man didn’t lie to all of you, let us give the old thief a punishment according to his crimes to make him learn a lesson! Is that okay or not?” The townspeople discussed the problem at length and said, “Okay we will give him a punishment, what is the punishment? Do we need to give him a job?” Judge Pao responded, “Yes, and the punishment is low pay. Is your town dirty? If it is, make him cleaner.” Judge Pao continued, “This is an appropriate job because if your streets are full of rubbish, it will have a lot of mice and if there are a lot of mice, then nobody will come to this town! The thief’s labour will benefit everyone because he will help you to clean the streets and a lot of people will come to this town and you can have a lot of money! Does anybody have any questions?” Judge Pao paused. Nobody made a sound. “If not, then you guys agree to give him a job!” Judge Pao concluded. The townspeople responded, “Okay, we will give him a job!”

The old thief never stole again and he was happy about the way things worked out. In the past, everybody hated him and wanted to kill him but now everybody treated him well and respected him. He became a welcome member of the community and integrated with the townspeople. Everyone appreciated the work he did and even though he earned very little, he always worked with a smile on his face because of the kind heartedness they showed by giving him a job.

The old man thanked Judge Pao and worked hard every day. Every day the old ex-thief thought about Judge Pao and thanked his lucky stars that Judge Pao was passing through that day. Mahatma Gandhi once said, “An eye for an eye makes the whole world blind.”

New Tales of Judge Pao: Finding The Tiger And Getting The Rabbit In The Meta Universe

Kowloon Tong School (Primary Section), Lam, Yan – 9

December 31, 2022, the Hong Kong Palace Museum, Exhibition Hall 9, the display of the 12 zodiac signs of the tiger, a gift from the Central Government. I, Judge Pao, working in Hong Kong for many years, visiting the Hong Kong Palace Museum at that day. Firstly, I take a picture in front of the main door. After entering the museum, I, one by one exhibition hall, slowly walk and take a picture. I, very appreciate the precious antiques.

Suddenly, one of the museum staff shouted: “Oh no! The tiger head statue has disappeared. It was in the 9th exhibition hall, but now it has disappeared. ”Other staff and members of the public citizen heard this and looked around in the exhibition hall. Everyone took the initiative to help find the tiger head statue, some suggested watching CCTV, some suggested calling the police, some suggested closing the museum, some suggested When I approached the staff, I calmly identified myself and my expertise.

I looked around and slowly advised everyone to calm down. And then I meet with the staff member who first found the lost tiger head statue, Ah Kam, to find out when the tiger head statue was still there this morning and when it disappeared.

I also went to the security room to look back at the CCTV and checked the relevant footage one by one, and saw that a suspicious person, a middle-aged man wearing a sports cap and black mask, had watched the tiger head statue for about 20 minutes, and after he finished watching it, the tiger head statue then disappeared. I can't see from the clip what method he used, but, he left a sticker, which is still there. I immediately asked the staff to take a look at the sticker, it shows :“The tiger head statue is still in the museum and must be found on or before 12:00 p.m. on December 31, 2022, otherwise the tiger head statue will disappear forever. ”I, seeing this sticker, smiled a little, stroked my beard, coughed gently, took out a water bottle, drank some warm water. And then I told the staff: “Don't worry, it looks like someone is trying to fool everyone, the tiger head statue is still in the museum, as long as you look carefully throughout the museum.” After listening to this, everyone was half convinced, so they had to take action and mobilize all the people.

The curator took the initiative to close the museum and asked everyone to assist in the search. I, Judge Pao, said loudly: “Who can find the tiger head statue first will be rewarded with a prize of \$100,000.” Wow! Everyone heard there was \$100,000 and ran around looking for it. I watched and ordered a cup of chocolate coffee from the cafe inside the building, and took out my cell phone to watch TV dramas and news.

At this time, the police had arrived to investigate and report to me the progress of the investigation, I, slowly and deliberately, waiting for the results of everyone's efforts, but the time passed, still 30 minutes, 12:00 will soon come. Outside, many people have gathered on both sides of the harbor to watch the fireworks display and countdown to New Year's Eve.

At 11:59pm, some people gave up looking, some complained that they couldn't find it, and some were still trying, but I, Judge Pao watched the time on my watch and said loudly, “Stop looking! Let's count down together to welcome the new year!

10...5.4.3.2.1, Happy New Year! ”I, again, said loudly: “Please look at the place where the tiger's head was originally placed, but a rabbit's head has been changed. ”

I, happily, say: “Happy New Year to the tiger and to the rabbit! Good health! ”

Dad said loudly : “Judge Pao, it's time to turn off the computer, it's time to go to bed! It's late, We have done counting down, Jasmine put down your virtual glasses and quit the Meta Universe ! ”

New Tales of Judge Pao

Kowloon Tong School (Primary Section), Lau, Sum In – 11

The famous historical figure, Bao Zheng, commonly known as Bao Gong, is probably no stranger to students from China. Bao Gong, was a Chinese politician during the reign of Emperor Renzong in China's Song Dynasty. During his twenty-five years in civil service, Pao consistently demonstrated extreme honesty and uprightness, with actions such as sentencing his own uncle, impeaching an uncle of Emperor Renzong's favourite concubine and punishing powerful families. Many people see him as a courageous, honest and a justice icon, but before knowing about his true story, some may see him as a mean and manipulative person simply because of his face.

Judge Pao was born with brown skin, thick eyebrows and a winged-eye. Because of this, when he was young, he was often seen as a mean person. Many people from his village feared him simply because of how he looked. He was often discriminated and bullied by other people. As you can see, most of Judge Pao's childhood wasn't even close to decent, but only most of it. When Judge Pao was down in the dumps, there was one person who made him feel better, a person who wasn't afraid of him, who would cheer him on no matter what, and that person, was his best friend, Mei Tak. Unfortunately, Mei was blind, but he was always in high spirits and cheerful. His upbeat attitude always made Pao lighten up. Mei was your typical best friend. He would cheer Pao up, talk to him all that kind of stuff. But what's different about him was that he believed in Pao when nobody did. When Pao was being bullied, he would stand up for him when nobody did, he would try to get revenge for Pao. He always says 'Even though I'm blind, based on your voice and personality, no matter how you look, our bond will never break!' Their relationship and bond were definitely stronger than friends, like brothers. But one day, their relationship was shattered and Pao's life turned upside down.

One day when Pao was around 14 years old, he got involved with the wrong bunch of kids. The group wanted Pao to join them in a serious crime. 'Your face is intimidating and mean, what perfect way to put that in use than doing a crime! You would definitely threaten victims, you would be great use for the team. You got nothing in your past life, why not make a new one?' Pao realized that he had nothing in his life, the only good thing about life was Mei. Even though Pao's gut screamed no, he said calmly 'I'll think about your offer.'

That night, Pao couldn't sleep. On one hand, he didn't want to do crime since it is unlawful and might hurt other people, but then, he had nothing better to do in his current life. Everybody already is afraid of him or disrespect him. It was like he was lost in his own mind, not knowing the direction of this outlandish maze that made him feel confused. The next day, he met up with the group, and with a heavy heart, he said 'I accept your offer.' And with that single sentence, Pao's life turned upside down. He started doing small crimes with the group like bullying and pick-pocketing, people were afraid of Pao and didn't even hesitate to obey them, until one day...

When Pao was on the way with the group to do another crime, he heard a very familiar voice, 'Pao! Wha...what are you doing. I heard that you became a criminal. But I didn't believe them, so I wanted to ask you here.' It was Mei! 'What are you doing here Mei? Get away now.' Pao said harshly. With tears in his eyes, Mei said 'Why did you do this?' 'I'll talk with you later' Pao said with a stern voice. Even though Pao looked calm, he was heart-broken inside. That night, Mei came to his house to sort things out. 'Now answer my question, Pao.' Pao has never seen Mei that sorrow before. 'There was no other choice, every one already hated me, might as well start a new life.' 'But I don't!' Mei cried, he couldn't hold back his tears. 'Even with your looks, you can also be a great icon. Even though people say you look intimidating, you could use that for great things. You can be a lawyer and intimidate your client's enemies. You could also be a solidier, actor and many other things, remember, all humans are born good, I trust you!' Mei's words made Pao stunned, he would've never thought of that and remain on the dark side of things. It was like Mei was the light, the glimpse of hope that was always right around the corner, he just never noticed. With Mei's words, Pao carried his courage and decided it was time to change, for the good this time.

Pao first quit the group despite their warnings. Then decided to peruse a career in being a politician. Despite all the warnings and threats, with Mei's help, Pao pulled through and became one of if not the most well-known and powerful politician. Not long after, Pao also became a marvelous judge. He initiated a number of changes to better hear the grievances of the people, made him a legendary figure. During his years in office, he gained the honorific title Justice Bao due to his ability to defend peasants and commoners against corruption or injustice.

Bao Zheng today is honored as the cultural symbol of justice in Chinese society. We should all learn from his honesty, uprightness and desire to change. We should also learn from Mei the importance of positivity and how all people can change, we should also never judge a book by its appearance. As Mei said 'All humans are born good!'

New Tales of Judge Pao

Kowloon Tong School (Primary Section), Leung, Jane – 11

Judge Pao — China's Sherlock Holmes played a clever and powerful role in history. He was known for his incredible intelligence and was great at solving mysteries or crimes back then.

Let me tell you one of his most famous cases. One morning, Judge Pao was having a peaceful morning walk in the streets. Suddenly, a boy sitting on a rock was bursting into tears. Judge Pao being the nice guy that he is, kneeled down and asked the boy with a kind voice, 'Hey there little boy, why are you crying on such a beautiful day?' The boy wiped his tears and stuttered, 'I..I was selling some oily bread sticks earlier today and earned some coins. I was a bit tired so I slept for a while, but when I woke up, the coins were all gone!' some passersby were staring at them and gossiping. Judge Pao thought for a moment, and he turned around saying, 'Are there any people that are kind enough to give this poor boy a coin to cheer him up?' Judge Pao then grabbed a wooden basin filled with water, and told people to put the coins in there. Soon after, many people had put some coins in the basin. When a young man put his coin in the water, a few drops of oil appeared in the water. 'Guards! Capture this young man! He is the thief!' yelled Judge Pao, leaving the people nearby shocked, later even clapping for him. And the case was closed — Judge Pao had cleverly Used simple science to help him find the thief. As oil doesn't mix with water, Judge Pao was extremely smart to think of this plan in such a short period of time.

After reading this story, I'm sure that you're truly amazed by Judge Pao in so many ways. Even until now, the present, people still praise him for his excellence in solving crimes, And as he is, and will forever be, China's Sherlock Holmes — Judge Pao.

Travelling into the past and beyond!

Kowloon Tong School (Primary Section), Li, Hengxuan – 11

On a seemingly ordinary day, the brightest student in class, Christine Pao, went to the library as usual for her. When she was gathering information about a case study about Judge Pao, one of the most famous judges in ancient China, a strange portal suddenly appeared in front of her! Then, a strangely familiar man came out of the portal and said, “I am your ancestor, Judge Pao. Will you come and solve a case with me?” Christine was astounded. She is a descendant of the legendary figure! Without much time to think, Christine agreed to Judge Pao’s request...

Travelling through the portal, Christine felt dizzy. Spinning around and travelling through time is undoubtedly fun but nauseous. After five long minutes, she finally arrived. It looks like she has landed in Kaifeng court, and Judge Pao is the judge, with his student, Gongsun Ce, as the commentator. With a moon crescent on his face, wearing a black uniform with gold Qilins beautifully carved on it, the plaque overhead saying justice, and the guards bellowing “Mighty”, but in Chinese, whenever someone has entered the court(with Judge Pao’s permission), the setting seems strict.

Like in the film, the Principal graduate Chen Shimei, From Chen Jia Cun, Luzhou, who committed serious crimes, is about to be executed. He betrayed his wife, Qin Xianglian, in favour of marrying a princess and becoming a royal, exchanged his identity with a monk that is from Baiyunsu, also in Luzhou, who has the same name, left his parents starving to die, and asked Wei Ming to kill two people and his former wife and children. Instead of killing the people, Wei sent his assistant to kill them. The assassination of his former wife and children did not succeed, and Wei’s assistant killed himself in pity for the family. Shocked by Chen’s crimes, Christine screamed! Soon, she realises she is invisible to the people around her, like Ebenezer Scrooge when he travels through time in *The Christmas Carol*. “Did you have a wife before you married the princess?” Chen Shimei said no, and put the responsibility on Wei Ming, who was executed the day earlier. Unfortunately for Shimei, Wei Ming has pleaded guilty to the killings of three people the day before, and the truth of the case of Chen Shimei. He had been executed with a dog-shaped guillotine. Judge Pao decided to execute Shimei. At that moment, the empress and the princess arrived at the court. They feel that Judge Pao should not execute a royal. However, Judge Pao scolded them. Judge Pao said that not executing a royal who has committed serious crimes violates the state motto, and it would not be fair if he were not executed. However, the empress scolded him and told him that if Shimei were executed, Judge Pao would lose his role. Judge Pao ignored the warning in favor of the state motto. In the end, he was executed with a dragon-shaped guillotine.

When the crowd left, Christine was suddenly not invisible anymore! Judge Pao gave her a gift, a scroll, and a pen. Keep, protect this, and pass it to your descendants, and continue the glory of the Pao Family, said Judge Pao. A portal appeared again! As before, Christine walked into it, but this time without hesitation. Well, I hope I will have another adventure with you, said Christine to Judge Pao. Unfortunately, it is time for her to go.

Feeling the swirling dizziness she had felt earlier, Christine wanted to go home so badly. Instead of landing in the library, though, she landed at home. First, she put the gifts in a beautiful wooden box. Then, she continued her case study. Well, this will help me very much, said Christine. Judge Pao arrived at the right time.

New Tales of Judge Pao

Kowloon Tong School (Primary Section), Poon, Charlene Juliana – 9

It was a great day at Kaifeng, when suddenly two boys came running in. One seemed younger and was crying loudly all the way long, and the other one looked very annoyed. “What brings you two here?” asked Judge Pao. The younger one said, “I’m Wong Qing, and this is my big brother Wong Ting. He damaged our sky lantern, the last thing our father gave us when he was alive. He died years ago, the sky lantern was the only thing left to represent him, and Wong Ting damaged it.” “For the last time,” said Wong Ting, shaking his head. “I didn’t damage it!” Then they argued all the way to the court, and even more at the court.

Days passed, and they still didn’t admit that any of them was wrong, so Judge Pao decided to investigate in their house to find some clues, so he hopped on the horse-cart and off they go to the village.

Once he was there, he asked Wong Qing where he put the sky lantern, and Wong Qing walked into his room and pointed at a hook which had the broken sky lantern hanged on it. The sky lantern had a lot of drawings of everyday activities that Wong’s brothers did with their father. Then Judge Pao looked around the room few seconds and said, “I know who damaged your sky lantern, the fireplace did!” “What!” Screamed Wong Qing and Wong Ting. “The hot air went straight into the sky lantern causing it to fly, and it flew too close and scraped quite hard against the sharp spear hanged on the wall. So who idea is it to light the fireplace?” Wong Qing raised his hand slowly with embarrassment, and quickly apologized to Wong Ting, “I’m sorry brother, I didn’t know that lit up fireplaces can damage sky lanterns. I will remove the sky lantern before lighting up the fireplace next time.” “I accept your apology, just don’t skip to conclusions next time, okay?” Wong Qing thanked his brother and jumped for joy. “Hey! Let’s make another sky lantern to show apology to Dad! Let’s go!” The two brothers said thanks to Judge Pao and went to decorate and make the new sky lantern.

“Case closed.” Said Judge Pao, smirking.

New Tales of Judge Pao

Kowloon Tong School (Primary Section), Qu, Pui Ka – 11

One night, as Judge Pao was reading a book in his study, one of his servants came in. “Judge Pao, your time as a Judge here in Zhao Qing will end after a month,” said the servant, “The king said you can take three or four servants with you.”

One day later, when the villagers heard about the news they were extremely disappointed. Before they knew one day Judge Pao would leave, but they did not expect the day came this soon. An old man suggested, “Let’s present him the best thing we have. How about our most precious ink stone?” Other villagers looked one another—although they all had ink stones, but only ordinary ones. Who had an extraordinary ink stone deserved to be presented to Judge Pao? Just then a little boy who was passing by said, “My grandfather has a house full of ink stones. He definitely has a proper one for Judge Pao.” In that evening, the boy asked his grandfather, “Grandpa, do you know that Judge Pao is leaving us? An old man suggested that we should give him the best ink stone in Zhao Qing. Don’t you have a whole collection of them? Do you think you can present him an extraordinary one?” “Of course I can,” replied the boy’s grandfather.

Next day a couple of rich people who thought their ink stones were better came to the boy’s house. “My ink stone is better!” shouted one man; “I am the richest here,” shouted one woman; “No, I have the best one! I’ve made thousands of ink stones”…… After an hour of arguments the little boy shouted, “If all of you merely keen on arguing, how are we going to present Judge Pao anything?” Everyone there was filled with embarrassment. “I suggest my grandpa dedicate Judge Pao his ink stone, since only he’s got the best one.” Very slowly the boy’s grandpa came and took a small bag from his back, opening it carefully, a middle sized Ling Yang Gorge ink stone appearing in front of the villagers. The stone was so pure that no single tiny flaw could be found on it. The background color was dark purple but the surface was shining deep green lights. Witnessing such a perfect ink stone, no one could say anything, so they all agreed that this would be the best farewell gift for Judge Pao.

One month later, Judge Pao had already picked out the servants he wanted to bring. As one of them was walking in the village, the boy’s grandpa saw him. Right away he took out the ink stone wrapped in cloth and said, “You must be the servant of Judge Pao. Please, help me to pass this to him as a small token of our appreciation.” The servant was shocked when the grandpa unwrapped the cloth, “Wow! This is the best ink stone from the Ling Yang Gorge,” Knowing the priceless value of the ink stone and Judge Pao never accept any present from local people, the servant’s eyes stared at the ink stone with greediness. “Sure,” He answered as he took the ink stone, while he said to himself in his mind, “I could make millions if I sell this!” The grandpa was so proud of his ink stone, so he asked the servant, “The whole village agreed this is the best gift for Judge Pao. Don’t you think so?” “Yes, I do… He always writes… He will love it!” the servant murmured while planning, “Since everyone here is aware of it, I could just sell it after Judge Pao and I leave Zhao Qing.”

The day when Judge Pao and his servants were leaving, they waved the villagers goodbye and set sail.

When they were sailing on the Xi Jiang river through Ling Yang Gorge, suddenly a terrible storm attacked their boat! Everyone was in a panic, Judge Pao however, was not worrying about his own life. He was thinking about something for a while, all of a sudden he said, “I did nothing wrong, then why is heaven angry with us? Has anyone on this boat done anything wrong?” No one answered him. As the situation became worse and worse, the servant stood up reluctantly, “I did. I took a precious ink stone from the villager! It was made from a stone of this Ling Yang Gorge! It was a farewell gift for you but I knew you don’t accept any gifts, so I took it for myself! I am terribly sorry!” He returned the ink stone to Judge Pao immediately. Judge Pao looked at it for a while and said, “This gift is so precious that we don’t deserve it at all. It is very kind of the villagers but I can’t accept this. The stone belongs to this village, this gorge.” No sooner than his sound disappeared in the storm Judge Pao threw the ink stone into the gorge. Right after that, the sky turned blue and the entire gorge calmed down.

Little did Judge Pao and his servants know that the ink stone thrown into the gorge became the Ink Stone Island nowadays, while the wrapping cloth turned into the Yellow Cloth Beach. Years later Zhao Qing villagers found the beautiful island and beach, then they decided to build a temple there in memory of Judge Pao—The Judge Pao Temple.

The Famous Arrest from Judge Pao

Kowloon Tong School (Primary Section), Tan, Jun Xiao Sean – 10

“My wife’s valuable jewellery was stolen by Black Fox again!”

“Our gold and silver, all gone! All because of the Black Fox!”

“Judge Pao, all of my daughter’s jade bracelets had been stolen and nothing has been done for a whole year!”

“Where’s our justice, Judge Pao?” the impatient Hefei citizens in Song dynasty complained. They were rich and wealthy and hated that Black Fox had targeted them. But what could judge Pao do? Sighing, Judge Pao promised that he would catch the criminal.

According to eye-witness accounts, Black Fox was tall and strong and always wore an animal face mask especially like a fox, that’s why he was called the Black Fox. He was a cunning criminal. His slim and strong limbs helped him escape quickly from the scene so that the guards could not catch him.

Judge Pao thought hard as he wanted to think of an ingenious plan to catch the Black Fox but not to kill him. Suddenly, an idea flashed through Judge Pao’s head. He could drug the criminal, cause him to sleep, and bring him for questioning. He was excited by the idea.

Swiftly, he called all his servants, and asked, “I have thought of a perfect plan to catch the Black Fox. Who wants to help me to catch him?”

The servants murmured, “Is it safe? I am scared that I will die.”

Then, the servant named Lu, who was most trusted by Judge Pao, answered him, “I am willing to serve Sir Pao in any way I can, even if I need to risk my life.”

Judge Pao smiled with relief, and whispered to Lu, “First, you need to memorize his face and how he looks like from this sketch of him. Then, you will go to the forest to look for him and ask to join him as a robber. Next, you must use the poison wine to drug him to be unconscious. Finally, when he’s fast asleep, carry him on a horse and come back here.” After listening to the plan, Lu was stunned by Judge Pao’s intelligence, so he praised Judge Pao.

Lu packed all the things that he needed and set off for this long journey. Everyone’s hope was on Lu. Lu arrived at the forest within only one day. He waited and waited for a long time. Finally, after weeks of waiting, Lu saw a man who was walking slowly in the forest. He shouted, “Wait!”

The Black Fox stopped and walked around him and asked with an evil smile, “Who are you?”

Lu lied, “I am a robber from my town in Sichuan, and I want to join you.”

However, the Black Fox didn’t know that Lu was lying to him, so he agreed. Then, Lu took out the poisoned wine with two cups and cleared his throat, “Um, this is a little gift for you, I have “borrowed” it from a rich family.”

“Oh, you are too welcome, let’s have some together!” replied the Black Fox, sitting down.

Lu nodded and filled two cups with the poisoned wine and handed one to the Black Fox. Lu drank the poisoned wine once but the Black Fox didn’t know that Lu had eaten the antidote so he would not be poisoned. After ten minutes of waiting, the Black Fox believed that the wine was not poisoned so he drank it like Lu. Soon, the poison began to spread through Black Fox’s body and he began to feel faint before falling asleep. Lu took out a long rope to tie the Black Fox tightly. Lu was relieved as he had finally finished this important task that Judge Pao gave him. Lu put Black Fox on his horse and rode it back to the palace as fast as he could since he knew that the poison would not last long. As Lu has predicted, the Black Fox woke up halfway in the journey back to Judge Pao. He said powerlessly, “How dare you kidnap me?” However, he was so weak that he had fainted again quickly. When Lu was back, everyone was surprised as they believed that Lu had died; Judge Pao was so happy to see his honest servant was back again.

In the court, all the citizens were rushing into the entrance as they wanted to see how Judge Pao deal with the most cunning criminal in the world. The Black Fox was dishevelled and was tied with a rough rope around a high stone pillar. With a loud sound from slamming his wooden gavel on the judging table, the judge started the court case. Judge Pao used his loudest and clearest voice to ask Black Fox, "What's your last name?"

"Zhang," replied Black Fox nervously.

Judge Pao continued judging, "You have stolen two diamond rings, ten bottles of wine, gold ingots that are valued over ten thousand dollars each, jewelleries, rice, jades, and valuable paintings. The things you have stolen are worth over a million in total, this is a capital offense. Do you admit to the crime?"

Zhang said, "Yes, but all the valuable things that I have stolen, I could have kept them, but I did not. I gave them all to the poor people in the city I live."

In a second, the entire crowd shouted unanimously, "Liar! Liar! All criminals will say that!"

When Judge Pao was silencing everyone, the poor families in the city rushed into the court and swore, "Zhang gave us money to let us to buy food and clothes for daily life. He is a good person, not a criminal. Please free him!"

When the wealthy people heard this, they were touched and begged judge Pao to free Zhang.

So Judge Pao did.

The Story About Judge Pao and Me

Kowloon Tong School (Primary Section), Wong, Nag Yau – 9

Have you ever heard about Judge Pao, the famous justice fighter in China? Now let me tell you my own story about how I meet Judge Pao!

A few days ago, I was reading a book which was about Judge Pao in my room at home, suddenly there came strong wind and began to rain heavily, and I hurried up to close the window, at the meanwhile the book dropped on the floor, then a beam of light appeared from the book, I was curious and went to have a look, caught me off guard, I was sucked into that beam of light.....

A few whiles later, I was going through a colourful time tunnel! Through the tunnel, I arrived a big Yamen, which was one of the government offices. In Yamen, I heard three people talking, I hid behind a thick pillar to listen what they are saying, “Bodyguards, how many criminal cases need me to deal with today?” A middle-aged man with black skin said. “Sir, there is one criminal case needs your attention today.” Said one of the two bodyguards. “Ready to hold court trial and take the criminal to come in.” Said the middle-aged man with black skin. “Yes, sir.” Said the bodyguards. After twenty minutes, the trial finally finished. After the trial, the middle-aged man with black skin said, “Who is hiding behind the pillar? Please come out.” I felt nervous and confused about how he found me. I moved slowly and tremblingly. The middle-aged man with black skin saw me and asked, “Who are you and why are you here?” I bow my head and gazed at him, then whispered, “I’m Tiffany, sorry for that I even don’t know why I am here.” The middle-aged man with black skin sized me up and said, “Your dress looks so exotic, are you from foreign country?” I rolled my eyes and thought for a while, then said, “Maybe.....And could you please tell me where’s here and who are you?” The middle-aged man with black skin answered gently, “I am Pao Cheng, I am a public servant, here is my office.” After hearing the words, I stared in amazement and my jaw dropped, I thought, “Oh my God! He’s Pao Cheng! The Judge Pao——Pao Ching Tin!” Judge Pao approached me to ask, “Could you tell me what had happened to you?” “Well, I was reading a book about you in the morning, suddenly a beam of light appeared from the book, then I was sucked into the book, after a few minutes, I arrived here and saw you.....” I answered. “That sounds strange, which year are you come from?” Asked Judge Pao. “Year 2022, I wish I could go home now.” I almost cried. Judge Pao looked unbelievable, but he had a brainwave and said, “I think I can help you, but you need to drink a low dose of potion.” After that, he gave me the potion, then I held the calice and chewed on it. Judge Pao read my thought, “I have something to add that the potion which is gave to me by a man who claimed himself to be ‘Doctor Strange’, he said he was from the century which you are from, the potion is all-powerful and non-toxic, he said he knew well about me, then he gave me the magic potion as a first-meeting gift.” I was goggle-eyed and thought, “Oh my God again! Doctor Strange came here before! What an miraculous day today!” After that, I accepted the potion with thanks and drank it up.....

I didn’t know how long had passed, when I had consciousness, I found myself lying on the bed and holding the calice, at the meanwhile my mom came in and asked, “I looked for you for very long time, where have you been?” I didn’t explain too much as she wouldn’t believe the story what happened between Judge Pao and me.

New Tales of Judge Pao

Kowloon Tong School (Primary Section), Wong, Tsz Kiu – 11

Judge Pao looked at James Chan's dead body. The knife was jutting straight out of James's heart. It was 7:15 in the morning. Judge Pao was called to investigate the murder of James. He touched James's hand and it was still a bit warm. To Judge Pao's understanding, the murder was done not long ago and the murderer couldn't be far. Just then, Sandra got home from work. When she saw the police standing out of her house, she was extremely worried and asked the policeman what had happened. She explained that she was James's wife and the police told her that James had been murdered. She covered her mouth in disbelief and her hands started to tremble. She didn't understand why it happened so sudden. Judge Pao looked everywhere for evidence but none was found. After some thinking, Judge Pao decided to ask people who knew James so he asked James's mom, Mrs. Chan.

Judge Pao arrived at Mrs. Chan's house and knocked on the door. A few seconds later, there were footsteps coming from the house and Mrs. Chan answered the door. "Hello dear... who are you here for?" Judge Pao knew that Mrs. Chan doesn't know about the death of her son yet considering her mood. "Are you Mrs. Chan, James's mother?" She nodded slowly in response. "Well, I am Judge Pao. You may need to sit down. I have some not so good news for you and I need your help." Said Judge Pao. Hearing that, Mrs. Chan invited Judge Pao into her house for tea while she was confused at what Judge Pao needed to tell her. Once they sat down, Judge Pao broke the news to her. "I'm sorry, Mrs. Chan, but your son James passed away recently because of a murder. I want your help so I can find the murderer and avenge your son." Mrs. Chan was silent for a few minutes. She excused herself to the bathroom and came out after some time. "Ok, I'm ready. I will tell you everything...whatever it takes to avenge my lovely son." Mrs. Chan said shakily. Judge Pao asked her to tell him everything he knew about James and after a long talk, Judge Pao got all the information he needed from Mrs. Chan. He thanked her and left.

From their conversation, Judge Pao learnt that the only people James knew was Sandra and his best friend Miles as he was very shy. James had the same dream as Miles – to become a successful writer, and always wrote stories together with Miles. Mrs. Chan remembered that their latest book was called "Best Poems" but it had not been published yet as James wasn't ready. Judge Pao found it weird as "Best Poems" was a famous book written by Miles nowadays. There was something fishy going on with Miles so Judge Pao's next stop was to find Miles.

When Judge Pao arrived at Miles' house, he was surprised as Miles was James's neighbor. He knocked and Miles appeared. "I suppose you want my autograph. I can even sign my name on your back if you would like. I'm happy to do anything for my fans of my book." said Miles arrogantly before Judge Pao had even said anything. Judge Pao awkwardly said "Um, actually no. I'm here to investigate the murder of James Chan. Miles' expression immediately changed from proud to worried. He stared at Judge Pao. It took him a few minutes before he could answer. "Y...yes, of course. What would you like to ask?" Judge Pao instantly knew that he had something to do with the murder.. Judge Pao started to ask him "So, tell me about your book. About how you wrote it." Miles stuttered "Um...m I wrote it with Ja... I mean by myself. Yes... and um..." Miles couldn't think of what to say next. Judge Pao stopped asking eventually as Miles could barely answer his questions and his answers didn't make sense. Judge Pao noticed how Miles almost said "I wrote it with James so he decided to look something up. He asked Sandra for the books that James wrote individually and compared it to "Best Poems".

After a few days of careful comparing, he found that James's writing patterns appeared in "Best Poems". Although he found something new, he was stuck in a dead end. One day when he was thinking about the case, somebody knocked on his door. He got up and answered the door. Surprisingly, it was Sandra. "Hi, I'm Sandra. I suppose you remember me. You borrowed some books of James from me before." Judge Pao asked, "Yes, you are James's wife. Do you have anything for me?" Sandra nodded. "Last night while I was in bed, I remembered that a few days before James was murdered. I remember I heard James and Miles arguing. I briefly remember that James yelled something like 'how could you' and 'I can't believe you stole all my hard work'. And Miles was silent the whole time until I heard sounds of breaking glass. Miles probably smashed it. Just like that, a few days later James was dead. I hope this helps." After that, Sandra left before Judge Pao could ask any questions. Just then, everything clicked into place. Judge Pao figured out who was responsible for the murder. A week later, Miles was called onto court.

“MILES LEE.” Judge Pao bellowed on court. “You have been sentenced death as your punishment for murdering James Chan and taking credit for his work.” Miles said, “NO!!! IT CAN’T BE! YOU DON’T HAVE ENOUGH EVIDENCE!” Judge Pao calmly responded. “I am the judge here. And I have seen enough evidence with my own eyes. Sandra is also one of them. Give up, Miles. This is the end.” Miles couldn’t think of anything to cover up his crime. “Take the knife out!” yelled Judge Pao. Miles already confessed it. He confessed that he was the murderer of James.

“CHOP!” That was the end for Miles Lee.

Judge Pao

Kowloon Tong School (Primary Section), Xiao, Jiachen – 10

Once a upon time, Judge Pao was very bored because he hadn't had any cases to solve for days. As the most famous and the smartest Judge in China, he really needed some challenging cases as soon as possible. That afternoon, he went out for a walk and hoped that he could find a new exciting case to solve. Suddenly, Judge Pao heard two people were arguing in a restaurant called "Smile". This restaurant had been there for many years and Judge Pao was never reported any cases happened in the restaurant. Judge Pao was both excited and confused, so he decided to find out what happened in the restaurant.

He went in and he saw a handsome young man with fine silk clothes was shouting, "Originally, I have 40 silver coins and 200 copper coins in my money bag, why are there only a few left after I finish my meal?" The restaurant owner said, "When I saw the bag, that's all the money in it. I am a law-abiding citizen so I would not stole anything from you!" The teenager grabbed the restaurant owner and said, "No! You are a liar! You must have stolen most of my coins! You must return them to me now! Those money are very important to me, I will need them to pay the doctor to save my mom's life!" The crowd were confused and they didn't know who they could trust.

Judge Pao asked them about the reasons why they were arguing, then he asked the restaurant owner to put the money bag on the table as it was, and the top of the bag hung down. Judge Pao asked the young man, "Did you put your bag like this just now?" The young man said, "That's right." Then Judge Pao was angry and he seriously asked the restaurant owner "This young man left 40 silver coins and 200 copper coins in your restaurant, why there are only a few left? You must have taken it! And he will need these money to save her mom's life. I cannot believe you even take such an important money from him!" The restaurant owner was frightened and cried "Judge Pao, I didn't take anything from the bag! I have run this restaurant for more than 20 years. I am really innocent."

The audiences have different opinions about Judge Pao's judgement. One diner said "I have had lunch in this restaurant for more than 20 years and I have never lost anything! Judge Pao, you are so subjective and arbitrary! I don't trust you anymore!" Another customer said "The restaurant owner is a very kind person. I am very disappointed with Judge Pao. He is not a good judge at all!" However, some other diners supported Judge Pao. One of them said "I fully trust Judge Pao, he has been a competent judge for many years, let's also support his judgement this time." Another one said "Look, that young man is so handsome and he wears such a nice clothes, he must be very rich so I don't believe he is a bad man." Neither side could convince the other, so they two sides started to argue with the other. The situation turned into a mess unfortunately.

Judge Pao kept calm despite the booing from the crowd and he said "Okay, I happened to have some money with me, I'll return it to the young man for now since we cannot decide who is telling truth." Saying that, he took out 38 pieces of silver and 188 copper coins from his own money bag, and put them into the bag left by the young man. The young man smiled imperceptibly. He stepped forward and grabbed the bag to leave the restaurant immediately. Judge Pao yelled and stopped him, "Hold on, young man! Please put your bag on the table, let everyone see it before leaving!" So, under the gaze of everyone, the young man had to put his bag on the table, and this time the top of the bag did not hang down since it's almost full and some coins even fell out from the bag!!!

Judge Pao stroked his beard and laughed loudly and proudly! The crowd were confused by Judge Pao's behaviour but they understood normally Judge Pao would do that only if he had solved the case. Judge Pao said to everyone, "Look, can you put so many coins into this bag?" "No!" Everyone replied. The young man muttered and could not speak one word. Judge Pao said to the young man, "Young man, If you have so many silver and copper coins in your bag, then it must be a much bigger bag like mine. And this bag is too small, just now you saw that so many coins were about to fall out. It is impossible to put it on the table with the top hanging down, so the bag is not yours, maybe you have lost it in somewhere else, so please return this bag to the restaurant owner first." After taking out the money he put in the bag, he returned the bag to the restaurant owner.

Everyone now understood Judge Pao's strategy to solve the case and they all applauded Judge Pao's judgement and laughed at the young man. The young man's face was flushed and he quickly fled the restaurant with his bag which only has several coins in it. The restaurant owner said to Judge Pao "Thank you so much for proving my innocence or other people will think I am a thief." Judge Pao was happy and he said, "We all should learn a lesson from this young man that we should not gain money by fraud." Everyone applauded his speech again!

Judge Pao is such a great, smart and full of justice person! He could easily solve a very difficult case that other people cannot. I really hope I can be a good judge like him in the future!!!

New Tales of Judge Pao

Kowloon Tong School (Primary Section), Yick, Yi Ching – 11

Speaking of detective , who would you think of ? Sherlock Holmes ? Pikachu? They are all fiction! There is a real detective who is a real legend though , and his name is Judge Pao.

You may have heard of him before , Judge Pao , or also known as Pao Zheng. He had a very identical moon on his forehead . There is a very famous story of him , and he solved a crime like lightning.

One day , when Pao Zheng was walking around in the streets, he suddenly heard a scream! The voice shouted , “ Thief ! Someone just stole my money!” Judge Pao got to the scene of the crime quickly and told his servants to block the pedestrians in the area of the scene to leave. Why? Everyone in the area is suspicious! He asked the victim what had exactly happened. The victim answered , “ I just bought some oil–stick bread , and got some change. I grabbed the change coins and the oily–breadsticks. I put them in a bag . I took out the coins to count them so I could make sure the number was right when suddenly a person ran up and snatched it from my hand!” Judge Pao thought for a second, and quickly answered. “ No problem , I think I found a way to find who the culprit is!” He told one of his servants to put clear water in a tub , and told him to bring it to him. It was quickly arranged , and the tub was in front of him. He told the suspects to put their hands into the tub. Nothing strange happened at first, but in the end , the water became all oily! Judge Pao caught the person who made the water oily. Pao told the person to give the money back , and he did! People were very impressed , how did he find the culprit that fast? They didn’t understand. Judge Pao told them the coins touch the “ skin” of the oily breadsticks, so they became oily! The person who got the coins had to touch the coins right? So his hands had to be oily too!

This story really inspired me , and I learnt that we should both lend a helping hand to others, and also there is always a solution to everything . We should never give up! We may not be as famous or intelligent as Judge Pao, but we could always help people our way.

New Tales of Judge Pao

Kowloon Tong School (Primary Section), Yin, Chin Nang – 12

Judge Pao, a justice and intelligent detective. Many people like him. One day, he received an anonymous letter. The letter was written that the writer suffered injustice, he (or she) hoped Judge Pao can help him (or her) to clear the charge. More information will be told when you go to Mountain Inn. He was confused but he also started going to the inn. A detective journey has started.

The carriage was being driven like a wind. When Judge Pao was thinking about the strangeness of the letter, suddenly, a man rushed in front of the carriage. The coachman used all his strength to stop the carriage. 'Hey! What are you doing?' The coachman shouted angrily. At this time, Judge Pao got out of the carriage. The man asked, 'Master Pao, I want to go to the inn nearby. May I take a ride?' Then, he seemed remembered something he forgot, 'Oh, I called Li Chao, is an artist.' 'Ok, you can get on my carriage.' Judge Pao agreed but he also had doubt about him.

While the carriage was passing by a river, Li Chao asked the coachman, 'Can you stop here? I want to go to the river for a moment.' When the carriage stopped, Li Chao got off and went to the river and Judge Pao followed him. 'Liu Xiao, why are you here?' Li Chao asked, 'I came to "visit" him.' That man answered. Li Chao introduced him to Judge Pao, 'He called Liu Ming, is my apprentice who is studying at art school.' Judge Pao saw a pile of stone. 'Years ago, a child came to swim, but... it suddenly rained heavily and he was flushed away.....' Liu Ming said, 'And this pile of stone is the grave that made by his classmates..... ah!' Liu Ming slipped over. Fortunately, the water was not deep so that no one was hurt. 'Oh, my bag became wet.' Li Chao complained, 'But fortunately, the things inside are fine.' Liu Ming said, 'My bag was made by special material so that it doesn't become wet.'

Li Chao and Liu Ming took out a few flowers and put them on the grave. 'Don't stay there! Go away!' They heard a very loud voice. A strong man stood there furiously like a dragon that wanted to eat them. He was the died child's dad-----Lin Sheng. 'I don't want to see these things!' He kicked the stone grave heavily and the grave was broken again. 'How can you do this...' 'I have told you many times, get away!' When they were leaving, Judge Pao observed that Li Chao's eyes revealed anger.

At the Mountain Inn, everyone included Judge Pao was sitting around the table and talking about 'Kappa' in the evening. 'It will appear at night!' 'Very scary!' 'Don't talk about this topic! He will drive you out!' The man who is speaking called Qin You Wei, is a poet, 'go back to your room and sleep. Discuss tomorrow.' In the room, Judge Pao thought today was unusual. Gradually, he slept.

In the morning, everybody was woken up by a scream. When they rushed to the attic, they were shocked.

Lin Sheng was dead.

Judge Pao told one of his bodyguard to report to the emperor. He started inspecting the attic. 'There are a bucket of water and a window. This window can see that river. There is about one liter of water..... but why does this water is smelly? There's many questions in this case, I need more clues.'

Judge Pao opened everyone's luggage. First is the artist's luggage. There are thirty small pigment bottles that full of pigment, one water bottle, a painting book and some brushes. Then is the artist's student's luggage. There are some clothes and a water bottle. At last is the poet's luggage. There are a writing book and a few poem.

Judge Pao asked the artist, 'What are you doing before Lin Sheng died?' The artist answered, 'I was sleeping at that time.' Judge Pao asked the artist's student, he answered, 'Me too.' Judge Pao asked the poet, he answered, 'I was thinking about my poem at that time.'

'Li Chao's pigment bottles and the water bottles could be used to hold a liter of water; Liu Ming's bag could also be used to hold a liter of water. Who is the murderer?' Suddenly, he had a plan.....

In the evening, Judge Pao pretended to be anxious, rushed back to the Mountain Inn and found the artist. 'I...I saw "Kappa"! The artist was amazed and he said, 'Can you tell me its appearance? I can draw it on the paper!' 'It was short, and.....'

'Is it?' the artist asked, 'Yes! I will call other to see it!' Judge Pao said.

'Wow!' Everyone was amazed. 'Wait, everybody. It also told me one thing, that is.....you, Li Chao, the artist, is the murderer!' 'Ah!' All the people were shocked. 'You said I was the murderer, but...but...where's your evidence?' 'Your drawing. Before drawing, you didn't drop a little water into the pigment bottles. You used the dropper on each bottle to store the pigment there, and you used thirty bottles and your water bottle to store one litre of smelly downstream water in the river. When you came back to the inn, you poured the water to the bucket, and suffocated Lin Sheng!'

'Everything is because of him!' Li Chao sobbed, 'He's son was my student. One day, he borrowed me a box of paintings, but a few days later, his dad gave that paintings back, and I noticed that the green colour painting was changed. When his son died, there was a little green painting in his shoes, so I thought that his father ordered him to dressed like "Kappa" to attract people. I want to help him to revenge, kill his father-----Lin Sheng!'

'Not like this!' Liu Ming shouted, 'At that day, he painted himself to green colour to pretend "Kappa". It was raining at that time, I told him not to go, but he also went to the river. His father is a good person! Since his son has died, he looked out of the window every day-----he don't want this tragedy happen on others. He is a good person!'

Li Chao knelt down, crying sadly, 'I'm sorry. I'm sorry.....'

It was about evening, the setting sun added a touch of sadness to this scene.

New Tales of Judge Pao

Kowloon Tong School (Primary Section), Yung, Wui Yan – 10

Have you ever heard of a detective named Pao Zheng? Do you know why he had a scar that shaped like a crescent moon on his forehead? If you don't, let me tell you an interesting story about his childhood.

Long time ago, when Pao Zheng was just a child, he lived in a small city. His father was a businessman so he could afford him to learn at school. Although Pao Zheng was intelligent, he was self-centered and overbearing. He gathered his friends to bully other classmates because he thought that he was the best. Also, he looked down on the poor students too! He always believed that the poor were greedy. As a result of his nasty behaviour, everyone at school hated him. They even started a nickname for him – “The Big Bully Pao”.

Some terrible things happened one day. When Pao Zheng was on his way home, the sky suddenly turned dark and clouds were moving towards to him. It was going to rain heavily soon. Fortunately, Pao Zheng had an umbrella, but it was too cold outside and the biting wind was definitely making him shiver. Therefore, he decided to stay in an inn nearby until the rain stops. He felt much better after a while. As the rain did not stop, Pao Zheng started to walk around and suddenly he noticed a well-dressed gentleman looking for something in the restaurant. The gentleman also spotted Pao Zheng and asked him for help, “Hey kid, would you help me to find my wallet? I think I have lost it somewhere here.” Pao nodded, “Sure!” The gentleman described the size and appearance of his wallet and they both set off to find it. A farmer walked passed while they are looking for the wallet. Pao recognized the farmer's wallet matched the description by the gentleman and he went straight to the farmer. “You are the thief!” Pao shouted. The farmer was shocked and did not understand what Pao was talking about. “You must be the thief.” The gentleman claimed and Pao immediately caught the farmer to prevent him from escaping. The farmer pleaded and explained to us that he was not the thief, but they did not listen.

The farmer was brought to the yamen and the judge came. The judge looked at the dejected and dispirited farmer and said, “Where do you get this fine and delicate wallet? Any evidence?” The farmer explained it was a gift by a businessman after he saved his life, but the judge did not believe what he said and told him, “How can a poor farmer own such delicate wallet? You must be lying and you are the thief! Return the wallet to this gentleman and you will receive punishment.” The judge ordered the officials to give back the wallet to the gentleman and sentenced the farmer to birching as punishment. The farmer alleged he was innocent, but turned into tears while receiving birching. Suddenly, a woman came to yamen and shouted, “My dear, you left your wallet on the desk!” The woman was the wife of the gentlemen. There was a deathly hush over the yamen. “You all wronged my father. My father was unfairly treated!” shouted by the son of the farmer who is standing in the crowd. The little boy stared at Pao Zheng, “You, the Big Bully Pao, always bully me at school. It's time for me to revenge!”. He grabbed a stone and threw it to Pao. The stone hit Pao's forehead and he fainted.

When Pao wake up, he felt painful on his forehead and found a wound on it covered by bandage. He just remembered what he did to the farmer and his son. Pao felt very sorry and guilty because he framed the farmer for stealing wallet without any evidence.

He unwrapped the bandage few days later and was surprised to see a crescent moon-shape scar on his forehead. He knew he learnt an important lesson: Never make impulsive decisions if you haven't investigated thoroughly as it will bring injustice to people who are innocent. After the incident, Pao Zheng established his impartial and incorruptible image that was an inspiring role-model for people.

A New Tale of Judge Pao

Kowloon Tong School (Primary Section), Zheng, Jacky Kang Cheng – 11

In the year 1058 during the Northern Song Dynasty, there was a famous judge named Pao. In the previous year 1057, he was made the prefect of the Capital of the Northern Song, Kaifeng. He was extremely good at judging different crimes and had a sharp eye for justice. On Tuesday night after a hard day at work, he came home and went straight to the bathroom for a relaxing bath.

His bathroom was as big as a house, and it had all the newest models and technologies to make it the most comfortable toilet in China. It was well-lit and allowed him to relax easily. He took off his clothes slowly and got into the bathtub, intending to take a long bath after a hard day at work.

As he got down onto the tub, a huge bag enveloped his entire body. He was being kidnapped, and by a despicable person. That much was obvious. Something hit him on the head, and as he slowly consciousness wondered if it was for him.

As he stirred a while later, he saw nothing. It was pitch black, but he knew that he was in some sort of house. All he could do now was wait.

Nothing Good Happened. Judge Pao was known to be the enforcer of justice, and without him, the streets revolted. Lots of crimes occurred; From petty robbery, to assault, to tax evasion, to even murder. Emperor Ren Zong ordered another official to help judge all these cases. But the new officer — Chou Yi was incompetent. He was

not good at his job. He found innocent people guilty and guilty, people innocent. All the people in the city were angry with Chou Yi, so they started a campaign to try and locate the missing judge Pao.

Yes, they were going to find Judge Pao but had no idea where to start! As they wandered around aimlessly, it started to rain cats and dogs, but still, everyone continued walking around, finding hints. Someone suddenly stepped on something in the wet mud. They stepped on one of Pao's favorite model houses. The roof of the model house pointed to a dark and abandoned house. They walked to the house, tip-toeing like a mouse and heard Pao shouting. 'Help! Help! I have been kidnapped by someone...'

As they stepped into the house, they were greeted by complete darkness. Only by following Pao's weak voice did they locate him! They immediately opened the bag on the floor that had his voice coming out of and saw... Pao not wearing any clothes! They were stupefied!

'W...what are you doing here Pao? The whole city is in chaos because of that stupid new officer! And where are your clothes?' The leader of the search expedition said.

'Don't ask, I have no time to explain... We have to get out of here! And I need to get some clothes on!' Pao didn't have time to explain. He immediately went back home naked, and then wore his clothes. He then started to explain everything clearly.

'A big bag captured my entire body as I sat down in the bathtub. I was being kidnapped by some despicable person. Something then hit me on the head and I don't remember anything else. When I woke up later, it was pitch black, but I knew that he was in some sort of house. And all I could do then was to yell for help, and that's when you found me.'

The people were really angry after hearing about what happened. But when Pao went back into the toilet, he noticed that one of his favorite model houses were missing! It had to be the people who kidnapped him who had stolen it!

Pao wanted to know the culprit behind his kidnapping, so he started to think. He suspected that whoever kidnapped him must have had some reason behind it. 'The King must have promoted another official to be the Prefect of the city while I was gone.' He asked around the officials and their families about who had any interest in models.

He then pretended to be a sick person and waited in the hospital. He knew that if he pretended to be a sick peasant, the officials wouldn't be afraid to cover anything up in terms of what they say. He was thorough and wore a hat and shaved his beard. He even used black paper to cover the crescent moon on his forehead. No one knew who he really was. He then slept on the hospital bed, as he knew that the royal family and the officials would visit the hospital and see the sick every month at a certain time. When the royals came up to his bed, Pao asked the officials who he knew liked to collect models, 'Do you guys have models at home?'

'Yes,' Choi Yi replied. He was an unfamiliar face, so Pao knew that it had to be his replacement. 'What kinds of models do you guys have?' Pao questioned. 'Model cars, model houses, and model trains!' Pao jumped out of his bed and shouted at Choi Yi 'You kidnapped me!' He used his hand and firmly grabbed the collar of his shirt and brought him to the king. He took off his disguise, revealing his distinctive Crescent Moon. Choi Yi Was Shocked. The king knew that in the whole City, only Pao had model houses given to him personally! At last, the king used a knife and killed Choi Yi, who died in front of him.

Bowing to the Future

Kownloon Tong School (Primary Section), Chow, Chi Wai Samantha – 9

1006 AD, Kaifeng, China.

Pao Hiren tiptoed through home, holding a hideous black cockroach. He slipped it into his dad's robe, at the nape of the neck, and giggled. Mr. Pao felt a tickle; he shook left and right; he jumped, he wiggled, until the bug flopped right into his cup of green tea.

"HIREN!" Mr. Pao roared, gripping his son's robe hard.

This was not the end of the story.

As Hiren was dragged through the village, townspeople giggled behind their sleeves. As fishermen sang coming into town, their catch glinted in the sunlight.

Finally, Mr. Pao dumped Hiren into a dry, dirty, square stone well. Hiren's head hit the bottom. His father turned away without a second look. Hiren slumped. His eyelids felt heavy. He let the light slip out from his eyelids...

Hiren sat up and rubbed his eyes. He squinted at the sky. It was light-blue, covered in sunlight, instead of the cloudless and grayness in the sky in his village. *Is this paradise?* He wondered, curiously.

He rose. Blue sky gave way to a row of pink buildings – the tallest and squarest he'd ever seen.

Their sweet colours clashed surreally. Before him a Chinese crowd scurried about. But they kept babbling into little black boxes. And behind him were roaring metal chariots. The air was dusty, but it was an alien, metallic fug, not an earthy dust; he felt no red dust under his feet.

There was a sign in front of him, by a tunnel releasing a stream of faces – "Sung Wong Toi". He peered closer. Chinese characters: "Fragrant Harbour." Hong Kong. Hiren looked down. He was dressed in tattered robes, as if homeless. In a way, he now was. But he'd learn his heart was here.

A man dressed in shiny black came towards him, muttering. "Hey, kid! You look down on your luck. Wanna make some money?"

Hiren hid behind crates in a school's back alley, which smelled vaguely like old butter, and his eyes caught onto a girl older than him walking into it. She was chewing something, but didn't swallow it. Hiren quickly ran over to her and handed over his packet to her. "Hey, this is for you," he said.

Here he was, a homeless person forced to sell stolen goods to survive. The girl shrugged, and suddenly grabbed it from him, even though Hiren was gripping it tightly. "Well, thanks anyway." She grinned behind her mask, then pulled it down for just a moment, to take out a sticky, gluey thing and threw it. Hiren's jaw dropped. She looked like family. "Wait—"

But she then turned her back and put something in the box. "I've changed my mind; take the stash to him – Smith! Under the tree!" She pointed out of the alleyway, towards another truant in the schoolyard. Hiren blinked, startled.

He walked towards a boy under the tree, and said uneasily, "Hello, this is a package for you." The boy took it and opened the lid. Then came a bloodcurdling scream. Inside laid a dead slug. Hiren's heart skipped a beat, and his face went white as a sheet.

"How dare you do this to me?" The boy screamed, terrified. His friendly smile now became a cold glare. "I paid for what I want, and you think you can—" Smith clenched his fists, and punched the boy in the stomach.

Suddenly, a hand grabbed Hiren. "What were you doing, Smith?" It was the girl. She took Hiren's hand and they ran for their lives, passing street lamps and houses as tall as the sky. Hiren felt the breeze blow past his cheeks. A sea of faces swirled around them. They cut through them like a blade.

There was an aroma of jasmine, as the girl pulled him into a café and sat down. Newly invisible, they ordered a plate of what looked to Hiren like spongy flatbreads, topped with strange berries and cream. They proved perfect fortification for the coming chat.

“I’m sorry, but I didn’t mean to endanger you. Can you forgive me?”

“It is not good to play pranks on others. You should know that.” Hiren shuffled on the chair, and recalled what he did to his father.

“Let me introduce myself again. I’m Pao Hui Qing, the great–great–great–granddaughter of Pao Qing Tian?”

“R... really? What do you think about me...I mean him?” Hiren blinked, startled.

“The greatest judge of all time. A Song Dynasty Solomon. A detective too. He feared nothing and nobody. When justice demanded it, he sentenced the guilty... my parents said he was our role model, to learn from.” Her face fell a little.

“I see...” Hiren was speechless, he dared not tell the truth; *I am Pao Qing Tian*.

“But my dad told me: Pao Qing Tian was naughty too when he was small. So alright, I’m just like him. Look where our shenanigans took both of us.”

“That’s not an excuse for you to be like that!” But Hiren wondered how – or if – he should influence his own descendants.

Hiren decided to make a change if he could. He scrambled to his feet and asked Hui Qing the way to Sung Wong Toi station. “C’mon! I have a lot of explaining to do ...”

They stood by the square well. It was lined with centuries of dust, but its meaning shone brightly.

Hui Qing was still puzzled by how magic worked. But she promised to rethink her life. The well felt like the law, or a black hole of shame, threatening to swallow her up, like Hiren.

They hugged and crossed their fingers.

He took a very deep breath, and dived, head down, into the well. “Bye...” he thought he heard Hui Qing’s once–defiant contralto behind him. He sighed, relieved his descendant wouldn’t be bad anymore. *Is being a judge really my destiny?* But before Hiren could think, there was a “THUMP!”, and all was blackness...

Meeting Judge Pao

Kownloon Tong School (Primary Section), Guo, Bing Xian Abraham – 11

When Henry woke up, he found himself lying in a dark, gloomy prison. The prison cell was full of gross hay. It was as silent as the grave. Feeling puzzled, Henry saw a man, whose face was as white as a sheet, sitting next to him, shaking mournfully. He murmured to the man, “Where are we? Where is this horrible and smelly place?” The man remained silent. Henry tried to break the silence. “What’s your name? Why are you here? What crime have you committed?” Henry asked him. Henry stared at the man, waiting for his reply, but the man didn’t give him any response.

Soon, some prison guards came and broke the silence. “Mr Wang, it’s your turn to see Judge Pao! Follow us!” one of the guards shouted at the man. Henry overheard them and remembered Judge Pao — the honest and upright judge with a black face and a crescent moon on his forehead! He learned about Judge Pao in his History class! Mr Chen, Henry’s History teacher, told them the stories about Judge Pao! Henry now realized that he was at the time of Song Dynasty. The guards were taking Wang to see Judge Pao.

After Wang left with the guards, Henry started considering himself, “Why am I in prison? What happened to me? Will I be the next one to see Judge Pao?” Although Henry jumped out of his skin and shook like a leaf, he kept telling himself, “Judge Pao is the most significant and legendary figure of justice and righteous. I am sure he can tell me what’s going on.”

Few hours later, the prison guards came again. “Mr Han, you are accused of a theft. Please follow us. You will be taken to Judge Pao for interrogation.” Henry was tied tightly that he could not move or run away but to follow the prison guards to walk slowly to the tribunal court where he met Mr Pao finally. He could not recognize Mr Pao at first as his face was not black at all! Mr Pao, who was about 50 years old then, had a crescent moon on his forehead! When Mr Pao saw Henry, he asked, “Why did you steal a kid’s coins?” Feeling puzzled, Henry questioned, “Your Honour, please may I know why am I the one who stole the coins?” Mr Pao replied, “Huh, that was because someone found you asleep on a rock next to the boy’s oil tank.” Henry remembered he heard this story before. He tried to recall his memory

When Henry tried to figure out what was happening, Mr Pao asked him, “You have to tell me why you slept on a rock next to the boy’s oil tank.” Fortunately, Henry came up with a brilliant idea. “Your Honour, I was exhausted when I was trying to help the boy find his coins, so I felt asleep next to his oil tank. Believe me please, Your Honour! I can help you search for the thief!”

The next morning, Mr Pao told the villagers that he was going to interrogate the rock, which laid right next to the boy’s oil tank. The villagers were curious, so they gathered at the tribunal hall as they all wanted to know how Mr Pao interrogate the rock. Mr Pao asked the rock angrily, but the rock was still and made no responds. Mr Pao kept scolding the rock, “If you stay silent, I will beat you! Why don’t you just tell me the truth honestly?”

All the villagers were stunned and went gobsmacked. “Was Judge Pao mentally sick?” “Why was he talking to a rock?” “Did he expect the rock to speak to him?” “Oh my god! Poor Judge Pao!” Some villagers even burst into laughter which provoked Mr Pao, hence, he took a revenge and told the villagers, “How dare you laugh at me? You are not respecting me. I will punish you!” As a result, he ordered each villager to pay a fine of one dollar. The villagers were obedient and put a one-dollar coin into a water tank one by one. Suddenly, when a man put his one-dollar coin into the water, Mr Pao said, “You are the one we are looking for!” and asked his guards to arrest the man.

Mr Pao explained, “After you put in your coin, there was oil floating on top of the water surface. The little boy sells oil, so all his coins are always oily. That’s why I am waiting for an oily coin to find out who the thief is!” Mr Pao thanked Henry for giving him such a great idea to help him catch the thief easily. Henry was on cloud nine and felt Mr Pao’s taps on this shoulder...

Tap. Tap. Tap. Henry felt Mr Pao tapping on his shoulder happily. He woke up and said, “You are welcome, Your Honour...” and suddenly found his History teacher, Mr Chen, staring at him furiously. “I’m definitely NOT Your Honour, Mr Henry!” “I’m sorry, Mr Chen. I thought you were Mr Pao...” All his classmates cheered at this laugh-out-loud moment.

The Recycle Factory Danger

Maryknoll Convent School (Primary Section), Chow, Charisma Kate – 9

Once upon a time, there was a village called 'Happy Village'. People living there were very happy until the old landlord passed away. The son of the old landlord, who was a selfish, greedy landlord took charge of the village. He was about to launch a construction project on land, which had been occupied by a recycling factory called 'Wills' for many years.

A master of fengshui, who was very famous in the country, introduced this land to the landlord as the land would bring a zillion dollars to the landlord according to his prophecy. The landlord immediately agreed with this idea and sent a representative to the factory and announced, "We are the new owner of the land now. Please move out of here! I will give you one month to shut down your factory." The owner of the recycling factory heard this news and was shocked. He could hardly give him a response.

The other day, he went to the landlord's gate and complained, holding some documents in his hand, "Your father had signed a renewal agreement with us five years ago. We can use this land for 100 years. Why do you order us to leave without abiding by the terms of this agreement?" The landlord said, "I am the owner of this land now, I have the rights for using the land to do anything!" The owner of Wills sighed. He had no idea what to do. He knew that he couldn't give up this factory as it was good for the environment in Happy Village. Suddenly, he saw a poster with some words on it, 'If you have been bullied by someone, and your decent rights are offended, ask Judge Pao for help!' "Who is Judge Pao?" he thought, "Maybe he can save my recycling factory."

He decided to meet Judge Pao. He came to Judge Pao's yamen and met a servant there. "Hello sir, may I have an appointment with Judge Pao please?" He asked. The servant nodded his head and led the owner of Wills into a room where Judge Pao was. Judge Pao had a dark brown face, a scar of new moon shape in the middle of his forehead, and a long grim mustache. "Hello sir, what brings you here?" asked Judge Pao. "I saw..." Before the owner of Wills could answer, someone hit the door hard. The servant ran to the door. What he saw was a group of angry villagers holding their fists. They were coming for supporting the owner of Wills and protesting against the landlord's decision. They wanted to protect the recycling factory which benefited the whole village and the environment. The owner of Wills was very touching and it brought tears to his eyes.

Judge Pao invited the villagers to be seated in his meeting room as well and began to listen to their story. He ended up with a conclusion: The landlord broke the terms of the agreement and he would be prosecuted. A court was going to be scheduled in two days. Everyone cheered at Judge Pao's decision.

Two days later, the landlord was sent to the court. He also hired a famous lawyer for himself. He looked so confident as he had bribed the village head. The village head was the witness of the agreement and he lied to Judge Pao that he didn't witness for the agreement. The signature on it was fake. All the villagers were angry and disappointed with him. They threw rotten eggs and tomatoes at him.

Judge Pao calmed down the villagers and he asked his servants to bring him a tiny machine called "tell me the truth" he had invented before to record the village head's answers. The village head was scared that his face turned pale. Judge Pao continued to ask the village head some questions and the machine recorded. The village head tried to tell lies and pretended to be sincere. He insisted that he didn't sign as a witness on the agreement. Finally, Judge Pao printed a summary from the machine and asked the village head to sign with confirmation. The village head deliberately signed differently from the signature on the agreement and passed the summary to Judge Pao's servant. The servant replied to Judge Pao, "The signature is the same as the one on the agreement." "Impossible!", yelled the village head, "My real signature doesn't have an underline with it." Judge Pao laughed, he said "You are lying on all of us. If you haven't seen or signed on the agreement before, how do you know the signature on the agreement with an underline?" The village head was shocked, the lawyer was shocked and the landlord was even more shocked. The owner of Wills and the villagers were amazed, "How wise is Judge Pao!", they said. Judge Pao announced the closing statement that the agreement was valid and the recycling factory didn't have to be shut down. The landlord should keep his father's promise and allow Wills to use the land for 100 years. As the landlord and the village head violated the Prevention of Bribery Ordinance, they were sent into jail immediately. The Happy Village resumed to peaceful again.

From then on, people in everywhere obeyed the rules and respected the laws. Besides a recycling factory, Wills became a famous attraction that provided educational tour for the visitors. A Judge Pao statue was also placed in front of the factory for the memorial of his justice and wisdom.

Judge Pao: In the "Nick" of Time

Maryknoll Convent School (Primary Section), Chui, Arissa Jade – 10

This is a story that no one from the town of Kai Feng had not heard of. Though it happened long ago, as a descendant of this well-known town of justice and pride, this was how I remembered it was told to me:

Kai Feng had never seen snow in June until that day, when the whole town was saddened with the news that their well-loved Sorcerer Supreme, Yi-Chen, had just lost his daughter, Kei-Kei, who was only 8 years old and had died a horrible death. The investigators confirmed with present evidence that Kei-Kei was murdered!

The grieving Yi-Chen was desperate to seek out the murderer. A badge made of a material that the Sorcerer had never seen before was found near Kei-Kei's exploded remains, written on which was a date of the year 2022. The wise sorcerer immediately recognised that this badge was from at least a thousand years later. This also meant that the murderer was from the future.

As ludicrous as he may have sounded to everyone, the Sorcerer pleaded his case with Judge Pao Qing Tian, who was already famous then at the time. Despite his reputation to help even the most hopeless cases, Judge Pao sent Yi-Chen away because the court simply couldn't accept a case involving a plastic name-badge and a murderer from the future.

Months later, Yi-Chen visited Judge Pao. Yi-Chen hid his frustration about the unresolved case, and acted as if he was just bringing New Year goodies to Kai Feng's investigation team, known locally by the name "Kai Feng Sevens". The Sorcerer swiftly shoved a few strands of Pao's hairs from his desk into the small pouch hidden under his draping sleeve. The following year, Yi-Chen invented a Chariot of Time, which allowed him to travel forward into the future to find and bring back the murderer.

When he arrived in the year 2022, Yi-Chen found himself at the private laboratory of a scientist named Nick, who was working under the country's Secret Intelligence Unit on the latest technology: Cloning. The Sorcerer revealed everything to Nick and demanded that Nick clone him into Pao Qing Tian so that he could return to his time with the murderer he caught here in the future, and rule Kei-Kei's case himself as Judge Pao.

Realising what this could do for his invention, Nick agreed to do as the Sorcerer said. But Nick was missing something: an ancient component of a specialised capacitance that they couldn't manage to find in the modern society.

Yi-Chen knew he had what Nick was missing. It was an ancient stone passed down by a line of imperial sorcerers that the villagers called "Ruyi". The Ruyi that Yi-Chen was carrying with him was split into identical halves that were shaped like two phoenixes soaring from opposite sides in the sky, one for Yi-Chen and the other was passed down to Kei-Kei by her late-mother at birth. But Nick didn't know that the entire stone was split into halves, and thought that the Ruyi appearing in front of him was what he needed. The Sorcerer hammered off a piece of his stone, gave one to Nick; kept a piece for himself, and Nick got his invention.

The cloned Judge Pao went back in time and gave the real Pao a shot on his neck with Nick's syringe-gun. The real Judge Pao fell into deep sleep within seconds, and was locked up in the sorcerer's secret vault 20 feet under his house.

The cloned Judge Pao does not know the proper way to be a judge. Day by day, he gave biased case rulings and raged over the loss of his daughter. He directed his team's focus only toward his daughter's murder, and before long, Kai Feng became an unpeaceful village clouded with injustice and snowfall in June.

Meanwhile, the real judge found a time machine in the underground vault and went forward in time by accident. He arrived in the future at Nick's laboratory, but it was not the same year that Yi-Chen had previously travelled. It was the year 2042!

Being the experienced judge that he was, Judge Pao instantly figured out the Sorcerer's plan when he met Nick, who had lost half of his body and only his upper body remaining was placed on his wheelchair. Nick told Judge Pao what terrible things that his cloning technology had brought, and that there were so few of the human race remaining.

Nick cut straight to the chase and explained that cloning had led the world into madness and despair. He urged that the stone Yi-Chen still had in his hands be destroyed again. Then the Judge stopped Nick, "Wait! Why did you

say "destroy again?" With his instincts, Judge Pao pressed on and asked if Nick had ordered his secret-agent staff to travel back in time and murdered Kei-Kei because she carried the Ruyi in her pocket.

At the Judge's clever interrogation, Nick could only affirm with two stream of tears that rushed down his sullen face, that yes, he was the one who ordered the murder and the destruction of the Ruyi which started all this mess!

Quick to his wit, Judge Pao knew that Yi-Chen would not easily give up such a precious stone passed down by heirloom, so he pieced up a plan and persuaded Yi-Chen that they would go back further into the past, and destroy the two stones altogether, so that Kei-Kei's murder would never have happened. It was the destruction of the heirloom in exchange for his daughter's life. Only this way, could the two men be sure that Yi-Chen would never have met Nick who discovered the Cloning Technology.

As soon as the stones were destroyed, the cloned judge automatically reverted into Yi-Chen, and Kei-Kei returned to life.

For many years thereafter, this murder mystery along with the almost-discovery of time travel and cloning technologies remained buried in Judge Pao's recollection, kept safe away for generations to come.

Revenge of the Unknown Empire

Maryknoll Convent School (Primary Section), Kong, Pui Ching Chloe – 10

In her bedroom, Enila was jolted awake from a bad dream while beads of sweat poured down her face. She dreamt of ill-treated turtles which were not cared for. Their owners treated them as toys for their children. She saw turtles pleading for mercy. Sweating heavily, Enila jumped off her bed and headed towards the Kaifeng Court, knowing her sole mission.

Wang Chao, Ma Han, Zhang Long, Zhao Hu, the four constables of the Kaifeng Court, were watching a news report about the continued disappearances of the citizens in Hong Kong.

“Hold your horses! It seems everyone who surrendered their pet turtles has vanished! Boom! They are gone!” Wang Chao analysed. Others nodded and rolled their eyes. Wang Chao became such a drama king after they moved to Hong Kong.

Briiiiiing! The emergency bell shattered the constables’ eardrums. They ran out of the door, ready for a meeting with Judge Pao.

Judge Pao sat on an armchair. Next to him was an attractive young girl perching on a stool, who was named Enila. Judge Pao greeted his fellows and introduced Enila as the new member of the Kaifeng Court. She had briefed him on her strange dream, which coincidentally matched the news report. Pao quickly assigned the constables to investigate the matter. Zhan Zhao, a knight errant who assisted Judge Pao, offered to go with them. Judge Pao agreed.

Suddenly, a clear voice raised from the corner of the Court.

“I would like to go too.” It was Enila. “I will show them the place.”

They set off to the Kowloon Park, where everyone vanished after abandoning their turtles. They arrived at a big misty pond.

“Is it just me, or has everything gone blurry?” Enila whispered. She was right.

They saw several scales on the grass near the pond.

“Look! Where do these scales come from? They look like the scales of some abandoned turtles!” Zhao Hu bellowed, shoving them into a plastic bag. He was half right.

Later, the constables met Judge Pao at the Court. They were clearly energized for another adventure. Judge Pao didn’t want them to lose their momentum, so he sent them out to investigate further.

It was midnight when they returned to the park. Suddenly, Ma Han saw a dark figure lurking in the shadows. He alerted the others and they all crept slowly across the grass and peeked at the pond. As the water sloshed and swirled in the breeze, Wang Chao saw something peculiar moving deep down the pond. Alarmed, he quickly pointed it out to his fellows.

Little did they know that there was a huge turtle colony in the pond, which was the Red-eared Slider Empire. A group of turtle guards were pacing in the palace, and on the throne sat the great Empress Adna. They were all discussing.

“Your Majesty, how shall we deal with the captured humans?” one asked cautiously.

“We shall only question them. No force.” Adna replied majestically.

“May I know why?”

“Long ago,” Adna smiled, “My sister and I lived a happy childhood in this palace. Our aunt brought us up. She was sweet to me, but cruel to my sister. When my sister turned two, she disappeared. Turtles possess special power: they can transform into humans on land and back to turtles in water. This magic power allows species like us to live in both worlds. I adore my sister and always hope for a family reunion, although my aunt prohibited me from searching for her. Perhaps I may never see my sister again, but I never lose hope. That’s why I command you to question those humans if they know her,” she paused.

Meanwhile, the Kaifeng fellows decided to use baits in the pond. Enila shot an arrow, and it pierced the vortex between the two worlds. It startled the guardians. Woosh! Water formed a small whirlpool and swiped the bait into the pond.

They were flabbergasted. Zhan Zhao assigned Enila to stay on guard and waited for help. Other constables dived headfirst into the pond and landed with sickening bumps. When they got back to their senses, they saw the guards of the empire and Adna staring blankly at them. Wang Chao pulled his fellows up and readied his weapons.

The guards roared. A soldier leaped in the air and struck her cutlass at Wang Chao’s shoulder. Wang Chao clung on a banister and swung out of the way.

The palace soon turned into a battlefield. At the most critical juncture, Judge Pao’s army arrived, overpowered the guards, and rescued everyone. Adna and her guards were brought back to the Kaifeng Court for the trial.

Adna calmly explained her rationale.

“Releasing home turtles back into the wild is cruel. We want to stop it.” Adna said.

Before Pao could comment, a defendant cried, “We did nothing wrong! We abandoned the turtles because of constraints.”

Judge Pao was furious. "Domestic pets can't look after themselves in the wild. Setting them free means killing them!" Pao thundered. He was ready to hand down his impartial judgement.

"I hereby order all defendants and turtle guards to switch their roles for one month with immediate effect: All defendants shall live like turtles, whereas the turtle guards shall live like humans so the parties can see from the opposite side's perspective." Pao solemnly declared.

Then, the doors opened. Enila stood in the doorway. Her eyes fell upon Adna, who was staring at her. The two froze. In a split second, Adna rushed to Enila, embracing her tightly.

"Oh, Enila! Have you had any idea how worried I was?" Adna choked through tears of joy. Enila sobbed.

"I wanted to start a new life like you too!" Enila admitted.

Judge Pao smiled warmly. His voice softened. "You may return to your homes and wait for the switcheroo."

Enila and Adna were the only ones left in the room. They watched as Judge Pao departed. They smiled at each other, knowing they would be forever grateful to Pao.

The Wife that 'Betrayed'

Maryknoll Convent School (Primary Section), Ma, Ho Suet Sophia – 9

“You have made a mistake! I am not guilty! This is not fair!” said Pu Fei Guang as he was dragged across the floor. He was about to be executed for he had committed the serious crime of murder, of course, that was what only Judge Yong Fung believed.

Pu Fei Guang had repeatedly said that he was not guilty in all the interrogations, but it was no use. It was decided that his execution date would be on the third of December, a month later. “Enjoy your last moments in this world! I hope you like your new home—behind the bars!” sneered Judge Yong Fung.

“Welcome to the glorious city of Chang An! It is the New Year and everybody is celebrating! Hope you enjoy your day in Chang An!” a salesman yelled out.

Kai Zhi, a moderately wealthy man, was spending his New Year in Chang An. He was wandering around, then he realised that he was going to a lonely place and a person with a big sack was stalking him. He immediately knew that things were not right. He turned back to the way he came from.

The person that was stalking pulled out a dagger and attempted to stab him in the back but missed. Kai Zhi was scared out of his wits. He immediately started running for his life. The person chased after him, Kai Zhi cried for help, but nobody could hear him. He ran into a dead end. The person pulled Kai Zhi by his clothes, Kai Zhi tried to struggle free, but the person had already stabbed him in the back and took the dagger away .

The person undid his sack and placed Kai Zhi into it and carried the big sack into an alley. The ally was also lonely, the person entered a nearby hut and dumped Kai Zhi on the floor. The person came out of the hut and saw an axe and a lucky talisman on the tree stump near the hut. The person took it and used it to cut Kai Zhi’s body, then left it in the tree stump.

“I saw a man inside the hut, with loads of injuries! He was dead! You must help him find who murdered him, judge! The only people nearby were Chan Yee Shi, a butcher who was nearby, Pu Fei Guang, a lumberjack who was nearby and Chan Bu Shi, a nit wit and a beggar who was homeless and jobless.” said Pei Lu Zhang.

“Is that the truth?” asked Judge Yong Fung.

“Yes, I told you all I know about the dead person in the hut,” said Pei Lu Zhang.

“I’ll go see it for myself!” said the judge.

He went to the hut with Pei Lu Zhang and saw a man that had many injuries. “Isn’t that Kai Zhi? Why is he here?” one of Judge Yong Fung’s bodyguards suddenly said in surprise.

“Who is this Kai Zhi person?” asked Judge Yong Fung.

“He is a moderately wealthy man who is bad-tempered and has many enemies in his life.” said the bodyguard. Judge Yong Fung yawned, it was obvious that he was not interested in the case at all. “Tell Pu Fei Guang, Pei Lu Zhang, Chan Bu Shi and Chan Yee Shi to come outside my court and wait for me,” said the judge.

And soon they were outside Judge Yong Fung’s court, waiting for the judge. Judge Yong Fung ordered them to come inside the court.

“Pu Fei Guang, as reported, when the murder happened, the axe and the lucky talisman was by a tree stump near the hut were yours? Is that true?” asked Judge Yong Fung.

“Yes, that is true.” replied Pu Fei Guang.

“IT IS DECIDED! YOU ARE GUILTY OF KAI ZHI’S DEATH! WHEN I INSPECTED KAI ZHI’S BODY, I SAW THAT HIS CUTS WERE FROM AN AXE! AND YOUR AXE WAS FULL OF BLOOD!!AND THAT HUT WAS YOURS, I BELIEVE!!! IT IS DECIDED! “ screamed Judge Yong Fung.

His guards dragged Pu Fei Guang into the prison and shut the door.

“NO!!! LET ME OUT OF HERE!!!”screamed Pu Fei Guang.

Judge Pao stared at the crime file presented in front of him. “And you believe this man is innocent?” “Of Course!” exclaimed Pu Fei Chuang. “His trial was incredibly short and the judge had a verdict based on a so-called witness!” “I will look at this matter personally!”

Pei Lu Zhang came to his court and greeted Judge Pao politely.

“Go on, go on with your testimony.” said Judge Pao fiercely.

“Yes, judge. I was wandering around and I smelled a rotten smell. I was quite curious, so I entered the hut and saw Kai Zhi on the floor, dead!” said Pei Lu Zhang.

“You seem quite nervous Pei Lu Zhang! Why would you enter the hut when it wasn’t yours? That is trespassing! And the wounds were quite fresh, according to Judge Yong Fung! There are many flaws in your testimony! Pei Lu Zhang!!!” said Judge Pao.

Pei Lu Zhang’s face turned pale, “I....I....I....I did not lie!! You are wrong!!”

“Guards, spank him!!” said Judge Pao.

Pei Lu Zhang thought,” If I don’t admit it, they can’t prove that I killed Kai Zhi.”

Judge Pao’s guards spanked Pei Lu Zhang, but nothing worked, he wasn’t going to admit it. Judge Pao locked him up and thought of an idea.The next day, he called Pei Lu Zhang again.

“Pei Lu Zhang, you were quite smart, indeed. Unfortunately, your wife gave you away by confessing to me !!” said Judge Pao.

“Fine,fine! I admit it! I killed Kai Zhi because he threatened to kill my family! You never know what the man might do!” said Pei Lu Zhang, his face turning green.

In the end, Pu Fei Guang was released and Pei Lu Zhang was in prison, and about to be executed, and Judge Yong Fung was no longer a judge anymore.

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A Special Mission from Judge Pao

Maryknoll Convent School (Primary Section), Poon, Sum Kiu Serene – 11

“Let’s turn back in time.” Lau said. Judge Lau, a famous judge nowadays, was named ‘Best Judge’. He was giving a speech on stage explaining how he became the judge he was now. He, at that moment, hadn’t a trace of knowledge he had been chosen for a special mission.

A scene consisting of two eight-year-old boys emerged. Lau, one of the boys, was at school. Zheng owned the latest model of a toy robot, which was extremely popular amongst them, Lau had longed for it for ages. At recess, when he saw Zheng waving it about excitedly, his eyes sparkled at the sight of his dream toy, so he rushed towards Zheng and grabbed it. “It’s mine! Mine!” Both boys screamed angrily. “No! Give it back!” They pushed and pulled; they argued and shouted, until the teacher, who had heard the deafening noise, came to see what the matter was. What he saw were two furious boys, red in the face and glaring at each other. Once he found out how the fight started, he patiently explained to Lau, “Now, Lau, imagine your favourite toy being taken from you. How would you feel?”

“I’d hate that horrible thief, and I’d be mad, because it’s mine,” Lau replied truthfully, looking down at the ground.

“Exactly! And that was how Zheng felt. If you fight, it’s unfair to the others as they didn’t do anything to you!”

“Remember this, Lau, fairness can always help you.”

Lau nodded and glanced up at the teacher. Weird, he thought, what was a moon doing on his forehead? I must’ve imagined it.

Little did Lau know, that short conversation planted a seed in him, and it was due to grow impressively.

Then, another picture appeared. It was a warm, sunny day, Lau was strolling on the streets, when he saw a little shop. He approached it, and noticed a basket of candies sitting just by the door. Stepping closer, he saw that there were various flavours and the candies’ wrappers sparkled in the sunlight. Lau had a sweet tooth and he loved treats, most especially—candies. He looked around and there wasn’t anyone. I’m sure no one would mind if a few were missing, he thought. Just a few... So, he took a couple of sweets and stuffed them in his pocket.

“What exactly are you doing?” a stern voice asked. Lau looked up, heart hammering rapidly, and saw a large shopkeeper with a little moon on the top of his forehead. “Stealing candies. Well, I caught you red handed!” he said.

“I’m really sorry. I’m... I’m only twelve. Please don’t put me in prison,” pleaded Lau. The shopkeeper made him work two hours straight, Lau was too afraid to disobey. He tidied the shelves, scrubbed the toilets, picked up the rubbish, and moved heavy boxes.

When the job was done, Lau asked in a small voice, “May I leave now? I won’t do it again.”

“Leave? I don’t think so,” the shopkeeper said. He ordered Lau to put his hand out. Lau was terrified, unsure of what would happen. Then, the shopkeeper dropped five golden coins into his hand. Lau watched, open-mouthed.

“Your payment, boy. You earned it, fair and square, and you wanted some candies, so I’ll take one coin away,” the shopkeeper said, leaving four coins there. “You see, when you put real effort into something, the result you get back is worth it. That, is justice. The time when you deserve things you want, like candies.

“Remember, you should always be just because it will make you feel good and get you through.”

Lau gazed at the coins, thankful. This incident made Lau understand more — the seedling was growing.

Then, the place switched to a big room. “You may start writing.” The examiner, who had a crescent moon up on his forehead, announced. Lau, fifteen years old, was having a public exam. Lau knew perfectly well he didn’t study well since he was busy playing video games. When he saw the examiner looking away, Lau decided to peek at the paper on his left. The examiner noticed the strange actions of Lau leaning continuously to his left, and found out his cheating scheme. Lau was immediately disqualified, sending him into misery.

The examiner told him, “What you did was unacceptable. You did not study, and therefore you should not get good grades. Assuming you did get a higher mark, would you truly be satisfied? No, you would not, because you simply didn’t deserve it. Consider being disqualified as a lesson.

“Listen and remember, you get what you give, and only then will your results be true.”

Lau nodded in shame, this time thoroughly comprehending what was said to him— the plant had grown really tall. This was what gave Lau the final push, which made him decide to be a judge, and a great one he was, too.

“So, as you see, I became the person I am from these people who taught me what’s right and what’s not, and why a man should work with justice. I now, on behalf of them, encourage you all to do the same.” concluded the adult Judge Lau to the thousands of people listening to his speech, earning immense applause.

Back at home, Judge Lau saw something interesting in the mirror. Sentences appeared :

Fairness and justice can always help you,

It will make you feel happy and get you through.

You get what you give, what you deserve,

And only then will the results be true.

Then, three pictures of the teacher, the shopkeeper, and the examiner appeared. They moulded into one face, a face with a little crescent moon on his forehead. He said, “You have succeeded in your mission to bring more justice to this world. The seed I planted in you when you were young has, indeed, grown into a full tree. I am proud of you, Lau.”

“Remember, I am Judge Pao.”

Ivan's Writing Experience

Maryknoll Convent School (Primary Section), Wu, Ho Ching Candence – 10

Once upon a time, there was a boy named Ivan. At a very young age, Ivan grew an interest in books and was determined to become an author when he grew up.

One day, while Ivan was walking around his school hallway, he heard chattering noises coming from a crowd near the school notice board. Out of curiosity, Ivan stepped into the crowd and immediately saw a notice about a writing competition. It was about a detective called “Judge Pao” in China long ago, and contestants had to retell a story about the famous “Judge Pao”.

Ivan took a sample of the notice and read it all the way until he reached his classroom. Ivan desperately wanted to join but something held him back. He was clueless of Judge Pao. So, he decided to go to the library to study more about Judge Pao.

While Ivan was scrolling through the bookshelves in the library, he noticed a book sparkling under the radiant sunlight. Ivan picked it up and found that it was a book about Judge Pao. Delighted, Ivan started flipping through pages of the book, reading every letter and sentence carefully.

Suddenly, a dazzling gleam of light shone upon the book and a hole appeared on the backpage, with a faint voice repeating “Put your hand here, put your hand here...”. Ivan was terrified but curious, so he raised a finger and touched the hole. Slowly later, Ivan cautiously placed his whole hand inside the hole and immediately, his eyesight was blurred by a flash of light.

When Ivan’s eyesight recovered, he heard a voice saying “Hey kid, are you alright?”. Ivan slowly raised his head and he saw a man with a long beard and a curved moon shaped pattern on his head. The man looked at Ivan fiercely, as if he was about to punish Ivan. Scared, Ivan immediately gave a deep bow and asked the man for forgiveness to insure himself out of danger. The man laughed, saying “Haha, why are you apologising? Is it because of my menacing-looking face? Don’t worry kid, I’m not as fierce as you think...”

Suddenly, out of thin air, two men came up to the man and Ivan, one saying “My great Judge Pao, please help me, this man next to me has stolen five of my precious steel woks!” Just then, the other man, who only had one arm and one leg, said “My great judge, just look at me. I can’t possibly carry one heavy, steel wok, how could’ve I stolen five?” Ivan then suddenly remembered before he came here, he was reading the case about ‘the five missing woks’ in the book “Judge Pao”.

Ivan then realised that he was inside the book of “Judge Pao”, he was excited and decided to follow Judge Pao and the two men to discover the case.

Judge Pao said, “Alright, I’ve heard enough, I shall now plead you, the man who claims that the disabled man has stolen the five missing woks, guilty!” Ivan was shocked, so was the man that was pleaded guilty. Ivan felt a devilish smirk on the disabled man’s face. Ivan wanted to convince Judge Pao that it couldn’t be the man that was pleaded guilty, but he had no evidence so he decided to keep his mouth shut and continue to see what was coming afterwards. Judge Pao said to the guilty man “Now, for your punishment, you shall give one of your woks to the disabled man.” The guilty man was speechless about what had happened, he gave out a grumpy face. Ivan could tell he wanted to resist, but he decided to be persistent.

He gave the wok to the disabled man and as soon as the disabled man got it, he used his hand to lift the wok up and placed it gently on his head with no hesitation. But what he didn’t know was that it was all part of Judge Pao’s plan.

“Aha! I caught you red-handed now, haven't I?” Judge Pao said ecstatically.

Ivan and the guilty man’s jaws were left wide-opened. Ivan took a glance at the disabled man’s face, seeing his white, pale and frightened face. This made Ivan give out a pleasant sigh, seeing justice being served fair and square.

Judge Pao gave out a menacing and serious face towards the disabled man, Ivan was hoping to see a harangue . But instead, he gave the disabled man a lesson of discipline. And, of course, the six woks were given back to the original owner.

Then, a familiar gleam of light tore through the sky, opening a portal on a wall. Ivan quickly ran towards it, but before leaving, he looked at the disabled man again. Ivan gave out a huge, wide smile at him for his change of heart.

When Ivan returned back to the library, he jolted towards his desk and started writing everything he saw and felt. He felt victory coming closer every second as he wrote.

Ivan told himself, “Even if he didn’t win, he wouldn’t feel upset at all.” After all, he had the best experience anyone could ever have, and that was the most important thing in writing.

Justice Pao's First Trial Meeting

Marymount Primary School, Luo, Liang Emma – 11

Justice Pao, a great judicator who cares about justice more than anyone does. We all know his name on the things he did, but do you know his first ever trial meeting? Here's a tale of it.

Pao Zheng was only 9 years old. His parents were dustman, but Pao Zheng was into judicial powers. Everyone in town thought that he was a weirdo because everywhere he walks, he shouts about how great the judicators were. His mom and dad don't know what happened to him and worried a lot.

By the day he was 11 years old, his parents gave up on him and kicked him out of the house. Pao Zheng has nowhere to go. After a while, he heard two men speaking in distance, he followed them and came to a giant workshop, he looked at the sign on a wooden board and it says "Danger". He then saw a man carrying a giant wooden box filled with powder in different colours. "They are making drugs! It is illegal to make drugs now!" Pao Zheng gasped at the enormous field of giant boxes. Suddenly, a group men appeared behind him and took him, "Let's take this boy to Commander Fax!" said a man.

They took him to "Commander Fax", Fax questioned him how did him get here and flung him out for nothing. Pao Zheng ran as fast as he could, he went straight to the police office.

The polices weren't as nice as he thought. They thought that he was just a swindler who wants to trick them going to a place and steal money afterwards. Pao Zheng explained several times that he wasn't lying but the police officers wouldn't listen to him. "I need evidence." Thought Pao Zheng while he was walking out of the police office. He stopped, an idea popped out. He went back in, and said "Hey police officer, let's make a deal, I will bring you to the place I talked about and if it is not true you can arrest me right away. So, what do you say? Deal?" The police officer looked at him for a while, "Even if he runs away, he can't outrun me!" he thought, so he agreed. Pao Zheng led him to the field, the police officer couldn't believe it, the kid didn't lie. He immediately called all the polices using his walkie-talkie. They came with ropes and hand cuffs. With one call by the head of the police officer, all of them ran out at once, the workers at the factory shouted "RUN!". It is too late. The police officers caught them before all of them could react. Pao Zheng told the head of the police officer Zac that the commander of this factory is

still inside.

The polices caught the commander and all the workers. Zac tried to ask them why they would do this but none of them answered. Pao Zheng suggested to put them into a trial meeting.

At beginning, the judge didn't trust Pao Zheng, but after Zac's descriptions of the whole thing, the judge finally trusted Pao Zheng and authorized Pao Zheng to be the judicator of this trial meeting. In the meeting, Fax claimed that they may not violate the law because they didn't mean to do it, they were forced!" "Maybe you didn't but you could tell the police, how can you explain about that?" contradicted by Pao Zheng. "Silence!" said the judge, "Fax, if you are telling the truth, then can you please address me who has been forcing you to do such a thing that violates the law?" the

judge asked. "Yes, I am telling the truth, you have to trust me! The person who has been forcing me didn't tell me his name, I should ask but I didn't." replied by Fax immediately. "So well, I hereby announce that Fax and his workers are truly innocent. They are released!" the judge announced. "But...judge, you know that they aren't innocent. They create things that can possibly harm people! They are creating drugs!" Pao Zheng argued. "My decision is made." Said the judge calmly.

Pao Zheng was so angry after the trial meeting, "How can they just release them like that! I have to do something! I can't just let them continue doing this." he thought. He decided to go to their factory again to find their secret. So, at that night, he snuck into their main room and found something unbelievable.

Pao Zheng went to the police office the second day and told them about what he just heard. Zac told him to be a good kid and stop worrying about this. "But Fax is planning to use the drug he made to control the city! I heard him telling the workers about their plan and they decided to take over this city tomorrow night, when everybody is out for Mid-Autumn Festival! You must help me save all our citizens." Said Pao Zheng. Zac had nothing to say but to move out. He chose to trust Pao Zheng. Meantime, Pao Zheng went to the judge and told him to grant Fax capital crime. The judge asked Zac to bring Fax to the trial meeting again right away. In the second trial meeting, Fax told the judge that Pao Zheng was just lying, but Pao Zheng burst out, "What Fax makes in his workshop is

drug, lots of drugs. I know because I once read it in a book, and I've seen it. It is extremely dangerous! We cannot risk any one's life on it. Judge, if you disagree with me, I shall say that you don't stand for justice and that you defile the profession of judging." There was a sudden silence. The judge said, "Very well, kid, it is justice. I announce that Fax has committed a capital crime!"

In that day, Pao Zheng saved every one's life. The people in town honor him.

A New Tale For Judge Pao – New Warrior Awaken

Marymount Primary School, Yung, Pui Yan Bella – 10

In the underworld , a deity strode towards a lady encased in ice. She exerted all her energy to unthaw the ice. The ice cracked in half. As silent as she appeared, she disappeared into the dark, leaving white feathers in her wake.

The lady, who gasped in outrage, was actually Judge Pao. Pao looked down at her feminine body. She gasped again , but in disbelief. Pao spotted six bodies lying on the ground next to her, wondering who these women were. she knelt down beside them and nudged one of them. In a quick motion , that woman sat up with eyes still closed and looked around frantically. “Who are you?”, she snarled threateningly. “I am Pao” , she said simply.

The woman who was snarling at Pao earlier whipped her head back to stare at Pao again before asking ,”Are you by any chance our lord Pao?” Pao frowned at her and replied , “Yes , I am.” They all gasped and immediately dropped to their knees. Apparently, they were Pao’s advisor and the five guards.

Gongsun worried about the reason they got there. “We need to concentrate on what we will do now.” , reasoned Pao. Gongsun suddenly came up with an idea and suggested to travel up the rest levels of Hell and ask the substitute Yama for advice. He was always the wise one. With a new journey comes new identities. Judge Pao – Lunar Paojin, Gongsun Ce to Gangie Ciu , Zhang Zhao to Zou.... New female warriors rose up from the ashes and gathered up the courage to emerge into the home of sinful souls.

The fires of hell were fierce and strong but the warriors of ash were stronger. They battled through with bravery of a lion and strength of a dragon. The immortals were sifting around and their eyes darting in every direction because women fighting with that much skills were unheard of.

After they defeated the Hell of Mountain of Ice and passed through all the stages one by one. The glimpse of all the despair, regret, agonizing groans from the souls, pierced into Paojin and her fellows’ hearts even they knew in their hearts that the sinners deserved.

Until they nearly reached to the toppest level – the Realm of Karma. Suddenly, a silver glare beamed on Paojin’s forehead lunar mark. Paojin fell to the ground, shaking and convulsing. They all panicked and Gangie fell down to her knees to check her master’s pulse. Just minutes later, Paojin woke up, sobbing. She stared at Gangie sadly. It seems Paojin saw something from her coma but she did not reveal.

As they walked on, they immediately noticed something different. While they were inspecting the changes of the Realm of Karma , an angelic voice was giggling behind them, “Well , isn’t the one and only Judge Pao with his group of minions.” They all whipped around to see the demoness Daji sitting on the throne. Daji was a malevolent fox spirit who killed and impersonated the real Daji in three thousand years ago. The substitute Yama was already sabotaged and replaced. Zou, the fiercest warrior, immediately prepared for a fight.

Daji charged at Zao with her fox tails ripping through her clothing. Daji turned into a hideous creature. She snarled at Paojin and threw sharp needles at her. Paojin dodged until Daji summoned all the energy she had and threw the most powerful weapon. Before the axe could kill Paojin, Gangie jumped in front of her. The axe pierced through Gangie’s body and she slumped to the ground.

The act of true friendship and sacrifice made the demon turned into dust, leaving only Daji’s wail. Paojin dropped to her knees, sobbing. Tears dripping down Gangie’s face. This scene was Paojin saw in her coma. As the group kept on sobbing and mourning, the tears mixed in with the blood and suddenly...”Why are you all crying?” , croaked a voice. Gangie awoken from her death-like slumber. The group was shell-shocked. Paojin embraced her tightly burst out tears of joy. White feathers whirling in a flash of glow so bright that the group headed to shield their eyes. “Pao! My dear child!” The voice reminded Paojin that she was her mother. The deity was always her mother.

“Daji defeated by the act of friendship. Pao, I am your guardian angel. When all seems lost, I'm always here for you. I sensed you were in danger when you were deceived by the apprentice of Daji and were trapped in the ice. Remember, bonding with family and friends is always the most powerful thing in the universe” , she concluded.

Everyone started kneeling before Paojin , believing that she will rule over the throne of justice again. However, Paojin declined. Silence filled the court , until a nervous chuckle broke it. “Gangie will rule the throne. She showed a true act of friendship and love. It's time for me to retire!” Her mother smiled proudly and gestured to follow her , opening a doorway to reincarnation. “Farewell and may your new life be blessed”, whispered Gangie. Paojin smiled softly at all of them and left with her mother together into the mortal world.

Paojin opened her eyes and saw two mortal adults hovering over her , bright light shining directly in her eyes. “Luna! Oh , my dear!” , the woman cried , picking Paojin up and cradling her in her arms. Paojin cooed and knew it was her new body and her new parents. Luna got a moon symbol was behind her ear. A new wondrous adventure awaits her in this world.

The Beasts of the New World

Nord Anglia International School Hong Kong, Shim, Irene – 8

After a long day of fighting dragons and other beasts determined to disturb the peace of his town, a weary Judge Pao trudged to his garden. He saw the familiar sight of the sweet smelling roses and trees that seemed to reach the sky.

But then he felt a strong gust of wind blowing against his face. The birds had stopped chirping. Judge Pao whipped around him and spotted a silvery blue swirling cloud spinning as fast as a typhoon between the bushes. He silently crept up to examine it, wondering if it was a lost soul from the underworld seeking his advice. Suddenly, a magnetic force pulled the Judge closer into the whirlpool. Instantly he felt himself plummeting down the silver endless hole. Judge Pao closed his eyes fearing the crash that never came.

When he opened his eyes he saw a towering house that looked like millions of blue shiny blocks stacked neatly together. He squinted then pinched his arm to see if this was real. Next to the houses there were flashing, silver creatures that looked like humans but were much taller and harder. Their movements were jerky like they were being controlled. Judge Pao sensed danger straight away. He knew that these monsters were up to no good.

Furious and disappointed that all the work he had done was no use. He had always wanted a world with no monsters, but these shiny, silver beasts were here destroying homes high up in the sky. Seeing the destruction, Judge Pao decided to help. He couldn't use the laws here to punish the monsters, so the only thing he could do was crawl up to the smooth, looming creatures. Hoping to distract them from devastating the lives of the unlucky people inside, he had just started climbing when he heard people shouting and screaming at him to come down.

This had been to help them. Why were they yelling at him to stop and throwing rocks and other things at him? One hit his leg and he nearly lost his footing. He felt fearful that he might fall from this enormous structure. The Judge was now surprised and annoyed that they didn't appreciate his help, as he reluctantly walked away.

Then in the distance he saw the blurry outline of a tall, wide house. He walked closer to realize at once that it was an old temple. Relieved that he had found something familiar, he stumbled inside. From the minute he stepped through the doors, he noticed that people, mostly children were staring at him curiously. They were evidently transfixed. Judge Pao ignored them as he appeared in his bizarre clothes and long, flowing beard to the head priest. He asked him furiously about the metal monsters outside. The priest could not speak for a moment. He simply stood there gaping at him, his mouth slightly open.

Then he answered, "Those are robots, they help us build things. The world is better now because of them."

The priest went on to explain that, over the last few centuries the technology has become more advanced so people could now make things like robots and drones. Life is much more convenient now. The Judge finally realized his mistake as he walked back to the robot workers to apologize. He approached them and even saw a few workers that had yelled at him.

"I disturbed your robots. My apologies." began Judge Pao, "I didn't know that they were helping you."

Then one of the workers called out, "Why would you think they were harmful?"

Judge Pao replied, "Well, just before I came here I met a giant silver dragon that was ruining fields and homes, so I thought all beasts were harmful."

The biggest worker who seemed to be the leader chuckled, "Of course they're not"

He now understood different creatures were sometimes useful. He thought as he walked down the street that life is so much more complicated here, everything is so tall and shiny. They destroy old homes to make new things and even the scariest looking monster can be helpful. As he was wondering about this world, he absent mindedly walked into a field similar to the one he came out of.

He attempted to bolt towards the endless grassy space, but after the day's adventure his legs felt like jelly, so he headed in other direction. Then he spotted the glittering, sapphire cloud waiting to take him home.

Judge Pao felt thankful that he had a way of returning to his world and he leaped inside. In less than a second, Judge Pao was back in his garden surrounded by multicolored flowers.

Now he felt proud of what he was doing for his people. After learning what the future was like, he felt more capable of ensuring justice around him.

The monsters he saw in the other world were helping humans, so maybe monsters in his world could also bring good to the world.

A New Tale of Judge Pao

Sacred Heart Canossian School, Cheng, Mandy – 12

I was dead. The emperor said so.

I sneaked into my funeral to see my son *Shou* for the last time. I felt guilty, as a kid at his age would need his father most. But I had no choice.

In *Song*, you could have as many wives as you wanted to, and having an affair with a maid or having an illegitimate child was not uncommon or unacceptable, particularly for the rich and people holding a high position in the Empire like me.

But I am *Pao*. *Pao* was an exception. People in *Kaifeng* and perhaps the whole *Song* regarded *Pao* as a saint. A saint should never do anything wrong. It was not allowed, and such an act, if known to the public, would bring the Empire's reputation into disrepute.

The emperor told me not to worry about this; he would take care of my family, including *Shou* when I was not around.

I was chosen for this secret mission for a reason. But it appeared to me more like a joke. I had spent my whole life fighting corruption, but the emperor asked me to bribe!

Back to the reason. The Northern side of *Song* had all along been a headache since the Shang Dynasty. It remained so even after *Ying Zheng* of *Qin Dynasty* built the *Great Wall*. Most of the troops were deployed to the North and more would be needed. It was quite a burden to the Empire.

But now the emperor was troubled by another reason, namely, the expansion of the *Da Qin Kingdom* and the *Persian World* from the West, which posed a new and imminent threat to *Song*. In recent years, the conflict had intensified, from fistfights between civilians to direct confrontation between the militaries, and *Song* was losing.

The emperor wanted to put a halt to it. He vowed to reassert control and reclaim the land lost in the *Tang Dynasty*, and more by his predecessors. He also wished to rejuvenate the *Silk Road* and the trade between the East and the West. But clearly the *Da Qin Kingdom* and the *Persian World* were a hurdle that he needed to jump over.

The emperor had an idea, which was easy to understand but difficult to implement. He wanted the *Da Qin Kingdom* to fight with the *Persian World*. But the question was – HOW? The emperor came up with an idea.

Zhan Zhao, my bodyguard, who was tall and muscular in built, had an important role to play. He would lead an army to the West without anyone noticing. The army would attack small villages of the *Persian World* and kill a few villagers if required. They would put the blame on *Da Qin Kingdom*. They would also smear *Arabia*, the God

of *Persian World*, in order to provoke the *Persians*.

I also had a role to play, which was more important. I had a crescent scar on the forehead. It closely resembled the symbol that every *Persian* worshiped. With tanned skin, the emperor believed that I would blend into the *Persians* and gain their trust easily. I could also try to convince or bribe the *Persians* to invade *Da Qin Kingdom*. It would be ideal if they could wipe each other out from the Earth. If not, the Song could also take advantage if any of them lost an eye or a limb in the war. The plan sounded perfect and workable.

After a few months of preparation, we left *Kaifeng* for the West. We crossed the *Hexi Corridor*, *Dunhuang* and *Tibetans* and finally reached the land of the *Persians*. We bid each other farewell and joked to see each other in the battlefield. But we knew it was not necessarily a joke. If we were successful, he would fight for *Da Qin Kingdom* and I for the *Persians*.

But we never saw each other again. Many years later, I learnt from sources that *Zhan Zhao* did a great job in accomplishing the mission assigned to him by the emperor. With the benefit of my teaching back in *Song*, he became a renowned philosopher who taught people the principle of equality, the rule of law, presumption of innocence, etc. Most important of all, he successfully convinced the King of *Da Qin Kingdom* to invade the *Persian World* and liberate the *Holy Land*.

Believe it or not, I blended into the *Persians* without difficulty. People accepted me at once and worshiped me as a prophet when they saw me for the first time. I gained the trust of all tribal leaders and was well received by their members. I soon became the spiritual leader of the *Persian World*.

Like *Zhan Zhao*, I gave lectures to the *Persians*, not only on legal principles but also issues happening on the other side of the Earth. They found it very enlightening. When time passed by, some of them called me “*the Messiah*” or “*the Messenger*” from the above.

One day, I told my assistant that I might need “*a small piece of land*” for *Arabia* in my own dialect which was pronounced “*xiao-di*”. The tribal leaders overheard our conversation and assigned a piece of land, which was later known as “*Saudi-Arabia*”, to me without any hesitation. I did not know at that time that it was so big and there was oil underneath. But that is another story.

Was my mission accomplished? Of course! I was a man of honour and thus kept my own promise. As the spiritual leader for the *Persians*, I sent my troops to fight the invaders and they protected the *Holy Land* fearlessly. The holy war lasted for more than two centuries and people in *Song* were free from any trouble during that period.

I also told the *Persians* that people from the East were friends, and we should respect and be nice to them forever. That was how the *Sino-Persian* relationship was established.

Travelling into the Future

Sacred Heart Canossian School, Kong, Yat Hei – 11

Loud clangs of metal against hard stone could be heard from miles away. An incident had happened at a nearby well. Fortunately, no one was severely injured in the incident. As everyone else left the scene, Judge Pao and his assistant stayed behind. During the rescue mission he found out that the well had an interesting detail that heavily piqued his interest: There was a faint glow coming from the bottom of the well. It was so faint that no one else noticed during the rescue.

“My dear assistant, you have to come look at this,” Judge Pao said. His mind filled with wonder. “What is it sir?” his assistant asked. But as he inspected the well, he too noticed the glow. The assistant asked Judge Pao whether he had any idea about it, but Judge Pao denied it as he hoisted himself up and climbed down into the well. Filled with curiosity, his assistant followed suit.

As Judge Pao landed at the bottom of the well, he was surprised it wasn’t filled with water. But as he looked around, he realized the glow was coming from a mist. But what could’ve created this mist? As he was thinking of an explanation, he felt a sudden lurch from his stomach. The feeling was sickening. While he tried to find an explanation on what was happening, his assistant had also finished climbing and was now at the bottom of the well right next to him. His assistant was very confused as to why his boss was looking like he was having a stroke.

Suddenly, he felt the same sick feeling as his boss. It felt like he was being lurched forward by an imaginary force. As he groaned in pain, he suddenly felt like he was floating in mid-air. Suddenly the pain stopped, and he fell unconscious.

Judge Pao woke up with a throbbing pain in his head. As he squinted to inspect wherever he was, he concluded it stank. His assistant was also sitting next to him. Judge Pao asked his assistant if he was okay. Thankfully he was alright. As Judge Pao looked around, he found a sign saying ‘sewers’. He was very confused as to how he got there. But at least he had an explanation for the smell. His assistant found a ladder and the duo were out faster than you could say ‘It stinks’.

With a heavy push, the manhole cover above them was pushed out. But instead of the fresh air back home, Judge Pao was hit with a wave of suffocating, polluted air. Instead of robes, everyone around them was wearing weird clothing with short sleeves. They also had weird rectangular shaped objects covering their mouths. As the duo looked around some more, they found a sign saying ‘Central Station’ with a weird symbol next to it. People were walking inside and stepping on giant things that moved on their own! Judge Pao was so surprised as he had never seen this before in China. Where were they anyway?

They found a random person and asked them where this was. This person was wearing a blue outfit with a yellow glowing thing on his chest. He also had a weird looking hat. The person looked at the duo with a judging glare. He seemed angry.

“What? What do you mean you don’t know what a mask is? Are you from the age of dinosaurs? This is 2022!” the person sarcastically asked. Judge Pao shook his head. “Well, you’re charged HKD 5000 each for not wearing your masks in public. I would also like to check your ID,” the person said. Judge Pao and his assistant were confused. They had so many questions. The assistant questioned this person’s authority. The person then reacted with a stern glare. The person then replied strictly that he most certainly has the authority. The person then required Judge Pao and his assistant to follow him to the ‘police station’. Judge Pao was becoming ever more confused by the second.

Inside the person’s ‘vehicle’, as they called it, they introduced themselves as a policeman, and assumed that Judge Pao was a ‘foreigner’. He didn’t know what the policeman meant by that. But he didn’t ask any questions.

After they arrived at the police station, the policeman then led them to a room. The policeman then indicated the duo to sit and asked the duo for their personal information.

Upon hearing the judge’s name, the policeman had a look of disbelief. He suspected that Judge Pao was lying, but decided against it. Who would pretend to be a dead old man anyway?

“Alright, we’ve recently caught the suspects of a robbery case, If you can help us make them confess. I’ll clear your 5000 dollar fine,” said the policeman. Judge Pao stroked his beard in thought. “The solution to that is very simple. You simply tell the thieves in different rooms the following: If they confess to the crime, they would get a few years off their sentence, while their crime partner would get extra years instead. They will both be tempted and confess. Through the use of a loophole, both of them will be punished,” Judge Pao explained. The policeman understood and told his colleagues to put it in action immediately.

In the end, the thieves were successfully sent to prison, and all the stolen items were returned. The sheriff thanked Judge Pao for his help. While they were talking, Judge Pao suddenly felt the same sick feeling he felt back at the well. He heard a faint voice repeatedly telling him to wake up. When his head felt like it was about to split in half, his eyes shot wide open. His heart was beating at a dangerous rate. When he looked at his surroundings, he realized he was back on the lawn the well was on. He didn't know exactly what happened. But whatever it was, he would miss that crazy place.

The Other Side of Law

Sacred Heart Canossian School, Wong, Yi Lam Charlotte – 10

“Shling!”

The sound of the bloody blade being pulled out of the captain’s body was quickly followed by a muffled thump as he fell to the ground and breathed no more. The mysterious old lady remained stony-faced as she slipped into the shadows just as the soldiers spotted her.

“Sentence her to death!” the soldiers yelled, dragging the old lady in front of Judge Pao. “I’m guilty,” the old lady muttered, keeping her head down.

“What was your motive?” Judge Pao interrogated calmly. The lady’s face flushed crimson but she still stayed silent. Mr Gongsun and Guard Zhan watched nearby. “Such a strange case...” Judge Pao remarked as he sipped his tea. “She confessed anyway,” Mr Gongsun shrugged.

“It’s time to judge the dead, my Lord,” Guard Zhan burst in and stated. Pao sighed, as if working as a judge wasn’t enough, at night, he also had to judge the dead, such hard work!

“Why are there so many today?” Pao was astonished at the sight of thousands upon thousands of ghosts lining up at the Infernal Bureaucracy in front of him. “Song is at war with Liao, my Lord,” Gongsun replied as Zhan tried to keep the dead in line.

“Wang Zhong and Wang Yong...” Judge Pao summoned as he flipped the pages in the death registry. Two ghosts approached.

“You two brave brothers fought loyally protecting our motherland. Any final wishes?” Pao asked.

“Yes my Lord. We wish to see our mother and brother one last time. Her name is Xiao Lan.”

Judge Pao suddenly turned as pale as a ghost (which was ironic in front of a ghost).

“Your sons in the army want to see you, M’am,” Judge Pao announced the next day to the old lady.

“Can I? Really?” the old lady exclaimed, “Where are they?”

“Sadly, in the afterlife,” Pao answered.

“It’s time to tell the truth, Xiao Lan,” he demanded.

The old lady slowly sank into the depth of her memory...

“Please! Spare my youngest son, Wang Yi!” she cried.

“Rules are rules, woman! He needs to join the army!” the captain barked trying to shove the wailing old lady aside.

“He’s only eight!” she begged and begged.

“I don’t care!”

The captain tried to grab Wang Yi, but the kid was much more agile and dodged the captain.

“Run, my son, run!”

The old lady held the captain back as absolute chaos was unleashed. Out of mother’s instinct, adrenaline surged through her body, giving her the strength to grab and turn the sword from the hand of captain, who was caught completely off-guard.

As the soldiers arrived the scene, they could only see their captain tragically murdered, and an old lady utterly speechless and terrified.

“So, that’s the story,” Pao stroked his beard thoughtfully. “You might have breached the letter of the law, but with good cause. After all, love is the fulfillment of law,” he concluded. “I fully agree, my Lord,” Gongsun stated as Zhan nodded in total agreement.

“You may go now,” Judge Pao declared, “this is my verdict.”

“I just want to see my sons again...” the old lady cried. Her tears crashed into everyone’s heart in the court, filling them with pain, sorrow and pity.

“And where is your youngest child now?” Pao suddenly recalled.

Just then, the doors flew open and Wang Yi rushed into his mother’s arms. “I’m sorry I fled, mommy,” the son apologized, “I was too scared to stay, there was smoke and knives and people screaming, scary stuff.” Wang Yi began to cry, with a sound more painful than his mother’s.

“Hmm, I can see and hear the family resemblance,” Judge Pao nodded. But the heat of the fire had not yet passed.

Meanwhile, the soldiers were irked. “Seriously?,” one of them whispered to the soldier next to him, “She killed our captain and got away with it? This is outrageous, unacceptable, and simply unjust!”

His growl rose into an earthshaking bark as he drew his sword. “I cannot accept this! Pay for our captain’s life! An eye for an eye! Woof!” The two soldiers leapt in the air ready to strike.

Out of the blue, the ground shimmered with an explosion of violet light as the air filled with an earthy scent of death and mulch. Two ghosts burst out and blocked the soldiers’ swords, leaving them dazed and stumbling. One of the soldiers tried to strike again but was lifted into the air by the ghosts.

“Reunion at last,” Wang Zhong smiled warmly at his mother. “M..my srtfgn!” the old lady exclaimed and seemed to have forgotten how to talk. “Only the power of the purest spirit and the strongest bond can cross between the two worlds,” Pao remarked.

“I am afraid we have to go now,” the noble brothers spoke in union, “but at least we managed to protect you one last time.” Wang Yong hugged his mother and younger brother. Judge Pao turned to the soldiers and explained, “I’m sorry, but you need to understand revenge is never-ending. Only mutual understanding can break the terrible cycle.”

Down by the sea, Justice Pao, Mr Gongsun and Guard Zhan were enjoying their scrumptious supper watching the magnificent sunset. The soft lilac grass bowed down to the vermilion ball of fire in the rose red sky.

“We might have saved one today, but tonight there will be thousands more coming in, making it another extremely busy day with business as usual,” Pao sighed, “Only when there is mutual understanding and trust between nations can wider conflicts be resolved.”

“My Lord...” Zhan tried to say but was cut off.

“Shh! Don’t disturb my iconic moment! Let’s go back to work and hope the day will come sooner rather than later,” Pao concluded.

“That’s what I was about to...” Zhan tried again but Gongsun shot him a warning glance that meant “Save it.”

“Very well said, my Lord.” Mr Gongsun grinned as they left for the underworld.

The First Case of Izzy Pao

Singapore International School (Hong Kong), Arrowsmith, Lucia Alice – 11

People milled around us, all hustle and bustle. Brimming with excitement, I struggled to take it in. My first time in Hong Kong. Well, technically, I'd been here once before but as a toddler, so my memories were hazy.

I was staying with my grandfather, the amazing Judge Pao, for the summer holidays. I had read so much about his incredible adventures. He was my hero and I wanted to be a detective, just like him.

Fumbling for our tram tickets, we inched forward towards the entry gate. We were heading to the Peak to meet my grandmother for lunch. The sun shone brightly but dark, heavy clouds lurked above.

Shortly after boarding, the tram began trundling off up the hillside. I rushed to the front to get a better view and turned to Grandad excitedly, "So what murder mystery are we going to solve today?"

Grandad chuckled and shook his head. He'd heard this question many times in recent days. "Sorry, Izzie, there'll be no murder mysteries today, just lunch with your grandmother, OK?"

"But Graanddaaaaaad..." I exclaimed. His response wasn't a surprise but I wouldn't give up that easily, "I came all the way from England to visit you. I thought we could solve a mystery together..." I gave him my puppy dog eyes.

Grandad smiled. "Sorry to disappoint you Izzie, but you're a bit too young for that. Maybe one day..."

I sighed again but didn't push it further. I decided to focus on the scenery instead. Looking up, I became lost in a sea of lush, green forest, leaves glistening in the morning sunlight. I was lost in thought when the tram jerked to a halt at Kennedy Road. Some passengers boarded the tram.

Shortly after, rain fell heavily. We stopped once more at MacDonnell Road before the storm eased and trees parted to reveal towering buildings below.

Eventually, the tram arrived at its final destination. People flowed out of the tram, jostling impatiently as they searched for the exits. I turned to see Grandad frowning. Following his gaze I saw a man slumped in his seat.

I took a step closer and noticed the man was dressed smartly, in a suit. There was something unnatural about the way he sat, motionless. "Is he ok?" I whispered.

"I'm afraid not, Izzie," Grandad murmured. "Now, stand back, we shouldn't interfere with the crime scene."

"Crime scene?" I exclaimed.

"Well, nothing's certain. It's just that..." Grandfather's voice trailed off. He fell silent, lost in thought. "Please wait there Izzie, I'll be right with you".

Grandad continued to study the man. Scrunching his brow, he muttered to himself. "This man has been poisoned. But how and from what, I'm not sure... Hmmm..."

"Hmmm..." I chimed.

I recalled the scene when everyone left the tram. "Just now, there was one person who hurried away very quickly. They seemed anxious. I wonder..." I looked up at Grandad.

"Did you get a good look at him? Where was he heading?" Grandad asked.

I thought hard, squinting as I recalled the vague details. "They wore a brown coat and green overalls, all soaked through. He ran in that direction," I pointed to a narrow path.

We hurried along the path when something caught my eye. I stopped to pick up a tram ticket.

“Grandad!” I called. “Look what I found!”

Grandad rushed over as I pulled a magnifying glass from my satchel. “Where on earth did you get th...” Grandad started. He smiled and waited as I studied the ticket. The rain had caused the ink to run but I could just make out the date; it was today. But the time wasn’t clear.

“Hmmm...” I murmured. “The person I saw fleeing the tram was wet from the storm. It only started raining after we left Kennedy Road...so they must have boarded at MacDonnell Road. Three people got on at MacDonnell Road; a couple sat near us at the front of the tram and one person at the back.”

Grandad nodded. “OK. So three potential suspects. Let's find the couple first”.

I soon recognised the couple, dining at an outdoor restaurant but the ticket didn’t belong to them.

“It must be the person from the back of the tram,” Grandad observed.

I nodded, thinking the same thing. I had been racking my brains about the brown coat and green overalls. Not typical attire for a tourist. I knew I’d seen that outfit somewhere before. Then it clicked.

“Aha!” I cried. “I knew I’d seen that uniform somewhere! It’s from the animal shelter. I was there just yesterday with Grandma.”

“Excellent, Izzie!” Grandad replied. “Where is this shelter?”

“Just down this path, ” I replied.

Arriving at the shelter, we noticed a soaking wet brown coat hanging on a hook.

Grandad asked the staff, “Whom does this coat belong to?”

“Athena. She looks after exotics in the back garden,” a lady replied, pointing to the rear of the building.

As we stepped outside, a young lady with long black hair looked up anxiously.

“You must be Athena...” Grandad sighed.

“I’m sorry,” she cried. “So very sorry...”

Epilogue

Later, I learned the victim, Mr Lau, was a real estate developer due to acquire the animal shelter, to replace it with new apartments. Athena cared deeply for the animals and tried in vain to persuade Mr Lau to preserve the shelter. She knew he was heading to the Peak to sign contracts. Desperate, she followed him onto the tram and slipped a deathstalker scorpion into his coat. She only meant to scare him, to paralyse him, momentarily. But he had a reaction and nearly died. Thinking he was dead, Athena fled. Thankfully Mr Lau survived but Athena accepted her fate. She would be in jail for some time. Meanwhile, an anonymous donor had gifted funds to the shelter, preventing it from shutting down.

As for me, I had cracked my very first murder mystery with Grandad. I had a feeling it would be the first of many...

A True Portrayal of Justice Bao

Singapore International School (Hong Kong), Cheah, Zu Zheng Christopher – 11

“And...cut!”

Displayed on the clapperboard: 'Scene 1. Take 6.'

"Let's try again tomorrow!" French director Patrick Marty shouts to the production crew of 'Crime, Corruption, and Justice'.

Based on Marty's comic novels about Judge Bao, Season 1 was a Netflix sensation. Season 2, produced in Hong Kong, will cover Bao Zheng's earlier days.

“Listen, Chen! Can you give me a *true* portrayal of Justice Bao?” Marty demands.

Chen Zheng, a thirteen-year old actor, with dark makeup and a crescent on his head, feels the pressure. “Yes,” he lies with a fake smile. *But I can't*, he thinks. *I can never be true*.

Walking through a sea of skyscrapers, Chen sees it again below his housing complex. An unilluminated windowless office with four crimson Chinese characters and the letters 'ICAC'.

His heart beats faster, reminded of a traumatic past. His last memory of his mother was at her funeral. Shortly after, he was watching his father dragged by the ICAC to prison on TV. That dreadful night, he cried at a foster home until the next morning, comforted only by the sun's motherly, nurturing light.

Taking out a crumpled photograph from his wallet, Chen grits his teeth. He throws it, hard. But he picks it up from the ground, and *screams*. He wants to get rid of it forever. But it is his father. Chen cannot throw him away.

Reaching the fourth floor, he opens the apartment door. His father, out of prison a year ago, embraces him. “I've cooked dinner.”

They eat dumplings together.

“I know that look,” Chen's father says. “What's troubling you?”

“Acting...a true portrayal of Justice Bao, whatever that means.”

“You can do it. After all, we named you Zheng, *justice*.”

Chen scoffs, looking at a wall photo picturing rows of seated men, his grandfather and father front row centre. Above them is a triangle logo: the Chen clan. A triad criminal organization, originally from the Henan province.

“We're the opposite of justice,” Chen laments, seeing himself as one of them.

Chen's father does not respond.

“The ICAC, Justice Bao, I hate them all!”

Silence.

“I hate my name, Zheng!” Chen shouts. “I hate myself.”

His father hesitates. "It's time I tell you more about our family. Follow me."

Standing on a desk, Chen's father reaches up above the ceiling, bringing down boxes layered with dust.

He opens one box to reveal an old portrait.

"This is Chen Shinei, fictional in Chinese operas. But he was a real person, our ancestor, 1000 years ago. Records of him were erased because he was a convicted senior official. Although favoured and pardoned by Emperor Renzong, he was executed by Bao Zheng."

"What's this got to do with us?"

"Shinei left two young children behind, whom Bao secretly supported. However, our ancestors continued to rely on Bao's money. Requests for money turned into demands and threats on Bao's descendants and businesses, for 29 generations. That's how our Chen clan became the largest triad network, from Kaifeng to Hong Kong, which your late grandfather headed."

Opening a second box, Chen's father pulls out a photograph of two smiling men, seated next to each other inside a Hong Kong ferry.

"This is your grandfather and Y.K. Pao, 29th grandchild of Bao Zheng. They became true friends, eventually."

"How could that be?"

"Your grandfather changed. He and I wanted a new start for our clan. No more crime and corruption. But it was difficult. Other triad clans wanted to take over. I refused. They threatened us. And..."

Chen's father pauses, faltering. "And they got your mother. It wasn't a car accident."

Tears start to well up in Chen's eyes. Then he feels a burst of anger, imagining revenge, *one day*.

"I wanted to fight back, which would have started a triad clan war. But your mother would have disapproved. Instead, I planned something else, the right way. A plan to dismantle the triads from the inside, to keep their suspicions off me, to keep you safe."

"What did you do?" Chen asks.

"I approached the ICAC, and worked undercover for them. Going to prison was staged."

Chen is stunned.

"You were in a guarded foster home, until it was safe. And now, it's safe."

Chen is speechless.

"We're going to be fine now," assures Chen's father, his protective arms wrapping tightly around him.

Chen hugs his father, something he has not done for a long time. He finally cries, all his emotions flooding the room, realising he was never abandoned but protected, and his father was not a criminal but fought for justice.

"Your mother's proud of you," says Chen's father, looking at her portrait.

Both imagine her smiling with them, crying with them.

"She's proud of you too, dad."

Chen feels his built-up bitterness recede, like a wave returning to the sea, and what remains in him is hope.

As Chen's father gazes outside, illuminated by the crescent moon, he recalls a story from his late father. "I still have one more secret for you. A story of Bao's childhood, told by Bao himself to our ancestors..."

A pale-faced young Bao is held down inside a cave in Hefei, by men in white robes of the Song dynasty. "Declare your allegiance to our clan! Or we'll scar you for life."

Bao refuses.

They push him towards a burning furnace. His face turns dark, his head scorched with a crescent moon. Bao screams as blood flows down, and shouts, "Justice will find you, one day! *One day!*"

"And...cut!"

Displayed on the clapperboard: 'Scene 1 *revised version*. Take 7.'

"Bravo! A true portrayal of Justice Bao!" director Marty salutes Chen. "Whatever your *inspiration* is, keep it with you."

Chen takes out that crumpled photo again, this time gently, this time with a different thought.

My father's life is a portrayal of a hero, a Bao Zheng.

And my life can now be true. I am Zheng, and I stand for Justice.

The New Tales of Judge Pao

Singapore International School (Hong Kong), Cheng, Stanley – 11

November 28, 2042...

“When we get the gold, we’re going to be rich!” whispered a man to another, the pitch of his voice rising in excitement.

“Yes, filthy rich!” laughed the other with a wicked grin on his face. “We’re going to rule the world!”

“Silence!” ordered the leader of the first two men. “I want absolute silence! No whispering! No giggling! No murmuring! No breathing! Not a single sound!”

“Yes sir!” replied the two men in chorus, as the burglars quietly shifted into the private room of the royal mansion.

What came into view was over 100 pure gold bars gleaming with bright light. When the men put their hands on the gold, suddenly, the room flashed with raging red lights, as the ear-piercing screeches of sirens overpowered their senses.

The owner was awoken by the cacophony. He instantly knew what was going on.

“Bodyguards, catch the thieves!” the owner commanded, shouting at the top of his lungs. “Get them!”

The men stuffed what gold they could into their bags and carried the dense bags out of the room, through the garden, and out into the vast wilderness beyond, as fast as their legs could carry them. The bodyguards could not catch up. It was too late. The burglars were nowhere to be seen.

Two days later...

“Aha!” cried Detective Mike, as he finally found the security room after searching for over an hour. He repeatedly looked at the footage, recorded the information, and walked out of the residence.

Over the day, Detective Mike surveyed everyone in the small town, finding a person who was exactly 5’9 tall, had a limp on his left leg, and wore reflective striped shoes. After almost a whole day of examining, he found a man who lived by the corner of the town who met the requirements. He was a perfect match with one of the burglars.

Three days later...

Detective Mike brought the man to the judge and explained everything.

The court still did not have enough evidence to prove the man’s guilt, so they appointed Judge Pao to investigate, who rescanned the entire house all over again.

After Detective Mike’s long, irritating explanation, the judge could not take it anymore. “Mr. John Miller,” the judge started, “Of stealing 126 gold bars, you are proven guilty—”

Abruptly, the door banged open, and Judge Pao ran in, bringing a blast of cold air with him. “Stop!” he shouted. “Let the man go! He is innocent!”

The crowd of people was bewildered, completely bowled over by what they had just seen, unable to speak. After one minute, the judge finally broke the silence. “Well, can you prove it?”

“Your Honour, though I cannot ascertain the identities of the culprits, I can verify that this man is innocent!” Judge Pao began. “Firstly, Detective Mike probably has not noticed, but the camera was mirrored over.

This man over here has a limp on his left leg, while the man caught on camera has a limp on his right leg, not his left. In addition, although this suspect is relatively poor, his neighbours claim that he is a man of integrity and has no history of wrongdoing in his entire life. Furthermore, the footprints inside the house are from the same brand of shoes; however, this brand of shoes is extremely popular, and I can swear that there are over a thousand people wearing these shoes at this exact moment in this town alone. Most importantly, there's a lack of physical evidence: there are no gold bars inside this man's house, and therefore, he may be innocent."

The judge was convinced by Judge Pao's clear and persuasive report, "Alright, so how long will you need to find the burglars?"

"Four weeks."

During the four weeks, Judge Pao searched every single market in the town. One buyer told him that three men had sold him gold. He also told Judge Pao that one of the men was 5'9, had a limp on his left leg, and wore reflective striped shoes. Judge Pao totaled up 57 people for being suspicious. He then inspected them all and eliminated 39 people for being rich, having honest personalities, and not being envious. For the remaining 18 suspects, Judge Pao asked them where they were and what they did on the night of the crime. Out of the 18, 15 people had friends, family members, or passers-by confirm that they were not at places they were not supposed to be. There were only three left. Together with Detective Mike, Judge Pao brought the three suspects to court.

"Your Honour," said Judge Pao, bowing to the judge, "I have found one of the thieves."

"Who is that?" questioned the judge, suddenly freed from her boredom, her head perking up and her eyes widening in exhilaration.

Judge Pao took a deep breath and said, "Detective Mike."

The judge was flabbergasted, "Pardon me, can you repeat it again?"

"The criminal," answered Judge Pao, "Is Detective Mike Smith."

He continued, "As you see, Detective Mike perfectly fits the description of the man caught on camera: 5'9, has a limp on his left leg, and wears reflective striped shoes. Moreover, according to the market gold sellers' record, a man with the last name of 'Smith' sold precisely 126 gold bars. What's more, he has no alibi. One of his colleagues told me that he was supposed to be dining with him on the night of the burglary; however, he went somewhere else."

The judge interrogated Detective Mike, "Mr. Smith, Can you prove your innocence?"

"Well...well...um," he stammered, "I—"

"Mr. Mike Smith," interrupted the judge, "Is arrested for stealing 126 gold bars. He will be imprisoned for six months and must pay a \$100,000 fine for burglary, as well as return all stolen property."

Judge Pao patted Detective Mike on the back. He glanced back.

"Nice try."

Afterward, Detective Mike was forced to reveal the identities of the other two burglars. Later, Detective Mike, together with the other two burglars, were put in prison for 6 months. Meanwhile, Judge Pao was rewarded \$45,000 for finding the burglars. Case closed.

School Adventures of Judge Pao

Singapore International School (Hong Kong), Chung, Hei Yan Charisse – 11

Judge Pao was on a hiatus and wanted to try doing something less intensive, so he signed up to fill in as a form teacher in Crescent Moon Primary School.

It was the end of recess and students flooded back into the classroom. When Pao stepped in, the students greeted him. Pao felt something was amiss. He scanned the classroom and his gaze landed on Amia's empty seat.

"Is Amia absent today?" asked Pao.

"She was here this morning. May I help you find her?" Suddenly, Amia's friend, Carolyn bolted up from her seat.

Pao was silent. His investigative mind instinctively told him that something was wrong.

Minutes later, Carolyn returned. Distress spread over her face as she panted anxiously and exclaimed, "Amia... she has locked herself in the toilet wailing and she doesn't respond to me!"

Pao knitted his eyebrows in deep thought. He gathered from Carolyn that Amia was upset and had been avoiding everyone. It was uncharacteristic for an extroverted girl to act like this. Questions raced through his mind and he had a strong urge to get to the root of the matter.

Later that day, Pao contacted Amia's mother.

"My daughter has been unusually quiet. I have tried to talk to her but all she said was that everything is fine. Please excuse Amia from school tomorrow as she is unwell," requested Amia's mother.

Pao was not going to be a mediocre teacher. He always knew that doing extra could lead him to gather clues to solve cases. So, the next day, Pao visited Amia.

"Amia has been receiving many postcards recently. The strange thing is they are blank except for a red 'X'. Amia doesn't seem to like them," said Amia's mother.

"May I take a look at Amia's room?" asked Pao as Amia was not home.

Pao glanced around and noticed bits of ripped paper in the trash bin. When the pieces were put together, it seemed to resemble... a bird. Carefully, he placed them into a bag and took them away.

Next day, Pao arrived at school early. The morning sun rays shone and reflected against the glass panels of the class noticeboard. Pao was almost blinded by the bright light that bounced into his eye. He went over, and soon a colourful image zoomed in as he walked closer.

It was a piece of artwork by a student, a colourful macaw. The drawing was splendid, and the iridescent bird looked realistic.

"This looks familiar," thought Pao, as he racked his brain to recall where he had seen it before.

Suddenly, it struck him. Pao quickly took out the ripped pieces of the postcard from his backpack. As he compared the two drawings, Pao's face darkened. It was the same bird. The illustrator of this artwork was Adrian Lin.

When the students arrived in class, Pao told Adrian to come forward. Adrian froze, his face turning slightly pale as he walked limply towards Pao's desk.

Pao said, "Your drawing of the macaw is very impressive."

Adrian waited for Pao to continue, his heart thumping fast.

Gingerly, Pao took out the postcard that was now patched together.

Adrian's eyes widened and looked uncomfortable as he eyed around the classroom nervously, as if crying out for help.

"Are these postcards from you?" Pao said sternly.

"No... no. Yes, it's mine," Adrian stuttered in despair, awaiting punishment.

"Our school will not tolerate bullying. Disciplinary action will be taken on those who have broken the rules," said Pao aloud.

Then his head turned around to the back of the class and said, "Thomas, James and Henry, come with me to the disciplinary master's office."

Adrian stared at Pao in bewilderment while the surprised faces of these three boys suddenly turned a shade of deep red.

Pao took the boys aside and said sternly, "I have already found out what you boys have done. If you want a second chance, this is the only time for you to come clean."

Cold sweat dripped down the boys' faces and Henry spoke in a small voice.

"We have a competition for the most popular person. Whoever has the highest vote wins and it has always been Amia. We were jealous and changed the game where everyone votes for the most hated person by sending an anonymous postcard marked with a red "X" to the person. Adrian overheard our plan to prank Amia by sending her many postcards. We did not want Adrian to reveal our secret and threatened him. We decided to send postcards with his drawing to cover our tracks."

Pao solemnly asserted, "You have committed a grave mistake. You have made Amia believe that everyone in class hates her. You have also made Adrian the scapegoat when he is innocent. You have behaved like rotten apples, bullying your classmates and causing them mental distress."

The three boys knew they could not deny the truth anymore.

"Mr Pao, we're wrong. We didn't know this would snowball into an avalanche. Please give us a chance to repent. We will never do that again."

"I can see you are truly remorseful. Go apologise to your classmates and ask for their forgiveness," said Pao.

The boys nodded their heads pensively. Suddenly, James' head perked up and he asked with a perplexed look, "Mr Pao, how did you know it was us?"

Pao replied, "While I was talking to Adrian, I was actually looking at the responses of the class. I knew it wouldn't be him because no culprit would want to leave behind his footprints. So when I saw the group of you trying to hide your faces behind your books while others were looking on with empathy, your body gestures told me something." With Pao's many years of experience of being a judge, he knew by instinct that that was a sign of guilt.

Thus, Judge Pao brought the power of justice and righteousness wherever he went, and continued the legacy of the Pao family.

The Case of the Triple Murder and Corruption

Singapore International School (Hong Kong), Fan, Yi Heng – 10

It was a spring day in ancient China, a land full of culture and joy. High up in the mountains lush with grass and trees, there nestled a small wooden house. Dozens of willows shook in the merciless wind, under the periwinkle-blue sky.

The door of the house creaked open, and out came an old man. He wore traditional Chinese clothes lined with fine silk, a hat that officials used, and had a long snow-white beard that dropped until his waist. He strode out into path along the limitless ocean of trees, as numerous leaves flew gently down from the branches of the willows.

Suddenly, footsteps rang out. A messenger rushed up to the old man and puffed before he reported, “Justice Pao! Justice Pao! There’s a new case!” In fact, the old man was actually Justice Pao, a renowned detective of Ancient China. Of all the cases he was involved in, all of them were solved by him! In Ancient China, he was now a legend, and whenever there was an unsolvable case, the police would always request assistance from him.

Justice Pao replied, “Please do tell me the details!”

The messenger explained, “Last week, there was a devastating earthquake in Hangzhou, a city in Eastern China. There were uncountable casualties and injuries. Therefore, our king kindly sent relief provisions to the survivors. Three officials were in charge of distributing the provisions, and they are Kang Lu, Dong Sa, and Xu Bo. The strange thing is that after the provisions were sent to these officials to distribute, Kang Lu and Dong Sa were murdered, and the provisions that they were in charge of vanished into thin air. What’s more is that Xu Bo’s provisions that he was in charge of did not arrive at Hangzhou. The police thinks that Xu Bo is the culprit, but then Xu Bo was murdered too. Therefore, the police conclude that the culprit is an official, as the citizens don’t know who the officials in charge of it are.”

“But the culprit may be a friend of one of the officials, as friends tell each other about secrets,” argued Justice Pao.

“Ah! Now, the police says that the culprit is definitely not an official, as the police have raided all of the officials’ houses and returned empty-handed,” agreed the messenger, “and, Justice Pao, come and follow me to the three officials’ houses one by one!”

The messenger led Justice Pao down the winding path, and eventually, they reached a police horse-drawn carriage. The horses galloped down the street, pulling the carriage along with it. After a while, the carriage turned round a corner, and halted to a stop in front of a gargantuan mansion. The messenger announced, “We are now at Kang Lu’s house!” The house dominated the normal houses around, as if it was a mountain rising over rolling hills.

They went in and met Kang Lu’s wife. She said, “Five days ago, my husband was sleeping at ten o’clock while a black figure crept in and stabbed him with a dagger. After that, the murderer fled by jumping through the window and climbing over the wall in the garden.” Justice Pao closed his eyes to think in his own quiet world.

He questioned, “Does your husband have really close friends?”

“Yes, his name is Yu Rui who died of disease several years ago.” she replied.

“Okay, but I have another urgent appointment, so I need to leave,” he explained before he pulled the door open and stepped out. The pair boarded the carriage and it set off with a whoosh. After a while, the carriage left urban area and drove along an erratic path located on treacherous mountain ridges. Eventually, they arrived at Dong Sa’s house. Even though Dong Sa’s house wasn’t big, but he owned an unbelievable amount of land, and most of the land was full of paths to enjoy the panoramic view. The pair stepped in and Dong Sa’s wife, who said sorrowfully, “Five days ago, my husband was killed by a fatal stab, which a black figure who crept in had delivered at midnight. He bled for hours and died at dawn.”

Justice Pao asked, “Does your husband have any intimate friends?”

“My husband has one intimate friend called Feng Tao Wan who has relocated to Tianjin,” she answered.

“Hmmm...Okay, then,” he said, “but I have to leave as I have something else to do.” So, the pair retreated out of the house and clambered onto the carriage. The carriage sped off, leaving a cloud of dust behind. After some ten minutes, they re-entered the urban area and stopped outside a miniature house.

Concerned, Justice Pao asked, “Is this really Xu Bo’s house?”

The messenger answered, “This is Xu Bo’s house, even though it is tiny on the outside, it is infinite on the inside. There is a system of underground rooms, right under our feet, which is part of Xu Bo’s house. They went in and met Xu Bo’s wife, who said, “My husband was stabbed by a black figure at night.”

Justice Pao asked, “Does your husband have intimate friends?”

“Well, yes, he has one friend named Li Fuo Yan, he isn’t travelling, and he will visit today.” she replied.

He questioned, “What does Li Fuo Yan look like?”

She answered, “He has a white beard and many scars.”

“The police says they spotted a person matching this description in Xu Bo’s, Dong Sa’s, and Kang Lu’s houses.” whispered the messenger to Justice Pao.

Suddenly, the door opened and in stepped Li Fuo Yan. Out of the blue, Justice Pao leaped out, pinned him onto the floor, and shouted, “You are arrested for the murders of Xu Bo, Kang Lu, Dong Sa, and corruption!” He was taken by surprise and looked furious. He was tied and brought onto the carriage, which transported him to the king’s palace. The king ordered him to be imprisoned for life, and that’s all in a day’s work for Justice Pao!

The Fall Of The Criminal King

Singapore International School (Hong Kong), Fu, Ying Xi – 11

The year 1996, Zhang Zi Qiang, the most wanted criminal in China, plotted a case involving Hong Kong's wealthiest man, Li.

Plink, Plink! Rainwater seeped from a hole in Zhang's tiny ramshackle shack and fell with a soft pitter-patter. Zhang shuddered as the freezing wind whistled past his ear. Zhang opened his soggy box to reveal gigantic cockroaches crawling around, looking for food.

"How come I, the great criminal king, deserve this?" Zhang wondered aloud.

He picked up a newspaper about Hong Kong's most prosperous man, Li Ka-Shing.

"Victor Li, the successor of Li Ka-Shing, is the perfect target," Zhang rubbed his hands thoughtfully.

On some scraps, he planned the kidnapping carefully. An hour later, with rain lashing angrily on his face, Zhang carried off Li's son. He dragged the boy up muddy hills and finally arrived back at the shack. By the time a bomb was attached to the boy's wrist, the boy had woken up pale and unnerved.

Ring! The black phone on Li's desk screamed as loud as a hyena. Li Ka-Shing picked it up wearily and an eerie voice replied.

"I am the well-known criminal mastermind, Zhang Zi Qiang, and I have kidnapped your son. Either you pay the ransom without notifying the police, or your son dies," Zhang cackled maliciously, before hanging the phone.

Li Ka-Shing sat down shakily, pondering what to do next. His trustworthy friend and distinguished detective, Judge Pao, was the first person he thought of. Pao, also known as Justice Pao, had a fierce belief in the truth, leading him to become the number one judge in China. Pao had the habit of collecting information about criminals to help him solve cases. He was well-known for solving complicated cases like "The Black Basin", bringing justice to the world. Pao is the perfect person to ask for help! Ignoring the drizzling rain, Li Ka-Shing set out in a dark hood.

Soon, he was at Judge Pao's house, blurting everything out. Pao was incredibly calm. He wisely knew that worrying would not get you anywhere. He listened with interest and asked every single detail there was to tell. "Based on my experience with criminals, we need to know our opponent first," Pao says.

Taking out a large binder of Zhang's previous crimes, Pao compared them, noting their similarities. Li watched as Pao worked, fascinated by how Pao collected and combined pieces of information in only five minutes. Pao was reliable and took his work seriously.

From his study, Pao learned how Zhang preyed on his targets. A criminal mastermind collects enough information about his target before committing the crime. Li Ka-Shing is rich. Not even a billion dollars can make up for his son's life. There is the Chinese idiom, "Where there is life, there is hope" – 留得青山在，不怕沒柴燒. Knowing Li understood, Zhang dared to target such a high-profile person in HK.

To solve the problem faster, Pao connected previous crimes to the present. Realising that to catch Zhang, he has to think from Zhang's point of view and predict Zhang's actions; studying reports is not enough. He has to observe Zhang in person. Pao took out a piece of parchment and began planning a strategy to learn more about Zhang. He suggested Li pay the ransom but only under one condition that Zhang has to come to Li's house in person to negotiate the price, so Pao can observe Zhang at a close distance.

"He would ask for a high ransom. No matter how much he asked for, say that you can only provide half of it as the bank doesn't have that much money. Stall him as long as possible. I will be observing from behind the bookshelf," Pao advised Li.

At this, Li admired how Pao had always been brave. He was always willing to be on the front line to find out the truth, no matter how risky it was. This attitude helped him solve many cases.

Meanwhile, in the filthy shack, Zhang reviewed his detailed plans when the telephone rang and broke his thoughts. Li accepted to pay the ransom but only if he met Zhang in person. Zhang agreed.

“Are you sure there are no police there, boss?” his operative asked cautiously.

“How dare you question me! I am the invincible criminal king who is always right. I am a billion times smarter than you,” Zhang snapped coldly.

The operative cowered in the corner. Zhang strode out confidently.

Zhang pranced into Li’s mansion, “Just as I thought! I have you figured out. All affluent people are timid. You are willing to pay billions of dollars than call for help.”

Bao observed Zhang’s weakness of having down-right arrogance. Li and Zhang negotiated, finally agreeing on a billion dollars.

Three days later, a black car pulled up by Li’s lawn. Li joyfully embraced his son. Even better, Pao had an idea of Zhang’s whereabouts.

“Zhang is tricky but his team has flaws. Operatives are great sources of information for us. Based on the Black Basin case, the operatives may not always be as evil or smart as their boss. This makes them the key to capturing Zhang,” Pao replied wisely.

Victor Li recalled a nine-fingered bald person nicknamed “Goldfingers”.

“Albert Bell,” Pao identified immediately.

They found Albert hiding in Zhang’s shack, near where he was last seen. A half-burnt map of China was also uncovered. Knowing that Zhang’s arrogance may not put Albert in the same boat, Pao estranged Albert, convincing him to blurt out everything he knew. Regrettably, he did not know the exact location of Zhang.

“Criminals like Zhang are big spenders. They cannot resist the urge to spend money on drinking, gambling, and other bad habits, so we can just keep our eye out for all possible big spender locations,” Pao remarked.

Days later, Zhang got captured burning cash to light cigarettes in a public pub. He failed an appeal and was executed, screaming louder than a whale.

The legendary Pao had ended the Criminal King.

The Nail in the Coffin

Singapore International School (Hong Kong), Kam, Hei Yin Cadence – 11

1016 A.D.

The wind blew through the branches of the nearby trees, rustling leaves concealed in shadow. The village down to the right was hidden in darkness, overcast by a cloud. High above it all, an erubescant pearl drifted in the dark waters of the night, casting a reddish glow on the earth.

All was silent and calm. Even the birds were asleep. But a flicker of movement could be seen down below.

A small crooked shadow, illuminated by the moonlight, crept across the ground and through the window, nimbly unlocking it and locking it behind her. A half-muffled scream erupted, but all was still moments after.

There were no neighbours. There was no one awake. Nobody to witness the deed but the moon, which shone just as it had, as if nothing had happened at all.

★★★

1018 A.D.

"Husband? Your breakfast is ready!" a woman moved through the house with a tray, pausing at the door of a room. She called, "I'm coming in now!" When no response was given, she entered, seeing a young man lying on his bed. She touched him softly to wake him up—and jerked back, shuddering.

He was stone dead.

★★★

The coroner moved carefully around the body, poking and prodding. Finally, he looked up. "No signs of injury. He died a natural death."

"That cannot be right. He's so young. No illnesses, too. It seems suspicious to me. You're very sure?" Judge Pao asked.

"I've now conducted an autopsy. There's no injury to the entire body at all."

"Well, it still seems strange to me. If reports come that he died an unnatural death, you'll be fired." Judge Pao strode out of the room. The coroner stared after him, but after a few seconds, turned around and began to pack up his tools, all the while muttering under his breath.

★★★

"And he said that I would be fired if it was discovered that he died an unnatural death," the coroner finished. He was sitting in his living room with his wife next to him, recounting the day's events.

The only sound that could be heard for a long while was the birds chirping outside.

"I hate to say this, but... couldn't someone force long metal nails into the brain without injuring the body? Maybe through the nose?" the wife whispered.

★★★

"Do you know why you have been arrested?" Judge Pao's harsh voice echoed through the courtroom.

The widow gulped before speaking, "Yes. I know you have the evidence"—her eyes shot to the long nail still rusty with blood, sitting on a cushion in front of Judge Pao—"but hear my reasons. They may not help, but I want them to be known.

"My husband and I were never happy from the very start. My parents wanted me to marry into a rich household, even if it meant my being unhappy. He would go out drinking, taking drugs and gambling. At those times, he beat me with whatever was lying around the house and I was helpless.

"That night, we argued. I told him to stop drinking and he wouldn't. I went to bed covered in bruises. It was the final nail in the coffin. The abuse, the beatings, and finally that argument..." she broke down into tears. "I couldn't bear it any longer. Before I knew it, that very night, I had snuck into the bedroom with a long nail and he was dead."

The harsh voice sounded again, "That cannot excuse you."

The guillotine came down. Blood splattered everywhere.

★★★

After the trial, Judge Pao took the coroner's wife aside. "What's your name?"

"Chen Ding Dai Ti," she replied.

"You must be a highly intelligent and creative woman. I would like to know whether this man—" he gestured to the coroner "—has hurt you in any way."

"No, never. He always treats me well and never belittles me," the words poured out of her easily and naturally, but Judge Pao noticed that there was a tiny hint of wariness about her.

"Have you ever had another name other than the one you have given me?"

"Yes, Li Ding Dai Ti. Li was the surname of my first husband," she paused for a while, then continued. "Li Bi Lei died a natural death two years ago."

"How old was he when he died?"

"He was eighty."

Judge Pao frowned, but let her go.

After the coroner's wife had left, Judge Pao turned to his servant, "Did the widow have any siblings?"

"She did. The coroner's wife, Ding Dai Ti."

"Well, then that's the root of this mystery. Perhaps her first husband didn't die naturally. I just need one more piece of evidence..." He called over two men and whispered to them. They nodded, then disappeared into the night.

★★★

The wind blew through the branches of the nearby trees, rustling leaves concealed in shadow. The village down to the right was hidden in darkness, overcast by a cloud not unlike the one two years before. But this time, there was no blood moon. Just plain moonlight.

And there was a grave in front of the little house atop a hill, now long abandoned.

They reached the top of the hill and looked down at the grave in front of them. The moonlight illuminated the characters written on the gravestone: "LI BI LEI".

They dug. Down and down and down, until they struck it.

A coffin.

They opened the lid and the body of a young man lay resting inside. His features were cruel and twisted—during his life, he had enjoyed causing harm to everyone around him, and it showed in his face. But the two men had only one goal tonight. One reached into the coffin, delving into this man's brain, until he found it.

The hand retracted, holding... a nail.

The nail in the coffin that was never expected.

The King, War, and the Rule of Law

Singapore International School (Hong Kong), Larard, Charles – 10

Who am I?

Where am I?

Answers come quickly. I am a judge. Having solved many cases, I am known to others as Justice Pao.

But where am I? I'm not sure.

My eyes open and I suddenly sense another presence beside me. Am I in somebody else's mind? I can see everything, but I can't control my actions.

"Dad, Mum, morning," the other person says. So disrespectful! But... the parents aren't angry. They're *smiling*.

The person goes to what I think is the bathroom, and I glimpse a reflection. Such clear mirrors... They aren't even a little yellow! Suddenly, I realise that I'm in the future, in much more developed, modern times.

How did I get here?

I try remembering the last thing I'd done.

"Are you sure about this?" an unfamiliar voice rang out.

"Yes," that was my voice.

So I must have agreed to this... but with whom? I struggle to remember more, and maybe... just maybe, that person was the Emperor of Heaven.

I recall more... and remember dying.

So, I ended up here because I died, stayed in Heaven, and got sent back to Earth.

That's a lot to take in.

Meanwhile, my host, which I've decided to call him, puts on something he calls a "shirt", black "pants", and a black coat. Then he shouts, "Dad! Mum! I'm going out now!"

"Alright!" I hear a shout. Then my host goes out.

Wow! What are these... "cars"? Wonderful! While I'm marveling at the wonders of the future, my host starts looking through information in his brain... and immediately discovers me there.

Who are you? he thinks.

I am a person from the past reliving inside you, I tell him.

No, I'm just imagining you. He doesn't believe that I'm real.

I am real!

We'll see.

We are in a building now. Look at those “lights”! Amazing! My host is sitting in a chair, his mood an awful storm. Another person is contradicting whatever he says. What’s going on? I rummage through my host’s memories.

Cases...

Files...

Clients...

The laws...

I get it now. This is 2022, my host is called Jake, and he’s a lawyer.

Hey, psssst! Over here!

What? he asks.

I can help!

You’re just some voice in my head! he scoffs.

We’ll see, I think indignantly.

Later on, we go to a “hospital”. It’s kind of like our medicine rooms, but more advanced. There’s a little girl selling fried dough sticks, too. She has asthma, no parents, but not enough money to get treatment. Knowing her predicament, the hospital lets her sell fried dough sticks for five minutes in each room every day. Jake heads straight to Room 501, buying some fried dough sticks from the girl.

When we exit the hospital, we find the little girl crying at the main lobby. Upon seeing Jake, she stops crying. Jake approaches her and asks if she’s alright.

“Yes,” she says. But her tears betray her, and we immediately know that something’s wrong.

“No, you’re not,” Jake says.

The girl bursts into tears and starts crying loudly. We watch, astonished.

“I was selling fried dough sticks, and I felt so tired, so I came here and slept,” the little girl utters between fits of tears, “and when I woke up, my pouch of money was missing!”

Uh—oh, how do I help her? Jake thinks.

I can help! I pipe up.

How? You’re just a voice!

Just... Let me take over, I reply.

What? How?

Close your eyes and relax.

Uh... Okay, but this is probably my mind tricking me... that last thought fades away as I come out and take control of Jake's body.

Ahh... I take in my first breath of fresh air in a long, long time. *Okay, time for real business!*

"Little girl, where did you fall asleep?" I ask.

"Over there," the little girl sniffs, pointing at a marble statue.

Ding! A—I think it's a lift?—arrives at the main lobby. Many people come out.

"Okay, I'll ask the marble statue who stole your money," I say confidently—more confident than I feel. So many people have stopped to watch—they don't know who I am, will they believe me? My heart beats furiously. I *have* done this before... I hold to that strand of hope.

"Statue, did you see who stole the girl's money?" I bend down and say aloud. Then I lift my head and tell the audience, "It says that each of you need to give it ten cents. You can put it in my water bottle." I take Jake's water bottle, unscrew the top and put it on the floor.

"Just ten cents. Okay," one person mutters and throws a coin in. The others follow.

One by one the coins go in... and one creates a splash of oil.

"Wait—stop!" I yell, lunging forward to catch the person's arm as he tries to run. Some people come and pin the man to the ground. In his hand is a little pouch. I motion for the little girl to come forward.

"Little girl, is this yours?"

"Yes!" she squeals happily. Her face lights up with joy as she takes the pouch and skips away.

Many questions are being asked and I explain, "When the girl sold fried dough sticks, her hands and the coins she touched got oily. The thief stole these oily coins, so I set this trap to catch him. That's why I used a water bottle to collect them—I could easily tell whether the coin was oily or not. The statue never actually talked."

Silence. Then applause, and a voice.

Wow! Smart! Now please let me out!

Oh, yes. Sorry.

I close my eyes and fade back.

Hey, who are you? Jake asks when the exchange is done.

I am known to you as Judge Pao.

Oh... Wow.

We'll make a great team together, you and I, Jake, I say.

And I know we will.

Judge Pao Interrogates the Rock

Singapore International School (Hong Kong), Lee, Chun Wei Kyra – 11

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Oh, yes. Sorry.

I close my eyes and fade back.

Hey, who are you? Jake asks when the exchange is done.

I am known to you as Judge Pao.

Oh... Wow.

We'll make a great team together, you and I, Jake, I say.

And I know we will.

The Mystery of the Lost Pearl

Singapore International School (Hong Kong), Leung, Quentin – 10

It was a pleasing morning: birds were chirping; the sun was gleaming – bringing along new hopes and aspirations. *All was well.*

Ho-Tin yanked his shovel down through the loamy earth and felt something clanging against it. Out of the corner of his eye, he noticed something through the overlying dirt. A shrill shriek pierced through the air. “Bones?” he cried. “*Human* bones?”

Ho-Tin was a hardworking farmer, constantly ploughing and harvesting throughout the year. He lived in the province of He Nan, with Ai-Tian (wife) and Ho-Ming (son), who always helped him with his tasks.

Ho-Tin called out into the distance, showing them the unexpected occurrence of bones in his field. “Should we report this?”

“B...b...bones?” Ho-Ming queried curiously. Ho-Tin rambled away in a hurry to report the situation.

He spotted an officer called Lung-Kuen through the crowded streets and told him what he had discovered. Lung-Kuen appeared startled and perked up his ears when he heard *bones*.

“Hmmm...,” he then mumbled, with a slight hint of interest. “Mind if I visit?”

Ho-Tin pointed at the bones as they arrived. Lung-Kuen grabbed a shovel and hauled it down the soil, causing the bones to crack into fragments. Ho-Tin *winc*ed.

Apart from the scattered bones, Lung-Kuen glanced intently at a rusty jade seal marking the words ‘*Your Majesty*’. Could the bones be the remains of the *last Emperor*? In a split second, Lung-Kuen’s eyes filled with lust, as desire manifested in him. “Everyone, OUT!” he ordered firmly. “This place is restricted.”

Having no choice, Ho-Tin and his family left the field. Surrounding the shattered bones were glistening jewels, shimmering before Lung-Kuen’s eyes. With one avaricious glance, he stashed the cherished treasures away, hoping Ho-Tin would oversee the teeming pocket.

Lung-Kuen left discreetly, without a *single* word.

The next day, a troop of soldiers from Kaifeng were deployed to arrest Ho-Tin for thievery of the *Emperor’s possessions*. “Stop!” Ho-Tin insisted. “I’m innocent!”

He felt incredulous yet inquisitive. *I had only dug up* bones, Ho-Tin mused, *not* treasures.

The soldiers chained up Ho-Tin. He earned himself stares, teases, and mocks – despite the reassurance of his innocence. His cries were nonetheless audible along the route toward the prison.

Ho-Ming and Ai-Tian mourned the imprisonment of their beloved, whom the brutal and immoral guards thrashed. “P...p...please stop,” Ho-Tin stammered feebly, cowering in the far corner. His scars flickered in the dark cell with blood, as he begged for *mercy*.

DONG! “Judge Pao!” Ai-Tian wailed, striking the drum at Kaifeng, where justice was served. Her face illustrated dismay, as she wept. “My husband has been mistaken! Help me!”

Originally named ‘*Pao Zheng*’, he had a crescent moon scar on his forehead. Known for being upright, fearless, and stern, he combated any form of injustice.

“State your name,” Pao ordained.

“Ai-Tian.”

“Reason for coming?”

“Ho–Tin, my husband, has been accused of stealing the Emperor’s possessions–”

“*What?*”

“He didn’t! Lung–Kuen examined the bones while Ho–Tin and I waited for him. Lung–Kuen then exited hurriedly, as if in a rush!”

“I understand,” Pao nodded as the *first intriguing clue* appeared. “Wait for further summons...”

The next day, Pao paid a visit to the site, hoping to verify clues. “There are boot–prints in the soil...” he mumbled under his breath.

Pao then summoned Lung–Kuen and the accused Ho–Tin to Kaifeng.

Ho–Tin, limping in with his bare feet, knelt in front of Pao; his face full of scratches and stains of blood; his shirt torn and ripped. Lung–Kuen, not bothering to pay *any* respect, sneered.

“Lung–Kuen,” Pao thundered, pacing forward slowly, determination exhibiting in his voice. “Did you *steal* the Emperor’s possessions?”

“Of course not! I was born with a silver spoon in my mouth!” Lung–Kuen proudly bragged, smirking at Pao. “I don’t need to steal; it’s just a night pearl!”

Pao snorted, raising his eyebrows. “*Night pearl?*”

“Well...umm...well...Ho–Tin and his family stole them and claimed there was a night pearl...” Lung–Kuen faltered, his voice trailing off as he glanced sideways.

Ho–Tin whimpered, “Liar; You told my family to leave the site, which was when you took the jewels.” Despite his unstable condition, he still managed to agitate Lung–Kuen.

“There were boot–prints in the soil!” Pao stated, taking Lung–Kuen aback. “Look at *your* boot – it’s covered in soil!”

Pao pointed to the dirt stain on Lung–Kuen’s boot. Lung–Kuen instantly kicked it off – embarrassed, obviously – and turned ghostly pale.

“Are you guilty?” Pao’s deafening voice rumbled through Kaifeng.

“*I didn’t steal!*” Lung–Kuen retorted.

“A likely story,” Pao spat out. “Guards! Take him away!”

Lung–Kuen struggled strongly, though his efforts ceased and turned out futile.

That night, Pao and Zhan Zhao (a supreme swordsman) approached Lung–Kuen’s house, aiming to retrieve discoveries to frame Lung–Kuen. Through the window, they could see shafts of luminous light seeping out. Pao saw four men grasping a cluster of night pearls, mumbling about getting rich.

He and Zhan Zhao entered, catching the four men red–handed. At the sight of Pao, they quickly swept the jewels off the table. The four men wielded swords but did *not* frighten Pao at all. “We are Lung–Kuen’s men!” they recited in unison, menacing eyes glinting in the darkness, aimed toward Pao.

The four men sprinted towards Pao, holding their edged blades. In the nick of time, Zhan Zhao emerged from the mist, slashing at them with *his* sword. Pao looked at the treasures and murmured, “*Now* we have evidence.”

Pao summoned Lung–Kuen to court again, roaring, “The four men in your house claimed they work for you, and that you took the treasures!”

“*Are you guilty?*”

Lung-Kuen *still* didn't admit it.

"I never..." But as his words slithered out, a glowing jewel fell from his pocket. The exquisite night pearl instantly illuminated Kaifeng with its scintillating glow. His mouth was agape, petrified in fear and humiliation – he knew what was coming.

"Guards!" Pao demanded. "Throw him behind bars and release Ho-Tin!"

"Nooo!" Lung-Kuen cried, seething with fury. "You can't do this to me!"

Judge Pao beamed with pride – another case solved.

The Case of the Widow's Ill Will

Singapore International School (Hong Kong), Lin, Amanda – 11

"I am so sorry," the teenager cried in tears. "I didn't mean to!"

"My stepson is still in shock. He is not thinking clearly," the woman defended as the boy continued to weep.

Judge Pao gave the boy a sympathetic look. "Present your testimony, Lady Li."

"It was midnight. I was woken by sounds from the Grand Hall. I got up immediately to see what was going on. I then heard Li Junior screaming for help. By the time I arrived at the Grand Hall's entrance, I saw my husband laying there in Li Junior's arms," she said, sniffing.

"Did you hear their conversation, Lady Li? Do you know why they were fighting?" asked Judge Pao.

"No, Your Honor, I didn't," said Lady Li. "Sir Li is a patient and loving father to Li Junior. Li Junior always respected Sir Li. I just don't understand what happened."

"Were there any other witnesses at the scene?" Judge Pao followed up with a question, narrowing his eyes.

"Yes, Butler Chen was also there," said Lady Li.

Judge Pao gazed sternly at Butler Chen then asked, "Did you hear the conversation of Sir Li and Li Junior?"

Butler Chen timidly said, "No, your honor. I was in the kitchen next to the Grand Hall. When I heard the scream, I ran to the Grand Hall and saw Sir Li and Li Junior on the floor. Lady Li was on the side crying."

Judge Pao seemed unsatisfied but declared, "I have heard all the witnesses today. I will give my final judgement three days from now."

"I am so sorry. I deserve to be in jail!" Li Junior howled. Lady Li stared at Judge Pao pleadingly.

That night, Judge Pao visited Li Junior's jail cell.

"Young man, now that you are calm, tell me what happened." Judge Pao said quietly.

Li Junior let out a shaky breath. "I was so angry at my father. He only loved *her*."

"What do you mean by that, Li Junior?"

"*His* will. My stepmother told me that my father was going to leave his estates and fortune to her. She was so kind and willing to support me until I take my scholar exam. I was angry and confronted my father. He lectured me about my wasteful ways. Angrily, I stormed toward the door. Father tried to stop me so I shoved him, hard. He fell and hit his head on the pavement," Li Junior sobbed.

"So Lady Li told you that your father was to leave all his fortune to her and not you?"

Stricken and pained by his guilt, Li Junior could only nod weakly.

Next, Judge Pao walked into a small, dark room, ready to view Li's body. The only objects in the room was an opened coffin and bouquets of flowers given by the mourning villagers to honor him. Judge Pao bent down and picked up a flower.

A scroll next to the flowers read: Lord Li, thank you for your generosity and inspiration. You have led us out of poverty and we are eternally grateful. May you rest in peace in heaven.

"An honorable man," Judge Pao whispered, and set the flower down carefully.

Even in the dim lit room, Judge Pao could see a purple bump on top of Lord Li's forehead. Judge Pao gently prodded open Lord Li's mouth, and grimly confirmed his hypothesis. A black tongue. "Gotcha," he smiled.

Three days passed. The villagers crowded the court room hours before the final hearings begun. They waited anxiously to hear Judge Pao's final ruling that would bring justice to their beloved Sir Li.

"Before I announce the verdict, I'd like to hear the autopsy report from Doctor Su."

A scrawny man, dressed most primly, stepped out of the shadows. "Your Honor. After inspecting the body, the victim did suffer a severe head injury and was knocked unconscious. But the blow should not be fatal. Your Honor, you were right, the victim was poisoned!" he exclaimed.

Surprised, everyone in the court room gasped in unison.

"*You!*" Lady Li said shakily, pointing a finger at Butler Chen. "You poisoned Sir Li!"

"I did not!" Butler Chen retorted. "I am wronged, Your Honor."

"*You* poisoned your own husband, Lady Li!" yelled Judge Pao as he slammed the gavel on the head table.

"*Me?* Oh! I am a wronged woman, Your Honor—

"I had my suspicion given the discrepancies between yours and Butler Chen's testimonies. First, Lady Li, the distance of your bedroom chamber and the Grand Hall did not allow a person to be awoken from deep sleep just by hearing some sounds. You arrived at the scene before Butler Chen, who was only one room away. This meant that you were already near the Grand Hall and not in your bedroom chamber when the incident happened.

He continued, "Finally, Sir Li was a generous man and beloved by all the villagers. I heard that he was going to donate most of his wealth to further build and benefit this village. Your disappointment in your husband's will was the true motive for such a heinous crime. Was it not? Your greed motivated you to poison your husband and frame your stepson. Are you guilty, Lady Li?" Judge Pao rose to his full height, pointing an accusatory finger at Lady Li.

Lady Li wailed, "I deserve his entire wealth! I helped him to build his entire fortune and treated his son as if he was my own. I sacrificed my entire life for him! He was just going to give it away. I couldn't accept that!"

Judge Pao shook his head. "Indeed, you shouldn't, Lady Li. But your actions have consequences. I now sentence you to a lifetime in prison!"

Judge Pao turned from his chair, shaking his head as he prepared to exit the court room.

"Judge Pao, wait!" Li Junior grabbed Judge Pao's arm. "I'd just like to say ... thank you."

"It's what I do, Li Junior. I'm Judge Pao. Remember my name."

The Case of the Chimney Boy

Singapore International School (Hong Kong), Lin, Yujia Jessie – 10

“Booo hooo hooo!” The boy cried miserably as he stood barefoot, and covered in soot on the cracked, heated concrete floor of the streets in a village in Henan. It was a very hot day and people were running about, finishing their businesses, and hurrying towards their homes. His feet were burning and covered with so many blisters that he was limping. This boy was called Kai, he was born from a poor family and at the age of 13 and the oldest in the family of 6 children, he was sent out by his parents to work to earn money. The famine that had spread through the whole China had affected hundreds of thousands of people, his family was in dire need of money to fill the whole family’s mouths. Kai couldn’t find any job at first too, but then a rich man offered to pay him a good wage for him to clean his chimney, Kai was overjoyed! He was paid 10 dollars every day, which was a lot back in the days.

Today, Kai was about to head home and present his money with pride to his parents. He put his hand in his pocket to check if it was there. He found nothing.

An empty pocket.

Money gone.

A hole.

Kai’s money has disappeared! He looked around frantically and saw a man just walking away from him. Thinking that he might be able to help him, Kai cried, “Please help me, I earned 10 dollars today, but it fell out of my pocket! I can’t find it, if you have some money, give me some if you can! Please, I beg you!” He was on the verge of tears. The man just looked him over and proceeded to walk away, but Kai clung on to his arm and refused to let go.

“Let me go now, or I’ll call the police!” the burly man threatened and glared at him. It was already drawing commotion and the people around them were slowly walking over. Suddenly, he saw two girls just emerging from a restaurant nearby, they were laughing amongst themselves and looked like they were wealthy.

Kai hurried over to them and appealed to them for help, the bigger one told him in a voice dripping with disgust, “Get away from us, you filthy pig, why should we help you?” The younger one though, was more compassionate. “Let’s give him our book money, Lin, he’s so young! He shouldn’t be working out here alone!” she said softly to the bigger girl, Lin.

“Fine, Liu, it’s your fault if Mom and Dad scolds us!” Lin sneered at Liu and stomped away.

“I apologise for my sister’s rudeness,” Liu said to Kai. She fished around in her bag and held out 5 dollars to Kai. “That’s all I have, I’m sorry if it’s not enough.”

“Thank you very much, but I need 5 more dollars! My family will go hungry if I don’t bring this back!” Kai said sincerely. Liu gathered some other villagers and tried to convince them to give some of their money, but they were still short of 2 dollars. The sky was darkening and thieves were starting to lurk in the dark alleyways of the streets. Kai had never been out alone this late before, and he couldn’t help being a little scared. *I have to find the money!* Kai thought desperately. He searched high and low in a futile attempt to find his money. He went back to Liu and told her of the mysterious man he met. Liu was instantly suspicious; they found the man drunk at one of the bars. Then, Judge Pao, a famed judge known for his unyielding belief of honesty, walked past. He was just passing this village on his way to another province, so Liu and Kai went to him and explained the situation to him. Unlike other corrupt officers of high ranks, Judge Pao was fair and listened to everyone, even citizens, that was what made him so popular. He also did not hoard money illegally. Judge Pao fingered his chin in thought and finally said, “Bring me the man!”

Liu and Kai brought the wine-hazed man to Judge Pao, and also brought all the other people who witnessed the scene. Judge Pao explained the situation to everyone and also informed them, "Put your hands in your pockets and hold them out before you, and I shall know who stole Kai's money." The villagers were all puzzled but did as they were told as he never made a mistake. Judge Pao walked around and inspected everyone's hand, then shouted, "This man is the thief!" The villagers, although still bewildered, tied the man's hands together with a thick, heavy rope. The villagers searched him and found 10 dollars, they asked Kai, "Is this your money?" Kai gratefully took it and kneeled and kowtowed at the villagers and Judge Pao.

"Your Honor, although we would never doubt you, how did you know that this man was the thief?" one of the villagers, an old man asked, gesturing to the man with a contemptuous flick of his finger.

"Because Kai was sweeping the chimney, so his money, touched by his hand, would be full of soot! The soot would then be in the thief's pocket. Therefore, I asked everyone to put their hands in their pockets and put them in front of you, so that I can see whose hands have soot on them, which means they stole the money!" Judge Pao explained patiently to the old man. The old man's puzzlement evaporated and he saw sense and intelligence in Judge Pao's explanation. The villagers thanked him for his kindness and fairness and Judge Pao went on his way, taking the man with him to face the Emperor and await judgement in the court. Kai bid Liu farewell and thanked her profusely, and he happily skipped back home with his money.

New Tales of Judge Pao

Singapore International School (Hong Kong), Lo, Ka Wai Jaymee – 11

Ravaging flames tore through the charred night sky. The blazing fire streaked throughout the museum, its smouldering heat burning everything in sight. Plumes of grey smoke unleashed their acrid smell, suffocating the palace grounds. It was crude and unwavering in its nefarious purpose.

On that day in 1040, the museum had been razed. Priceless artefacts were strewn across the floor, melted and cracked. All that remained hanging on the grand walls was, oddly, an undamaged painting of a young girl standing in a bounteous flower garden, a man kneeling beside her. His face was smudged out, but the girl's dark brown eyes shone with unadulterated innocence, her angelic features outlined clearly with every smooth stroke of the brush.

That painting was the sole survivor of the conflagration, the lone reminder of what had happened.

Eighteen years later, it was spring of 1058. Judge Pao furrowed his brow as he packed up the remaining items in his office, preparing for his upcoming retirement. Sifting through his dusty drawers, he found documents about his former cases.

Out of curiosity, Judge Pao flicked through them before his eyes rested on one of the headlines. It was of an arson case from 1040 which had eventually been deemed a natural disaster. He still remembered watching the investigators close the case. A nagging feeling in his core which told him they were wrong.

Judge Pao scrutinised the rows of tiny letters scrawled on the page, analysing the report carefully.

Only one artefact was recovered from the museum after the fire. It was of a young girl and a man, painted by artist Zhang Huang in the late 1020s. Everyone was aware of the oddity of a single unscathed painting, which was later moved to Emperor Renzong's coveted painting collection in the palace's west wing.

Judge Pao read the words over and over. If it had been arson, then why was this painting left undamaged? It would have been impossible to survive the ravenous flames.

"Unless someone made sure it wouldn't burn..."

Those words echoed in his mind as he slowly realised that someone had chosen to save this one special painting. But who and why?

Bemused and engrossed, Judge Pao dove deeper into the files on the painter, Zhang Huang. Upon learning that the painter lived nearby, he headed there immediately that afternoon, eager to collect new information.

"Mr. Zhang?" Judge Pao called out, knocking on the artist's door.

The door was opened by a weary old man with light grey hair and jaded eyes which crinkled at the corners. "Sir, to what may I owe your unexpected visit?"

Judge Pao smiled wryly, "I assume you are Zhang Huang? I am Judge Pao, prefect of Kaifeng. I'd like to ask you about a certain painting of yours."

"Of course," Zhang said quietly. Begrudgingly, the octogenarian let Judge Pao into his house.

"Your painting with the girl and the man in the flower garden... Who are they?"

Recognition flickered across the man's shrivelled face.

"The man was a palace official," Zhang Huang uttered slowly, "He was Emperor Renzong's favourite nephew, Zhao Ming. The girl was Zhao's very own daughter."

“Where can I find them?” Judge Pao questioned.

“You can find Zhao Ming,” Zhang Huang replied nonchalantly, “in the cemetery down the road. They found him in bed, smothered by a pillow.”

“And the girl?”

“Gone. She moved away with her mother shortly afterwards.”

The frail elderly man gestured through the window, “That’s their old house. No one lives there anymore.” “Thank you, kind sir,” Judge Pao said as Zhang ushered him out.

Judge Pao found himself gazing up at the palatial house across the street, analysing its dilapidated exterior. He frowned, wondering if he could secure a key to the abandoned residence. Gingerly, he made his way up the walk and tried twisting the doorknob. To his surprise, it creaked open. He slunk into the house undetected, shutting the door softly behind him. Silently, he crept down the dark cobwebbed hallway. When he rounded the corner, he stopped short.

He was standing in front of an open bedroom, door ajar, supposedly belonging to a child. Toy dolls in frilly dresses lined the shelves, but what startled him most was that the room was clean, dust-free. Someone had been here recently.

“What are you doing here?” A harsh voice called out from behind him.

Judge Pao spun around, only to find himself facing a young woman clad in black, a tightly bound scarf obscuring her face from view.

In one swift movement, the woman leapt at Judge Pao, attempting to tackle him to the ground. The detective barely swerved in time, making use of the opportunity to tear off her scarf. He inhaled sharply when he saw a deep burn slashed across her cheek.

“You have no right here,” the girl snarled, trying in vain to cover her face.

Judge Pao circled her, gazing into her eyes. “Was it you who started the palace fire all those years ago?”

The woman’s anger thrummed through her veins, “So what if it was? He deserved it.”

“Emperor Renzong?” Judge Pao inquired, puzzled.

“No, my dastardly uncle, Zhao Qin. He was an investor who owned most of the works in the museum. Our family knew he was terribly jealous of my father, who was favoured by the Emperor. I’m glad to say that he went bankrupt after the fire,” the girl murmured.

“I assume it was he who killed your father?” Pao asked.

“Yes, indeed. Through my open door, I spied him creeping out of my father’s room just an hour before his body was discovered,” she smiled mirthlessly. “By the way, it was my wet blanket that saved the painting. However, I pulled it off as I ran out, leaving the damp painting behind, safe and sound.”

Judge Pao smiled, admiring the bravery of such a young child.

‘Two final mysteries solved’, he thought, stepping out of the derelict house, and into a much-deserved, rewarding life of retirement.

Civet Cat Exchanged for Crown Prince

Singapore International School (Hong Kong), Lu, Xing – 10

Long ago, Emperor Song Zheng Zong told his two wives that whoever gave birth to the prince shall be entitled to become Empress. Soon, Consort Li became pregnant with a child. Jealous that she will rise up higher than herself, Consort Liu and her sinful eunuch Guo Huai plotted to exchange her son with a civet cat, and throw him into the river. Fortunately, she assigned a palace maid, Kou Zhu, to do the job and did not know that she was actually a very kind-hearted person and wouldn't throw a child into the river. Instead, with the help of another eunuch, Chen Lin, she gave it to the Eighth Prince, where he grew up. Consort Liu gave birth to a child instead. But when Consort Liu stepped up onto the throne, her child died before long. Saddened by the prince's death, the Emperor saw Consort Li's son at the Eighth Prince's palace. Impressed by his intelligence, he brought him back to be a prince. Little did he know that that child was his very own. Of course, the Empress noticed that the prince looked very alike to Consort Li. She developed a suspicion that the prince had not died. So, she forced Chen Lin to beat and torture Kou Zhu until she killed herself by running into a wall. The terrified Chen Lin then told Consort Li to escape, where she travelled to one of the streets in the country. Now, the Emperor has died and her son has become ruler.

The clouds parted and golden rays showered down, the white creamy clouds waltzed across the sky and the crisp and clean scent of dawn was dotted with hints of sweet nectar singing in the air. The day had just barely advanced and the famous detective of the Song Dynasty Judge Pao strode down the streets for his morning walk. Just as he was about to come home after his relaxing wander, he caught sight of a ragged old woman in the corner of his eye.

She sat on a patched bamboo mat, clearly worn out by the long years the woman must have been using it. Her hair tangled and frayed out in broken pieces, silver taking over. Her skin rippled like waves, freckled and spotted. However, her wrinkled complexion still told the story of her once-beautiful appearance. Her eyes looked glassy, and it tugged at Judge Pao's heartstrings.

There was something about her eyes that the depths of them carried.

It was sorrow.

Deep sorrow.

The woman rasped out to Judge Pao desperately, as if she recognised him. "I am misunderstood...I am the mother... of the present Emperor ... Emperor Song Ren Zong," she growled.

Hearing her ridiculous words, Judge Pao chuckled gently to himself and said out loud, "This poor old woman must be crazy due to her poverty!" He gave a sympathetic blink and when he was about to head off again, he heard a call from the woman once more.

"I am not crazy," she croaked, holding out a medallion of glistening gold in her frail hands, slightly quivering. The medallion glittered with sparkles of light, and on it, carved the name of Consort Li.

Taken aback by shock, Judge Pao muttered aloud, "This indeed is an object valuable enough only the wives of Emperors can afford!" He rushed back to the Palace and reported to Emperor Song Ren Zong.

The Emperor was driven by a mixture of grief and disbelief, he replied, trying to sound calm, "I believe you, but the Empress is a person with very high status and wouldn't be easy to interrogate with."

Meanwhile, Guo Huai was being interrogated for days behind bars, however, he never gave a single hint about admitting that he and the empress were the culprits.

Stumped by the problem, Judge Pao didn't seem to have the appetite for anything. At last, he thought of a solution. That night, he secretly carried a tray of expensive wine and fine, rich meat to Guo Huai in the cell. Soon Guo Huai's vision became blurred and fuzzy, pulling him to the depths of dreams. Making sure he was drunk and asleep, Judge Pao took his time to decorate the jail cell. Before long, the place had smoke billowing from corners, fog clouding the ceiling and colorful carpets, walls and a tiger head above a table where Judge Pao was supposed to sit. He chuckled, this was going out perfectly!

Suddenly, a hard knock on Guo Huai's head awoke him from his drowsy sleep. Eyelids fluttering open, goodness sake! He had come to hell, ambushed by people with heads of bulls and faces of stallions. Smoke was billowing, and horrifying paintings glared at him on the walls. He heard a bellow and saw the burly King of Hell standing under an enormous tiger's head.

Sweat streamed down his forehead.

Chills ran through his bones.

His knees knocked, hands stretched out tense.

He dared not to blink, or let out a single relaxed breath.

"I have collected your soul to hell," the king bellowed. "You will pay for what you have done in the past! Write about your crimes on a roll of parchment, for the proof of your sinful actions!"

Not having the wits to disobey the King of Hell, Guo Huai hurriedly scribbled down what the King had asked for. His words were spilling like droplets on leaves out of the sheet as if even his fingers had been too scared to write properly.

By this time, the king boomed with laughter, taking off his makeup. Looking more closely, he realized it was actually Judge Pao. The other monsters in the room were also actors. But now, it was already too late for Guo Huai to regret.

Judge Pao brought the sheet Guo Huai had written to the Emperor, who sent guards to kill him. The news reached the Empress, and she let out a blood-curdling screech and died on the spot.

The Tales of Judge Pao: Teleportation Case

Singapore International School (Hong Kong), Luo, Qicheng Harvey – 10

It was in the middle of the night. Inside the Imperial Garden, the precious dragon pearl was gleaming in the gloomy darkness. The pearl was kept in a glass box within the Elder's House which was considered the most secure house with thousands of guards stationed outside. Suddenly, a bolt of lightning struck the Elder's House. A black figure appeared, snatched the pearl, and disappeared into thin air leaving behind scattered debris and the empty box.

Bang! Bang! Bang! The door groaned in protest as it was knocked by a fist. Outside the door was a sweating soldier panting hysterically.

"Hello! Are you a soldier guarding the Imperial Garden?" Judge Pao asked. The soldier raised his eyebrows and his jaw dropped. He could not contain his surprise.

"How did you find out, amazing Judge Pao?" Judge Pao chuckled, and then shared.

"On your armour is a Ginkgo leaf and the Ginkgo trees can only be found in the Imperial Garden."

"Wow! Amazing! Nothing can escape your eyes, Judge Pao! You are right, I am General Lee and in charge of the security of the Imperial Garden. The Emperor's dragon pearl was stolen last night, and he is on pins and needles. We are in urgent need of your help!"

Judge Pao furrowed his brow.

"This is such an important matter! I shall meet the Emperor at once!"

Judge Pao exited the garishly coloured carriage and saw himself face to face with the Emperor. The pearl is one of the Emperor's most prized possessions and he was in a hurry to find it. The Emperor's eyes lit up like diamonds when he saw Judge Pao.

"Judge Pao, I order you to start investigating at once! This dragon pearl symbolises our family's tradition and we would be doomed without it!" Judge Pao nodded his head.

"Your majesty, I promise to do everything I can to help you. Can you share with me any information or clues to help me with this investigation?"

The Emperor shook his head, looking like a sad puppy.

"I am afraid that there was not much information or any clues. All I can only tell you is that the pearl was stolen from The Elder's House. The guards reported that they saw a bolt of lightning inside the Elder's House. Not long after that, they found the pearl was missing. The thief did not leave any evidence behind and he seemed to disappear into thin air!"

"This is such an interesting yet important case! I will go to check the Elder's House immediately!"

Once reaching the Qingtian mansion, Judge Pao gathered all his finest men and went to the Imperial Garden. The Elder's House was a glistening building at the heart of the Imperial Garden with the glazed tiles on the roof shining in the sun. It towered over the group of investigators while embracing them in its shadow. Judge Pao opened the door and immediately saw the shattered glass box in the middle. He examined everything attentively. What he found strange was that the windows and walls didn't have any fingerprints on them. The thief could not have gone through the door since it was guarded by soldiers for the entire night. Judge Pao noticed that there was dust on the floor and there were faint footsteps only in the front of the shattered box. There weren't any footsteps near the doors or the windows. The only possibility was that..... Judge Pao stopped dead in his tracks.

Teleport.

Teleport.

Magically teleport.

It was only possible for someone to teleport into the Elder's House without leaving any fingerprints and footsteps. Judge Pao knew a number of people who could teleport. The suspect would be the one who knows where the pearl was kept. After a while, Judge Pao thought of Supreme Guo, the Emperor's chief secretary. He was a stern old man who knew where the pearl was hidden. Supreme Guo was a man born with a unique ability. He could transport across the world in a blink of an eye.

Judge Pao shook his head. Even though Supreme Guo was the suspect, there wasn't any evidence! He needed to think of a plan for Supreme Guo to confess his crimes to the Emperor. Judge Pao knew that Supreme Guo has a weakness. He is superstitious and especially afraid of the God of Death. Then, something clicked in Judge Pao's head. A plan formed in his mind.

The moon was hidden by a black carpet. It was pitch black in the Guo Mansion and the crickets were chirping a chorus. Judge Pao had disguised himself as the Death God. He wore a black robe styled with skeleton patterns while painting some skull patterns on his hat. Judge Pao crept into Supreme Guo's bedroom, turned on the red lamp and smoke emitter, then shouted at the top of his lungs,

"Yan Luo Wang is here! I know you are guilty! I give you two choices. Confess to the Emperor that you stole the dragon pearl or suffer for eternity!"

Supreme Guo was so scared that he almost fell off his bed,

"Of course, oh mighty Yan Luo Wang! I will confess and give the dragon pearl back to its rightful owner!"

"Good," Judge Pao boomed, "but if you don't confess or teleport right away, there will be consequences!" Judge Pao demanded.

The next day, Supreme Guo went to the Jade Palace and returned the pearl. The Emperor was pleased with Supreme Guo's honesty and gave him a shorter time in prison! Justice was served and another case of Judge Pao was made!

Convictions of Barrister Chan

Singapore International School (Hong Kong), Lye, Yuxin – 11

1964, Hong Kong.

Barrister Chan was facing the toughest case of his career. The press had given it much coverage as it involved the Kong family, the richest in the city. Lau Ping-Wai, Kongs' right-hand man, had been murdered. Tabloids speculated that Lau knew too much about the dealings of the Kongs, who were extremely influential and connected, such that Lau must be silenced. Mere speculation, of course, until proven. For now, Barrister Chan must defend his client – a fishmonger at the wet market, someone with absolutely no interaction with the Kongs, and as Chan believed, just happened to be at the wrong place, at the wrong time.

Chan always aspired to be a champion for the weak. He grew up in the Kowloon Walled City and was no stranger to the rampant vices and local triads. It was the novel, "Three Heroes and Five Gallants" – stories about the legendary Judge Pao and martial arts heroes who helped Judge Pao fight crimes and oppression – that inspired Chan to become who he was.

To Chan, Judge Pao was the embodiment of justice – unwavering and incorruptible. Regardless of the stature or connections of the culprit, crime must be punished, and innocents protected.

The courtroom was filled to the brim. The accused glanced at an old lady at the public gallery and lowered his head.

"Li Shang, you are on trial for the murder of Mr. Lau Ping-Wai," the judge announced, "Do you plead guilty or not?"

The room froze. The answer came forcefully but helplessly, "No, I am not guilty!"

April 1056, Kaifeng Prefecture.

"Kaifeng has no authority over this," the arrogant Chancellor Pang exclaimed, staying seated, without even facing Judge Pao.

Chancellor Pang was the tutor of the Song Emperor and held immense power.

"As you wish, Chancellor, you are welcomed to sit in, but I do have a case to preside over."

The guards shouted "Wai-Wu!", knocking their wooden sticks on the ground.

Qin Lan, a commoner, had sounded the court drums of Kaifeng. It was the last resort, but the only way to bypass the local magistrates who tended to side with the powerful.

"Announce your name and why you have come."

"Your honor, I am Qin Lan, from Taiyuan," Qin Lan sobbed, "Pang Long, son of the Imperial Tutor, killed my sister, Qin Shuang. The local magistrate refused to handle my case."

Monday 8th June, 1964.

The prosecution called upon their witness.

"Sergeant Shek, how did you find the body of the deceased?"

"I was patrolling the Wanchai wet market at night and saw a body, and dagger on the ground. There was someone beside the victim whom I gave chase."

Shek pointed to Li Shang, who was seated by a court guard.

“Were there fingerprints on the dagger?”

“No, probably wiped clean.”

“Do you mean the accused tried to remove his fingerprints?”

“Objection, your honour! The prosecution is leading the witness.”

“Objection sustained.”

“Sergeant, would you say the murder of the deceased was pre-planned?”

“It seemed meticulously planned and definitely the most brutal murder I’ve ever come across!”

“Objection!” Barrister Chan stood up.

“I have no further questions.”

The Prosecutor returned to his seat triumphantly.

The old lady at the corner remained still throughout, yet her eyes never left Li.

Chan was deep in thoughts – he had received an anonymous letter the day before, threatening to kill his family if he did not “do the right thing”.

Chancellor Pang had grown nervous and quickly sent a note to Concubine Pang for help. The guards dragged out a well-dressed man in his twenties and forced him to kneel before Judge Pao.

“How dare you!” Chancellor Pang was about to step forward.

“I suggest you stay put,” Judge Pao knocked on the table loudly with the Shangfang Sword bestowed by the late Emperor. The Chancellor was taken aback.

“Pang Long, do you know this lady, Qin Lan, or her sister Qin Shuang?”

“I do not recall.”

“Very poor memory indeed, though you frequent their family teahouse and are widely known to have a liking for Qin Shuang, as Constable Zhan found out.”

“Your honour, Long tried to kidnap my sister and when she refused, pushed her down the stairs and killed her. Many witnessed that but he paid them all to keep quiet!” Lady Qin kneeled, anguished.

“Show me the proof, Pao, I didn’t know you trial cases without evidence,” Pang Long laughed sadistically.

“Will the defense please present the case?”

Sergeant Shek strutted to the stand.

“Sergeant, how did the accused behave when you first arrived at the scene?”

“I would say he was rather calm.”

“You reported that he had his back towards you and started running right away, Sergeant, you must have sixth sense to feel his calmness.”

The courtroom burst out in laughter. “Silence!” the judge called out.

“Maybe he was facing me, I don’t quite remember.”

“What is the truth then?”

Shek did not respond and glanced around with unease.

“So there was no concrete evidence that Li committed the crime.”

“He stood by the body, that is proof!”

“Pack of lies. Your honour, I have a new piece of evidence to present.

“Objection!”

“The evidence was just discovered but it is absolutely crucial!”

“What have you got to say, Pang Long? Your bribes, your family’s gold bestowed by the Emperor were found at Magistrate Zhao’s residence – he has confessed!” Judge Pao proclaimed.

Long screamed, “I am the Imperial Tutor’s son, I can do whatever I want! You have no right to sentence me....”

“Bring the Dragon–Head Guillotine!”

Chancellor Pang leapt forward and fainted.

A suffocating silence filled the courtroom.

The judge would soon come to a verdict. Li stood trembling and the old lady finally broke down crying, unable to contain herself. Chan reached into his briefcase for the “Three Heroes and Five Gallants”. He held the book to his heart and closed his eyes, as he had always done before a verdict.

Civet Cat Exchanged for Crown Prince

Singapore International School (Hong Kong), Man, Hau Sum Sam – 10

Lightning crashed, and thunder rumbled over the city of Kaifeng, the capital of the Song Empire. Inside the Emperor's palace, servants rushed into the Emperor's room.

"Your majesty, Consort Li has given birth to a son already!" the servants reported.

"Oh! I'll check it later," the Emperor replied.

Consort Li was now exhausted from giving birth and lay down on her bed. Before she slept, she ensured her newborn baby was beside her, inside a basket on a table. "Everything's going to be alright," she said, relieved, and fell asleep.

As Consort Li was sleeping, two shadowy figures appeared.

"There's the baby! See there? Let's take it!"

They were Consort Liu and eunuch Guo Huai.

A month ago, the Emperor announced that whoever gives birth to a son first, that consort can be the Empress. Since Consort Li was pregnant the first, Consort Liu was jealous and plotted a plan to stop Consort Li from becoming the Empress.

Consort Li woke up. Just this moment, the Emperor arrived. He looked inside the basket, but his face quickly changed from a smile to a highly shocked face. "What's this!" he growled. "A monster?"

Confused, Consort Li looked inside the basket. To her surprise, her baby was gone. Instead, there lay a skinned, bloody, dead civet cat! Consort Li screamed in horror and immediately passed out. When she woke up, the Emperor sent her out of the Emperor's palace, and hoped never to see her face again.

Guo Huai and Consort Liu escaped with the infant from the Emperor's room. Consort Liu then found palace maid Kou Zhu and demanded, "Listen. Go and drown this baby of Consort Li at the river near the palace now!"

"Y...yes!" Kou chimed.

After Kou left, she was still reluctant to kill Consort Li's son. "How can I kill the crown prince, the future Emperor?"

She thought but couldn't stand thinking of killing the baby. Luckily, she found eunuch Chen Lin by the river and went to him secretly.

"Sir, please take the baby, Consort Li's son, to safety," Kou asked.

"What? I'm sorry, I can't take this huge responsibility and risk: I'm only a eunuch," Chen rejected immediately.

But no matter how much Kou Zhu begged, Chen Lin wouldn't accept taking the baby away.

"Please, the baby is the Crown Prince. Do you know how important he is? Please save him!" Kou begged. "Just send him to the Eighth Prince, please!"

Chen Lin was finally beginning to become convinced and was soft-hearted.

"Fine, I'll try to take the baby to the Eighth Prince," he agreed.

Chen then delivered the baby to the Eighth Prince's palace in a basket. The Eighth Prince adopted the baby and raised him.

Later, Guo Huai went to the river to see if there was a baby's body in the river. But there was no trace of a body, so Guo went to Kou and questioned if she had killed the baby. Nothing came out of Kou's mouth. Guo then tortured Kou to death.

Whereas soon, Consort Liu was pregnant and gave birth to a son. The Emperor announced that Consort Liu's son would become the Crown Prince, and Consort Liu, the Empress.

However, six years later, Consort Liu's son died of disease. The Emperor became heirless again. He decided to let the Eighth Prince's adopted son (originally Consort Li's swapped son) be the Crown Prince. Not long after, the Emperor passed away. The Crown Prince became the new Emperor, and Consort Liu was the Empress Dowager.

Consort Li had had enough of waiting to be the Empress. She heard of the legendary detective and Justice, Pao Zheng, who was famous all across the country. She set off to Pao's place, hoping he could help her.

"Sir, Madam Li wants to see you!" reported his assistant.

"Let her in," Pao Zheng replied.

Consort Li sighed when she arrived. "I have a never-ending nightmare about my son, who should be the Crowned Prince, but instead was kidnapped! Now, Consort Liu's son got the crowned title, and Consort Liu herself got to be the Empress! Judge, I have suspected Consort Liu to have kidnapped my son. Please help me get back the title of being an Empress."

"Ok, I will help you!" Pao replied. He had a plan to investigate the truth. Since he couldn't interrogate Empress Liu, as her position was higher than Pao's, he decided to question Empress Liu's helper Guo Huai instead. Knowing that Guo was afraid of the supernatural, Pao wore costumes to pretend to be the Lord of Hell in mythology. Pao secretly went into Guo's house with a woman dressing as Kou Zhu's ghost.

Guo Huai was relaxing in his house at night when two dark figures approached him abruptly.

"Who's there?" he shouted.

Nothing but silence came out.

"Tell me who you are!"

There was still no answer.

The black figures keep on coming closer. Then Guo could see them clearly and realised: they were the Lord of Hell and Kou Zhu's ghost! Sweat came raining down Guo's face. "I am the Lord of Hell!" Pao bellowed. Guo shivered.

"What did you do, and did you kill this lady over here?"

Guo thought that the Lord of Hell judged him. Without a doubt, he quickly sputtered out the whole story and confessed to his crimes.

"Good," Pao spoke, "don't let me see you cause trouble again!" Pao then left.

Pao quickly closed this case with the evidence from that night. When the verdict was out, Guo and Consort Liu were severely punished for their crimes. Consort Li finally met her son in the palace. At first, the Emperor was unsure about Consort Li being his mother, but he quickly accepted it. Consort Li finally became the Empress Dowager after a long wait of twenty years.

Finally, peace and order were restored in the country. But it couldn't have happened without Judge Pao.

Poison

Singapore International School (Hong Kong), Ong, Jing Xuan – 12

Dong! Dong! Dong! Sounded the Tanggu. The guards rushed to open the gates of the Yamen, standing in the entrance was a middle aged man, he looked extremely anxious.

“Master Bao, someone has died in my inn!” the man said hastily, down on his knees.

I sternly asked the man to further explain the situation and share any knowledge that he had on the victim.

While the man was explaining, I ordered, “Zhan Zhao, go and inspect the scene.”

Zhan Zhao’s footsteps faded as he dashed out of the gates.

Sometime later, Zhan Zhao returned. He handed me a suicide letter and explained, “When I first stepped foot into the room, I saw a body, unresponsive and presumably dead. Beside the body was a bottle of poison and a suicide letter written by the victim, Yang Lan.”

Dong! Dong! Dong! As soon as the guards opened the gates, a lady hurried in with her hands over her face. She kneeled down and bowed, her voice shaking as she spoke, “Master Bao—please, my husband, Yang Lan, what happened?”

“Your husband, has sadly passed, he committed suicide,” I replied, solemnly, passing her the suicide letter.

Tears of depression and bitterness dripped down her eyes as she stared at her husband’s suicide letter.

“No! He wouldn’t! I know he wouldn’t! He was happy,” she sniffled before continuing, “He just sold his slaughterhouse, to finally come home and stay with me and his family!”

“But...he wrote a suicide letter...”

“It’s impossible! He’s illiterate!” Everyone around was silent, shocked, “My apologies for my disrespectfulness, Master Bao.”

I nodded and looked towards Gongsun Ce, my able assistant, “There is something suspicious about this case.”

“Hmmm...this is definitely a murder,” Gongsun Ce replied.

“He must’ve been poisoned by someone, we need to further investigate,” I muttered to Gongsun Ce. Looking towards the inn owner, I questioned him, “Did Yang Lan eat with anyone yesterday?”

“Oh yes, the Lee twin brothers,” replied the inn owner, respectfully, “the man had invited the brothers for dinner. He ordered a feast to be served in his room.” He paused for a moment before carrying on, “One of the brothers came to me to order a jug of wine but something was weird, he had asked for two wine cups instead of three and he insisted that he would take it back to the room himself. Around midnight, I saw the brothers leave the room with one of them supporting the other. And that was all I saw.”

I walked towards Zhan Zhao, “I need you to summon those brothers to me for questioning and search their house to see if you find anything suspicious.”

The sky had already been painted pink when the Lee brothers arrived at the Yamen, both shared the same disconcerted look as they bowed down on their knees in front of me, “Greetings Master Bao, I’m Lee Yang and that’s my younger brother Lee Qian.”

Lee Qian looked uneasy and highly embarrassed.

“Tell me about what happened last night?” I questioned

Lee Yang answered respectfully, "He was a close friend of ours and when we were walking home, we saw him. He told us that he just sold his business and was staying in an inn for the night. He invited us to join him for dinner. Yang Lan ordered us food while Lee Qian suggested some wine to celebrate his homecoming."

"All three of us got drunk before parting and returning home." Lee Qian added.

"You two look exhausted, would you like some wine?" I asked.

"It's an honour, but Lee Qian cannot drink," Lee Yang said, looking disappointed.

Zhan Zhao had returned from his search, he sprinted to my side and whispered to me in my ear, "I found lots of gold bars under Lee Qian's bed, I asked around their neighbourhood and everyone said that their family isn't that rich. I brought them in this bag." Zhan Zhao placed the bag on the table, I opened it swiftly and noticed some weird substance on top of the gold bars.

"Guards, bring me a basin of water" I looked back at the two brothers, they looked bewildered. "Where did you get these gold bars?"

"What gold?" Lee Yang asked, shocked.

"I found them in the mines yesterday," Lee Qian added, looking oddly worried.

I nodded as I picked up a few gold bars and dropped them into the basin of water, grease started to form on the surface, "Why is there a layer of grease on top of the water? If it was found in the mines, the water would've turned black." I stamped my gravel angrily, "Lee Qian, you poisoned Yang Lan!"

"No! I am innocent!" Shouted Lee Qian.

"You can drop the act, Lee Qian!" I boomed, "When I questioned the inn owner, he said that one of you went up to him for a jug of wine and insisted that you will take it. You added poison to the rim of the wine cup that you later gave to Yang Lan. You also claimed that all three of you became very drunk afterwards, but if you can't drink, how can you possibly be drunk? You were the only one who was sober enough to lay Yang Lan on his bed and write the suicide letter."

"I didn't write that letter! Yang Lan wrote it!" Lee Qian insisted.

"Yang Lan was illiterate, so he couldn't have. You also knew that he had a large amount of money, after poisoning him, you took his gold bars. However, since he was a butcher, his hands would be stained by grease from the meat that he cut everyday, resulting in oil coated on his gold bars."

Lee Qian shook his head, still denying.

"Guards, execute him!" I ordered.

Screams of begging for mercy could be heard throughout the Yamen while Lee Yang stood there, frozen with fear as he watched his brother being dragged away to be executed.

The Missing Crown Prince

Singapore International School (Hong Kong), Tan, Gen Leng Melody – 10

I'm Judge Pao. This is an account of the kidnapping of the Empress's and Emperor's son.

I was having tea when I heard the exhilarating news that the Emperor and Empress had had a new son. A week after that, I received a letter from the Emperor and Empress inviting me to meet their newest child.

As the carriage I was riding in drew to a halt, I saw the royal family standing in front of the palace gates with red-faced women behind them who were panting and sweating heavily.

"Judge Pao! It's pleasant to see you!" the Empress greeted sweetly as I drew closer.

"Hello. It's pleasant to see you too. I am here to see your newborn, right?" I said to them.

"Yes Judge. Our son's named Simon," the Empress introduced as Simon began babbling and laughing in his mother's hands.

"Judge Pao, this is our daughter, Arcana," the Empress said as she nudged Arcana to face me.

"Hello," Arcana greeted flatly.

"Also, these are our maids, Esther and Sadie. That one is Esther; and that one is Sadie," the Empress said, pointing to the maids.

"Well, come in Judge Pao! You're probably famished. You are welcome to stay for the night," the Emperor offered.

I agreed.

Later, as I was exploring the colossal palace, I heard the maids gossiping in the kitchen.

"Simon is so needy! He's always hungry and will never go to sleep!" Esther whispered.

"Definitely! It's so unfair that we must do so much work for Simon, and still get such a low income!" Sadie gossiped.

By then, they had seen me. Together, they scurried out of the kitchen. Was there something more sinister happening at the palace?

The next morning, I was jolted awake by the Empress's screams. I rushed to their room and found the Empress sobbing and the Emperor comforting her. I looked around; Simon's cradle was turned on its side, the blanket spilling out.

Simon? Gone.

"Judge, please help us! Simon is our life!" the Empress pleaded.

I heard someone behind me gasp and rush out of the room. I whirled around to see Arcana running out of the room crying.

"Of course, I'll help!" I reassured the Empress. Then a man with a scrunched grumpy face entered the room.

"WHAT IS HAPPENING?" he bellowed.

"Simon has been KIDNAPPED!" the Empress told the man.

"This is my younger brother. He is exceedingly jealous that I inherited the throne," the Emperor said to me. Immediately after, I began my investigation. Firstly, there was a handwritten note. It said this:

liiteeknSoAa 2dgmtrtainm mnhemhedpm~ca

“Must be some sort of code” I muttered to myself. I lifted Simon’s blanket and found a piece of cloth. It was torn at the edges and was blue and brown. Suddenly, a theory rang in my mind. That afternoon, I had gathered everyone in the drawing room. The Empress was wiping her tear-stained face, the Emperor was rubbing his head dreadfully, Arcana was looking uninterested, and the Emperor’s brother was pretending that the floor was the most interesting thing in the world.

“I have found a most vital clue that decreases the chance that either Esther or Sadie could have done it. Unless they were working with someone else. So, I cannot entirely rule them out. Now I will reveal the evidence that I have found!” I paused for effect. I held up the piece of cloth I found that morning.

“THIS!”

The family stared at the piece of cloth, scratching their heads and scrunching their faces.
“But it’s just a piece of cloth,” the Emperor stated.

“Yes,” I told him.

“The reason I accuse one of the royal family of the crime is because only the royal family, apart from the Emperor, can wear this coloured clothing! But this doesn’t mean I can make my denouement yet. I still have suspects to rule out.”

“But it could be a handkerchief, or something like that.” the Empress said.

“Yes, that’s why I’ll try searching for a piece of clothing with a big patch torn out from it.”

First, I searched the Emperor’s brother’s bedroom. As I scoured the room, I uncovered something unsettling. Under his bed, there was a hanfu, its bottom part torn out. I pulled it out and matched the piece of cloth to the hanfu.

As I walked out to make my denouement, I saw Arcana, standing in the living room, arms folded, watching her parents weep over Simon. I suddenly understood. I pulled out the note I found at the crime scene. I knew who the kidnapper was! Or kidnappers.

“EVERYONE! I KNOW WHO KIDNAPPED SIMON!” I shouted.

Arcana whirled to face me. A scowl was set on her face, I swear she was going to pounce on me. But the Empress blocked her way.

“WHO DID IT?” The Empress demanded just as the Emperor’s brother, Esther, and Sadie came rushing into the living room.

“THE EMPEROR’S BROTHER AND,” I paused for effect “ARCANA!”

The Emperor faced his brother, he was clenching his fist and snarling. The Empress was bellowing at Arcana fiercely and demanding for Simon’s whereabouts.

“HE HAS NO PROOF!” shrieked Arcana.

“I do actually,” and I held up the Emperor’s brother’s hanfu and said, “I have also accused you Arcana, because” I thrust the letter in her face, “this says ‘12 midnight meet me there kidnap Simon ~ Arcana’. The code you used is called transposition cipher.”

She was speechless.

“How did you figure it out?” she asked, enraged. I didn’t reply. I only smiled contentedly.

The Emperor’s brother had agreed to show us where Simon was being kept. Though Arcana had been more reluctant. Simon had turned out to be stowed away in a shallow pit Arcana had dug in the palace’s garden. Everyone was happy in the end. Well, except the kidnappers. Even better news was that the Empress was finally recovering from her rollercoaster of emotions and trauma. This will conclude my account. For now.

New Tales of Judge Pao – Justice in 3D

Singapore International School (Hong Kong), Teo, Ren Yi Natalie – 11

Good Asian kids who listen to their parents and study hard will naturally end up as doctors or lawyers. Judge Pao smiled wryly at the memory as his shiny sized-12 shoes click-clocked along the corridor of the Wolfgang Knoch Hospital. He did not like the smell of bleach around him and was in a hurry to pick up his younger sister, Dr. Pao, for dinner to celebrate her passing of the specialist exams for orthopaedic surgery.

Judge Pao reached the ward ten minutes early as usual and found Dr. Pao and her mentor, Dr. Knoch, chatting with a young girl with her leg in a cast. Dr. Knoch looked up and beamed. “You must be the famous Judge Pao, here to pick Dr. Pao for a well-deserved celebration”, he half sang out, and turning to the young girl, he gently introduced, “And this is Zhong Xi, the bravest little patient we have in here.”

Encouraged by Dr. Knoch, Zhong Xi stretched out her hand to Judge Pao, but Judge Pao merely nodded deferentially and muttered a hello. He hated effusive people – even if they had performed many medical miracles. He hated kids too – they are like parasites sucking up all your time and energy. He had many more important things to do.

Zhong Xi’s outstretched hand dropped at the same time as her smile and her intense gaze returned to the image on her iPad as the adults exchanged polite greetings. Judge Pao noticed that she was drawing what looked like a bone in 3D, perhaps a tibia? How odd, he thought.

The following week, Judge Pao came across Dr. Knoch again, but in a most unfortunate way. One of Dr. Knoch’s patients, Ms. Karen, had sued him for an unsuccessful operation, claiming that her leg broke again within weeks of the operation to fix it and seeking millions of dollars in compensation. Dr. Knoch denied the claim and insisted that Ms. Karen must have done some crazy activity which caused the 3D-printed bone to break so soon after the operation. In his defence, Dr. Knoch called Dr. Pao to act as his witness, to testify as to the many successful operations they had done together and to explain to the judge assigned to the case, Judge Pao, the technique of using 3D-printed bones pioneered by Dr. Knoch.

Dr. Pao argued convincingly for Dr. Knoch and listening to her, Judge Pao wondered if his sister should have become a lawyer too. Nah, he thought, the medical profession was more noble, and was their parents’ top choice for them. Snapping back to the case, Judge Pao looked up and was surprised to see Zhong Xi in the witness box, not as a witness for Dr. Knoch but as a witness for Ms. Karen. What bad things could this kid possibly say about Dr. Knoch, the kindly doctor who had treated her three times this year?

“I am Zhong Xi, and I am eleven-years-old,” came a trembly whisper. “I have brittle bone disease and have been admitted to the Wolfgang Knoch Hospital thrice this year. Each time, I stay for about one to two weeks, and after that I must stay at home for another two to three weeks.”

Judge Pao sighed with impatience. This was hardly relevant. Dr. Pao rolled her eyes and pouted at the ungrateful child.

“I got a 3D printer for Christmas, but I got sick of drawing and printing unicorns, so I started copying my x-ray results when I had nothing to do in hospital. I drew all sorts of bones, the tibia, femur, rib, clavicle, everything I have ever broken.”

Judge Pao mustered all his self-control to keep a straight face and not cut Zhong Xi off. Where was this kid going with her story?

“So, one day, I showed Dr. Knoch my drawings and he told me they were very realistic and asked if he could have all my drawings. I was so flattered that I happily obliged him.” Zhong Xi continued, “I think he stole my drawings and printed them without my permission.”

Judge Pao sucked in his breath. Zhong Xi sounded delusional...

But she was not done yet. “Usually I draw perfect bones, but during my last stay in hospital, I wanted to try something different and I drew a broken one – my own broken tibia. I did not know that Dr Knoch would print it and use it for Ms. Karen’s surgery. I can prove that Dr. Knoch used my drawing because all my drawings have the mark “众” (“Zhong” in Chinese) on them. This is my name and in Dr. Knoch’s 3D bone, he has reproduced them as three upside down letter “Y”s, which does not make sense at all.”

Judge Pao and Dr. Pao both turned to look at Dr. Knoch who had turned as ashen as bone. The verdict was clear. Justice had to be done, even for a renowned doctor.

Oily Fingers

Singapore International School (Hong Kong), Wu, Xin Ru Audrey – 11

I was strolling around the market to buy fresh radishes for some radish soup. So far, I hadn't had much luck. A group of youths were staring at me with their mouths agape, but I shrugged it off.

Suddenly, I heard a shout.

"Fresh radishes! Fresh radishes! Straight from the farm to the market!" bellowed the seller.

I ran towards him quicker than a cheetah. "Good morning, sir, could I have a fresh batch of those radishes?" I asked amiably.

His eyes widened. "Justice Pao! How lovely to see you! Yes, of course, a batch of radishes coming right up!"

"Thank you, sir!"

These days, I am used to being stared at in the streets. People are shocked to see me buying groceries in the market like a peasant, but I enjoy cooking, and it's good to live life as I always had from the start.

The seller carefully placed the radishes into my basket, and I walked off, ready to go home and prepare a delicious, delectable bowl of radish soup. Just then, I heard the sound of a young boy caterwauling.

"Oh no! Where did all my money go? I need that for my mother's medicine! I never should have fallen asleep on that rock! What will I do?" cried the boy as he collapsed into a heap in the midst of his wails.

I took a look at the large basket he had set on the floor in front of him. It contained a few ceramic containers filled to the brim with oil noodles. From strolling around in the market, I knew that everyone was selling fruits and vegetables except for the young boy.

I rolled up my sleeves and sat down next to him. "Dear boy, please stop crying. I will help you find out who stole your coins, so don't you worry!"

The boy stifled his tears and looked up at me with his solemn, red eyes. "But how? Just because you are Judge Pao doesn't mean you can solve every single case."

"Listen. If we can't find the culprit, I'll give you enough money to help your mom. I understand how it feels, and I respect your initiative to fend for yourself and your mother. Now let's find that culprit!"

Just as I had hoped, the boy's solemn expression had turned determined.

"Judge Pao, tell me what I need to do!"

"Everyone, gather here in a circle!" I bellowed.

I could see everyone's head snapping around to look at me, but thankfully they turned around and formed a circle. Most of them looked confused and annoyed, which was expected, since I just interrupted their job. But I had to help this poor child.

"Could the man in the straw shirt please pass me a coin?" I asked, my voice clear as day.

"What for?" he asked.

"I would like to find the culprit who stole this young boy's coins which he has rightfully earned," I explained.

“Well, alright then,” he begrudgingly agreed.

“Dear boy, could you fill a big bowl with water please?” I asked.

“Yes sir!” he exclaimed.

It was a slow, repeated cycle. Take the coins, drop them in the water and return them to the owner, who would be free to go. The young boy was beginning to lose hope. But I would not give up. Soon, we were down to a handful of people. A man standing behind everyone else was fidgeting and sweating. That’s suspicious, if you asked me.

“Could the man standing at the back pass me a coin?”, the boy timidly asked. It seemed we shared the same idea. That the man could be the culprit. Why else would he be so nervous?

The young boy took the coin and dropped it in the water. Everyone gathered around the bowl. As I had anticipated, an oil bloom appeared in the water.

“Sir, you have stolen from a young child! This is unacceptable!” I yelled.

His eyes darted around, looking for a way to escape, but the remaining few people had formed a circle around us. Seeing he couldn’t escape, he held out his supposed grocery basket and poured the coins into the bowl.

I sighed. Theft did not merit execution, but a few months in jail.

“Sir, you are very lucky not to be facing execution. Guards! Please escort this man to the town jail as he will serve one month in prison and also pay back what he stole,” I cried out.

The town guards nodded and immediately set to work.

I hadn’t expected going to the market to be a scenario to deliver justice, but here I was!

The Case of the Stolen Spear

Singapore International School (Hong Kong), Xu, Jiaqi Jacky – 10

Around the 2000s, there was a European tourist who came to China and found an extremely important piece of Chinese history. The tale was of Judge Pao, one of the most influential people of the Song Dynasty, and the case of the stolen spear.

Judge Pao was taking a walk around the imperial garden in the morning when he heard a parade of footsteps, as Emperor Renzong walked toward him, holding a piece of paper in his right hand. That piece of paper commanded him to appear in court for an important case, about a stolen spear.

“Mr Pao,” he commanded, “You are to judge an important case, which has to do with the recently stolen spear.”

Seeing that Judge Pao was extremely puzzled by this, the Emperor continued, “The spear is an ancient artifact, covered in gold and jewels, making it worth more than whole cities. It also holds the power of the empire. The suspect has already been caught, so I need you to help with the ruling, because I have some important meetings to take care of.”

Judge Pao deeply bowed and returned to his home, changed into his official uniform, and got to work.

After he reached the gigantic warehouse that had stored the spear, he found some more information about the spear.

According to the guards, the golden spear was a gift from a ruler of a far-away country, said to be covered in gold and jewels, yet invisible to most passers by. There were also other gifts, such as rolls upon rolls of an extremely rare and exotic type of red fabric, and whole chests of pure gold bars. Yet, the spear was by far the most important.

“The suspect was apprehended about 36 hours ago, though the spear is missing.” one of the guards told Judge Pao, distraught, “If we don’t find it soon, all of our heads are as good as gone.”

Judge Pao, having a further understanding the significance of the spear, went to have a look at the gigantic storage chamber the spear was kept at. The door was fine, and so were the windows. There were no footsteps in the whole area, and the other items were left untouched. Furthermore, only high-ranking officials have access to the building.

“So, it’s a case of theft from an adytum with a mole. This should be fun,” the judge sighed.

When heading outside, Judge Pao spotted a pair of large handprints right around the doorway. The current suspect, though, had miniscule handprints. So, the suspect couldn’t be the real thief.

Then, that seemingly insignificant detail sparked a brilliant idea in his mind. The judge quickly went to the imperial palace, requesting a meeting with the emperor.

When Judge Pao finally got to meet Emperor Renzong, he told him the plan, “We should hold a fake public execution, and then proclaim that the spear is made of a special substance, and all things that have touched it have a glowing effect, but only to the royal bloodline. Since the real thief will want to watch the execution, as it will mean their victory, but when I announce the fake news, the thief will most definitely try to hide his hands. That is when the imperial guards around the area will be able to spot the true thief.”

The Emperor slowly nodded, not saying a single word, as if contemplating all the possibilities of such a risky move. “What if the thief doesn’t show up, or doesn’t try to hide his hands? We might not be able to catch the thief, or maybe even catch the wrong person. What would happen then?”

“We have no other option, and if we don’t do it soon, the thief will surely escape. It is the only way that we can catch the thief at this stage,” the judge was solemn, and could only hope that the gamble would pay off.

On the the day of the fake execution, the fake suspect was brought out, surrounded by imperial guards in every direction. There were also hundreds of imperial guards upon the crowd, eager to finally catch the real thief. Even the Emperor was on scene, though secretly.

When it was time, Judge Pao announced, "Attention everyone! This is the public execution of the thief who stole the golden spear, therefore committing imperial theft."

The true thief was having a fantastic time celebrating amongst the crowd.

"The way that I caught this despicable law-breaker was through our great Emperor. He informed me that all people who have touched the spear will have a glowing hue, invisible to most, but very obvious to the royal bloodline. Though the hue will only appear around the area that has touched the spear, it was extremely easy to recognise for the royal family. The reason for this glowing hue is the structure of the spear's material. It apparently replicates a specific pattern of light reflection on human skin that it comes in contact with."

The true thief immediately went pale, as he remembered that he had not worn gloves while stealing the spear. He tried desperately to hide his hands, playing right into the judge's gamble.

"In the name of our Emperor, I command you to stop!" an imperial guard ran towards the crowd, and stopped the thief, having seen him trying desperately to hide his hands.

"Let go of me!" The thief tried to struggle and run, revealing all the stolen possessions on him, but wasn't able to escape all the imperial guards. He was so confident in his perfect victory that he didn't even bring a weapon as a backup, as he was sure that this would never happen.

When Judge Pao noticed the chaos and a concentration of imperial guards in one area, he slowly chuckled, knowing that the gigantic gamble had paid off perfectly. He sat down on a chair right next to him, and mumbled to himself,

"Always standing sure is tiring!"

Case of the Missing Robe

Singapore International School (Hong Kong), Yu, Yat Hong David – 10

The Emperor's birthday was due in three weeks and the entire kingdom was bustling with excitement. Everyone was running around busy preparing for the important celebration.

Suddenly, a group of serious-looking palace guards marched through the crowded streets and stopped abruptly in front of two tailor shops. "Attention! This is a message from the Emperor!" one of the palace guards shouted, holding up an enormous scroll. Wang Hao and Jiang Lin, owners of the two tailor shops came out and knelt with trembling knees whilst the guard continued the message. "You two are the finest tailors in town and have been selected to make a dragon robe for the Emperor's birthday. Whoever makes the most beautiful robe shall be rewarded with gold and gems and become one of the Emperor's personal tailors!"

Wang Hao was a chubby man who had inherited a fortune from his father. He often bought delicate, expensive silk and weaved them into beautiful clothes which he sold for a great deal of money. The other tailor, Jiang Lin, was a tall, skinny man who grew up poor, but made a name for himself as the clothes he designed were both affordable and stylish. Their shops were right next to each other and the rivalry between them had always been fierce.

Upon receiving the orders, Wang Hao and Jiang Lin both felt nervous yet excited as this would be the biggest opportunity in their lifetime. One of the guards stepped forward, opened a wooden chest, and took out two rolls of exquisite silk fabric. "Wang Hao, you will use the purple silk, and Jiang Lin, you will take the yellow silk." The two tailors touched the silk gingerly, and it was the smoothest material they had ever laid their hands on.

Once the guards had left, both the tailors sprinted back into their shops immediately with the beautiful silk in their arms, cradling it like a baby. They both closed their shops for business and worked tirelessly day and night, using a monumental amount of effort in the making of the robe.

Three days before the big celebration, at the crack of dawn, Judge Pao woke up to some shouting and screaming outside his house. "Judge Pao! Judge Pao! Open the door, open the door! Please help me!"

Judge Pao was well-admired throughout the kingdom as he was known for his utmost belief in honesty and uprightness. As he opened the antique wooden door of his house, he saw a devastated Wang Hao standing outside with tears flooding out of his eyes, "The robe is gone! Someone has stolen it while I was asleep!"

Judge Pao replied calmly, "Tell me what happened."

"I finished the robe last night and fell asleep whilst admiring my own work. This morning when I woke up it was gone! I searched everywhere and could not find it. It must be Jiang Lin who stole my robe. He did not want me to win!"

"Let's not waste time," replied Judge Pao. "Lead me to your shop!"

As they walked to the shop, the city began to wake up. Jiang Lin was just opening the doors looking happy and bright as they arrived.

"Jiang Lin!" Judge Pao bellowed. "Move aside! Let me search your workshop!"

“Wha—what did I do? Why?” stuttered Jiang Lin, his smile gone and now looking confused.

Judge Pao ignored him and stepped into his shop. Right near the doorstep, he spotted a few strands of delicate purple silk lying on the cold stone floor.

“Jiang Lin, how do you explain having such exquisite purple fabric at your shop? Only Wang Hao received purple silk from the Emperor!” questioned Judge Pao. “Where did you hide his robe?”

Jiang Lin cried out, “I did not steal his robe! I was busy working on mine and just completed it last night. My one was so beautiful I did not need to steal his robe to win!”

Wang Hao cried, pointing to his rival, “He has the motive, and we have the evidence! Judge Pao, please arrest him and bring justice to the case!”

Judge Pao comforted Wang Hao, “Don’t worry, there is an easy way to find out where the robe is hidden. The Emperor keeps the finest fabrics in a special warehouse with herbs imported from Persia. The silk would have absorbed the scent and unless it had been washed, the Emperor’s specially-trained dogs would be able to find it. We will have this arranged first thing tomorrow morning.”

“Oh, that’s great, that’s great!” exclaimed Wang Hao.

That midnight, Judge Pao and two guards hid near the well and waited. A shadowy figure emerged from the darkness, took a large bucket of water from the well and started washing something desperately. The guards snuck up to the person and pinned him down. As the figure slowly turned around, his identity was revealed to Judge Pao. It was Wang Hao, grinding his teeth, holding on to his purple robe that was dripping with water.

“So it really was you, Wang Hao!” said Judge Pao.

Wang Hao burst into tears and confessed, “I had no other choice! I saw Jiang Lin’s robe last night and it was so beautiful. I knew I would lose if I did not do something! But... but how did you know it was me?”

“The part about the silk carrying the special scent from the herbs was fake,” replied Judge Pao. “I’ve suspected you all along because the purple silk left at Jiang Lin’s doorstep was too obvious. I’ve also seen the robe he made, and it was magnificent. He did not need to steal your robe to win.”

Wang Hao was arrested, and Jiang Lin eventually won the competition. In fact, the Emperor was so happy with the dragon robe that he made Jiang Lin his head tailor.

And with that, Judge Pao solved yet another mystery, the new case of the missing robe.

The Missing Pearl

Singapore International School (Hong Kong), Zhang, Han Ryan – 10

Part 1: The Pearl

A cold gust of wind brought an early winter feeling to the capital—Kaifeng. The leaves finished turning yellow and brown. Under the tree, there is a popular chestnut stall, and it was buzzing with chatter as the people were talking about the groundbreaking news in the capital.

“I heard that the pearl was missing!”

“What pearl?” A tourist asked curiously.

“The Pearl is a gift from the east coast to Emperor Renzong,” the stall owner said, “It is said to be the most precious pearl ever found. It took our ambassador a month to deliver The Pearl to our capital here. Our emperor was kind enough to let us admire the pearl for 7 days. The event is being held at the temple near here, and today is the last day. But it seems like The Pearl went missing just a while ago, the temple is now under heavy surveillance.”

Just then, a tall man got off a horse—pulled carriage, headed towards the temple with long strides. He wore a set of old but neat long robes, magnifying glass in hand. His skin looks dark but healthy, as if he works outdoors a lot. On his forehead there was a crescent-moon shaped scar that made him recognizable instantly.

“Judge Pao!” People shouted, respectfully making way for him to pass.

“I bet he can find the pearl! He is the smartest man in the city!” The stall owner added.

Part 2: In the temple

“Judge Pao, please find the pearl, my life depends on it! His majesty would send me into exile!” The ambassador wailed as soon as Judge Pao entered the temple.

Judge Pao looked around: The main room where the theft occurred was a giant room with a humongous Buddha statue in it. In front of the statue there was a table with an empty jade box with jewels encrusted on it, it was used to hold the pearl. The table was sealed off by fences.

“We searched everywhere, but still can’t find The Pearl. We arrested two suspects last seen in the main room before the pearl went missing, Li-Xin and Mu-Chen.”

In front of Judge Pao, the two suspects were brought up.

Li-Xin was a poor man working as a cleaner in the temple, he wore a battered up. His legs were trembling and his hands were fidgeting with a cleaning rag. On the other hand, Mu-Chen wore a fine cotton robe. He looked calm and relaxed.

“Li-Xin was caught stealing buns on the street once. He was cleaning the main room when the pearl disappeared. I think he is the thief.” The ambassador whispered in Judge Pao’s ear, “Look at him, he has a disgraced past, and he needs money. But he refuses to tell us where the pearl is, we should interrogate him to make him speak.”

“Don’t judge a book by its cover ambassador, what about Mu-Chen?” Judge Pao asked.

“He inherited a large sum of money from his father. I don’t see any motive for him to steal the pearl.” Ambassador answered.

Judge Pao then went past the fences to inspect. He bent down, used his magnifying glass to inspect every inch of the table. He observed one corner of the wooden table carefully as if he had found some clues. The oddest thing was, after inspecting the jade box with his magnifying glass, Judge Pao then sniffed the box!

“Show me your hands!” He then ordered the two suspects. He checked their hands and nails with intense concentration, and even sniffed their fingers.

When everyone seemed confused, Judge Pao declared they needed to go to Mu-Chen’s house.

Part 3: Mu-Chen’s house

It was a two-floored big house with a garden. There was fine furniture in the rooms, nice decorations on the walls. Mu-Chen lived with his mother and wife, without kids or pets.

When everyone set off to search the house, Judge Pao was attracted to the rustling sound in the trees of the garden.

“Everyone freeze!” Judge Pao emphatically whispered, putting his finger to his mouth. His eyes were following a small animal darting from branch to branch, it then leaped over the garden wall to the corner of the garden, after a while, it patted the dirt and jumped onto the branch and disappeared. Judge Pao strode to the corner of the garden without hesitation.

“These patches of dirt have been moved”, Judge Pao pointed, “We have to see what is concealed.” He moved the dirt aside. Astoundingly there was a squirrel’s secret food storehouse. On top of some nuts, a sphere, gleaming in the sunlight lay.

“The Pearl!” People exclaimed, unable to believe their eyes.

Mu–Chen’s face turned pale.

Part 4: Explanations

“I lost all my money in the last gamble, The debt collectors are after me.” Mu–Chen cried, “But how did you find out?”

“The truth cannot be hidden. I noticed claw marks on the wooden table in the temple, the jade box and your right hand had a sesame smell. I guessed you used a small animal to steal the pearl and hide it.” Judge Pao smiled.

“I noticed a squirrel always hid its food in my garden, so I came up with the idea to catch it and use it to steal the pearl. I hid it in my sleeve, and let go of it near The Pearl.” Mu–Chen admitted. “If you want to know the details, I bribed a security guard to let me touch the pearl in front of him, I left sesame paste on the pearl so that the squirrel would mistake it as food.”

“How did you know it would work?” Judge Pao asked.

Mu–Chen burst into tears, “I didn’t. But it was my last chance.”

Part 5: The End

After the pearl was successfully gifted to the emperor. Mu–Chen was put in jail. People now say: whoever the criminal is, man, woman, even animal, Judge Pao will find them.

New tales of Judge Pao: the case of the black-hooded man

Singapore International School (Hong Kong), Zhao, Yanxin – 11

A shadow lurked across the dimly-lit capital city as dusk approached. It climbed a tree and leaped into the palace garden as agile as a cat. Slowly, the bright moon appeared from behind the clouds. The ghastly moonlight illuminated the mysterious man. He was wearing a black robe with a sword on his belt. On his back were a quiver of arrows and a bow. He slipped behind a few soldiers patrolling near him and towards the emperor's bedroom. He slithered up another tree and crouched there stealthily, eyes glued to the room.

Judge Pao had been invited to the palace by the emperor. The emperor wanted to discuss the news about people from China that went to other warring countries and became their hostages.

"Do you know why those countries would keep hostages?" asked the emperor.

"I don't know. Perhaps those countries need money to buy weapons as they are currently engaged in a battle. I wonder why they must capture people from our country. Do they want to get us involved?" replied Judge Pao. "They asked us to give them one thousand pieces of gold sycee ingots for getting one hostage back. At this rate, we might be the poorest country in the world," he added with a sigh.

"Have we held a grudge against them? If we pay the money for them, the country will experience extreme loss," the emperor sighed. "Whatever we do, we should think before we act."

Outside, the mysterious man carefully took his bow and plucked the tallest arrow in his quiver. It had a different look. He readied himself, preparing to shoot the arrow. Narrowing his eyes, he pulled his hand back and let it go. It flew in through the window, startling the emperor and Judge Pao. The emperor ducked just in time as the arrow whizzed over his head, skimmed past a soldier's neck, and burrowed itself into the wall.

"Assassinator! Catch him!" shouted Judge Pao as he hurried to the window.

The man hopped down the tree and started running away. He was so quick that no one could catch him. Instead, he tripped and got hurt when escaping the shower of arrows soldiers outside the room fired at him. Arrows slashed through his robe. Cloth dangled in the air.

Judge Pao pulled the weapon out of the wall. It was wrapped with a note. "I give you two choices: either give me one thousand gold sycee ingots, or I will kill you. If you choose to give me gold sycee ingots, then put them outside the north gate of the capital city tomorrow at midnight." Judge Pao read aloud the letter. The emperor turned pale at the thought of himself drowning in his blood. It was the first time someone had ever sent such a threatening letter. Judge Pao sank into deep thoughts.

But where could the culprit be? He mustn't have gone far, even when he ran faster than the north wind. A lightbulb clicked in his head. He whispered a few words to his assistants, Zhan, Zhang, Zhao, Wang, Ma, and Gong. They nodded and ran outside. After about two hours, they came back with a man in chains.

The emperor furrowed his eyebrows and asked, "Who is this? Are you sure that it is the culprit? If it isn't, won't it be embarrassing?"

Judge Pao laughed. "I asked them to search houses belonging to doctors that heal broken bones. I reminded them to notice a few things about the man: when he arrived, his clothing, and what he brought along with him. We have a lot of proof now.

"Beside the bed in the doctor's house was a quiver of arrows. They were identical to the one that nearly killed you. There was a ragged black robe stained with blood. Since the culprit was hurt, he must have bled a lot. When we tried to get him, we only managed to rip his clothes," explained Judge Pao.

"But how did you know that he was a patient of that doctor, not another one?"

"In the note, it mentioned the north gate. Plus, the culprit broke a bone. Have you heard of the phrase 'the most dangerous place is the safest place'? He would have stayed in a famous place if he wanted to hide. The place he would be staying at must also be near the north gate. I asked the soldiers to go to some of the most famous houses of doctors for emergency treatment near the north gate. The culprit would choose emergency treatment since he needs to heal his broken bone as fast as possible."

After a few minutes, Judge Pao questioned the man. His name was Jiang. He admitted that he was the culprit.

“Why did you want so many gold sycee ingots?” asked Judge Pao. Even though they had found the man behind the mask, Judge Pao was still curious.

Jiang seemed like he was on the verge of tears. “I’m certain that you know about the hostages in Europe,” he said. “My son is part of them. Since they asked for one thousand gold sycee ingots for one person, I have to get the money to get him back. I have to get my child back safely!”

Judge Pao stood up and walked towards Jiang. He put a hand on the grief-stricken Jiang’s shoulder. “Don’t worry; we will help you,” he comforted Jiang. “But why didn’t you tell us first?”

“Why would you even help me? I didn’t help you with anything.” Jiang let out a long sigh. “My son is the only relative I have left in my family. Surely I can’t let him die!”

Judge Pao nodded his head slowly. “Every citizen in China is important. We will try our best to help you. For now, the mystery is closed.”

The Case of the Stolen Buddha

Singapore International School (Hong Kong), Zheng, Anya – 10

The room was as dark as ink. Bits of shattered glass and jewellery lay on the ground like an endless beach, but I had no time for those, I flung Zhou into a diminutive chest, squeezed myself in after him and shut the lid.

“Ow! What on earth was that for?” groaned Zhou as he grimaced while rubbing his head.

“Shh!” I hushed as I stared in awe at the mesmerising emerald-green buddha with every single detail of it carved into bewildering perfection in my hands, “I’m trying to admire its beauty! It’s the only thing that is more gorgeous than me!”

“Well, I think that anything is more gorgeous than your ugly face!” whispered Zhou sarcastically, still rubbing his head.

“How dare—” before I could finish my sentence, Zhou rudely covered my mouth with his filthy hands, “Mmm mmmm!” I tried to scold him, but all that came out was a muffled, outraged scream.

“Quiet!” Zhou hissed, “Someone’s here!”

Suddenly, my heart started to pound vigorously against my chest as I heard footsteps. I had forgotten the very reason we were in this tiny chest! Cold sweat rushed down from my forehead like a gigantic waterfall as I grasped the spectacular masterpiece in my trembling hands. I glanced at Zhou, he was holding his breath, his face full of fear.

“There’s an ocean of beautiful jewellery covering the entire floor!” a person exclaimed in amazement.

“Everyone can see that, Zhu! Why not say some useful stuff?” said another person, clearly annoyed.

“Like what?” asked the person who was supposedly named Zhu.

Zhou chuckled as a whiff of unbearable odour crawled up my nose, making my face scrunch up. Oh lord, why did Zhou have to chuckle so loudly and why was his breath so unbearably stinky?

“Wait a second,” the other person muttered.

For a horrifying second, it was completely silent.

No sound.

Not even a single breath.

Silence.

"It was probably nothing, let's get searching," said the person.

Zhou and I both breathed a sigh of relief. But it was not over, the people outside searched for hours and hours while we sat inside the chest, anxiously hoping that they would not find us. Oddly enough, the people haven't checked the chest yet.

After what seemed like forever, one person finally grunted, "We've searched up and down, left and right and still haven't found the thieves, they are definitely gone."

Before I could even relax, someone opened the door with an ear splitting "bang" and rushed in. The third person boomed furiously with an eerily familiar voice, "How could you give up when you haven't searched the most obvious places to hide in yet? The chest, for example."

The words "the chest" punched me straight in the stomach. Zhou and I were dead meat.

No way out.

Awaiting the lid of the chest to open.

Awaiting to be found.

All of a sudden, the other two people burst into laughter hysterically, "Pao, Pao, Pao. Why would someone who is trying to avoid being found hide in the most obvious place to hide in?"

The name Pao hit me like a rock, it could only mean one thing, the most renowned detective in China was here, this is a catastrophe!

"If a person panics for whatever reason, he won't have time to think of where to hide and will hide in wherever is the most convenient place. In addition, if the person is smart enough, he would hide in the most obvious place, expecting you to think that he has hid in a difficult-to-find location and waste time searching for those excellent hiding spots," Pao said like a wise professor. I could imagine Pao saying this as he stroked his long beard that was as black as a raven, "Now, if you guys are not going to check the chest, then I will."

Thump, thump, thump. I couldn't tell if it was my heart drumming furiously in my chest or the intimidating footsteps of Pao gradually growing louder and louder as he approached the chest in no hurry, as if trying to say, "I'm coming for you!" with an evil grin etched across his face.

My heart sank to the bottom of my stomach like a large, heavy rock as the lid of the chest smirked at me and creaked open, revealing me and Zhou who were drenched head to toe in sweat, and the magnificent buddha towards everyone in the room.

As Pao's stern eyes looked through me as if I was transparent, a memory from many years ago suddenly floated to the top of my mind.

After devouring my scrumptious breakfast, I bolted out of the house towards a tall tree with lush green leaves where my best friend Pao stood under, waiting for me while gripping a shuttlecock and grinning. He jumped up and down enthusiastically when he saw me. The sun smiled down at the earth as I inhaled the fresh, lung-cleansing air outside as I approached Pao.

“Hi!” I greeted Pao, “How are you?”

“Great! My mum just made a new shuttlecock! Let’s play!” Pao said excitedly as he showed me the homemade shuttlecock. It looked at me invitingly, enticing me to kick it.

“Sure!” I agreed without hesitation.

Pao stared at me as sternly as a hawk and warned, “Don’t you dare break it.”

Those same stern eyes were staring at me now, making me speechless and making my heart skip beats.

“Pao! My old friend,” I croaked in desperation while forcing a smile and trying to spread my arms in an inviting way. “Do you remember the good old days we had when we were children, the happiness that we brought to each other?”

“Hand over the buddha and follow us,” ordered Pao cold-heartedly, completely unwavering by my touching speech.

I glared at the captivating buddha in my hands as it smiled in celebration, overjoyed to be saved.

“It was worth a shot,” I muttered under my breath. “What a horrible friend!”

The General's Ink

Singapore International School (Hong Kong), Zhu, Yutong Sophia – 11

I stared at him, at the unbelievably young general, unable to do anything, can't move, can't speak, can't think. When I turned my head to the Emperor, I realised his expression matched mine. It isn't, it couldn't be, could it?

It was so many years ago, when I was just a new and so-called "rookie" detective. I had been called to the capital Kaifeng to complete a time-consuming investigation. Coincidentally, it was during one of the most stressful times of the year for Chinese students – the final palatial exams, Dian Shi, hosted by the Emperor himself.

It was already dusk, the day before the exams. I was finishing off my investigation and calling it a day when suddenly I heard horses galloping and a loud knock at my door.

It was a message from the Emperor himself, calling me to the scene of the Imperial Study. I threw on some clothes that seemed formal enough and followed the messenger out of my house.

When we arrived at the scene, I immediately dropped to my knees as I recognized the Emperor. He didn't say a word, but he gestured to me to come closer.

"It seems we have a difficult situation here. I have been sent the exam papers for one final check today. And I had also scheduled a meeting with three of the contestants around the same time. The meeting should have been held in the room next to this one. Unfortunately, I was called to an urgent military meeting and therefore missed the meeting scheduled with the three students. By the time I got back it was quite obvious that the papers had been rummaged through. We must figure out whether the papers have been leaked and decide if tomorrow's exam can still be resumed," the Emperor said, with what seemed like a frown on his face. The exams must mean quite a lot to him.

I immediately started looking around the scene. The first of the important papers was on the floor, the second was turned to face the high window overlooking the front gate, and the third was left right where it was.

There was also a peculiar bottle of ink on the table, with a few drops spilled. But the smell of that was enough to tell that it was unique, and of supreme quality. The quill placed next to it was also one-of-a-kind, one I had never seen before.

Without me asking, the Emperor silently handed me a scroll containing information about the three students he was planning to meet. The first one was a quiet and short man from Guangdong, the second a sturdy, confident, and tall man from Sichuan, the third was of athletic build, a tall figure, and from An Hui.

An Hui.

The spilled ink.

The smell of it.

How familiar and uniquely fragrant it smells.

I tried to put the scene into my memory, picked up the quill and the bottle of ink, and turned to the Emperor, "Your majesty, I'm sorry that this might bother you, but I will go home and do my research. Hopefully my return is possible by the next morning."

"I have my utmost faith in you. Please return tomorrow, even if it is with the most unfortunate news," the Emperor said as he agreed to my request, and I left his palace knowing I did not have a lot of time to waste.

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The next morning when I arrived at the emperor's palace, I saw that he was a shambles. Although he agreed to my request, I could tell he had not slept that night.

Having done my research, I turned to the Emperor.

"Your majesty, the ink spilled was of incredible value and quality. There is no other city that has easy access to it other than An Hui. Can I request a meeting with the gentleman from there?"

"Yes, that will be possible," the Emperor replied, and a minute later, the man was brought over.

"Greetings, I am Judge Pao, and I have been asked to complete an investigation for the Emperor. I believe you are somewhat involved, would you like to explain the situation, or should I—" I started.

The man immediately fell to his knees and handed the Emperor a letter.

"Your Majesty, I'm convinced that you already know that I am the culprit. My carelessness of spilling the ink has certainly given me away. Even though I gained a huge advantage from copying the papers, I couldn't sleep last night knowing what I had done. So, I got up early to write this letter. In it, you will find that I'm willing to drop out from the exams and would like a chance as a soldier guarding the border. I'm terribly sorry for what I have done but would be immensely grateful if you could give me another chance." He was in tears as he begged the Emperor.

"Yes, I do believe you should be given a second chance for your courage in coming to admit your mistake," the Emperor generously agreed, "you will be sent to the border as a new soldier this afternoon. I hope that will help you realise your mistake and allow you to reach your full potential."

I, Judge Pao, was convinced this was the end to the case, yet a decade later, the Chinese border was attacked again, and a mysterious young general led an army of a few hundred cavalry into battle. They mounted nearly impossible charges, and finally drove the attacking force away.

The Emperor couldn't believe the courage of the young general. Just as I was about to tell him the results of one of my investigations for him, he called the young general into the palace. When the general's athletic build emerged from between the doors, the emperor's jaw fell to the floor. It was him.

Him.

The culprit.

The man from An Hui.

New Tales of Judge Pao

St. Joseph's Primary School, Tong, Wai Kin – 10

One day at the Imperial Palace, a hundred villagers from Guangzhou arrived at the gates, requesting to see the Emperor.

The Emperor was raging. "How dare this ridiculous mob! Tell them to send only one representative!"

A young man entered, "Your Majesty! We are starving due to lack of rice! People are dying. Please help us!" The Emperor felt very puzzled, he had just sent three hundred packs of rice to Guangzhou. So he called for Judge Pao and sent him to investigate.

Judge Pao disguised himself as a scholar and wandered the streets of Guangzhou. He spoke to everyone he encountered. They all complained that the Emperor was too miserly. They said that the Emperor had sent too little rice for the villagers. Pao decided to go to the fort of Xiao Yuen to investigate about the distribution of rice.

At the fort, Pao asked the lord who distributed the rice, "Lord Yi, how much rice did the Emperor send here?" The lord replied, "Three hundred packs. Unfortunately, the warehouse caught fire two days earlier. Two hundred fifty packs of rice were burned. So we could only give the villagers fifty packs." Pao requested to see the warehouse. Lord Yi shook his head, "Sorry, you cannot. It is being rebuilt." Pao thought, "Strange. Why are they rebuilding it so quickly?" So, Pao went back to court and sent his chief guard Zhan Zhao to find more clues.

Zhao took the order and crept into the fort. Inside, he saw lots of guards surrounding the warehouse. When the coast was clear, he sneaked into the warehouse. Strange enough, there were neither signs of ash nor burnt rice inside! Zhao suspected that the rice may have been stolen. He quickly returned to the court to report to Pao.

As soon as Pao heard this, he hurried to the nearby village. He asked the villagers if they had seen anything suspicious. An old man said, "I saw lots of cows crossing by my house last night! It was very unusual. I had never seen so many cows at night." After listening to the old man's story, Pao examined the village's main street. He was astonished to see that there was no cow footprints but tyre tracks! Pao went back to court to discuss with his helper Kung Suen Chak.

Kung and Pao pondered about the strange tyre tracks for a long time. Suddenly, Kung shouted, "I got it!" Pao's face lit up with joy. Kung continued, "At the time of the Three Kingdoms, someone made cows out of wood and hid food in them. The thief might be using the same idea!" Pao nodded and raced off to the nearby market. There, he asked a wood seller if anyone had bought lots of wood recently. Surprised, the wood seller asked Pao how he had known this and answered that a lord named Yi bought them. With this new information, Pao sent Zhao to find the wooden cow in the fort.

Zhao sneaked effortlessly into the fort and into Lord Yi's bedroom then hid under the bed. When Lord Yi returned to his bedroom, he left his keys in his closet. "Heehee," laughed Lord Yi. "Pao would never find those rice in the cows. Who would have known there is a secret underground room in the Baiyun Mountain?" Having overheard this, Zhao waited for Lord Yi to leave before he fled to inform Pao.

Later, Pao sent Zhao to seize Yi and bring him to the court. Yi was furious. "How dare you? Why are you arresting me?" Pao demanded where the missing rice went. Yi replied, "They were burnt!" Pao roared, "How dare you! You still aren't going to admit you stole the rice, are you?"

Zhao then brought in the first witness into the court. The old man said, "I saw lots of cows crossing by my house the night before yesterday. I had never seen so many cows!" Lord Yi laughed, "That was only a farmer bringing his cows back to the farm late at night." Next, Zhao brought in the second witness. The wood seller claimed, "A few days earlier, Lord Yi went to my shop and demanded for nine tons of wood for a reasonable price. He said that it was for building a bridge." Lord Yi smiled, "Yeah, I was going to build a bridge for the villagers." Finally, Pao declared, "Now for our final 'witness', the wooden cow!" While Pao was judging Yi, several guards had went to the Baiyun Mountains and found the secret room. Later, they retrieved all the wooden cows back to

the court just in time. After Pao finished, Zhao brought a wooden cow into the court. Pao demanded, "Lord Yi, this cow was found in your secret room. Do you confess?" Yi knew he was caught red-handed and so he confessed everything. "I only wanted to make more money by selling the rice! I was greedy. First, I bought tons of wood and made thirty wooden cows. I hid the rice inside them and sent my guards to transport the cows to the underground room in Baiyun Mountain."

Pao stripped Yi of his lord status and sent him to work as a slave in the desert. As for the missing rice, they were finally distributed to the villagers. The villagers were overjoyed and thanked Judge Pao gratefully.

New Tales of Judge Pao

St. Joseph's Primary School, Tse, Chun Kiu – 12

Not far from Kaifeng sat a tranquil little village named Yuquan. In this serene village, it hid a scene of chaos in one of its humble houses. A picture had been knocked off the wall, fragments all over the floor. The chairs and tables were toppled, tattered and battered. The owner, the village leader, was known for his orderliness and would not accept anything untidy or messy, even if his life depended on it, but there he was, lying on the floor, dead as a doornail and soaked in blood. The whole place was a horrifying, bloody mess. Amidst this harrowing scene, a dark silhouette slipped away in the moonlight, blending into the shadows. However, he did not notice that a small piece of his ornament had been chipped in the struggle.

The following day, Judge Pao sat in his room, trying to uncover the mysterious death of the village leader in Yuquan. He fingered a piece of broken ornament left at the crime scene, trying to grasp what had happened. The ornament's design was exquisite and had a gorgeous carving of the letter "S". Anyone could easily imagine that the owner must have been wealthy. As Judge Pao was pondering about the crime, a voice broke his train of thought. "Judge Pao! The banks of the Wai Man River are flooding! Please help us and save our crops!" Then other screaming voices arose, and he saw that frantic-looking citizens were outside his courtyard, wringing their hands and wailing. Seeing this, he quickly walked outside into the crowd of panicked townspeople.

When Judge Pao arrived at the river bank, almost half of the city was flooded ankle-deep. The peasants wore ragged clothes, hastening back and forth to bucket the water from their homes. They looked poorer than they were last week. However, Judge Pao decided to solve the more urgent problem first. With his meticulous eye, he scrutinised the river and spotted something unusual. The current in the south of the river was rapid, while the current in the north was much slower. "I know what is happening," Judge Pao said without doubt.

The next day, Judge Pao rode a carriage over to the north side of the river. His suspicions were confirmed when the river current gradually slowed down until it lumbered like a turtle. As he travelled farther and farther into the north, an undeniable outline of a mansion suddenly emerged from the heavy fog. The mansion was enormous, more prominent than all the houses back in Kaifeng. Judge Pao first noticed a unique hipped roof, which only government officials were allowed to have. The second thing he noticed was that the road to the mansion barely had any hoof marks, and the house tiles were shiny and polished.

Judge Pao stepped onto the marble-made steps and knocked on the front door, where the gigantic letters "Shong" had been carved delicately into it. The door opened a bit, and an eye peeked through the tiny crack. It was a man. When he heard that the visitor was Judge Pao, he stiffened and immediately straightened his posture. His face softened to a politer expression, and he quickly informed his master. Then, a well-dressed man in fine silk clothes emerged. "I am WeiShong, a government official. Please excuse my servant for his rudeness, Judge Pao. Please come in." Just as Judge Pao was being led inside the mansion, something caught the corner of his eye. WeiShong's waist was accessorised with an ornament made of jade and chipped. The part chipped off was a part of the letters "Shong".

"You have such a beautiful mansion; please can you show me around?" requested Judge Pao. As he followed WeiShong, he discovered numerous gardens and pavilions that graced the estate. Moreover, they stretched out on the banks of the river. Then, having an inkling about what had happened, Judge Pao courteously excused himself and left.

Judge Pao was drenched in rain and water when he got home, but he did not bother to get changed; he immediately started carefully examining the broken ornament he had found at the crime scene. Then, after reviewing the documents for tax collection, the final piece of the puzzle clicked into place.

The next day, there was a public hearing. When everyone was gathered at the court, Judge Pao declared, "I hereby arrest government official WeiShong for embezzlement and murder! Do you plead not guilty, WeiShong?" There was a collective gasp of shock from everyone. WeiShong was startled but quickly regained his composure and spoke calmly. "With all due respect, I have no idea what you are saying, Judge Pao. What proof do you have with which to charge me?"

"This!" exclaimed Judge Pao, holding out the broken ornament shard. WeiShong's eyes widened, his whole body frozen. "You are a corrupted official who steals tax money from innocent citizens; you built your mansion by exploiting the citizens' tax money. That was why the citizens have become even more impoverished. After expanding on your estate with the stolen money, the construction obstructed the river and caused the flood. The

village leader knew you were corrupted, and you feared he would expose you, so you killed him. In the struggle, a piece of your jade ornament got chipped off. As we can all see, the shard left behind at the crime scene comes from the ornament you are wearing now. Do you still not plead guilty?" Ashen-faced, WeiShong fell to his knees and confessed to his crimes in the face of irrefutable evidence. "I now sentence you to life imprisonment for you to reflect on your faults! You will also have your property demolished and your wealth confiscated and returned to the citizens! The court adjourned!"

The upright Judge Bao had solved another case! The citizens of Kaifeng clapped their hands in glee and proclaimed, "All hail the righteous Judge Pao!"

Judge Bao

St. Margaret's Coeducational English Secondary and Primary School, Chan, Wing – 10

It was a rainy afternoon, Bao Zheng had just finished lunch, happy that he managed to solve the last murder mystery in town. Who is Bao Zheng you may ask? He is the famous Judge Bao, a detective before Sherlock Holmes, who lived in China.

Zhan Zhao ran into Judge Bao's house and screamed "Judge Bao, Judge Bao, there was a dead body in the middle of a forest!" It was a new murder investigation! He quickly got dressed and went to the crime scene.

Soon, he arrived, he saw the dead body, it was pouring, and he saw the victim completely wet, the victim was a young girl that died in a forest, cause of death was unknown, there wasn't any evidence of an accident or a murder, as soon as possible, Judge Bao got to work he examined the blood and it was a murder!

However, there was no evidence that there was anyone near as previously said Judge Bao soon decided to find his student, Mr. Gongsun to help him, they soon found a different coloured leaf and saw red and yellow leaves put in a large circle, however it was not the season for there to be natural red and yellow leaves falling, they also saw a piece of paper writing number on it, and so they decided to count the numbers of red leaves and yellow leaves, once they started they saw that there was another piece of paper writing: age, after finishing they counted 3 red leaves and 6 yellow leaves, they didn't know whether to add, subtract, multiply or divide the numbers to find the age of the killer, while discussing they found out that the bottom of the leaves was not grass, it was concrete! Surrounding the area were trees, nine to be exact, they noticed and they both thought "This made sense $3+6$ is 9!" They went near all nine trees and on the last one they saw hand broken sticks, they used the same method and found 4 sticks, then, Mr. Gongsun thought "This must be another maths equation! The most similar thing to addition is multiplication!" He told his idea of multiplying the numbers together to Judge Bao and he agreed saying "But what is the meaning of 36?" Mr. Gongsun then said "There is a village nearby, it is said that there are only 36 houses!"

They soon went to the village. They asked a kind lady whether there was anyone in the village missing and she said "Yes, it was the 18 years-old daughter of the owner of house 36!" They suddenly understood the meaning of the number 36!

Soon, they found the family that owns the house and asked each of them very specific questions, the mother said "I have spent the afternoon playing with my son after eating with my daughter" The son said "I spent the entire day playing with mom and sleeping" The father said "I was with my wife in the afternoon after dropping my daughter off at her house!"

Soon after the interrogation Judge Bao found who did it but there was no further evidence.

The day after the interrogation, they went back to the crime scene and saw a knife! It seemed that the murderer tried to go back and hide the body but left the knife! This might be the day they figure out the killer! They put the knife in a basket, to the Kaifeng Prefecture they went, they soon saw some obvious fingerprints and matched it with the suspects and the fingerprints looked exactly like the fathers! Judge Bao thought "All the clues led up to one thing, since the brother and mother were spending time together in the afternoon and the father said that he was spending time with the mother, but the father never said he was spending time with the brother too! In the second sentence he said that he dropped the daughter off then that would mean that he was the last person that saw the victim before she was killed, this all made sense!"

Judge Bao told Zhan Zhao to find the father and take the father to the Kaifeng Prefecture to judge what penalty was worth for the crimes he had committed, after a long discussion and endless of arguments they decided that the crimes he had committed was not only murder it was also thievery and many more, the father was one of the few top tier criminals! It was also said that it was a family tradition to kill the woman after turning 18! Since the residence number 3x6 was 18, they had sentenced him to a death penalty in a few days so he could reflect on the things he had done and also for the preparation of the ceremony.

A few days later, just about 2, the ceremony was held and he was beheaded and everything was over! At least that's what they thought... but what about the rest of the family? You may ask, they were let go as the tradition only existed in the father's side of the family.

The Story of Judge Pao

St. Margaret's Coeducational English Secondary and Primary School, Chong, Yin Sing – 10

Once, there was a village and nobody could enter, the only way to enter was to break in or to be born in the village. It's hard to break in as they have a lot of security guards roaming around the village. But a mysterious thief managed to get around their security system. Most people all thought that the thief was just lonely, but actually, there's a lot more underneath the secrets of the thief.

One day when the moon set, everyone heard a noise coming from the trees of their village, the tree was called "The Great Tree" and they respected and cared for it for at least one hundred years. When they walked towards the tree to see what was going on, nothing was there, No animals, no people, no anything! All they found was one single dollar falling from the tree branch onto the grassy lands near their tree. Then when they turned around they were jump scared by Judge Pao! They never thought Judge Pao would come to their village, as he lived miles away from them! Judge Pao then said he was going to solve the problem of who was roaming around their village illegally. Judge Pao then said that he will find the thief and arrest him.

First, he checked the village to see if there were any footprints that were similar to the thief's, but no, there wasn't any that matched his. He kept looking and looking for more clues. Then this is when he found one and saw that the footprints were similar to the thief's, he also found the thief's identity card and his name was "Mastuer Jan", he was a high school student and Judge Pao could recognize the thief from miles away. The thief was Judge Pao's old friend and he knew exactly how and where he could find him.

Judge Pao then went to the thief's house and checked if the thief was inside, but surprisingly not! Whenever school ended, Mastuer Jan would go back home and sleep for a bit then get up and eat dinner and go back to sleep, he was checking if Mastuer Jan's house had any clues of where he went, and there it was! He found a scratch on the walls and some blood on the floor. He wondered if Mastuer Jan turned to the bad side and killed someone just to earn money! If that was the case, then Judge Pao had to act fast because someone could also perish from Mastuer Jan if judge Pao doesn't stop him from doing so. Then he located Mastuer Jan's locations with the bloody footprints and fingerprints, then when he found out Mastuer Jan didn't kill someone but someone killed him, He was so sad, he wanted to arrest the criminal for life, because whenever Judge Pao finds a criminal, he never arrests the criminal and only gives him warnings. He was angry and sad at the same time.

Then when he found the criminal's location, he wanted to arrest him so badly. The one thing he couldn't resist was saving his friend, but his friend was just fine, but he thought he was murdered, so he asked "What is going on?" He answered "Did you forget today is your birthday?" Then Judge Pao answer "No."

"Then what are you waiting for?" said his friend, then he asked "What were all the bloody things and scratches and thieves?" He answered that the thief was a trick it was actually him and the scratches and blood was fake as well. So now Judge Pao is now having his holiday and he is going to from now on always celebrate his birthday and enjoy it.

The New Tale of Judge Bao

St. Margaret's Coeducational English Secondary and Primary School, Chan, Yu Tung Avery – 9

Judge Bao——A famous “Song Dynasty’s Judge”. His appearance was very dramatic!! He was 100% Chinese but with very black skin colour which looks like an African. But when I searched his history that he was born in Mainland China and really our ancestor. Moreover, he has a moon shape on his forehead. Do you want to know why and how it got there? This happened when he was a kid, his aunt dropped her necklace into the well. At that time, a brave young Judge Bao had to get it back, so he worked with his aunt. He tied a string around his waist and jumped into the well to help her to find it, but it was just like old Chinese folk said “finding a needle in the ocean” which means it would be near impossible to get it back. This left him no choice but to give up. He shook the string while he was upside down in the well, giving his aunt a signal to pull him up. During the journey up, he had a very painful experience. As a result, he got hit by the wall twice deeply. Thus, giving him an unforgettable moon shaped scar. This became the special and unique mark of Judge Bao.

His appearance and name raised my curiosity to read his book and watch the movie about him. His life and his style in judging cases. He judged many cases, he even judged spirits, and asked ghosts to appeal its cases, which is extremely magical. He likes that he has a supreme super power to communicate with spirits and other creatures. He was clever enough to make thieves, villains and criminals feel regret, and tell all the truth and consent that they were guilty by themselves. He also usefully used the environmental evidence and find the witness even if they were scared to hide and left. He can also appoint the right persons and guards around him to help to judge the cases. I read and read and read..... for a couple hours and became very sleepy, and I started to fall asleep.....

The sunlight out of the window woke me up, and I yawned and yelled out and asked my mom to prepare my delicious breakfast. When I got down and stepped out of my bedroom.....I WAS SHOCKED! Terrible things happened at my sight. My house disappeared and all my family members are lost too and I'm at the scene of the “Movie” of Judge Bao. I was standing at a miserable and old place, and it looked like the courtroom that I saw in Judge Bao’s movie. I saw three horrifying “Blades”, they were named as “Dog Head Blade”, “Tiger Head Blade” and “Dragon Head Blade” which were used to execute the murders in the past. I was so nervous and felt my blood pressure was over 200 and heart beating was 100. Many, many questions appeared in my mind. Why am I here? How can I leave? Who will I meet? Where should I hide? While I was still thinking of the next step, suddenly, I heard someone talking and I peeked to take a look behind the curtain. Oh No! King of Song Dynasty and Judge Bao, they were discussing the cases of “Prince was exchanged by the Civet Cat”. This was happened one thousand and twenty-four years ago. I was back to the past? While I was still thinking, the king was walking towards me, he seemed to be investigating an unsolved mystery with Judge Bao. So I prayed that I had a magical power that he would not see me, but instead he just acted like nothing was in front of him and he stepped on my body! It was too rushed for me to escape but at last he stepped on me but I felt nothing. So, I tried to say “hi” to him but he just ignored me and whatever I did. I sang and danced but without anyone clapping hands and praised. Then I realised that I was transparent to them, and maybe even invisible! I was shocked and I thought, ‘am I a spirit or a ghost or even a monster?’ Then I remembered that I drank some “Invisible potion” before I went to the cinema since I want to watch a movie without buying the ticket. I was very excited about it now that I’m invisible and I can do whatever I want!

“Hooray! Now no one can see me, which means I can go and explore the palace! I was excited to travel to the courtroom, the Palace and the Forbidden City, they were humongous! I kept walking but suddenly I fell from the roof of the palace and I fainted. The smell of tasty bread woke me up. When I opened my eyes, I saw a stinky toe stuck in my mouth. Oh no, my sister climbed up to my bed and slept next to me. She shook my head to wake me up and I wondered if I was in reality now. I was dreaming while I was watching the movie. Therefore I dreamed about his story and I got into it.

After reading his cases and movies about him, he has inspired me to become a detective or a lawyer or even a judge to fight for justice when I grow up. His life and way to solve the cases, his judgements and harmony for the poor and those who were in need really impressed me. It will always be deeply recorded in my mind! He was generous and kind to rescue all the innocent people and victims! I have an interesting thought: if he was in Hong Kong nowadays, he must be a good Judge and even a good teacher to serve the community. “Judge Bao”, I'm proud of you that you did appear in our Chinese history.

My Adventures with Dai Dai and Judge Pao

St. Margaret's Coeducational English Secondary and Primary School, Chau, Chun Yin Alfred – 9

Hi, my name is Alfred. I had a great adventure yesterday. When I was playing with my dog, Dai Dai, she was digging my neighbor's flowerbed. I saw a shiny gold box. I look around and made sure no-one was looking at me. I quickly peek inside and saw a key lock and a key. I used the key to open the lock. Suddenly, surrounding became so bright. I thought, "Is the bus going to heaven about to arrive?". No way! I am just entered into a brand-new world.

I saw a weird person, but I seems became invisible. He couldn't see me and I couldn't talk to him. He was an African villager. When I looked closer, I found he was a Chinese but the skin color was black and there was a moon shaped birthmark on the middle of his forehead. I immediately thought he might be "Moon Knight" or some other "Super Hero" or something ridiculous. When I looked really close, I remembered a character from a movie. He must be "Judge Pao"! My dog sniffed at "Judge Pao" and he said, "What is that? Go away you four legs monster." His crew said, "Relax! It is only a dog." Then his crew turned to Dai Dai and asked, "Doggie, where did you come from?"

Suddenly, we heard a scream from a gigantic house with twelve people in it. Soon, we went inside the house and looked around. We found a dead body and Judge Pao was looking for evidences and clues. He asked those witnesses what happened? The invisible saw a potion on the floor which I felt that was safe. I drank that potion, I became visible again. Everyone was so scared, they thought I might be the killer. Then I explained that I came here to help you. Judge Pao asked me, "How did you know me?" I said, "That is my secret. If you believe me, I am sure I can help to solve this mystery murder case". Judge Pao thought for a while and smiled at me and said, "I believe you!"

My dog responded promptly and did a good job. She sniffed everyone inside the room, but none of them seems suspected as murderer. Dai Dai kept on sniffing around and found the suspected footprint 2km away from the house. We followed the footprint and it led to an old hut. In the middle of nowhere or rather in a forest full with plant. We entered the old hut and stepped on a pressure plate, iron bars popped out from the ground. A guy came out from the plant and walked close to us and said, "Judge Pao, I have been waiting for you for years. Can you see the key on my hand? That's your only chance to escape. Do you think I will give you the key? Hahaha. No, I won't." In the meantime, I said, "Not so fast, it's big brain time, you stupid idiot!" Then I snatched the key from his hand and unlock the cell. We all ran out from the cell and the fight started. We knocked him down within 5 minutes and him beg for our forgiveness. He cried and said, "Please, stop, call the police, send me to jail, don't killed me. I don't want to die!!!" I asked him, "Who are you? What's your name? Why do you try to lock us inside? Are you the murderer? Why you kill?" He said, "Yes, I am the murderer and my name is Piglin Brute (character from Minecraft). I kill everyone who dare to insult me as a loser. He deserves it. He laughed at me." We called the police and sent Piglin Brute to the jail. Judge Pao said, "Thanks for your help. Can you tell me who you are? You are so smart. I think you might come from another universe." I said, "You are welcome. In fact, you are very smart too. I really come from another universe coded SMCESPS. It's time for me and Dai Dai to leave now. It's my pleasure to meet you." Then I snapped my finger, Dai Dai and I teleported back to SMCESPS base and met my angry neighbor. She shouted, "Get out of my garden. How dare you dig up my flowerbed? I will call your parent for my loss." Dai Dai and I ran away. We were looking forward for another great adventure.

The New Tale of Judge Bao

St. Margaret's Coeducational English Secondary and Primary School, Feld, Gustave Francois Julien – 11

It was another normal day of crime solving for justice bao jin tian when he received a black coloured letter when he got home,the letter was written in blood,and it looked like it was fresh blood,he knew where this comes from.With his hands trembling,he read the letter.It said:

Dear Pao,

Come bovn to he < ter o'lb onie³t,IM†09TAN/,UR\$\$ T

Frow:

The I fer al Bureau'acy

With a grunt,he put down the letter and burnt it to hide the evidence to not have people freak out over it if they found it.Whenever the Infernal Bureaucracy wrote to him,he knew

that he wouldn't get any sleep that night.So he drank some tea and started the ritual to activate the portal that led to the underworld,he gathered a variety of herbs and put them in a circle and burnt them,then,he made a cut on his arm and painted some of his blood onto a piece of paper in the middle of the circle and started chanting,then,he stood in the middle of the circle as a ring of 1re started forming around him.Then,he was engulfed in the Rames and he felt a sudden tug in his guts and with a 'Whoosh!',he was oI to the underworld to see what the matter was down there,hopefully he would solve the case in a short amount of time so that he could get more sleep,because he also has another case to solve in the overworld,where he lives.

When he entered the underworld,he was escorted to the courtroom by two faceless Raming guards.The tall ceiling of the courtroom was supported by massive pillars with diIerent depictions of death and the devil carved onto them.Judge Bao still hasn't gotten used to entering the courtroom every time.

Judge Bao sat onto the bench and the jury gave him an hour to assess the case and Judge Bao sat there,bewildered for two minutes,until he 1nally said:Let the trial commence.

Everyone got to their seats and the trial started.A wandering spirit wreaked havoc in the spirit world and now many spirits are roaming free around the mortal world.So the rumours he had heard are true,some village folks really did see a ghost at night.The spirit was charged with disturbing the mortal world and therefore will face eternity in hell unless proven innocent.Judge Bao starts:Today we have gathered here at the courtroom of the underworld to testify whether this spirit here who's name in their past life was Lin Ming Zhou is guilty or innocent of the charges he's given of,which is:disturbing the mortal world.With paranormal activity,he has caused more than a dozen mortals to lose their minds over a vision that they saw of one of the spirits that Ming Zho

set free,with more than enough evidence to prove that he is guilty,though the jury will also be the judge of that.Does the defendant have anything to add or say to everyone in this room?Anything you are about to saycannot be added to the evidence given,the jury will decide his fate.But just as Ming Zhou started,a bell rang across the room,that's it for tonight.I'll now dismiss the court and we'll continue tomorrow night.And just like that,judge Bao left the courtroom and the second he did that,he was teleported back into his house.It was very late into the night and he was very tired,he walked to his bed,but just as he started to doze oI,he saw a vision of Ming Zhou.

He saw Ming Zhou as a small boy,playing with his siblings.They were laughing and running around the house,when Ming Zhou suddenly said:'Hey,look!A rabbit!'Ming Zhou and his sibling followed the rabbit into the forest nearby,and at one point,they split up without knowing.Only Ming Zhou found his way out of the forest.He and his family members proceeded to search for the other two,but there was no sign of them.Ming Zhou family then 1nally concluded that perhaps the younger brother and sister had gotten lost and a tiger found them and ate them.After seeing this vision,his vision went blank,then slowly but surely,the could start to see a dim light ahead,he slowly advanced with caution to examine the light,and when he got closer,the light Rashed and standing right in front of Bao Jin tian,was Lin Ming Zhou himself,though looking much paler.Ming Zhou looked up and saw judge Bao,he then dropped onto his knees and started begging for judge Bao's mercy.Judge Bao,having never encountered a spirit in his dreams before stood still,he knew this was a dream so he slowly shook his head and said:'Unfortunately,there is nothing I can do for you.'then Ming Zhou slowly lowered his head and

mumbled:Understood. Then Ming Zhou faded away and judge Bao opened his eyes and he sat up on his bed,contemplating what had just happened.

That night,he performed the ritual again and continued the trial.And that's when Ming Zhou told his story.He was a boy who was born in a poor family,he had two siblings,both younger than him.And then he proceeded to describe the exact thing that happened in judge Bao's dream last night.And so at last,judge Bao concluded that:Lin Ming Zhou broke into the lock of the door that leads to the mortal world,the ones some souls get to walk through when they get a second life.Ming died just to open the door of life to free his siblings from the underworld because he deeply regrets leading them into the forest just because they wanted to chase a rabbit to cook for dinner.But when Ming Zhou opened the door,other spirits came rushing out too.Lin Ming Zhou now regrets his actions and will now agree to his punishment no matter how harsh it is.The jury has decided that he is guilty and he will be sent to the 1elds of punishment for one million years.

Judge Bao Zheng's Wisdom

St. Margaret's Coeducational English Secondary and Primary School, Fung, Chun Hei – 10

Dear Diary,

Today is the year of 1036. I, or people may call me Judge Pao, got a present from the King. The present served as the reward for solving the Civet Cat Exchange for the Crown Prince case. The case was actually a very interesting one and required a lot of hard work from our team to sort things out. But the reward I received today really reminded me of the day when I first joined the government.

Originally, I was given tasks on social affairs, and some of these tasks involved making judgments according to the law. Through that experience, I was proven to be fair and clear enough to make correct decisions depending on the evidence available for cases.

Being appreciated by the regional head, I was later promoted to a higher position, moving from being a local official to a district official, then a regional position. I was finally moved to the Royal Palace. There I became the top judge, hearing cases involving complaints and rights violations from ordinary people to relatives of the king.

An interesting case came up to me when I was reading other information on tricky cases. There was a blind woman who claimed, "The King is my son." I felt confused and didn't react to that immediately. She continued to explain, "It was really painful during labouring. That's why I didn't notice my baby was being stolen at that time!"

I tried hard to get more evidence, be it an object or anyone who knows the case. I found relatives of the royal family. They were reluctant but he admitted that the scandal of the king is a real one. Wow! That really surprised me. King was so glad and decided to grant me a present.

The present was a pomander watch. I turned and turned the watch. Suddenly, I went into something which dragged me inside without a second thought. "Am I inside a time machine?" I thought. I closed my eyes because it was so bright – I was not sure when it was the moment I lost my consciousness.

However, when I opened my eyes again, I found myself on a mountain. Looking down, I was shocked by all those skyscrapers – these buildings were much taller than any of those I had ever seen in my life. This was not the world I used to know, a rather crazy idea came to my mind, "Is it the future?"

Suddenly, there was a flying machine getting near to me, and it said to me, "Stop moving. Put your hands into the air." I felt scared and knew what they wanted to do – they wanted to kidnap me!

What can I do? I could only run as fast as I could. I fell down hard, and I hit something on my forehead – leaving me with a moon-shaped scar. However, there was no time for me to hesitate. I kept running but still could not get rid of that machine.

When I was running, I accidentally left the pomander watch behind and lost it. I guessed it may have been stolen or fallen somewhere on the mountain because of the wind. After running for an hour, I stopped because I was too tired. Stepping into the flying machine, I got into a station, and people there asked me a lot of questions as if I was suspicious.

I said calmly, "I am Judge Pao. I am the top judge for my time." No one believed me but then still allowed me to go away.

What I did first was to find the pomander watch that I left. I went back to the same mountain to search for the pomander watch. I saw it and when I tried to take it back, some guys appeared and told me to get away as they were working to investigate cases.

I was so confident and lent them a hand for helping them find clues and evidence.

I was exhausted later and went to a park to sit down to take a rest.

Those guys in blue shirts came up to me to thank me for the assistance provided. When he had not finished talking, the sky started raining.

They asked me to go back to the station as typhoon signal no. 10 would be hoisted soon.

I asked, "What is a typhoon signal 10?" He replied, "A hurricane force wind is blowing or expected to blow with sustained speed reaching 118 km/h or above and gusts that may exceed 220 km/h."

I found it hard to understand but managed to catch an opportunity to tell him all the things that happened to me before meeting him.

He told his crew to help me find the pomander watch, but in vain. An old man walked to me slowly and handed a pomander watch to me!

"I found it on the floor." He said.

Feeling grateful, I kept saying thank you to all of them.

I turned and turned the pomander watch and finally got back to my time.

I told the king everything I saw and everyone laughed at me, saying that I had a great dream the night before. Touching the scar on my forehead, I knew this was not a dream.

I don't care even if no one believes me. Travelling to the future allows me to learn many new things, and the experience of solving the case with those guys in blue shirts offered me an opportunity to learn a lot of knowledge too.

That extra knowledge I learnt from the future will be able to help me solve cases. I am determined and will devote myself in searching for truth all the time.

The New Tale of Judge Bao

St. Margaret's Coeducational English Secondary and Primary School, Kwong, Nathan – 9

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Suddenly, there was a flying machine getting near to me, and it said to me, “Stop moving. Put your hands into the air.” I felt scared and knew what they wanted to do – they wanted to kidnap me!

What can I do? I could only run as fast as I could. I fell down hard, and I hit something on my forehead – leaving me with a moon-shaped scar. However, there was no time for me to hesitate. I kept running but still could not get rid of that machine.

When I was running, I accidentally left the pomander watch behind and lost it. I guessed it may have been stolen or fallen somewhere on the mountain because of the wind. After running for an hour, I stopped because I was too tired. Stepping into the flying machine, I got into a station, and people there asked me a lot of questions as if I was suspicious.

I said calmly, “I am Judge Pao. I am the top judge for my time.” No one believed me but then still allowed me to go away.

What I did first was to find the pomander watch that I left. I went back to the same mountain to search for the pomander watch. I saw it and when I tried to take it back, some guys appeared and told me to get away as they were working to investigate cases.

I was so confident and lent them a hand for helping them find clues and evidence.

I was exhausted later and went to a park to sit down to take a rest.

Those guys in blue shirts came up to me to thank me for the assistance provided. When he had not finished talking, the sky started raining.

They asked me to go back to the station as typhoon signal no. 10 would be hoisted soon.

I asked, "What is a typhoon signal 10?" He replied, "A hurricane force wind is blowing or expected to blow with sustained speed reaching 118 km/h or above and gusts that may exceed 220 km/h."

I found it hard to understand but managed to catch an opportunity to tell him all the things that happened to me before meeting him.

He told his crew to help me find the pomander watch, but in vain. An old man walked to me slowly and handed a pomander watch to me!

"I found it on the floor." He said.

Feeling grateful, I kept saying thank you to all of them.

I turned and turned the pomander watch and finally got back to my time.

I told the king everything I saw and everyone laughed at me, saying that I had a great dream the night before. Touching the scar on my forehead, I knew this was not a dream.

I don't care even if no one believes me. Travelling to the future allows me to learn many new things, and the experience of solving the case with those guys in blue shirts offered me an opportunity to learn a lot of knowledge too.

That extra knowledge I learnt from the future will be able to help me solve cases. I am determined and will devote myself in searching for truth all the time.

The Killing Dragon

St. Margaret's Coeducational English Secondary and Primary School, Lai, Man Hei – 11

Lady Lee recounts to Judge Pao in China about an old legend of a curse that reportedly runs in the ZhaoDong family since the time of the war, when Sir Zhao was killed by a huge demonic dragon. With the same creature haunting the caves of Beijing ever since, it caused the premature death of many ZhaoDong heirs. He reveals that her friend Lady ZhaoZie, who took the legend of the dragon seriously, was found dead in the HanSheng alley of her estate, ZhaoDong Hall, in the midst of GongShan. The death was attributed to a heart attack, but Lady Lee reveals that Sir Zhao's face retained an expression of horror, and not far from his body were the footprints of a gigantic dragon. Lady Lee now fears for the next in line, Sir ZhaoDong.

Though he dismisses the curse as nonsense, Judge Pao agrees to meet Sir Henry, who is arriving from China, where he has been living. A young and jovial man, Sir ZhaoDong is sceptical about the legend and is eager to take possession of ZhaoDong Hall, in spite of receiving an anonymous note, warning him to stay away from the moor. When someone shadows Sir Zhao while he is walking down a street, Judge Pao asks Lady Lee to go with Sir Zhao and Lady Lee to HanSheng, in order to protect Sir Zhao and search for any clues about who is following him.

The trio arrive at ZhaoDong Hall where the YuWeng couple, the butler and housekeeper reside. The estate is surrounded by lakes and borders. The lake is so deep, animals and humans will not be able to swim up and drown to death. The news that a convict named JianLee, a murderer, has escaped from nearby HanSheng Jail and is hiding in the nearby barren hills adds to the gloomy atmosphere.

There are inexplicable events during the first night, keeping Sir Zhao awake, and only in the daylight do they relax. Judge Pao keeps searching for any lead to the identity of whoever is following Sir Zhao. He in turn faithfully sends details of his investigations to Judge Pao. Among the residents, the YuWeng brother and sister, stand out. JianXu is very friendly and too curious toward Sir Zhao and Judge Pao, while his sibling, Lady Lee seems all too weary of the place and attempts to warn Sir ZhaoDong and Judge Pao of danger.

Judge Pao walks among the hills but his mood is no better inside ZhaoDong Hall. He grows suspicious of the butler who is signalling from a window of the house with a candle to someone on the hill. Meanwhile, Sir Zhao is drawn to Lady YuWeng who seems to be afraid of her brother's attitude to her romantic life. To make the puzzle more complex, there is Lady Lee. She is all too eager to convince Sir Zhao that the curse is real. TianGuang is an old and grumpy neighbour who likes to pry on others by watching through his window. His estranged daughter is TuangRu, who had unclear ties to Sir YuWeng. Even an unknown man is roaming free on the hills and apparently hiding in a temple where ancient tombs have been excavated by Lady Lee.

Lady Lee investigates the man in the temple and discovers that it has been Judge Pao all along. He has been hiding around the hills and is close to solving the mystery. He reveals that the dragon is real and belongs to TianGuang, who promised YuWeng money and convinced her to lure TuangRu out of his house at night in order to scare him with the dragon. YuWeng is in fact TuangRu's wife and is posing as his sister so as to influence Sir Zhao and expose him as well to the dragon. The dragon kills a man on the hills whom Judge Pao and Lady Lee fear is Sir Zhao, but JianXu had given the former's clothes to FungLee, who is his brother-in-law, and FungLee dies instead.

Judge Pao decides to use ZhaoDong as bait to catch TianGuang red-handed by having Sir Zhao accept an invitation to TianGuang's house and so he gives his enemy every chance to unleash the dragon on him. Judge Pao and Lady Lee pretend to leave YuWeng by train, but instead they hide near TianGuang's house with JianXu. Despite the darkly thick fog, Judge Pao and Lady Lee are able to kill the dragon when it attacks Sir Zhao. Meanwhile, TianGuang, in his panicked flight from the scene, seemingly drowns in the lake near the house. Back at ZhaoDong Hall, Judge Pao remarks to Lady Lee that not only was TianGuang a physical and spiritual throwback to Sir ZhaoZheng being a lost relation of Sir GuangDong, but also that he was one of the most unforgettable foes Judge Pao had ever encountered.

New Tales of Judge Pao – The Missing Jewel

St. Margaret's Coeducational English Secondary and Primary School, Lam, Tak Lok Morris – 9

Once upon a time, the king alerted Judge Pao to solve a case. He brought Judge Pao to his palace and said “Judge Pao, I have a case for you, the best detective I could find. Somebody has stolen a jewel that my parents gave me when I was still a baby. I need you to find out where the jewel is, and who was the one that stole it.” Judge Pao said “Okay, my pleasure to accept your case. First, I need to know where it was the last time you saw it.”

“It was on a cabinet in my bedroom.”

“When did you find out it was missing?”

“This morning when I woke up.”

“Okay, now bring me to your bedroom,” said Judge Pao. “We need to look for clues.”

The king brought Pao to his bedroom. Pao immediately noticed a small cylinder made of metal on the floor. “It says ‘battery’” He thought to himself. Pao also found a big piece of paper saying ‘TIME MACHI’. He couldn’t read the rest of it because there was a black stain on it. “Hmm... what could it possibly be?” Judge Pao said. “I’ve got an idea!” the king shouted excitedly. He grabbed the piece of paper, ran to the steep river next to the palace and dipped the paper in the water. When Judge Pao caught up, he exclaimed unhappily “Are you trying to remove the stain? That won’t work because the paper’s disintegrated already!” The king was embarrassed. He looked at the remains of the piece of paper flow down the lake. All of a sudden, something caught his vision! He told Judge Pao “There’s a gold box over the lake!” said the king. Judge Pao and the king crossed the river by a bridge nearby. The box was not gigantic, it had only enough room for 2 to 3 people. Judge Pao investigated the box. There was a hatch inside, saying, ‘insert battery’. Judge Pao remembered the small cylinder that was found in the king’s bedroom. He put it inside the hatch. A blue hologram appeared in the box. “What in the world is that?” the king shouted. The hologram showed a man. He said “welcome to Time Machines Co. From the year 3927, humans have made a huge advance in technology. Finally, we have achieved what we had thought of since the 19th century, and that is... to teleport through time. Only with a few neutrons and electrons, we can create an orb that can bring you to any time with a touch. Goodbye, and good luck.” “I didn’t understand anything that guy said!” Judge Pao exclaimed. “And what’s this button that says ‘return to present’? “Maybe it’s going to give us a present! I love presents, let’s press it!” the king said. He pressed the button, and they both got sucked into a portal.

There were bright flashes and loud noises, and JudgePao and the king plopped down onto a shiny floor. They were on the 4th floor of a futuristic mall. People and robots were everywhere. Judge Pao thought, “Maybe the thief might be here!” but the king was not listening. “Wow! What’s this? An ice cream machine? What’s ice cream? Is it an animal? A kind of food? What the heck! And what’s this? A shrink gun? What does it do? Will it...” “How is this king so unintelligent? We should be focusing on solving the case! Not messing around!” Judge Pao thought. “I wonder if there was something that could make people smart. Wait! There’s a machine called Smart Machine! Could it make the king smart? I wonder if...” The two messed around until the next day. Judge Pao yawned. He was really sleepy. It was the same for the king too. But then, the king spotted a skinny man walk out of a store called Time Machines Co. holding a jewel. It was the jewel that was stolen! He told Judge Pao and they both chased after the man. The man saw them, and said “What are you two idiots doing chasing after me in those ancient clothes? His robot drone answered in a robotic voice “They are angry that you travelled back in time and stole their precious jewel. “Thanks Alexander! Said the man.” He ran into a lift and laughed “These people are from ancient times, so they probably won’t even know what this lift is!” as the lift was going up to the 5th floor. “That stupid flying thing!” Said the king. “It’s flying up! What should we do? This universe is so different compared to our universe!”

“What other universe?” A nearby woman wondered. “I thought scientists proved that parallel universes don’t exist last Monday!” “Wait!” said Judge Pao. “You’re correct! There are so many differences, so we can walk in the air!” said Judge Pao

“Why?” the king asked.

“Because we can’t walk in the air in our universe, so we can do it in this universe!” replied Judge Pao.

“Oh yeah! That’s a pretty smart idea!” said the king.
“Let’s do it” they both said at the same time.

Judge Pao and the king walked off the platform and they actually walked on the air. Just kidding! They didn’t. They fell onto the first floor of the mall, where there was a trampoline park. They fell onto one of them, and bounced to the 5th floor, onto the man. The king grabbed the jewel he was holding and ran to Time Machines Co with Pao. “I think we just need to go in one of these boxes.” Pao said. They went inside, and fortunately, there was a battery there already. The hologram appeared, and started talking, but the king just shouted “Shut up you stupid blue thing!” They went back to their time, and the king was happy. “Thank you for solving the case!” he exclaimed. “No problem!” Judge Pao said.

Judge Pao

St. Margaret's Coeducational English Secondary and Primary School, Lee, Abigail Kate – 11

It was one stormy night, and Judge Pao was sitting quietly in his house reading his favourite book. There were not many cases lately since he had solved them quickly. Suddenly there was a loud knock on the door. He opened the door to find a young woman and her son crying, "Judge Pao, please help us. My husband had just been killed. Please help us find the murderer!" The woman pleaded while wiping her eyes with her sleeves. "Of course, come in."

"My husband was studying late tonight, while my son and I were quietly sleeping in our rooms. Suddenly, I heard a loud crashing sound close to where he was studying in the house. I decided to go check on him and when I reached his study room, he was stabbed in the heart and his whole desk was drowned in his own blood." The woman explained while trying not to cry. "I see..." said Judge Pao while writing everything down on a scroll. "Did the murderer leave their weapon behind or any clues?" asked Judge Pao, "No, I tried to find clues but there was nothing." she said. "Ok thank you for telling me about this, I'll work on it right away tomorrow morning." said Judge Pao while helping them out.

Next morning, Judge Pao arrived at a small village. Not many people lived in this part of town, so it was pretty easy to commit crimes here. Judge Pao decided to question the woman's neighbours for clues to see if they had seen anyone break in or heard any suspicious noises. He asked an old couple next to the woman's house and they said that the woman and her husband fight quite often and don't really get along. Judge Pao decided to ask the old lady near the woman's house, "I was cooking some extra food when I heard a suspicious noise at that couple's house." After that, Judge Pao went to ask a few other neighbours about the husband's death. Many of them said they didn't see anyone leave or enter the house except the woman and one of her friends. It was a young man who was about her age and was one of her childhood best friends. The woman claimed that she and the young man were just throwing out the trash together, and she had invited the young man in for some tea, and after half an hour she found her husband dead.

A while later, Judge Pao requested to go inside the woman's house to investigate. The whole house was extremely messy: pots were scattered on the floor, many things were broken like plates and cups, there were even faint blood stains scattered around the house. Judge Pao wrote down every little detail that was in the house including everything that was broken and the bloodstains on his scroll. Soon after, there were only two places that judge Pao still had not investigated, it was the study room where the woman's husband brutally died and the kitchen where most things were neatly organised, very unusual for a crime scene. First, Judge Pao decided to check the study room. Scrolls were scattered around the desk and the shelf behind it. There was a big faint bloodstain across the desk where he died, the chair was also covered in blood but some spots were not dry yet. After checking, he went into the kitchen. At first, he could spot nothing out of place. There were only small blood stains on the table and a few damaged plates on the floor, but soon after he checked one of the cabinets, he found a bloody knife. "I think this is the murder weapon. They probably took it from the kitchen and put it back here." explained Judge Pao. After he took one more good look at the whole house, he decided to ask the young man some questions before he went back to his office. Judge Pao knocked on the door, and a handsome young man answered. "Hello, I'm here to ask some questions about a recent murder case." said Judge Pao while holding up his scroll. The young man nodded and stood there patiently. "Why were you in that woman's house?" asked Judge Pao, "well she said that she had loads of garbage she needed to take out and asked if i could help." replied the young man. "Did you see her husband in the study room at that time?" Judge Pao asked, "Yes I did, and before you ask I was in there cuz I was very thirsty and tired from carrying the garbage so I asked for some tea at her house." answered the man. "Ok, thank you, that's all I needed to know," Judge Pao said with a smile while turning away.

Finally, Judge Pao studied his clues, and soon many of the puzzle pieces started to add up to who the murderer was. To clarify his theory, he decided to go back to the village and check the one place he didn't look at. As soon as he reached the village, he leaned toward one of the smelly filthy ceramic jars, which people used to store rubbish, on the floor and looked inside. Just as he had suspected, inside the jars was the woman's husband's body dissected and put into the jars. "No wonder it was so heavy..." said Judge Pao. he quickly marched over to the woman's house and told her what was in the jars and that he knew who the killer was. She looked shocked to hear the news and asked "So who is it!?", "the killer is...YOU" said judge Pao while pointing at the woman. The woman looked very upset and soon explained to him why she had killed her husband. It turns out the woman's parents had arranged for her and her husband to marry when she was thirteen years old, but she never liked him. She was always forced to

like him after their marriage, but she truly loved her childhood best friend. If she did something wrong, her husband would hit her and abuse her often, until a few nights ago she couldn't take it anymore and decided to kill him. She told the young man about this and they both worked together to kill him. After she had killed him, she decided to make it more believable by calling Judge Pao in to “help” her, but what she forgot to worry about was the blood dripping from the body when they carried it and dumped inside the jars. Turns out that the jar was leaking at the bottom through a tiny little crack and when they carried the jars full of body parts outside. The trail of blood led all the way to the door, and once Judge Pao spotted this clue he found out the truth.

Young Judge Pao Investigates The Mystery of Pi

St. Margaret's Coeducational English Secondary and Primary School, Nair, Dhruv – 9

It was a fine sunny morning after a rainy week in a small village near Hefei, China. RootPi, a 9-year old boy, discovers that his pet dog Pi is missing. He immediately runs to find his most trusted friend Pao Zheng to help solve the mystery.

RootPi finds Pao near the hills, collecting firewood with his mother. Huffing and puffing he tries to tell Pao everything that had happened.

Pao wiped the sweat of his crescent-shaped birthmark on his forehead and said, "RootPi, you sound quite irrational, and I can't quite make out all the details."

With his mother's permission, Pao accompanies RootPi back to the village to investigate. They run down the hill, dash across the rickety wooden bridge, shoot past the giant Pagoda, and finally reach RootPi's house.

RootPi shows Pao where Pi and he had been playing the previous evening. They find a few little footprints in the wet mud.

"Those are Pi's and my footprints," said RootPi.

"Yes, but whose are those?" said Pao pointing at some gigantic footprints near the dog kennel.

Pao studied them carefully and followed the footprints to the back gate.

Outside the gate, they bumped into Mrs. Fibonacci, "RootPi, I just found your dog's collar near the stream."

Pao and RootPi thanked her and ran to the part of the stream that Mrs. Fibonacci had pointed to. Now things had begun to add up.

At the stream, they interviewed a woman washing clothes who said she heard some angry barks from a little dog a few hours ago. However, the Boatman said he heard nothing. Things were getting suspicious.

As the boys were checking behind the bushes near the stream, Pao found a secret passage.

RootPi exclaims, "Look! There are a lot of footprints here."

RootPi and Pao went into the passage. It got deeper and deeper. They went left, right, left, left, right, right, left, right and finally came into a smelly room. It was full of pet animals in cages. They saw cats, mice, rabbits, hamsters, parrots, spiders, tortoises and a very cute and cheeky monkey. But they did not see any dog, not even one.

Suddenly, the monkey started to clatter as though to warn them. The two boys, suddenly, heard the sound of heavy footsteps and quickly hid between the cages. A man came into the room with a big box. It was the Boatman! The box he was holding started to bark. How strange? Pao and RootPi looked at each other and silently nodded to each other. They had to work together to get out of this tight corner. They stealthily opened the cages and let the animals out. The animals ran helter-skelter. In the hullabaloo that followed, the guard dropped the box and Pi jumped out of the box and smelled his way to RootPi.

RootPi exclaimed ecstatically, "Pi, we found you! We are together again now."

Both the boys acted quickly and escaped from the room. But, they could hear the Boatman thundering behind them.

Pao, RootPi and Pi got back to the stream and ran to some of the King's guards, who were leading their horses to the water. By then the Boatman had also caught up to them.

"Guards! The Boatman is a thief." Young Pao firmly yelled, "He stole my friend's dog and many other pets too."

The Boatman, angrily shouted, "These pesky boys are the ones who stole my dog. Don't listen to them, I often see them together, thick as thieves, playing pranks and causing trouble in the whole village."

RootPi hugged his dog Pi and started to wail and cry. But, Pao acted confidently.

He swiftly covered Pi's furry little eyes and said, "Okay, you say this is your dog? Then tell me, which eye is he blind in?"

The Boatman hesitated momentarily and answered, "The right one, of course."

Pao opened Pi's right eye and it rolled and sparkled with amusement.

"Oh! My mistake, it was the left eye. Yes, the left one is blind." Boatman said apologetically.

"Ha! That proves you are the thief."

Pao lifted Pi for everyone to see. The little dog barked and looked curiously at everyone with his cute black button eyes.

The guards caught the Boatman and then helped rescue all the other pets from the secret passage and returned them to their owners.

The Captain of the guards was impressed with Young Pao's cleverness and said, "You are a talented boy. You should write the imperial exam when you grow up and then you can serve the Emperor."

Young Pao smiled and bowed deeply with gratitude, "Thank you Sir, but today I need to help my mother gather some more firewood."

The three companions Young Pao, RootPi and Pi trotted off along the stream and into the rolling hills, where maybe another adventure awaited them!

Judge Bao

St. Margaret's Coeducational English Secondary and Primary School, Sun, Wai Mei Joanna – 10

It was a freezing and foggy September night. The temperature had already reached under 10 Celsius. Me, the famous Judge Pao and my relatives were going to my great grandma's old castle. My great grandma had moved to the city and lived with grandma eleven years ago. But now, I had been driving half lost in the forest. The fog had covered places further than five metres, and the trees were growing so close together.

After five hours of driving, we finally reached the castle. Many things were rotten down and the castle seemed to be collapsing at any moment. After taking a deep breath, I pulled open the heavy, large door and made a squeaky sound like those in the horror movies. As I opened the door, the wind blew in, all the dust swirled around in circles at the very same time. Everything looked very old fashioned and was in dark and brown wooden colors. My relatives buried outside the castle and had a look, as I took out my first step with a raced heart. The floor let out a "squeak!" as I stepped on it. With many squeaking noises following behind, we started to explore the castle. Sometimes, I could even feel the floor vibrating when a person stepped near me, which made me think that we would fall into the underground at any moment.

As we toured around, I could hear people whispering saying that an emerald, which used to be always hanging around great grandma's neck, disappeared on her dead body. I was scared but didn't know if it was true or not. But as I walked upstairs to the second floor, I noticed a painting of a woman placed on the wall. Then I realized that it was great grandma. She was so sweet and smiling to me in the painting, then I noticed that she was wearing a large piece of red emerald around his neck. Someone must've stolen his emerald!

The sky started to turn dark, but the people didn't seem to be wanting to go. Some people started to search around the castle, they must be looking for the emerald. I accidentally heard someone saying the great grandmas' bad memories about them and even discussed how much the emerald could cost. I gasped, the people nowadays wanted money more than their memories!

There was a sudden large squeak downstairs, so I quickly ran down to have a look. A man came dressed in a proper suit, carrying a pile of documents and a small but thick book. He said that he was the lawyer of the castle. As he recognized me, he passed me the small book secretly and said that it was the diary of my great grandma. He also said that my great grandma trusted me the most and told the lawyer to give me the diary after something serious happened just in case and never let anyone else look at the diary. The diary was filled full of the memories of me with my great grandma and thought that I could never see her again.

She rarely writes about the other relatives. That's why the lawyer said that she trusted me the most! "I have to find the emerald before anyone does!", I thought affirmatively.

So, I searched the castle starting from the most possible place which is the bedroom. I didn't miss any corners, but the emerald didn't show up. As I passed through the hallway, some of the relatives started to yell at me, saying that I shouldn't be searching for the emerald for no reason. I ignored them, going forward to the next room.

I walked to a room with a half rotten wooden sign that wrote 'Dressing Room' hanged on the door. There were two large, empty wooden cupboards sticking to the two sides of the room. In between the cupboards, there was a mirror with wooden edges covered with a thick piece of dust attached to a dressing table. Suddenly, a person grabbed me at the back and told me not to scream. Then he said in a deep voice "the clue to find the emerald is on the very back page of the diary. He slowly loosened his arms and walked away, I realized it was the lawyer! I quickly open the last page of the diary, which wrote, 'The emerald is hidden inside the lowest drawer inside the cupboard' I then quickly open the drawer. "Yes! It is there! Great grandma helped me!" I thought excitedly.

But as I took the emerald out, something hit me so hard as I let out a scream. I fell onto the floor strengthless. But the lawyer appeared in front of me with an evil smile, saying, "Haha, surprise, I won this game, see ya next time!" Using my last strength, I watched him taking the emerald away from me and left proudly, saying, "Hm... How much should I give to the relatives? 10 percent? 20 percent? Hahahaha!"

This time, I completely lost the game, but I won't anymore.

The Case of the Bloody Wedding

St. Margaret's Coeducational English Secondary and Primary School, Wu, Yat Sum – 11

Once upon a time, in China, a famous official called Judge Pao, was appointed to take charge of the taxes in HeZhou, a place in China. At that time, he sorted a lot of cases. He was known as the “God of Chinese Justice”. His famous cases include the Case of the Broken Tongue of the Cow, the Trial of the Stone Case..... But have you heard of the Case of the Bloody Wedding?

Going back to the past, when Judge Pao was being an official for a month, he and some other officials were walking along the streets, while he heard some Guzheng music along the roads. It turns out that somebody was going to get married. The bride was in a carriage, carried by 4 carriage men, and she was wearing a red dress. She looked out of the window. She had big, black eyes, and long, straight, black hair. “The Bride is quite pretty.....” an official said too, “She should be meeting her groom.”

As the music faded, and the crowd went away, Judge Pao went back to his room and rested.

A day later, a woman with black hair came and asked for Judge Pao’s help. “When I went to meet my groom, I saw him lying dead...” The woman sobbed and cried. Judge Pao realised it was the woman from the carriage. “Take me to the crime scene,” said Judge Pao, and he headed to the house, along with the woman.

When they arrived at the house, all they saw was a house full of gold. It has a big garden for gardening and an attic. Judge Pao asked for the situation that she saw when she arrived. “I saw a pile of blood on the floor and blood in the sheets of the bed. He was lying in a cross, with two deep cuts at the back, two on the chest, and also a knife that was stabbed through his head,” she said, horrified and scared.

Judge Pao examined the room. The room was messy and there were some shards of glass on the ground. The bed was slept in and wasn't tidied. The curtains were opened, as well as the window. Cold breezes rustled in, and they shuddered.

“Thank you, Madam. I will try and investigate.....” Voice still, he noticed something on the ground. It was a string of footprints. He followed the footprints but he lost track of them on the window. The footprints were covered in mud. Judge Pao, looking through the window, asked: “How many floors are there again?” “There are 3 floors, including the attic.” He then asked again: “Which floor are we on?” “The second one, with the bathroom.” The woman replied.

After his investigation of the murder scene, he went back to his room and thought about it. Where do the footprints lead to? Was it a trap, or a clue?

A couple of days later, he went back to the crime scene alone. The mud on the footprints were dried up.

“Nobody can enter the house without an invitation. There are guards watching. So, the only people who can enter the house are only the bride, the groom, the carriage-men, and the servants. If the servants wanted to kill the master, they would have done it before. The bride is possibly not the murderer. So the suspects are the 4 carriage-men,” Judge Pao said, analysing, “The carriage-men crossed roads with mud in town. According to the mud on the footprints, the 4 carriage-men will be the most suspicious suspects.”

Judge Pao thought he had almost cracked the case, so he laughed and laughed.

A couple of days later, he gathered the suspects in his room. “I have informed you to bring along the shoes you have worn on the marriage day. Have you all brought it out?” “Yes.” They all replied. Judge Pao took all of the shoes and examined them. “The footprints were in a small size, with twenty-six small rocks long,” he thought, then he found out that one of the pairs is smaller than the others, and met all the requirements of the footprints.

Judge Pao had found out the murderer. “Guards! Take him to jail and execute him!” “No! Have mercy, Judge Pao! I can explain!” begged the carriage-man. So, Judge Pao let him speak.

“Me and the bride, Alice, fell in love. But as I’m poor, her father doesn’t let her stay with me, instead let her marry a rich man. Alice refused at once but her father didn’t listen. He said, ‘As long as the rich guy likes Alice, I’ll let her marry him.’ I didn’t want her to marry him,” he said, honestly, “Because I’ve heard a lot of complaints and cries from Alice, so I’ve decided to kill the rich man and protect her. I just wanted her to be happy……” he finished talking, and cried sadly.

Judge Pao was touched by his words, but he has to follow the law, execution is unavoidable. He sighed and said: “Thank you for being honest with me. But things should be settled. You have to apologise to the groom’s family and then go to jail for the rest of your life. That’s the least punishment for murdering others. I am very merciful this time.”

Not long later, the man (accompanied by some guards) apologised to the groom’s relatives and went to jail. The bride was heartbroken. Although the bride and the man can never meet again, their hearts are still linked to each other. Judge Pao then solved another case.

What case will Judge Pao meet next time? A murder case, or a theft case? A disappearing case? Or even something worse?

The Lost Fossil

St. Mary's Canossian School, Chan, Ava – 11

A dark shadow slipped by, letting out an evil grin that betrayed all innocence.

As Judge Pao woke up that morning, he felt unusually uncomfortable. He always heard his servants arguing, or his fans ringing the doorbell, asking for an autograph. However, this morning was strangely silent, without any shouting or yelling. As he walked downstairs to the living room, he immediately knew what had just happened. Theft!

There were three people in the room, along with the minister. The minister said, 'A fossil was lost in the museum at around 2:30 AM. These are the people who are found in the museum at that time. The CCTV was broken, so we have no idea who the thief is.' When the minister finished speaking, he stepped back to let Judge Pao have a clearer look at them. 'Explain yourselves,' Judge Pao ordered. The first person said confidently, 'Hi, I'm the baker for the cafeteria. I was making a cake during the night,' The second person stammered, 'H...hi, I...I am the s...security guard there,' The third person said, 'Hello, I had a run last night. I was thirsty, so I slipped in for a drink. You saw me there last night, didn't you?' As he said that, he was looking at the first person, who nodded. The second person was very suspicious.

'Do you mind if I look at your homes for further investigation?' Judge Pao asked. The baker said, 'Sure! I'm happy to!' The guard said, 'No, I don't want to.' Everyone was shocked to hear this. 'If you are the thief, then just tell us and don't waste our time!' The runner exclaimed.

Judge Pao went to the baker's house first for investigation. The baker's house was really clean, but Judge Pao thought something wasn't right. 'When did you last clean your living room?' Judge Pao asked.

'Around 3 last night.'

'How much time do you usually need to drive home from work?'

'About half an hour.'

Suspicious, Judge Pao thought. Why on Earth would anyone clean in the night? And, more importantly, how could he get home in thirty minutes while baking a cake?

Judge Pao went to the guard's house. He rang the doorbell. No one answered. He knocked on the door. 'Go away! I told you; I don't want you here!' Judge Pao heard the guard yell. However, Judge Pao wouldn't give up. He begged and persuaded, then argued and convinced, and eventually, after several minutes of arguing, the guard reluctantly let Judge Pao in. The house was clean and tidy, and there was even a CCTV camera. 'May I have a look at that?' Judge Pao asked, and to his surprise, the guard just shrugged. There wasn't single evidence that tells anyone he stole anything. 'May I tell you something?' the guard suddenly asked. Judge Pao nodded. 'Actually, you can't buy any sort of drink near the bakery or the kitchen, so the runner could never have met the baker. Besides, the bakery is really near the room where the fossil is placed. I think the others are pretty suspicious...'

'Thanks, that was really important information,' Judge Pao replied. After that, he went to the runner's house. When he was invited into the house, he saw footprints, blankets and bed sheets everywhere. 'Sorry, I haven't been cleaning my house these days. I'm pretty busy, you know.' Weird, Judge Pao thought. Just as he thought he was going to do further investigation, a person rushed in. 'I'm the museum's founder. We checked the CCTV of the room beside the lost fossil's room. The back door is the only way to get to the room. The baker and the runner are both found in that room at around 2 hours after midnight.'

'Looks like the mystery is solved,' said Judge Pao. He immediately flipped over some of the bed sheets. Beneath them lay a huge fossil. After this incident, both the baker and the runner were fined and sentenced to prison. The guard received a pay rise, and everything was back to normal, yet again.

The Mystery of the Stolen Purse

St. Mary's Canossian School, Fong, Natalie – 10

Once, there lived an important person named Judge Pao. He was a brilliant detective who lived in the Tang Dynasty. Judge Pao solved a lot of mysteries for hundreds of people who were in need of help.

One day, a poor blind person's purse, given to her by her grandmother, was stolen by a thief dressed in black on the street. She called for help on the street loudly and waved her arms frantically. However, everyone pretended that they couldn't hear her. The blind woman walked on the street, calling for help. Judge Pao happened to pass by and he took pity on her. He asked one of his guards to ask her what the matter was. The blind woman explained that a precious purse was stolen from her. Judge Pao decided to help her to solve this case and asked his guards to escort the blind woman to her home first.

At night, Judge Pao sat on his grand chair in the middle of a hall, thinking about the mystery. He asked a student whom he had taught for more than twenty years for inspiration. His student suggested asking who was on the street at that time. Judge Pao thought that was a great idea. The next day, Judge Pao asked his trustworthy guards to carry him by his carriage to the very same street that the blind woman lost her purse. They found a beggar on the street that they also saw yesterday. So, they asked the beggar if he saw anyone there yesterday. The beggar said that he saw a person in black, a person wearing clothes made of silk, as well as a person selling oranges. Judge Pao thought for a moment, then asked his guards to take him home first.

Judge Pao thought all day at home. Apart from dealing with his usual business, he thought about the case. He asked his guards to find the person dressed in black. Within a day, the guards found the person. They took Judge Pao to see the man. Judge Pao investigated the case so he asked the man about his age, why, when and what he was doing on the street at that time. The man answered that he was 16, and he was walking along the street to his grandmother's house, which seemed to be a perfectly normal answer, but to Judge Pao, he thought that needed investigating. However, he continued interviewing his suspects. He found the woman dressed in silk clothes one day. He asked the woman the same questions. From her, he knew that she came from a royal family and she was 21. She was crossing the road as she had to go to her mansion, which was on the other side of the road. Seeing her silk clothes and fashionable hair, he ticked her off his suspect list because he thought that she was innocent. Next up was the grocer. Judge Pao bought all his fruit from him so he ticked him off the list, too. The man dressed in black was the only one left.

Judge Pao wanted to confirm about the mystery so he asked the blind woman if she had smelt anything. The woman answered that she smelt really expensive perfume, and that made Judge Pao think: Perfume? Expensive? Wait, the woman dressed in silk clothes?! Oh no! That was totally unexpected! Judge Pao thought for a minute and then asked his guards to quickly search for the royal woman.

When they found the woman, she was at the port, waiting for a ship to take her to another country while carrying a large package. Judge Pao asked his guards to seize her and they did. It turned out that the purse was really valuable and two women were actually cousins!!! The grandmother gave it to the blind woman's mother and a blind woman's mother passed it on to the blind woman. The royal woman was arrested and put into jail.

To conclude, Judge Pao is really a talented detective.

Resurrection

St. Mary's Canossian School, Jing, Annie – 11

I'm lying on a bed, a purely white bed. It doesn't feel like the one I'm acquainted with. It's stiff and it always drains the sense of drowsiness from me.

I'm sick, and as the doctor says, in a very severe condition. I often eavesdrop on the neatly dressed nurses and the doctors with grim faces. They always speak in the same apprehensive tone and reach the same conclusion. I'm really getting bored of it.

I'm not longing for anything. What I want is to take one last gaze at the lovely jovial bird I've once dragged out of death. I hope she hasn't forgotten me. I hope she's flapping her tiny wings and pecking the window right now.

On the twelfth night in that spotlessly clean room, it's full moon. As I'm scribbling on my leather-bundled diary, the opalescent moonlight illuminates the dark; the scattered stars flicker above my head, and the massive silhouettes of the trees are like soldiers, remaining by my side.

A surge of drowsiness fluctuates and heaves inside me. I gradually feel my head lolling aside and my eyelids closing together, exhaling the last breath...

I hear muffled voices in my mind, or perhaps around me. There're mum's, shrieking my name and mourning over me. I want to answer her, but I just can't separate my eyelids, nor lips. It's a sorrow feeling, especially when I sense my dad's whisper beside my ears.

I crumple my fists and gather my strength. I finally get my eyes open, though the light fades, so do the voices as well. Everywhere is dark and silent, until a spot of red light ignites in the midst.

There're the noises of someone scratching a match as several lamps around me burst into flames. The tinders are bright, but less in amount, forming an indistinct shadow under me. When the main lamp overhead ignites, the surrounding goes still and quiet once more.

I realise that there's someone sitting in front of me. He's wearing a well-painted mask, in the colour of black and red. His robe is adorned with an assortment of weird patterns and it looks quite silky.

This eccentric appearance intimidates me a lot. The room is dim and it seems as if it's endless. I glance in both directions but find only darkness. I return to the man and notice a scar shaped as a moon on his forehead.

A ridiculous thought bursts into my mind. I blurt, 'Are you Judge Pao? Where am I?' I fidget doubtfully, staring at the man with slight fear.

'I am indeed, Judge Pao. You're now at the underworld, having an important trial,' he answers composedly as he places his hands on the rickety desk in front of him.

'Trial? Why's that? I didn't commit a crime, did I?'

It's a dull chuckle.

'No, you didn't. But you're now dead. You must do a report which defines your road.'

That word, 'dead'. How can it be said that directly?

'What you need to do now, is to tell me your name, age and the good things or bad things you've done.'

I obey, 'I'm Leung Hoi Jing, ten years old this year.'

Judge Pao scribbles on a paper as I say. He nods and looks up, instructing, 'Any good things?' He hesitates for a moment and says, 'Or bad things?'

I spin my mind quickly and reply, 'I've saved a bird and I gave her a name, River. Her feathers are sky blue, very charming. I hope I can bring her here and—' I realise what I've said, as I splutter, 'Ah no, not here.'

Judge Pao casts me a smile as he records our conversations intently on the piece of paper. He asks, 'Bad things?'

'Erm, I think there are, but I don't remember any,' I answer frankly.

'Any wills?'

'Yes. I wish my parents won't be too sad. I wish they can just erm, like just forget about me. And about River, I wish I can offer her a new cage, as the old one is shabby.'

I glance at the writings of Judge Pao and continue almost absent-mindedly, 'I wish I can go to heaven, so I can meet my grandpa and grandma.' My nose suddenly goes sour, but I suppress it.

'Girl, you don't belong to heaven, nor hell. Go back to your own world and remain kind and grateful...'

My eyes are forced to be closed as my feet leave the ground and soar up weightlessly. I hover and after a fleeting moment, I feel myself lying in a bed.

'Is she okay?'

'Better than ever.'

I open my eyes wide and enlarge them when I see my parents both smiling pleasantly at me. They look calm, but I know they're just hiding the agitation from me.

'Jesus Christ! Autumn! You're awake!' Mum leans forward and gives me a rib-breaking hug. I feel the warmth and the radiant sunshine outside my window. I am back to my world.

I'm back home only two days later. I chortle gleefully as I notice the brand-new cage on the polished wooden desk. I slump on the cosy, squishy sofa. Mum sits beside me and asks, 'How're you feeling?'

'Spectacular! Mum, I had a dream. I dreamt about Judge Pao and he's really a good man. It's he who sent me back. It's he who accomplished my will!'

Mum doesn't speak a word, but I know everything from her smile.

The Heartbroken Trial

St. Mary's Canossian School, Kwok, Hester – 11

'I always went to the Temple of Light with my family.

'Ever since I knew how to walk, my parents insisted that I had to make going to that temple every night a habit.

'That night was no exception, only that I offered to help do the chores before I went out. My legs took the lead on where to go, which path to take.

'Suddenly, the leaves rustled noisily. I turned around instantly and saw nothing but a still clump of bushes. It must've been the wind, I thought.

'I continued to walk along the road, aware of my surroundings, though nothing weird happened anymore. Finally, I reached the Temple of Light.

'I didn't notice anything odd, but when I pushed the heavy doors open, I heard glass shattering, and saw, before the glowing statue...' Zhang choked. Even though she kept wiping the tears away, it was pointless as she couldn't stop.

'You saw the dead bodies of your parents,' concluded Judge Pao with a stern but concerned look on his face. Zhang nodded quietly.

'Very well,' Pao decided, 'you may go now. I'll investigate this extraordinary case personally.' Zhang was eager to rise from the glamorous hall which was very much like the Temple of Light. It had the same golden pillars and marble floors, which reminded her a lot about the night that would change her life completely.

Judge Pao strode imposingly on the road Zhang had mentioned and reached the temple. The temple was so peaceful that it was hard to believe that a murder had happened a night before.

The walls were dark and trimmed with golden. Light illuminated through the windows, which were translucent and made of vivid stained glass.

Pao took a glance around the room. Plates of fruits and delicacies surrounded the golden statue of some god Pao couldn't recognise. The shattered glass wasn't cleared yet, and the Judge bent his round body to observe.

'Judge Pao?' his assistant asked tentatively, 'Have you figured something out?'

Pao raised his hand to tell him not to speak. He studied the glass in every detail, determined to crack the case. In the end, he gathered a few shards and went outside. He grabbed the blood-red dagger which he suspected was the weapon and returned to the capital.

His assistant was dumbfounded at Pao's swift acts, but as before, Judge Pao always solved the problem.

It was three days after the murder. The sky was bright blue and everywhere was lively, but all of them seemed like an insult to Zhang.

Zhang was summoned to the hearing. She couldn't help but feel nervous, and curious about what Pao wanted.

When she entered the room, everywhere was quiet, and her shoes clipped on the floor sharply. Pao was waiting at the end of the hall, sitting on his high armchair. Next to him were a few prefects and a rag-clothed man. The face was familiar. The dark, unreadable expression, the markings of old age, the messy hair...

'Chan?' Zhang asked in disbelief. 'What are you doing here? Where's your glasses...?'

'You know him?' asked Pao.

'Yes, he's the beggar who begs for money every day by the door! What's he doing here?'

‘We analysed the fingerprints left on the dagger and traced them back to him,’ said a prefect. ‘However, he wishes to repeat the story in front of you.’

Zhang stared at Chan as he began, ‘That night, I went to the temple to pray, for your parents cheated on me, telling me to go away as they don’t have any money to spare me, no place to shelter me —’

‘That was before they knew you were a murderer!’ the judge snapped and Chan became silent. ‘You thought you’d gained their promise, but once they heard about the news of that criminal on the run, they became suspicious of you and prayed to their god for guidance! How dare you kill them after listening to their desperate prayers!’

‘There’s no proof! I just grabbed the hilt of the dagger to prevent the killing!’ Chan refuted.

‘Then why didn’t the murderer kill you too? You were only a weak beggar. There’re no other fingerprints on the hilt either. Moreover, where are your glasses? From what Miss Zhang has informed me of, you were practically as blind as a bat without them! However, I found pieces of plain glass in the shards of the shattered window. It must’ve shattered during the conflict. If they didn’t belong to your glasses, what do they belong to?’

Chan was speechless. He stammered, ‘I ... I ...’

‘Bring him out!’ Pao commanded with his sonorous voice, and the prefects dragged him out by the arms.

Zhang couldn’t comprehend what happened. She couldn’t believe it. Tears started to stream down her cheeks again.

‘Zhang,’ Pao called sternly as she raised her eyes. ‘Chan told me in detail about what your parents prayed for. Their final words.’

Zhang dabbed her eyes with the silk cloth. Pao continued quietly, ‘They wished that you wouldn’t be harmed.’

It was so quiet in the hall that you could hear a pin drop. Time seemed to have stopped. Nothing else mattered for Zhang except for the words that echoed in her mind.

She was what her parents had cared for in the end. Just as they always did.

One Last Mission

St. Matthew's Lutheran School (S.M.P.), Yuen, Tsz Ching – 11

Judge Pao, 62-year-old, was a retired police officer, who recently returned to his hometown. He had always been a curious man. One day, when he was strolling through the streets, the wanted poster of the mysterious Han Huizhong, a notorious vigilante who was said to have a master of infiltration and stealing, made him intrigued. If a criminal as skillful as him had not been caught after six long years, he thought, then where was he now? He had to find the answer. Judge Pao decided to pick up the case once again and set off to find him at any cost.

It all began when Judge Pao went down to the archives in his office, rummaging through thousands of old cases until suddenly – bingo! He struck gold, discovering Han's file. It was dated 1061 – two days ago – about a mysterious thief who had stolen the King's treasure without fail. Witnesses believed this could have been none other than Han himself. Knowing that Han must still be in the area, Judge Pao donned his hat eagerly and pulled up his coat sleeves determinedly.

"It's time to catch this crook!" he declared boldly before setting out on his trail immediately. But it wasn't easy – Judge Pao stumbled over pebbles and climbed up hills looking for clues, and even rowed across a small lake just in case! Despite these tough conditions, nothing could stop him from achieving his mission – every night before bed he thought deeply over what he had learned so far until sleep finally overcame him – exhausted but satisfied.

One day during another investigation around town, Judge Pao noticed a strange wooden plank hanging off an archway at the temple entrance. "Hmm... That could be important" thought Judge Pao inquisitively as he decided to investigate further. Sure enough behind some crates, he found a rope nearby as if someone had intentionally placed it there. Hidden underneath these objects were something unexpected – black fabric and a knife!

Judge Pao knew that crime was on an increasing rise after noticing things like people worriedly barricading their doors shut or not letting their children out of the house anymore, even adding pressure on police stations to impose strict repressing laws... He asked few questions here and there as well but couldn't find anything substantial about Han – which drove him crazy each time! But Judge Pao was determined nonetheless to catch this kingpin no matter what it takes – who knows, maybe tomorrow will bring good news?

Judge Pao knew that capturing the notorious criminal, Han, would not be easy as he had a number of people working for him and there were few resources. "Still, I must try," Pao thought determinedly.

One day, at exactly 8 pm, Judge Pao witnessed an intruder trying to break into a restaurant near his place! He knew this was probably related to Han's doing and immediately chased after him with other guards as backup. However, they couldn't catch him in time and he disappeared like air right away! Feeling all hope lost, Judge Pao went back home despondently.

Little did Judge Pao know that fate had something else in store for him – for when he returned next day at 8 pm again with some guards enlisted as backup who should appear but the very same intruder! This time Judge Pao moved quickly to capture him and upon interrogation found out that it wasn't hanging himself but one of his trusty allies – Xiao! However, no matter how they tried they couldn't shake anything loose from him.

Feeling all hope lost, Judge Pao walked out of the station with his head bowed low. Suddenly, a mysterious man appeared at his side with several guards behind him! Judge Pao turned around in indignation and exclaimed, "Who are you?"

The man replied arrogantly, "Whoever I am is none of your business."

Judge Pao saw his chance and shouted, "I have a deal for you – two hundred credits and your freedom if you tell me where I can find Han!"

The mysterious man smirked deviously, "Why should I trust you?"

Seeing no other way out, Judge Pao reasoned, "You can trust me because if we don't both get something out of this then it won't be worth it for either of us." Understanding this logic, he agreed to the deal. Xiao told Pao the current location of Han. Gathering some policemen with him he headed out in pursuit of Han.

Judge Pao roared triumphantly, "We've done it! We've captured Han and foiled his treacherous plans!" His loyal troops cheered in response as they rode back to their hometown.

Flashbacks from the fight resurfaced in their heads; even though they suffered some injuries, they had fought bravely at the face of danger. However each moment of fear had paid off magnificently.

They paused for a moment to look upon the defeated rebels and then continued on. Despite their success, no one

celebrated as if out of respect for those who fell in this war of attrition.

Judge Pao finally managed to capture Han and returned back triumphant to his town!

Judge Pao was applauded for his efforts and thanked by many citizens who now felt safe in the town knowing that justice had been served. Little did they know that protecting his beloved hometown was Judge Pao's last mission before his death.

Judge Pao and the Case of the Farmers

St. Paul's Co-educational College Primary School, Cheung, Yu Sik Abbie – 10

Thousands of years ago, deep in ancient China, there lived two farmers. One was hardworking and humble, called Farmer Wang. On the other hand, the other farmer, Farmer Chan, was bone idle and rarely worked. A myriad of wild weeds and bushes covered Farmer Chan's field like a colossal, leafy dome because he never tended to it. However, Farmer Wang owned a strong, powerful ox that helped him every day with his chores. The cow often trotted over to Farmer Chan's farm to feast on the grass and returned to work in Farmer Wang's farm when it was full of energy.

Soon the seasons had flitted by and autumn had approached, letting a sweep of delicate gold crash over the trees and Farmer Wang's field like a colossal wave. The birds sang of the promise of harvest and fortune. Farmer Wang's contented features were made warmer by the gentle shafts of sunlight. Beaming, he harvested the crops and sold them, returning home with a hundred golden, gleaming coins. But as he skipped down the muddy path to his home, whistling a cheery, lively tune, he glimpsed his neighbour waiting for him in front of his door with his nose turned high up in the air. But little did Farmer Wang know, things would take a turn for the worse.

"Your ox fed on my grass! Without me, your ox would have never gotten enough energy to work for you. Obviously, fifty coins belong to me!" Farmer Chan explained haughtily.

Overhearing the bickering of the farmers, Judge Pao, who had been on a pleasant autumn stroll, halted in his steps out of curiosity, "What's happening?" Farmer Wang gave Farmer Chan a withering glance and told him what was happening. Thoughts whirring like gears in his head, Judge Pao smiled at Farmer Chan. "I cannot deny that there is logic in your defense. Instead of half the coins, you could take twenty coins. It would be much more reasonable." Farmer Chan, not hesitating for the slightest moment, agreed promptly. It was an excellent offer to earn twenty coins without even lifting a finger.

Casting a glance at Farmer Chan's messy field, Judge Pao asked why it only had wild grass instead of crops. Farmer Chan only yawned, "Hiring someone to plough the soil and clear the grass takes fifty coins." He let out a horrible bark of laughter. "I could just lie back and enjoy life. I don't even need crops in my field." The slurred words that tumbled from his mouth made Judge Pao's blood boil, but he held his composure and kept the revulsion and disgust from showing on his face.

Stroking his wispy beard thoughtfully, Judge Pao's eyes glinted. It was time to show justice. "Farmer Wang's ox has already ploughed the soil by walking on it and has cleared the grass by eating it. So, in fact, you owe Farmer Wang fifty coins. Deducting the twenty coins he has offered, you still owe him thirty coins. If you fail to pay the due amount in a year, you will be arrested!" Farmer Chan's face was drained of all color. Scared out of his wits, he began to stutter, "B-But..." Judge Pao gave him a nonchalant smile. "If that is all, I'm afraid I have other business to tend to. I will be off now." His expression was calm and unfazed as he strode away from the two stunned farmers.

The trees and the flowers had grown, blossomed and withered, and before anyone could tell, a year had whisked by. A crisp breeze announced the arrival of autumn. Judge Pao eventually returned to the farmers' houses, passing beneath the glistening, dancing leaves that hung desperately to the branches. Farmer Chan burst out from his house's door, gleaming beads of sweat clinging to his face, elation painted across his features. In his hand was a small but heavy leather sack. "I grew the crops and sold them! I earned thirty coins, take them!" He bellowed breathlessly. His trousers were ragged and dirty, his clothes were plastered to his sun-tanned skin with sweat, but delight was glinting in his dark eyes. Judge Pao swiped the coins in his outstretched palm and called out, "Farmer Wang!" A series of hasty footsteps later, Farmer Wang appeared, his anxious face flushed by the heat of the sunlight.

Judge Pao gently placed the sack of coins into Farmer Wang's hand. "I believe this belongs to you." Farmer Wang stared at the sack for a moment, the leather reflected in his dark eyes. He looked up and stretched his hand out, drawing in a slow breath as he hesitated for the briefest of moments and spoke. "This... it shouldn't be mine."

Farmer Chan stared at him blankly. "What do you mean? I owe you thirty coins. It's your money." Farmer Wang shook his head profusely. "No, I didn't work for this. It shouldn't be mine. Take it back." Thrusting the sack into Farmer Chan's hands, he turned towards Judge Pao and gave him a serene smile. "I didn't work for this, so it should

be his. He turned out to be quite kind and easy to approach once he became hardworking. He always asks for advice on growing crops and we have become good friends. Thank you, Judge Pao.”

Judge Pao left, his satisfied smile illuminated under the sun as the two farmers got back to work. The two farmers had both learnt an extremely valuable lesson: Farmer Chan learnt to work hard instead of being lazy, and Farmer Wang learnt to never take what he didn't work for. Judge Pao had, once again, brought peace and justice.

The Raging Tiger Sign

St. Paul's Co-educational College Primary School, Chong, Hon Wah Samuel – 11

Alone in the dark, there was a fisherman, who bought a piece of land a week ago. As the clock struck midnight, he was woken up by a faint “creak”. The fisherman immediately crawled out of bed and peeked at the corridor. At the end of a room, stood a mysterious shadow. The fisherman crept over to get a closer look. “Who...who are you?” the fisherman demanded. There wasn’t a single reply from the shadow. Gradually, the shadow pulled out a knife from his pocket, and stabbed it into the fisherman’s chest. “No...” the fisherman’s eyes rolled to the back of his head, and he collapsed. Quickly, the shadow buried the corpse into the front yard, leaving the knife with it, and ran away. The land was abandoned for a decade, until one day...

Wilson the farmer bought the abandoned land ten years later. He started planting crops but stopped when he realized there was a lump in the front yard. Curiously, Wilson started digging, until he smelt something rotten coming from the hole. He dug a bit further and realized there was a dead corpse in his lawn! The color drained from his face, as a knife was on it! Wilson examined the knife and found a raging tiger sign on it. His blood turned into ice, as he picked up the knife and retrieved it to report the emergency.

Listening to Wilson’s worries, Judge Pao frowned. Something wasn’t right about the knife. The raging tiger sign was abnormally familiar. Judge Pao kept the knife with him and decided to visit some friends. At night, as usual, Judge Pao returned to the Department of Hell to sort out the affairs of Afterlife. Judge Pao flipped through the former landowners’ death registry and told them to meet him. Judge Pao asked, showing the knife, “Does this look familiar to you?” the moaning souls nodded. Suddenly, a shocking realization struck Judge Pao. All the owners of that piece of land were killed by a knife with a raging tiger on it! Also, the incidents happened exactly at midnight one week after the land was bought! “Could the land be haunted? Or is somebody related?” Judge Pao squirmed uneasily in his seat. Glancing at the knife, Judge Pao knew there was a possibility that the murderer could be a knife seller, so he decided to visit Reagan’s knife store the next day.

The next day, Judge Pao made a beeline towards the store. Judge Pao questioned Reagan sternly, “Do you recognise this? Can you recall any buyers?” Reagan shrugged, “This kind of valuable knives were a limited-edition decades ago. They were all bought by a wealthy man who hid them well in his mansion.” “He must be the culprit! Nobody except him has the access to the knives!” one of Judge Pao’s followers shouted. Reagan frowned deeply, “I wouldn’t say that. In fact, the wealthy man, who only had the access to the knives, died long ago, killed by his own knife.” An idea struck Judge Pao. He turned to his followers, “Come, I have a plan to stop the murderer once and for all.”

After getting the address of the mansion, Judge Pao ordered a few soldiers to hide in the bushes by the mansion that night. An hour before midnight, a soft “creak” came from the front gates. The shadow was there! Judge Pao, who was hiding under the front steps signaled everybody to wait. Judge Pao peeped through a broken window of the mansion, and saw the shadow exit the back door and enter a shed in the backyard. Judge Pao screamed, “NOW!” and the soldiers charged towards the wooden shed. “Come out, or face the consequences!” Judge Pao called. The shadow raced out, holding a tiger-faced knife, planning to stab Judge Pao in the chest. Fortunately, the soldiers pushed the shadow to a side and snatched the knife away. The shadow tried to squirm out of the soldiers’ grip, but they were too strong. Judge Pao ripped off the shadow’s mask and discovered the truth.

“Why did you do it?” Judge Pao asked the dead, wealthy man’s son, Jason. “Why did you kill the landowners and your father?” Jason yelled, full of rage, “The piece of land once belonged to our family! It had valuable meanings that are kept in a secret. After a few years, my father decided we had to move. I wanted to stay, but my father wouldn’t listen! I didn’t have enough money to buy the land back, so I killed my father, hoping the money would pass to me, but it still wasn’t enough! I killed every owner of the place, assuring nobody lives there, until I have enough money to buy it back!” Judge Pao said, “That’s why every owner was killed. You set up a time limit to see if they retreat. If they don’t, you’ll murder them. Also, you used the tiger knives to cover your acts and blame your father for doing it.” The soldiers captured the mad son, and he was well guarded every day. However, days later, an unexpected case happened...

A few nights later, Wilson the farmer heaved a sigh of relief and got in bed. He was glad that the case was over. Just when he was about to snore, an arrow with a raging tiger broke the window and pierced Wilson's heart. Wilson breathed out his last breath and lay still forever. Strangely, Jason had been well guarded, assuring he couldn't have done that. There was truly something weird related to the land. Perhaps it was haunted, or there was another story. Whatever that made the land so valuable must be full of mysteries. Whether or not, Judge Pao was on the case. He was sure he could find the reason behind.

The Case of the Manhole

St. Paul's Co-educational College Primary School, Lam, Yuk Hang – 11

Night. The mysterious black cloth engulfed the starry sky, where the luminous moon sailed like a silvery boat. Just the best time for a stroll, he thought. Whistling, he walked along the long, winding road in the nearby park close to his mother's mansion. A clang echoed through the gloomy park as he walked down a step of stairs. He turned around and saw his wallet in a manhole, floating upon the water's surface. He cursed his misfortune. The wallet, tall in size, was given to him by his brother. He himself was not concerned about the wallet that much, but he knew that it was the thought that counted—a gift. Sighing, he bent over and lifted the manhole cover, followed by an attempt to reach the wallet. On the spur of the moment, his shoe seemingly slipped and he, facefirst, tumbled down the deep manhole, into the cold water. As he gasped for air, a familiar face appeared in front of his eyes. "Sorry, it had to be done." With that said, the face disappeared from the manhole, and the world went black.

Two. 17th October 2149. Morning.

"Madam, no clues have been found." "Madam, forensic evidence results are negative." Sentences buzzed like bees around Chan. Annoyed, she waved them all aside and shook her head disbelievingly. The case seemed like a planned murder, but all it had done was lead them into one big wild goose chase. As the chief investigator, she had been assigned to follow this peculiar case. It was about a man who mysteriously fell into a deep manhole at night. Her head buzzed with suspicions, but all of them were proved wrong. After a moment of contradiction in her head, Chan gave up. "Bring me the case files. This is officially a cold case." The forensic officer came to her side and told her, "Do not give up, as the victim's mother claimed it was not an accident, and she'd go on a hunger strike if the murderer wasn't found." Chan sighed. "Final idea — call the police scientist lab and power up the time machine. We're getting help from a legend in Ancient China."

Three. Qing Dynasty. Pao Court. Noon.

"Sir, several people are in front of the Court, demanding your presence. They're dressed in weird clothes." Pao raised an eyebrow at the reporting soldier. "Bring them in." Chan, her team of scientists and the victim's relatives rushed into the courtroom. "Judge Pao, allow us an introduction. We are from the future and would like your help investigating a peculiar case." Pao was sceptical, but he believed that the people in front of him were extraordinary, so he allowed them to continue with the details.

"So you're telling me you're from the future and a man has slipped down a hole trying to get a satchel. And he was found by his brother when he came looking for him. This is most peculiar." After a brief introduction of the details, this case had stumped even Judge Pao. "Court commences tomorrow."

Four. Qing Dynasty. Pao Court. Dawn.

Pao wandered in the garden, thinking about the case at noon. The officer was right. Every lead had left to a wild goose chase. Suddenly, an idea flashed into his mind—I'll ask Guanyin for help!

Deep at night, Pao visited the Guanyin Temple. Taking a deep breath, he stepped inside. "Pusa, please, help me solve the case! If the victim was innocent, let him come back to life! It is the only way this case can be uncovered." As Pao spoke the words, a cold wind rustled through the temple, shattering a plate. Arose a golden buddha statue, raising its hand and writing in the air using a shaft of light, "The hole was coated with a layer of oil. The man was trying to retrieve his satchel from the hole when he slipped and perished." Then, as quick as a flash, the buddha disappeared in a blinding light.

Pao left the temple and headed towards the court. Muffled screams came from the victim's bodybag. In delight, Pao opened the bag and found the victim alive. "Bearded monster!" The man's eyes widened in fear. "Fear not, for I am Judge Pao. You are in the past, brought by future investigators. Rest for now. Judging commences in the morning."

Five. Qing Dynasty. Pao Court. The following day.

Morning. The future investigators streamed into the Pao Court. "People, I've brought a witness. It's the victim himself, for he has come to life the previous night. Speak for yourself!" The man sorrowfully gazed at the murderer in the court, who sat alone in melancholy. His mouth opened, yet closed again. "It was an accident." Gasps echoed around the courtroom when a voice shouted, "No! I was the one who killed him! He was innocent!" Heads turned to the voice whose face glistened with tears. He walked over to the man and knelt. "Brother..." The man's voice was shaky. He wanted to protect his brother from such a fate, but he knew the truth was out.

The man's brother was chest-deep in debt. The loan sharks threatened to take away his house if he couldn't pay back in time. Desperate, he thought of using family property to pay off the debt. He devised a plan to murder his brother to get his family possessions. He gave his brother a long wallet and coated the manhole with oil. As the man walked down the step of stairs, his wallet slipped and the man drowned to death trying to pick it up.

Upon hearing the truth, Judge Pao asked the man if he wanted to put his brother to justice. The man immediately refused and asked for his brother's pardon. He was forgiven, and everyone departed Pao gratefully.

The case, to the public, was left cold, but deep inside the man's and his brother's hearts, the case had ended 3000 years ago.

The Tales of Judge Pao

St. Stephen's College Preparatory School, Chan, Cheuk Yiu Isis – 11

Once upon a time, there was a talented detective—Judge Pao. Judge Pao had a long white beard and a crescent moon tattoo on his forehead. He wore a long cape with huge sleeves like any other ancient Chinese person would.

Judge Pao was a brave, hardworking and intelligent man and he had solved thousands and thousands of crimes and cases during his life, but there was one that troubled him a lot and was the most memorable...

It was the case of a horrifying monster that was killing a lot of innocent citizens, and it had seemed to be unstoppable. Judge Pao knew that he had to crack this case and kill the monster or there would be a lot more innocent people being injured or killed by this monster.

“But where to start investigating?” he thought.

“Ah! Of course!” he exclaimed, “I should start with the victims and investigate more!”

After checking in the hospital for victims, he noticed that every single victim’s corpse had a body part missing.

“Why?”

He pondered in deep silence for a very long time. “Why would the monster need to do that?”

Then he went to the library to find some books that would relate to that monster and give him some information and an idea of what the monster looked like. And to his luck, he found a book *Monsters from World Wide* by a famous explorer. He sat down to read and read... Bingo!!!

“This must be it!” Judge Pao said as he read out the monster’s information, Name: The Griffin, this monster looks like an eagle but is five times bigger and MUCH more dangerous. The Griffin is normally found in China and it likes to eat humans. Many Griffins are tamed by their masters and many live in wild. Griffins are very dangerous and they are in fact human (or at least they once were). The masters can misuse the griffins by leashing them on their enemies.

Judge kept reading about the Griffins and decided that it was likely that the griffin killed its master after it has been unlocked.

He concluded that the Griffin simply ate the body parts of the victims that were missing from the corpse, but there must be more to that...hmm... and it also meant that this griffin that had been attacking this city might have a master that was behind all.

Judge Pao was so tired from all the investigation that he fell asleep in the library. He also figured out that the griffin only attacked at night like an owl and that it could be killed once its head was cut off.

Later that night, Judge Pao had a vision in his dream and he knew very clearly that he was predicting the future since it had happened a few times already but the vision was different. He saw in his vision that the griffin ate the body parts of the victims to get stronger. Judge Pao also saw in his vision that the monster was going to attack the next night and it was targeting a man with strong arms. Judge Pao knew he had to stop this from happening or the griffin would get even stronger and stronger to the point where it was actually unstoppable, so he gathered all the police and the strongest fighters of the time and he armed them with powerful weapons and armour to prepare for the fight on that very night.

The time had finally come, there at the village the griffin was going to attack, stood Judge Pao, the police and the fighters.

BOOM! A house just crumbled!!!! There they saw the scary and terrifying griffin. It was an intense battle between the griffin and the fighters. There was a moment where the fighters almost sliced down the griffin, but then it sent out a massive shockwave.

In the very end, a lot of brave warriors died in that one battle, but the fighters and Judge Pao won and slashed the head off from the griffin.

After the griffin was killed, all the citizens there and Judge Pao lived happily ever after.

The Tragedy on London Bridge

St. Stephen's College Preparatory School, Chen, Shiyi Philippe – 10

The Tragedy on London Bridge Morning, 6/6/1816

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It was an ordinary day, the sky is murky and black. Sam, a policeman was waking on London Bridge, but somehow he is felling threatened from his intuition. Suddenly, a mysterious man wearing black robes took a knife and fight with him. Sam took the murderer's hat, but he was killed and his blood flooded the street. Meanwhile, in Baker Street, Sherlock Holmes and Bao Gong were having breakfast together. Suddenly, Sherlock and Bao heard some rush footsteps outside. Ronald pushed the door and started to tell Bao Gong and Sherlock what happened on London Bridge. Sherlock knew, if somebody murdered the police, it must be related to Mr. X, leading the biggest crime organization in London. He asked to go to London bridge with Sherlock and three policemen.

Baker Street 10 am, 6/6/1816

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They went to London Bridge. On the streets, they found the remains of Sam, and it was stinky. It was already rotten and nobody could even see a human's shape. The only thing they found is the murderer's Railway ticket and his hat.

"It seemed that the murderer took Sam's hat to make a disguise!"

"I don't think so, Sam may just have robbed it from him!"

At last, they had only taken the ticket and the hat.

Bao Gong immediately found a vacuum cleaner, which had been used in another case before. Sherlock and all the policemen were confused, they thought that they should look at the remains of Sam or the ticket.

"Why are you taking that out?"

"Because the ticket of the Underground may distract our progress!"

The vacuum cleaner looks extremely abnormal. "This vacuum cleaner has a glass at the end of it, so that after we pumped in, we can find the dirt on the cap."

"Why would dirt help us to find the murderer?"

"Because that will identify where he lives!"

"Really? To look at which area in London has the same dirt with the hat?"

He started to pump the bag. After many tries, he succeeded and the glass was full of dirt.

There were mountains of dirt there. Most was flour, plus cinnamon, paprika, salt, pepper, curry powder and sweet pepper powder. On the back, there were graphite powders.

"It must be a dirty place."

"A place full of flour mills and a spice factory."

"A place that would have graphite powders on benches."

Smith looks at the ticket for the Underground, which was from London Bridge Station to Upminster. So Smith thought that the murderer must live in Upminster.

But Albert doubted. He experienced his whole childhood in Upminster. There was a spice factory. But he could assure that there was no flour mills.

Suddenly, Bao Gong asked, "Sherlock, do you have a phone book of London?"

Sherlock didn't, but Smith got one, but he left it in the police office. So he ran out of the house to the police office.

Five minutes later, Smith, who was panting, came back with the phonebook. Bao and Sherlock started to check it.

“There are five flour mills in London, three in Whitechapel. There are six spice factories in London, the biggest one is in Whitechapel and the other five don’t have flour mills nearby. So the murderer must live in Whitechapel!”

“Whitechapel, are you serious? That is the biggest underground crime union, led by Mr. X, the Darkside’s home!

The Whitechapel “War” Afternoon, 7/6/1816

Whitechapel was a dreadful place. There were clouds and dusts everywhere, and one couldn’t see anything outside five meters.

There were millions of houses on two sides of a hundred roads, all in brown, covered by muds. All houses were identical and even locals would get lost in there!

“How are we going to find where he lives?”

“A bicycle! The citizen near London Bridge said that the murderer had a bicycle!” Bao shouted, “We will find out where he lived!”

So, they started searching. After an hour, most of them couldn’t walk one more step, except Bao Gong who was still working. Suddenly, he found a bicycle lying in front of a house’s gate.

Bao Gong called all the searching gang. They used the key to open the door, but there was nobody inside.

“It seems that the murderer is really poor, that's why he joined Mr. X.”

“Now let’s just be prepared to catch him.”

When the murderer stepped in the room, Ronald and Albert arrested him immediately.

Murderer’s Story 5pm 10/6 1816

A week later Albert took Pisces, the murderer, to the police office.

“Well, why did you kill Sam?”

“Because Mr.X told me to do so!”

After being quiet for a while, Pisces started his story----

When I was a child, I lived in Strafford, a dreadful place full of smoky chimneys and poor people of course.

My mom and dad were workers in cloth factories, and I started to work since I was ten years old. Our “master” was Lucius Kurtis, an evil guy. We worked fifteen hours non-stop but only got a loaf of bread and a cup of water every day.

Lucius has a son, called Sam who is a member of the police force. Tension raised between us, and we became enemies. When I grew up, and moved to Whitechapel, I worked in a flour mill. Everything was almost same as before. One day, I received a letter from Mr.X. and he offered me a salary of one thousand pounds! It was incredible. Mr.X trusted me entirely and assigned me of tasks to kill police. I had already killed Ralph and Jack.

Mr.X ordered me to kill Sam Kurtis and I did it after one week for X and also for myself.

“Quite a touching story!” said Albert, “Tell me how to locate Darkside, so you can save your own life.”

“They just moved to a new place two weeks ago.”

“Lambourn, a beautiful town. It is in the middle of Swindon and Reading. A great village if you enjoy country life. But Darkside’s already settled there, and they are definitely planning more murders.”

“So any chance to stop them?”

“Yes, we get agents to kill Mr. X. Most of Darkside members worked only for money, so if we can control Mr. X, it will be very easy to destroy the organization.” “Well, what are we waiting for?!”

The Adventures of Judge Bao: Disappearance of the Crescent–Moon Mark

St. Stephen's College Preparatory School, Cheng, Ethan – 10

I was tired of my job. You would too if you carried two identifies, a detective during the day and a judge in the Underworld during the night. Running up and down eighteen scorching levels, I couldn't sleep a wink. So, I decided to take a vacation, and no one believed me. I took a good night's rest in the Overworld. This was how the story began ...

The next morning, I woke up and noticed right away that something had gone WRONG. I checked myself in the mirror for bugs and (luckily) didn't find any. I brushed away the hair covering my forehead, only to find that my crescent–moon symbol had disappeared! The symbol had something to do with my extraordinary ability to travel through the eighteen dimensions and four realms. The thought wasn't too frightening at first, but then I remembered with despair that someone had once told me that if I left the Underworld for longer than a week, I would slowly turn to stone and would never turn back. At that thought, my legs started to wobble. I rushed to prepare for my journey back to the Underworld. Going back without my teleportation powers would be tricky and extremely difficult. It meant that I had to go through the other realms!

The first realm before the Underworld was the Rock Realm, which was also known as the Realm of the Giants. It was the home of huge, blundering giants who also were the sworn enemies of us, the Underworld citizens. SWOOSH went the air next to my ear as I traveled down the tunnel to the Rock Realm. Suddenly, I found myself flying and realized that I was in fact falling! SPLOOSH I was suddenly submerged in water. I started swimming for my life, but the waves were too strong! To my relief, I saw land and I climbed onto shore. I looked at the large body of water I had just struggled through. Just then, a shadow loomed over the water and there was a thundering splash; water sprayed everywhere, soaking me wet from head to toe. The splash was a Giant, and he was running towards me. I suddenly realized that the “sea” I had swum in was a random puddle by the street. So, I hurried along the way, not even bothering to try sneak my way through. I looked around but found nothing. Just when I was about to accept my fate and hand myself to the Giant, I saw something gleaming out from the corner of my eye. It was the exit portal!

I danced my dance of joy, or rather, I staggered towards the portal. My sixth sense started to tingle, and my brain was telling me something important, but my body wasn't listening. I was so exhausted that I staggered forwards and lunged into the portal. Again, I found myself flying at neck breaking speed. I hurled through space until the ground came into view. I smacked onto the ground with a deafening SLAP, a giant spike missed my head by inches. Oh no! The portal I had entered hadn't led me to the Underworld. Instead, I was standing on the spiky ground of Queen Gertrude's Realm! Their Queen, “Gertrude”, was known for her cruelty to others and her own kind. To stop criminals from getting away, the fourth realm only had an entry portal and there was NO WAY OUT!

I tried to stand up but my torso seemed like it was on fire, and it felt like every single bone in my body was shattered. I might have stayed in the Underworld for too long. Feeling desperate, I forced myself to think hard. I remembered; someone had told me that Queen Gertrude kept a secret exit portal for herself deep in her hiding place.

I stealthily sneaked through the spikey yet barren, purple ground of the bone–chilling Spike Realm. It was wide and empty. A few Spwindlers were patrolling the grounds. I guessed that Gertrude and her faithful minions were out capturing more defenseless souls to devour. I stepped out of the shadow and with what I saw, I immediately regretted it. Millions of bodies hung limp from rusty chains that were tied to a wall. “They must've had their souls sucked out of them” I thought grimly. I spotted some rusted weapons on the ground. I crept over there and picked up a fiery looking sword. I tiptoed across and had almost reached the portal when suddenly, a voice rumbled from behind.

“Well, well, what do we have here?”

I turned my head slowly, dreading what I would see. Gertrude and her minions were staring at me, daring me to come forward. Suddenly, Gertrude made a sucking noise and the portal disappeared with a flash.

“No!” I shouted.

Gertrude could control the portal. Now the only way to get back home was to defeat and kill Gertrude so that the portal would reappear. Gertrude smirked and rumbled.

“I see that you have found your friend’s sword.”

I was confused, then I saw a mark on the blade. It was General Lucas’s Fire Sword. General Lucas and I had been best friend since we were kids. He had been taken by the Spwindlers. I stared at her; my fists clenched tight around my friend’s blade. I couldn’t believe my ears, he was dead. Tears were streaming down my face. I could feel a power rushing through me. I could feel Lucas’s soul next to me, urging me on. I lunged forward and plunged the Fire Sword deep into Gertrude’s heart; slime splattered everywhere. Caught by surprise, the minions could only stand there gasping as they watched their leader fall. I rushed forward and lunged into the portal before they could recover.

A sudden brightness blinded me for a moment, and suddenly I was home in the Underworld, in bed. My Crescent–Moon had been returned. Was that all a dream?! Wait! The Fire Sword was in my hand.

Judge Bao's New Case — The Missing Cat

St. Stephen's College Preparatory School, Cheng, Yan Wing Marilyn – 10

“WHAT DO YOU MEAN THE CAT IS MISSING!!” Autumn yelled into the phone. Her mother just called her and informed her that her cat Meili had disappeared that morning while she was at work.

Autumn immediately rushed home. She went to see if the cat was on her bed, underneath the couch, behind the curtains, or in the bed covers. Meili was nowhere to be found! Feeling hopeless, she went on her computer to make a flyer of her missing cat. Just when she was about to print it out, she noticed an advertisement on the side of a webpage that happened to be open in the background. “Got a mystery to solve? Sherlock Holmes and Judge Bao at your service. Call this number: 1234-5678.”

“Sherlock Holmes? Isn’t he a fictional character? And who’s Judge Bao? Hmmm... it’s worth a try... It is free after all.” Autumn dialed the number. “Hello. Thank you for calling. Your wish will be granted.” The other side hung up. Autumn was very confused. Thinking that it was a scam, she went on to print her flyers.

That night while Autumn was sleeping, she heard the door bell ring. Ding-dong! Autumn slowly trudged to the door and opened it. She saw a very old person wearing ancient Chinese robes. The man had a moon-shaped mark on his forehead. Autumn looked to his right and found a six-foot-tall slanky man wearing a wool tweed overcoat with a pipe in his mouth. “Am I still dreaming?” Autumn pinched her thigh and screamed, “Ouch! I am not dreaming! WHO ARE YOU? Are you robbing my house? You won’t find anything here!”

The men pushed their way in. The slanky man asked for British tea with a scone, while the Chinese man asked for green tea with turnip cake. Autumn looked at them suspiciously and asked, “What are your names? What are you doing here?” Realizing that they were not going to get their orders fulfilled, the slanky man replied, “I am Sherlock Holmes, the best detective in history. This is the great Judge Bao. We got a call from you. We should ask you why you called?” Autumn suddenly realized that the number she called earlier that was not a scam! She probably had wasted paper and thousands of trees printing flyers! Autumn quickly introduced herself and told them the situation of her poor missing cat, Meili. “A missing cat is surely a very serious business! No time to waste! Sherlock, we have to help this young girl!” Judge Bao said.

Sherlock asked, “Is there a police station around here? How far are we from Scotland Yard?” Judge Bao said, “We are not even near England! This is Hong Kong, and Hong Kong belongs to China! Autumn, do you have those, um, ‘movable eyes’ here? Those usually on ceilings?” Not understanding Judge Bao, Sherlock asked, “Are you talking about bats? What do bats have to do with a cat?” Autumn asked, “Do you mean a CCTV?” and pointed to one. Judge Bao gave her an approving nod. He instructed Autumn to play back the recording of that morning. Sherlock watched them in awe, as he had never heard of CCTV! They saw Meili at one point in the recording. She was walking towards the CCTV, and she pushed the camera with her paw towards the wall. “What a sneaky cat!” Sherlock sighed, “Now how do we know where it went?” Judge Bao said, “Shush, Sherlock! I am trying to listen.” Cling, clang, clash! Judge Bao grinned.

Judge Bao asked Autumn to give him a tour of the house. They were able to find three rooms with miscellaneous things on the floor. Judge Bao inspected the rooms carefully. The first room was a bathroom. It was a small room and there was hardly any space for Meili to hide. Autumn’s mother’s makeup and skincare products littered the floor. The second room was Autumn’s bedroom. “Sorry, my room is very messy because I don’t have time to clean it. And there’s all the school stuff... art stuff... snacks... you know...” said Autumn embarrassedly. The third room was the kitchen. It had grocery bags, boxes, tins and laundry things on the floor.

Sherlock declared, “I know where Meili is! She must be in Autumn’s room! Cats like comfortable places! Autumn’s bed looks soft to me!” Judge Bao shook his head and said, “It is the kitchen. Have you noticed that Meili’s bowl in the living room was empty? Meili would definitely look for food. The cat food is stored on top of the fridge. And the fridge is in the kitchen. And Sherlock, didn’t you see that Autumn’s room is carpeted? The items on the floor could not have made the sounds we heard in the recording. But the cans and tins in the kitchen would certainly make the noises. Autumn, get a ladder.”

Autumn immediately went to get a ladder, hoping that Judge Bao was correct. Autumn carefully got on the ladder, and to their surprise, Meili was on top of the fridge stuffing her face with cat food!

Autumn quickly thanked Judge Bao and insisted to make him some turnip cakes as a thank you gift. Sherlock Holmes sat in the corner in disbelief. “How did you know about CCTV? How did you know about what a fridge is? How did you know what a cat likes?” “I have lived many years, my young apprentice. And I am always the best!”

Judge Pao and the Deadly Virus

St. Stephen's College Preparatory School, Choi, Ming Kwan Katreece – 11

Sirens rang... more and more different sirens were ringing. Police and ambulances were going in different directions to save lives. People were at home and afraid to come out, fearing they might catch a new deadly virus. The year was 2020. There has been an outbreak of a deadly virus, and it was spreading quickly all over the world. Nobody knew how it started. All we knew was that it was harmful. Already one tenth of the world population has been wiped out due to this virus.

Katreece Choi was a local student in Hong Kong. Unfortunately, her best friend, Bao Bao, has just caught the virus. Katreece was very worried about Bao Bao. As Katreece left her computer on while looking after Bao Bao, suddenly there was a loud noise, “Bang!”. A flash of lightning, the room went into darkness. Slowly there was a light glowing from the computer. The light took the form of a curved moon shape. Then a face was showing through the light. It was a man and his skin was dark. He had a crescent moon on his forehead. “I am Judge Pao from the Song dynasty, Kaifeng. Are you Katreece Choi from 2020? he asked. “Yes, I am,” Katreece replied, not knowing what was going on. “Come with me to chase a mad magician named Mortifise. He has been releasing a deadly spell virus in my world killing many people. I have been tracking him down, therefore I have come to your world. Will you help me, brave Katreece?” Judge Pao said. Without hesitation, Katreece said, “Yes! Let’s find Mortifise, stop him, and reverse the spell virus so that all of us will be saved!”

Finding Mortifise was not easy, but Judge Pao brought his team captain – Captain Chin, an excellent tracker. Captain Chin knew the location of Mortifise was hidden in a Cup, which happened to be the trophy of a tennis challenge. The rule to the challenge was straightforward. Whoever could beat the dynamic duo – Roger Del and Raphael Nadin one set of tennis would win. But how hard it was to beat such great players. Katreece played tennis, but her usual partner, Bao Bao was resting in bed. Katreece had to think of a solution. Judge Pao said, “Please don’t give up. We must give this a try. Katreece, can you teach Captain Chin to play tennis? He can swing his sword very well. Surely, he can swing a tennis racket.” Katreece was positive and agreed to it. Indeed, Captain Chin was a fast learner because he was very skillful in Kung Fu. Also, he knew how to walk on water. He was fast and never missed the ball.

Despite Roger and Raphael being the favorites to win, they had never seen anything like the defensive ability of Captain Chin. The match was very even. Katreece was also playing very well, chasing after every ball. She was diving around the court and scratched herself on the knee. Katreece ignored the pain and continued. Her leg was shaking, but Katreece was running for every point. Katreece, Captain Chin, Roger, and Raphael were locked at sudden death. One point to decide the match. Roger saw tiredness on Katreece’s face, yet she did not give up and was extremely determined. Finally, Roger asked, “Why don’t you give up, Katreece?” Katreece said, “I cannot. I need that cup to stop the spell virus”. Roger said, “If you can return my 250km/hour serve, I will let you take the cup. So Roger served a cannonball at Katreece reaching 300km/hour. Judge Pao jumped into the court and supported Katreece from the back calling his power from the moon. Katreece was able to block the ball back. Roger was impressed and let Katreece, Judge Pao, and Captain Chin take the cup. From the cup, Judge Pao learned that Mortifise was hiding on top of a mountain in Queenstown, New Zealand.

Queenstown was a beautiful place. It had high mountains, and top of the mountains was covered by snow. This place was untouched by humans. Everything was natural, and there were no aggressive animals or plants. All natural things had their place and were living in harmony. Mortifise had been hiding at the top of mountain brewing his next deadly spell virus. Judge Pao, Katreece, and Captain Chin traveled up there. Mortifise saw they were coming so he tried to escape down the mountain. The mountain was marked with bike tracks. Katreece loved riding bikes, and riding on a mountain bike was natural for her. Katreece carried Judge Pao while Captain Chin was using his ‘walking on water’ skill. Mortifise had already learned how to ride a mountain bike.

The chase began. They were going down S-shaped tracks, and there were high bumps along the way. Mortifise was going fast and jumping high. Katreece and Judge Pao followed closely behind him.

Captain Chin was fast. He came around the front of Mortifise and stopped him. Mortifise tumbled on the ground. Judge Pao asked him why he had been casting this evil spell on us in both worlds. Mortifise angrily said, "I hate the humankind as they destroy the environment." Judge Pao said, "Hate cannot solve conflicts. We need to work together in order to achieve harmony. Look at how many people are suffering from your spell. Some are still unwell, and their children are waiting for their parents to come home. The way of life is to follow upright things. Can you stop?" Mortifise regretted and recognized that he was acting out of too much emotion. He reverted all his spell viruses. Bao Bao and the world were saved!

Judge Pao and Captain Chin bid farewell to Katreece, leaving the present world with a handscroll with the phrase, "Be righteous". Judge Pao's pursuit of righteousness and justice was admirable and will be forever remembered by all.

Buried Bodies

St. Stephen's College Preparatory School, Fok, Alicia – 12

It was a dark stormy night. Judge Pao stayed in his room, working hard on several cases about children and adults disappearing into the woods with his assistant Chang reading a few novels. Three faint knocks were heard, and Chang rushed to the door hurriedly.

A scruffy woman stood at his doorstep. Her hair was tangled, her eyes were red rimmed, and her face was full of sorrow. It was a saddening sight.

"My son," she sobbed tearfully and clutched wildly at Judge Pao's arm. "I found him dead in the woods just after he went out to hunt. There were scars over him. There was so much blood."

Judge Pao ushered her into the house and made her sit down. Chang hastily poured her a cup of tea. She wept loudly as Judge Pao comforted her. He placed a dim candle in a lantern and made his way to the woods with Chang following. They found a body lying on the wet dirt. He peered closely and saw a young boy with numerous scars on his body.

His bow and arrows were broken in half and there was no sign of any footprints on the mud. Judge Pao stayed there for a long time with Chang investigating. This was the first time a case had left the two troubled.

The woman's son was taken to the prefect station and Judge Pao gathered all the witnesses and suspects. Chang and Judge Pao got to know that the young boy that died was called Yang, and his mother worked as a maid at a rich family's house.

Yang's mother worked for Lady Li, and Lady Li despised Yang. Yang was superlative at everything, unlike Lady Li's child. Even if Lady Li had gotten Yang killed, nobody would know. Lady Li could've found

somebody to do the dirty jobs for her. Lady Li was the main suspect, but there was no proof.

Judge Pao worked as a supernatural judge in the underworld during the nighttime. Nobody knew that. It was Judge Pao's greatest secret. Not even Chang, who had worked alongside Judge Pao for plenty of years.

It was midnight and Judge Pao was in the afterlife. He roamed through countless spirits who were about to be judged. Some looked happy, some were sad. Judge Pao scanned through the horizon of souls and his sharp eyes landed on one face.

He saw Yang. Yang had a pure face. Without those grotesque scars, his face was smooth and pearly, which gleamed in the bright yellow sunset.

Judge Pao made his way to Yang and asked him if he knew how he died.

"I don't even remember, honestly. All I know is I was hunting, and a dark purple mist started to surround the forest and I saw a huge figure blundering through the trees. Then everything turned black," he said. "I didn't feel any pain."

Judge Pao's face darkened. He had heard people finding carcasses in the woods without livers and brains. This could only mean that it was a Wangliang. An ancient Chinese demon that ate the livers and brains of corpses. Judge Pao blessed Yang and returned to earth when it was still dark. He prepared stone tigers and pine trees. He had known humans turn into Wangliangs because of greed and envy. He wondered if this was also a human in disguise.

As Yang had said, a thick mist clouded the forest and a huge creature wandered through the forest. Judge Pao took out the stone lions and cast a net onto the beast. It shrank and a human shape was seen.

"Chang?" Judge Pao gasped and shrank back in alarm. The varmint looked at Judge Pao with jealousy in his eyes. Chang said, "You are the one who gets all the riches and honor. I am left with nothing. You take the credit for my work." Chang bared his teeth and Judge Pao sighed.

Chang was locked in prison for the rest of his life. All of those poor children and young men and women were killed all because of misunderstanding.

Judge Pao and the village buried their bodies and he said a silent prayer and blessed them. He looked up to the heavens and closed his eyes as a single tear rolled down his cheek.

New Tales of Judge Pao

St. Stephen's College Preparatory School, Fung, Yan Amber – 10

Judge Pao groaned as he finished his work, sorting out the affairs of the Afterlife. As he was about to teleport back home, a man cornered him and pleaded, "Please, Mr Pao, please help my son! I died just as it happened."

"What happened?" asked Judge Pao curiously.

"Well, I gave my son, Ernie, our family treasure, and little did I know that while Ernie was sleeping, someone stole it!" cried the man desperately.

"All right, what does it look like?"

The man named Chester told Judge Pao that it was a golden cup with the letter 'R' on it, representing the initial of their family's last name.

This was the first time Judge Pao was confused. With just so little information, how could he possibly solve the case? However, no matter how hard it was to crack this mystery, he would never give up.

The next day, Judge Pao decided to check Ernie's apartment for fingerprints while Ernie was at school. This way, there would be no distractions. Judge Pao carefully examined the boy's bedroom and noticed footprints leading to the window. He looked down nineteen floors and smiled. There could be witnesses!

Alice had caught a glimpse of a tall, hooded figure while watching TV late at night.

"When did you see this person?" Judge Pao questioned her coolly.

"Oh, at two in the morning," Alice replied timidly.

"What was he using to climb down?"

"He was using a long rope to climb down, I think... I only caught a quick glimpse of him, but bits of the rope got stuck on my balcony."

Judge Pao rushed to the balcony and found a piece of rope lying on a plant. He touched it softly and smelled it, hoping to pick up the scent. He immediately found it oddly familiar and remembered the scent from the street below when he was walking over to Ernie's apartment.

After he bade Alice a thankful goodbye, he sprinted to Park Avenue and dodged all the bustling people. At last, he saw an unusual-shaped building that looked like it was about to cave in.

He raced to the mailboxes and saw a glistening golden shine on the sixth floor's mailbox. He darted to the elevator and pressed the button for the sixth floor. Finding the thief's apartment was almost impossible as there were countless doors. Luckily, a young boy and lady unlocked their door. They froze, gazing at Judge Pao, looking as though they were both about to scream.

"Hello," said Judge Pao pleasantly.

"He-hello," said the lady anxiously.

"Could you tell me where apartment 617A is?"

"O-okay, well, it's r-right next t-to the window o-on the left."

"Thank you," said Judge Pao gratefully. He knocked on the door of 617A. A man with a cigarette in his mouth opened the door roughly.

"Who are you?" he asked, glaring at Judge Pao.

"Oh! Just a man who is going to arrest you for stealing a golden cup."

The man looked horrified and tried to close the door, but Judge Pao was too quick. He took the man by his collar and tied his two hands together with the rope from Alice's balcony.

"Oi! You! What do ya' think ya' doing?" said a gruff-looking man coming out of a room.

"How many of you are inside?" asked Judge Pao politely.

"Only the three o' us."

"Three?" Judge Pao didn't know what to do. Who stole the cup?

"Yeah! Only Judy, me, and Christella. Why?"

"So two men and one woman, am I correct?"

The man called Conrad snorted loudly, "Yeah! What, ya wanna be one o' us?"

"No, thank you. Although I am guessing that you people are holding a possession that does not belong to you?"

"Nah, we don' do thiefin' anymo'!" said the man airily.

"Wait, so you haven't stolen anything in the past few days?"

"Yeah! I think Christella might've stolen somethin' by accident, though."

"Where is she at the moment?"

"Ay! Christella!" shouted the man.

"Yeah, what?" a woman wearing headphones with long blonde curls falling on her shoulders came out of the hallway.

"Yeah, well, this ol' man 'ere was askin' what ya' stole yesterday!" said the man.

"Oh, it's nothing. Just my old friend's cup," said Christella.

"Which old friend?"

"Hernando Rofer, do you know him? His cup has been missing for four years already!"

"Hold on, so you weren't exactly stealing Chester's cup?"

"Of course not! That dungheap Chester took Hernando's cup because Chester knew Hernando's is like my best bud and hates us because my cousin's child bullied Ernie! So I got it back for my pal!"

Judge Pao suddenly sank like a stone.

Chester wanted Judge Pao to send one of the most vicious gangs in New York City to the prison of Hell so that Chester wouldn't be a suspect.

"Follow me," Judge Pao said, and the four of them set off to the Clouds of Afterlife. Chester was sitting with an angel, playing chess on a glass table.

"Hey, Chester!" called Judge Pao.

"Ay! Judge Pao! How are you? Have you found our treasure yet?" asked Chester. Looking at the group of thieves behind Judge Pao, Chester looked delighted. "Are you going to send them to the prison of Hell?" he asked eagerly.

"No," Judge Pao held up the golden cup, "I am sending you!"

Chester ran for it, and Christella ran after him.

"I got him. What do you plan to do to him?" asked Christella, breathlessly holding Chester by the scruff of his neck.

"Thank you, Christella, I owe you," Judge Pao bowed his head kindly. He took Chester by his arm and brought him to the deadly prison of Hell.

The legendary Judge Pao had cracked yet another puzzling case, using his never-give-up attitude that I think we all ought to adopt.

The Prophecy

St. Stephen's College Preparatory School, Ho, Hin Fung Herrick – 11

“Get me out of here! I am Sun Wukong, the Great Sage, Heaven’s Equal! You can’t hold me forever! Release me, NOW!”

I used to love the huge green mountains of China, my home. But now, trapped under this mountain, I was screaming on top of my lungs but nobody helped me. Nobody heard me.

When I grew in power, The Jade Emperor noticed my formidable strength. He invited me to Heaven and gave me a job as a stable boy for the Cloud Horses of Heaven. I grew with rage, as how dare the Emperor gave the Great Monkey King such a low position job? I rebelled against him, and the warriors were too weak to stop me. They had to call in Buddha. That thoughtless Buddha trapped me under Five Finger Mountain and imprisoned me for five hundred years.

Many years later my story was well written as a legend to accompany the monk Tang Sanzang on a journey to the West. But what happened during my five hundred years of imprisonment? It was my secret. Take it from me, the great Monkey King, as this is the tale of the Lost Five Hundred Years.

Eons ago, I was born from a holy stone on top of a mountain. Even the powerful Buddha did not know my abilities. I could channel my energy onto anything, including this mountain. I closed my eyes. I used the Yin and Yang inside of me to crack reality itself. Suddenly, the Golden Winds of Heaven circled the mountain. I broke time and space itself. I meditated, and shattered universes appeared before me, like stars in the night sky.

“Think that these are all different universes and different timelines. Now I travel to a time where I am respected, a time where the Flower Fruit Mountain will forever be protected and the most powerful in the realm,” I spoke to myself and vanished into the golden leaves of a peach tree.

Opening my eyes, I arrived hundreds of thousands of years in the future, kneeling in a crater. I looked around me and saw some figures in the distance.

“Monkeys!” I shouted, “Your King has returned! The Great Sage, Sun Wukong!”

No reaction. “Monkeys? Hello?” I asked, walking closer to the mysterious figures, “Why are you holding those glowing tablets? Where did all your fur go?”

They looked around me, puzzled. Little did I know, everything was about to change. I also noticed that all the green mountains of China were gone and became these suspicious tall towers made of glass and steel. What had the monkeys done? I took a look at one of the glowing tablets. On it, I saw things that meddled my sanity. Was the world’s knowledge stored in such a small device?

“What is the meaning of all these?” I shouted, “What is the magic that has kept you glued to these enchanted tablets of steel?” The hairless monkeys all turned on me with confused looks on their faces. They started to raise their tablets. I thought they were praising me. Finally! About time I got some respect! But then, the tablets turned into glowing little flashes of light.

“Where am I?” I felt confused yet intrigued and asked, “How did the monkeys come to be this way?”

Riding on my magical cloud “Jin Dou Yun”, I travelled over every corner of the realm. To my dismay, the whole world had been destroyed except for one place. On top of lush green mountains in China, I saw my kind. My hairy friends. Monkeys. I stealthily snuck after them and found them gathering peaches from the blossoms.

“They don’t seem hungry,” I thought to myself, “Why are they gathering so many peaches, only for them to be wasted?” They jumped into some thick parts of the forest and disappeared. I followed them and found something surprising. I screamed, “It’s my throne! Here is my home Flower Fruit Mountain!”

The whole world was ruined except Flower Fruit Mountain because of my holy protection spell. The monkeys placed the peaches on the throne. I guessed, after all this time they still hoped I would come back. There were some giant pillars of jade behind the throne. On the tablets, there were engraved thousands and thousands of sacred texts. They depicted wars and sufferings since the Tang Dynasty, demons, and monsters roaming the mortal realm, and a heavenly chosen monkey accompanying a monk to save humanity by delivering holy texts from the West.

But beneath the pillars read, “Nevertheless, The Prophecy That Never Happened...”

I didn’t care about the prophecy at all and went on exploring the future world. Everywhere I went, I saw suffering, war, pollution, hunger and death. Although I had become the king of this realm, I didn’t seem happy no matter what I owned. I missed the beautiful world with love and peace.

After five hundred years of exploring and thinking, I finally realized the world was ruined because the Prophecy had never come true. The chosen monkey was me. The holy texts of peace were never delivered because I hadn’t been there to deliver them after I teleported to the future. It was me who caused the world to become like this. Faithfully knowing my mission, I closed my eyes and told myself, “I need to go back to the Tang Dynasty and save the world.”

At the moment, the heavenly energy awakened my soul. “I am not The Great Sage, Heaven’s Equal,” I said firmly, “I am the awakened Monkey of Vacuity.”

Encased in stone again, I opened my eyes and saw a figure heading toward me. “Hello, monkey,” he said in a gentle voice, “What are you doing here in the rocks? I’m Tang Sanzang.”

“I have been waiting for you for five hundred years!” I exclaimed.

And so, our Journey to the West began.

The Mysterious Case

St. Stephen's College Preparatory School, Hui, Hailey Doria – 9

Judge Pao, the great detective was born many years ago in the expansive China. He was good at solving different cases and puzzles so he became a world famous crime fighter. As he became famous, his stories and tales began to spread around the world. Many people knew him because of the moon shape in the middle of his forehead. Judge Pao also had a kind and clever partner, a scientist, who always hit the books. He lived with Judge Pao in a house which was also their office, in which they conducted all their detective work.

One morning, a man went to a luxury car shop. There were many expensive cars in the shop. The man wore an odd-looking hat which was all black and had holes in it. His cloth was old and skanky, his shoes were black. All you could say is that he looked poor and rather dirty. After the shop closed, the checking service came to check if any of the cars had already been wrecked.

One of the staff from the checking service cried “There’s something missing, sir!”

All of the staff were shocked. The shop had only opened three days before. How come there was already parts been missing? Wondered the salesman of the car shop. A few days later, Judge Pao went to the shop. The salesman told him that there were missing parts in a car.

Judge Pao asked “Is there usually a lot of people going in this shop?”

The staff replied “Yes, especially today.”

“May I see the CCTV?” Judge Pao asked.

They quickly showed him the video of the mysterious event. He felt really curious when he saw a man who stayed at the shop for hours according to the footage. At that moment, he saw that the man was hiding and waiting for the shop to close.

Judge Pao exclaimed, “I think that’s the problem. The man was hiding and after you left, the man stole the parts from the car when nobody was watching, so he could sell it for money.”

Why did the man forget that we could see him doing all this on CCTV?” asked the inquisitive partner as his astonishment had now turned to curiosity.

“Because he clearly thought nobody would see this.” Judge Pao answered.

At night, it began to rain and digging sounds were coming from Judge Pao’s Garden. Judge Pao and his partner quickly ran to the garden, but when they arrived, there were no signs of digging at all. But when Judge Pao went to the back of the garden where there were many squirrels, he found that there was a suspicious hole there. Judge Pao knew that there must be something in the wind, but he realised it was just a trick because there was actually nothing under the garden. Moreover, if there was really something under it, Judge Pao would have found.

The next morning, Judge Pao and his partner passed by the car shop. It was a coincidence that he recognised the man from the CCTV footage walking around the car shop and peeking through the glass of the car shop.

“What are you doing?” asked Judge Pao dubiously, glaring at the man.

The man darted away as fast as a lightning. Judge Pao immediately hopped on his partner’s brown bicycle, chased after him while his partner ran after them. Although Judge Pao was quite slow on the bicycle, he soon caught the man.

“You certainly tried, but you cannot fool me!” Judge Pao said and tied the man’s hand and wrist with a tight rope.

“Wh...what do m...mean?” asked the man, pretending to be serious.

“I have evidence if you don’t confess for what you have done!” Judge Pao calmly said.

“I want to go to jail more than seeing you!” the man screamed with evilness.

Soon, the police came and arrested the man. And so, Judge Pao and his partner went back to their home and chatted.

“Mission complete!” Judge Pao said happily.

“What do you mean by “though you have tried, you cannot fool me?” Asked the delightful partner.

“Well, because the trick he made was digging in our garden to distract our attention on his theft of the car parts.” Responded Judge Pao.

“Then why did he need to steal the parts from a car?” Questioned his partner.

“Because he could sell it for money and the shop couldn’t sell it if it lost some parts inside the car. There was however, something in the wind. There was something missing, they hadn’t solved the mystery entirely. So, as they did every day, Judge Pao and his partner set off to the local prison to further continue their investigation into the enigmatic car parts thief.

My Soul Judging Time By Judge Pao

St. Stephen's College Preparatory School, Hung, Daphne – 9

My eyes fluttered open, not prepared to adjust to the blinding light that was above me. A bright chandelier hung above me, lighting the room with an eerie glow. I felt confused when I found that I couldn't remember anything. It was as if someone had drawn every single drop of memory I had about my life and left me to start fresh. I saw a figure loom over me. My squinting eyes finally adjusted to the light and found a man's face. A memory clicked into its place and he became oddly familiar. That face was a man's face of whom I had studied in school for so long. "Judge Pao?! You're the one who judges souls and predicts if people are good, right? A-a-a-and you solve mysteries? What are you doing here?"

"Someone has asked me to solve a mystery of what is to happen at this dinner party. Would you mind if we solve it together?"

"Yes! I would be honoured! Well, with all that I've read about you, your mystery solving skills could be of help."

I looked around, studying the different people around us. A bored-looking waiter wandered around, offering everyone delicious-looking treats. A tall slim old man who introduced himself as Dr. Keefe, a literature teacher, was laughing with author and hostess Ms. Jolintine. Afterwards, Dr. Keefe excused himself to the living room to answer a "super important phone call." Judge Pao and I were bored and decided to check out the 2nd floor to excite ourselves.

Suddenly, the room went pitch black. We heard a piercing scream, Judge Pao and I raced downstairs toward the sound. When the lights came on about 5 minutes later, Ms. Jolintine, sprawled in front of us, had a knife stabbed into her stomach. She was dead.

After about a half hour of screams and tears, Judge Pao and I announced we would question people individually to get to the bottom of this. We interrogated the waiter, Dan, he claimed he was in the kitchen making the food when the lights went out. When he heard the agonizing scream, he rushed to the voice because he was worried, and when the lights turned on, he was right in front of the body! Dan tearfully admitted that he and Ms. Jolintine had gone to the same high school and used to date. He still liked her and said he would never kill her.

Dr. Keefe was in the front room on the phone when the lights went out. He went back to the main room but tripped on a coffee table. When asked why there was no noise, he said he has very quiet shoes. I didn't really believe him at first, but Judge Pao said to move on and continue questioning. I agreed, since he was the expert. Dr. Keefe also said he and Ms. Jolintine had worked together over the years on novels, so they were close friends.

Dr. Keefe suddenly pointed at us. "Shouldn't it be *us* questioning *you*? After all, you both suspiciously left in the middle of all this so it was probably you! You killed her!"

"Uh, excuse me? We were upstairs, and besides I don't have any reason to—" Judge Pao stopped me.

“Don’t worry,” he whispered. Aloud he said, “It’s alright everyone, no need to blame each other.”

Then, Judge Pao turned to Dan. “You were best friends with Ms. Jolintine, weren’t you? But... you were more than friends. You liked her, didn’t you?”

“I really did... I can’t believe she’s d—d—dead,” he choked between words in tears.

“How could she suddenly just go to you and not me?” Dan yelled. “I was with her before, and you — you stole her from me! And now...”

Judge Pao said, “Ha! I knew it. Dan, you didn’t mean to kill her, did you?”

“Dr. Keefe had left in a hurry to answer a phone call and Ms. Jolintine was in the living room, so Dr. Keefe couldn’t have done it. But Dan, you were in the kitchen close to Ms. Jolintine. When the lights went out, you grabbed a knife to stab Dr. Keefe and get your love back. But you didn’t know he had left the room, and you killed Ms. Jolintine instead.”

“I—I couldn’t see! O—of course any a—accident could h—happen w—without anyone noticing... I—I care for her so much, and I’ve j—just killed h—her!”

Then I realized what happened. “Dan, you said Ms. Jolintine used to spend a lot of time with you, but now she has been spending all her time with Dr. Keefe. Isn’t that why you did this?”

“Yes. I’m sorry.”

“Good job!” Judge Pao smiled. “I didn’t see that coming. Now for this one, I’m going to judge their souls and bring him *down*.”

“What do you mean?”

“Well, they killed someone so I have to do the same thing to them too.”

“No! Even though he did something bad, they should be punished, but not killed.”

“Yes, but what should their punishment be? Fifty years of torture in hell?”

“No no no! Not that extreme. Shouldn’t we just give them jail time or community service? I mean, everyone deserves a second chance. It’s the right thing to do.

Suddenly, everyone vanished. Only Judge Pao remained.

“Good job. You have proven to me that you’re a good person.”

“*What* is going on?” I screamed, then stopped. I suddenly remembered how

I got here. I had passed away.

“All this time I was judging your soul, and you have proven that you’re a good person, and fit to go to Heaven.”

“Thank you, Judge Pao,” I bowed. “I will be sure to be good in Heaven.” One of the doors in the mansion clicked open, leading to a beautiful, indescribable garden. I walked through the door and into the garden with a smile, turning the next few pages of my life.

The New Tales of Judge Pao

St. Stephen's College Preparatory School, Jor, Eamon – 10

It was just past 6 am when the alarm went off, and I had to wake up and get ready for my day as a judge in the local court. I have been in this role for over ten years.

However, today was different. When I woke up, I found myself dressed in funny attire and jostling in a sedan chair. It stopped after a few minutes when I heard someone calling in an alien dialect, “Pao Da Ren (Justice Bao), we have arrived.” The dialect spoken was similar but not the same as Putonghua spoken by Chinese people nowadays. As I stepped out, I entered what seemed to be ancient *ya men* (police station cum law court), like the many I had seen in TV dramas and movies.

I soon noticed the flags and banners with the big Chinese character “Song”(宋). Am I on the set of the latest period drama in the making? Confused, I was ushered into a seat behind a traditional Chinese desk in the centre of the courthouse by a person dressed in an ancient costume. I didn't recall signing up to appear in a movie or re-enactment.

A moment later, it started pouring down, and two people were locked in a heated argument outside the court. All eyes in the court were on me. I summoned my lieutenants to let them in.

The two persons were named Lo and Yao. Both were blushing with anger as they entered the court. Lo started, “Pao Da Ren, my name is Lo. I run an umbrella shop near the East Gate of Kai Feng city. Earlier, I took one of my umbrellas from the shop to visit my friend. While I was walking, it stopped raining, then I accidentally dropped my umbrella, and this gentleman here (pointing at Yao) picked it up. He started claiming it was his umbrella and asked me to provide proof that the umbrella was mine.

Yao said, “No, that umbrella is mine, I dropped it, but he (pointing at Lo) took it.”

They started arguing again until I slammed on the desk and ordered them to stop scrapping at once. Neither side could produce any evidence to support their case.

As a judge sitting in the local court, evidence is presented to the court BEFORE the litigation commences. I was about to throw both of them out of the court and admonish them for wasting my time when I remembered reading about a similar case dealt with by the famous Judge Pao during the Song dynasty. So, I ripped the umbrella into halves and gave each half to each of them as Judge Pao had done in the original story.

After that, they left the court, and I ordered my two lieutenants to follow them and listen to what they had to say outside the court.

After around half an hour, my lieutenants returned to report what they saw and heard. According to them, Lo was mad at me and started cursing me. He said, “This judge is the worst I have ever seen!” But Yao seemed to be calm. Wow, things did happen in exactly the same way as what I read from the countless legends about Judge Pao!

According to the original story, Judge Pao would have made his verdict based on the different reactions of Lo and Yao and awarded compensation to Lo based on his genuine discontent about my decision to rip the umbrella in half. However, I decided to do things differently. No judge should ever decide the outcome of a case based purely on his or her intuition.

I summoned the two back into the court the next day and asked them to produce evidence and witnesses. It turned out the umbrella in question was only sold in Lo's shop, and Yao could not produce any proof of purchase. Also, a passer-by who witnessed the argument confirmed Lo's version of the incident. With this evidence, I had Yao arrested for robbery, and he was also to compensate Lo for the ripped umbrella.

Hence the case was successfully resolved, and although the result was the same as in the original story, I was pleased that justice was delivered in a more familiar way – fairer and more scientific despite the fact that took a bit longer. It had been a long day, and I started to dose off in my sedan chair on the way back to my residence. Then, I heard the faint beeping of the alarm clock, which got louder and louder. As I woke up, I realised that it was all a dream! I was just relieved that I was a modern-day judge!

The New Tales of Judge Pao

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The Sapphire Vase

St. Stephen's College Preparatory School, Lai, Hailey – 10

It was an unusual day. Hoi Fung Fu, the court of famous Judge Pao was full in and out, with thousands of people. All of them remained dead silent, including the defendants, the Ping couple. This pair of evildoers were kneeling in the middle of the court waiting for Judge Pao's trial. And here, the story begins:

Chi was a charcoal merchant in the suburb area in Hoi Fung, the capital city of the Sung dynasty. He was a generous person that allowed unwealthy customers to defer payment when their financial condition was not well. In a year when the economy was in recession, Chi was in bankruptcy, therefore he was forced to collect the outstanding debts in order to cover his own. He thought of a client, the Ping couple, who were once poor when they firstly began their business with Chi, but then became well-off and ran a ceramic shop. The Pings owed him the payment of two tons of charcoal, and it was time to settle this outstanding debt.

Chi visited the Ping's workshop; nobody was there. He decided to pick up one item in the shop as collateral. Chi spotted a shiny blue vase, grabbed it and left the shop.

When he was back home, he regretted it because he thought it was not appropriate to take away debtor's property without consent and wished to talk to Ping in person to clear the debt. However, it was at night, which was too late for a chat, Chi decided to go to sleep and would deal with Ping the next day.

In the midnight, Chi heard a voice from the vase. It was a spirit called Tang. Chi was flabbergasted by the spirit. Once Chi cooled his head, Tang began to tell his story: Tang was an overseas businessman who once passed Ping's house. Ping allowed him to stay at his tavern overnight. Ping and his wife Lili searched Tang's luggage and found out it was full of gold. Their evil minds led them to murder Tang and rob all his belongings. In order to hide the crime, the couple burned Tang into ashes in a furnace and made him into a sapphire vase. With this big fortune, the Pings emerged as the richest tycoons in town.

Chi was deeply sympathetic on Tang's tragedy, and next day came to Judge Pao to report the case. As he listened to this supernatural story, Judge Pao thought it was too ridiculous, and gave a physical punishment to Chi as a warning. Yet, Chi insisted it was true and tried to summon Tang's spirit in front of Pao. The judge and his team were astonished and believed in what Chi and Tang said.

Judge Pao made a public announcement to open the court case. The mass was outraged because of the Ping's evil deed. Without mass support, the Pings were in a difficult situation. However, nothing could change the Pings' heart which was hard as rock. Without any core evidence, the Ping wildly fantasized that justice would never descend upon them as long as they didn't confess their sins.

The Pings, Chi and the vase were summoned before Judge Pao. The Pings denied everything that Chi accused them of. While they were scolding each other vigorously, suddenly, the vase began to talk and shocked all the witnesses including the Pings. Tang condemned the Pings' sinister plan of homicide and plunder of his treasures. The Pings were deeply horrified as the ghost revealed the truth to the public. Nevertheless, they remained stiff and refused to plea guilty.

After the first day of court, Judge Pao tried his emotional tactic by talking to Ping and Lili separately. They were told respectively that their partner betrayed them and admitted everything they had done. Ping was as firm as steel. However, Lili was moved because of her jealousy towards Ping's maid. She confessed she participated in the robbing but rejected she was the one who murdered Tang. It was Ping who stabbed Tang. This oral evidence was countersigned by Lili and all the witnesses. This was crucial progress, Judge Pao needed to make his biggest effort to give Ping the last blow.

Next day, Judge Pao read Lili's testimony to Ping and all witnesses. Ping realized he was betrayed. Staring at his wife with rage, Ping suppressed his anger but within a few seconds, he began to claim in front of Pao that he was not guilty, and Chi was making unjust charges due to his secret agenda to take over Ping's business. Without hesitation, Judge Pao summoned Tang's widow and his son, which was out of everyone's expectation. The widow explained to Pao what happened to the day Tang had disappeared. As Ping sneered at the widow's accusation, the vase shouted: "We both have the same wedding ring. Ping chopped me in haste and did not notice my ring finger fall into the corner

of the room under the shelf!” Ping was stunned by this news since he never realized that night, his carelessness to detail would lead him to his final doomsday.

Judge Pao quickly ordered his men to search Ping’s mansion. There, they found a finger bone with a wedding ring that was the same as the widow was wearing at the court.

Unable to hide anymore, Ping confessed all the crimes he committed. Judge Pao sentenced the couple to death. The public jubilated as justice was served. The widow, the son and Chi sobbed emotionally when Tang thanked them with tears and left the vase for a better afterlife.

Stories of Judge Bao

St. Stephen's College Preparatory School, Lai, Hiu Tung Serena – 10

Sam ran as fast as his tired legs could take him. He was getting chased by criminals again. Sam was an amateur detective and bad people always wanted to catch him. He soon reached Bao City. A man greeted him. Sam couldn't help staring at his forehead, there was a moon shaped thing on it! The man began speaking in a foreign language. "Excuse me?" Sam asked. The man immediately started speaking English. "Hi, I'm Judge Bao. What brings you here to Bao City? Sam hurriedly explained what was going on. "I can offer you shelter, but you have to help me solve this crime in return. Sam couldn't be happier.

"So, every Saturday morning, some of my important documents go missing. I always keep guard of them during the daytime, so I assume someone is stealing them while I'm asleep. I've got 3 suspects in my mind. John, an old friend who always seemed jealous of me. Lilian, my maid who has access to all my stuff. But I don't really think it's her, as she's been very trustworthy in the past. And Michael, the gardener." Bao explained. Sam began taking notes and they arranged to meet the suspects next Saturday morning.

On Saturday,

Sam first began questioning Lilian:

"What do you normally do on a Friday night?" Lilian began speaking in broken English "I'm busy cleaning Bao kitchen, it is always so dirty. And then around 11 pm I sleep."

He asked Michael the same question.

"I was busy collecting the apples as it is harvesting season." Michael said.

Then, it was John's turn.

"I was sleeping" He simply said.

Back home, Sam groaned. He wasn't getting anywhere! But just then, he thought of a plan. On Friday, he put a special kind of powder on the documents that lasted for 24 hours. He met with the suspects again on Saturday morning and requested to check their hands. Lilian was first. Sam didn't see anything, so he moved on. Michael's hand didn't seem to have any powder, so Sam knew the answer: it was John. He looked for him everywhere. But he was gone. "He run far, far away, sir." Lilian said. "He what??" Sam exclaimed. "I know where he is." Bao said. "He's in his favourite restaurant."

They rushed there and found John. He tried to run but they caught him. "Can you tell me why you stole the documents?" "I uhmm..." "Okay fine. I planned to sell them. It's just, I was always jealous of Bao's achievements... and my family situation is not doing well, so I thought, why not make some money? But I didn't sell them in the end, I swear, they're still at home. I realized I couldn't do that to a friend." Bao was touched and furious at the same time. "You could've just asked me!" John apologized and Bao forgave him. Sam smiled. Bao eventually got his documents back and was overjoyed. Sam smiled.

Case Closed.

Where is Sherlock Holmes?

St. Stephen's College Preparatory School, Lam, Pak Yi Chloris – 9

“Help! Please! Someone, anyone!” A pregnant woman screams desperately at the top of her lungs, with a newborn crying in her arms. The house in front of her was swirling in molten red, heat waves from the fire that made it impossible for rescuers to break in. All she could do was get down on her knees hopelessly while watching her husband swallowed by the flame.

A week later, this woman, Mei-xing, was taken to Judge Pao's public courtroom as a suspect for her husband, Tie-niu's murdering. She was reportedly witnessed by her neighbours, the Qin's couple, to have set her own house on fire on the day of the incident, before running away with the baby. Additionally, the elder brother of the victim, Guo-niu, also came to the court, claiming that Mei-xing had a motive behind her action. Coming from a destitute family, Mei-xing did not marry Tie-niu out of genuine love, but merely financial benefits. Guo-niu presented evidence that Mei-xing was still in contact with her childhood lover. Now that his brother is gone, Mei-xing could potentially receive all his inheritance. Mei-xing looked pale, and remained on the ground without saying a word.

The crowd in the background gasped and started babbling. “What a malicious woman!” “Killing her own husband, how dare she!” “Death penalty for her!” The courtroom was in uproar. “Silence!” A deep, commanding voice echoed around the room. All eyes gazed towards the source of that comment. Needless to say, Judge Pao has a strong presence that made him stand out from the average person. If his sleek silky uniform could be a symbolism of his neatness, then the dragon embroidery on it represented his authority. He had striking dark skin, and the crescent birthmark on his forehead seemed to express the mission he was born with – to uphold justice as clear as the reflection of the moon. After a moment, he finally spoke, “There is too little evidence to conclude the case right now, we will come back to it in a week, after interrogations.” “We-Wu...”

A rookie cop spoke up, “there is a witness on the scene with clear motives from the suspect, why do we still...”. Judge Pao stopped him abruptly to direct everyone's attention to the autopsy he conducted personally. Although the cause of death is undetermined due to the burnt corpse, fractures were found in both the victim's ribcage and hip. Judge Pao was always able to notice details like no others, “we must re-evaluate the crime scene.”

When they arrived at the Tie-niu's house, Judge Pao immediately felt the neighbour testaments were fabricated. He noticed firstly, the gas barrels used to set the place on fire were three times the size of Mei-xing, which made it almost physically impossible for her to commit the crime. But more importantly, there were signs of intruders as the gates were destroyed and later put back together to conceal it. After careful consideration, Judge Pao realised this was not the first crime scene. The real murderer disguised his own acts and planned it on Mei-xing. Under Judge Pao's order, his team conducted a comprehensive background check on everybody related to the case and found out that the Qin's had had financial problems for the past six months. The investigation revealed a completely different truth underneath the faultless evidence.

“I know the town is against me, but I am innocent. I lost the love of my life and every day since then has been a torture,” Mei-xing cried her eyes out. She went on with her story monotone, trying hard to hold back tears, “Tie-niu told me he had a business meeting that night so I went to bed with our newborn very early. The next thing I knew, I was choking on smoke and ran outside,” Judge Pao rustled his fingers and asked, “and who was the meeting with?” “His brother, Guo-niu. They...”

When Guo-niu heard his name mentioned, he interrupted Mei-xing abruptly. “What are you trying to say? You heartless murderer and cheater! Today there should be justice for my beloved brother!” He raged at Mei-xing and instigated the audience to do the same. “Paw-Paw!” Judge Pao slammed a wooden block on his table. He gazed at the baby in Mei-xing's arms and subtly made a comment. “I was just wondering...if this woman was so evil, and you loved your brother so much, how come you let your nephew stay with her this entire time?”

Hao Yu did not answer. A guard proceeded to toss a black gown on the floor. “Do you recognise this?” “How? This is impossible! I burned them alongside Tie-niu!” Guo-niu howled hysterically. The room gasped. Judge Pao knew the trap he set had worked. On the day of investigation, they found pieces of toasted fabric uniquely produced by Guo-niu's company. The Qin's couple also admitted being bribed by Guo-niu to give false statements. But this was not sufficient evidence so they resembled a similar gown to fish out the truth. And Guo-niu took the bait.

The town was surprised to find out the amiable Guo-niu had long been jealous of his brother's achievements and finally decided to kill him. When he found out that Mei-xing survived the fire, he immediately framed her for the crime. Guo-niu was sent to life imprisonment, to pay a massive price for his greed.

A decade had passed by, which brought wrinkles to Judge Pao's face but it never took down his spirit to look for truth. He was later visited by the same 10-year-old boy with the brightest smile, followed by his mother. Unlike his usual seriousness, Judge Pao embraced the little boy. Judge Pao had been secretly funding them with monthly allowance since the case had been closed. Mei-xing did not know how to express her gratitude. Judge Pao seemed to be able to read her mind, "there is no thank you needed, I am just doing my job."

Judge Pao the China Sherlock Holmes that Really Existed In The World

St. Stephen's College Preparatory School, Li, Yaoguang Estelle – 9

Before there were many famous detectives and strong and fearless heroes like detective Pikachu, bat man and Sherlock Holmes, there was a heroic Judge Pao. Judge Pao was and is the really existed China Sherlock Holmes. Judge Pao was a famous and amazing judge, who was destined to fight crime and judge the serious and important affairs of death in his workplace known as "The Infernal Bureacracy", his legacy has lived for more than a mere 1000 years, here are three of his famous cases: Chen Shi Mei has two kids and a wife named Qin Xiang Lian. But he got tired of them he went to see the Emperor and lied about his marriage and became the exclusive Emperor's son-in-law, when his wife found him in the capital, she begged for him to go back home in the city but he refused to go and ask his personal servant to go and kill his poor wife and children but the servant was kind-hearted and let Qin Xiang Lian and her children escape and he killed himself. At last Qin Xiang Lian found judge and told him everything, and judge pao executed Chen Shi Mei for lying to the powerful emperor and abandoning his poor wife and sad children; a fine silk merchant under the name Liu Shi Chang was on a trip to his home but decided to stop by to get some food and have a place to sleep overnight at a place at Zhao Da's house, the owner of a pottery shop. Zhao Da was greedy of Liu's fine silk and riches and poisoned Liu's well-cooked dinner and after Liu died, Zhao Da then burned Liu's remains and turned him into a black basin and was later on bought by an old man whose name was Zhang Bie Gu as Zhao owed him a debt. Zhang eventually met Liu's ghost who was possessing the black basin ever since his doomed death and was told of poor Liu's cruel death at the hands of Zhao Da, later Zhang Bie Gu told judge pao everything and Zhao was arrested and then executed for murdering and robbing poor Liu; Judge Pao investigated a man's suspicious and mysterious death whose cause was ruled naturally. After an autopsy, his coroner confirmed the earlier report that there was no sign of any injury in the body. At his house, the coroner discussed the matter with his wife, who explained that a person could force long steel nails into someone's brain, leaving no other fortunate injury in the body. The next day, the coroner went to investigate and really found a steel nail indeed, and the widow was arrested for confessed to adultery and mariticide. Afterwards Judge Pao began to question the coroner's wife and found out that the coroner was actually her second husband and that her first husband has died the same way. Then Judge pao ordered his guards to go to the cemetery and unearth the first husband's coffin and sure enough there was also a steel nail in the skull as well as the first dead man.

Judge pao's fame spread as fast as a wild fire around China and judge Pao was so famous for the crimes and cases he solved that he and his name was illustrated in books, epic movies and social media that are translated in many different languages such as Chinese, English and French!

Judge Pao was abandoned by his cruel father because he was dark-skinned and terribly ugly that Judge Pao was considered cursed by bad omens but later on adopted by his kind and cheerful elder sister-in-law and many years later Judge Pao had to tearfully execute his ambitious nephew-in-law Bao mian.

Even though Judge pao is Chinese and he was born in China, he has a fascinating Hong Kong connection. His line of descent has been recorded exceptionally carefully with a famous family in the honorable city, known for the prestigious patriarch Sir Y.K. Pao and also short for Pao Yue-Kong. And Hong-Kong the prestigious home of his beloved and amazing grandchildren who wins awards about many global indexes for having an amazing word legal system and one of Earth's best corruption-fighting operations.

The famous and very special hero judge Pao would have been very proud for them if he was still alive that time.

The huge and gigantic present China is still not peaceful and holy and many people still kill, rob, and still ambitious and toxic, they still do the bad and terrible things and Judge Pao is not there when help is needed but that did not stop people from having other Judges in china and Hong Kong but we all know that in this huge world can not replace the brave and victorious man who was called Pao Zheng.

Judge of the Underworld

St. Stephen's College Preparatory School, Ling, Zu-yi Alicia – 10

10-year old Jani Pao was in the middle of a good dream. In her dream, a tiny UFO had flown through her window. Then out of the hatch came a family of talking jellybeans!

“Hi jellybeans! I’m Jani! Welcome to—ARGHHHHH!” Jani screamed. A glowing vortex had appeared out of nowhere and sucked her up!

“I DON’T WANT TO DIE!” Jani shrieked as she hurtled head-first through a tunnel of light. Then with a heavy THUD, she landed face-down on a hard floor and proceeded to faint.

When Jani regained consciousness, she found herself in a small room. Rubbing her sore face as she sat up, she saw that the floor was lined with gray stone tiles.

“I hate you!” Jani whispered, glaring at the floor.

The rest of the room looked considerably better than the floor. The walls were a pleasant shade of cream, though strangely there were no windows. The only source of light came from the torches that rested in the brackets built into the wall. The torchlights constantly flickered, causing shadows to dance across the room.

“Hello, Jani.” a voice called.

Jani was so shaken that she jumped three feet off the floor! She slowly turned around, and saw that a strange man was behind her. He wore a traditional Chinese judge costume, complete with the hat. He had fair skin, and in the middle of his forehead was a birthmark in the shape of a crescent moon.

“W-wh—who are you?” Jani’s voice came out a trembling whisper.

“The legendary Judge Pao, of course.” the stranger replied. “And I’m also your great-great-great-great-great-great-great-great-great-great-grandfather.”

Looking from Judge Pao to herself, she realized that it must be true. They shared the same fair skin, high eyebrows, and twinkling eyes.

“Wait a second! Isn’t your face supposed to be black?” Jani exclaimed.

“Why do I get asked this every time?” Judge Pao sighed. “I actually have fair skin; the black is just for dramatic effect in TV shows and operas!”

“Oh...okay.” Jani hesitated. “Err...why am I here?”

Judge Pao stroked his beard leisurely, thinking how best to proceed. “Did you know that I am the immortal Yama of the Infernal Bureaucracy in the Underworld?” He said after a while.

“Yes, I’ve read about that somewhere before, but I thought it was just a story!” Jani remembered. Her class had done a unit on Judge Pao last year.

“It is true.” Judge Pao confirmed.

Jani was shocked. What her many-times-great grandfather was saying was hardly possible, but Jani had a feeling that she should trust him.

“I am a supernatural judge, and I deal with all the affairs of the afterlife. But do you know how time consuming my job is? When I first started, I was so busy, I almost never had time to eat or sleep!” Judge Pao sighed. “One man was not enough for the job. I decided that I would choose one of every new generation that holds the blood of Pao, to join my council.”

“Then...am I the chosen one of my generation?” Jani questioned.

“Yes. You have pieced it together rather fast! I am pleased with my choice.” Judge Pao grinned. “I have decided you are ready. Now I will bring you to the Underworld, where you can meet the rest of the council.”

Judge Pao took a small glass dagger out, and sliced through the air. For a moment nothing happened. Then with a flash of blinding light, the air ripped apart, revealing another realm...the Underworld! Without a moment of hesitation, Jani stepped into another world.

Jani blinked. Then she blinked again. The Infernal Bureaucracy was not the hellish place she had thought it would be, not at all. The floor beneath her was made of gold, studded with exquisite gemstones. There were stone pillars carved with phoenixes and dragons, delicate flowers in shades of pink and purple winding around them. Above her, the silver ceiling was strewn with starry inscriptions written in ancient languages. Despite having never learned any foreign tongues, Jani seemed to understand the strange letterings.

“Through here.” Judge Pao said, pushing open a set of shining bronze doors carved with an image of scales.

Jani walked through, to find a vast room with walls of marble. There were many large windows, revealing the picturesque scenery outside. Marvelous thrones occupied every corner of the room. Some were made of jewels, some were made of flowers, and there were a few that seemed to be made of continuously flowing water.

“I call a meeting for the Council of the Underworld!” Judge Pao boomed. His voice shook the floor, sending Jani crashing into a throne. As Jani stood up, she saw that with puffs of colorful smoke, the members of the council materialized on their thrones.

“Great—grand—aunt!” Jani waved excitedly. Her great—grand—aunt sat sophisticatedly on a throne of jade, beaming proudly at her. She wasn’t too surprised, as the council were all people with Pao blood.

Suddenly, Judge Pao’s voice rang out, loud but not earth—shaking like before. “Attention all council members! Today we will welcome another of us. She is Jani Pao, the chosen one of her generation!”

A deafening cheer rose from the council. Everyone clapped wholeheartedly.

“But first, Jani must say her promise.” Judge Pao declared. The crowd fell silent. “Jani, do you vow to use your wisdom to do good in the world?”

Jani let his words hang in the air for a moment. “I do!” Jani answered, her voice strong and clear.

With a shower of sparks, a new throne emerged from the ground, made from pure crystal. As Jani made her way to her new throne, she was again drowned in a sea of cheers.

Judge Pao.

St. Stephen's College Preparatory School, Ng, Bui Ngar Blair – 12

Did you know that China has a famous judge that was known for his justice? Meet Pao Zheng, also known as “Pao Gong” or “Judge Pao”.

Pao Zheng was born in the year 999, which was in the Song Dynasty back then. He grew up among the lower working class, so he understood the hatred of corruption and the desire for justice.

When Pao Zheng was 29, he passed the highest level of the

imperial examination and became a qualified Jinshi (Imperial Scholar). Pao Zheng was asked to be the magistrate (the official that was in charge of a county in China) of Jianchang but he refused because he wanted to take care of his elderly parents.

After his parents passed away, Pao Zheng, who was 39 years old then, was appointed the magistrate of Tianchang. It was then when he was first known as a skilled judge.

In 1040 Pao Zheng was promoted to the prefect of Duanzhou. It was famous for the ink stones that were made in there. These ink stones were presented to the imperial court every year. But Pao Zheng found out that the previous prefects had took more ink stones than the ones which were supposed to give to the imperial court. So, Pao Zheng told the manufacturers to only give the required ink stones. When his tenure ended in 1043, Pao Zheng left without taking any ink stone for himself.

In 1057 Pao Zheng was appointed to be the magistrate of Kaifeng for a few months but he made several changes to the rules in there, for example allowing the citizens directly give complaints to the ministers. This helped the ministers to find out and punish the officers that were believed to be corrupt.

Pao Zheng has been the Minister of Finance. But even though of his high rank, he lived a modest life.

Because of Pao Zheng's fame and his reputation, his name had become the symbol of a honest and upright official. Someone even said he was the god Yama that worked in the Infernal Bureaucracy that was able to judge the affairs like he judged the living people.

The Case of the Missing Jade Elephants

St. Stephen's College Preparatory School, Pak, Hung Lik Justin – 11

In the year 1034, in Anhui Province, there was a lazy but cunning man by the name of Li Tan. His family was once very wealthy, but Tan spent the money on expensive food, luxurious silk clothing, and holding costly feasts. He also never worked hard to earn money, so he was always short of money.

One day, Tan asked his brother Li Chen, who was a pharmacist, to retrieve the Li family heirloom, two jade sculptures of elephants, from his neighbor Han Wen's home. Chen originally refused to retrieve them because he'd never heard of them and didn't believe the story. However, Tan convinced him into thinking Han Wen borrowed them since he wanted to see if the elephants glowed in the dark. He also promised to share the jade elephants with Chen. After some consideration, Chen agreed to the plan and went to Han Wen's house to request the return of the heirloom. When no one answered, Chen climbed onto the roof. Chen was very smart, so he used his knife as a wedge to remove the roof tiles one by one. Soon, there was a hole big enough for him to jump in. However, in doing so, he broke off a piece of his especially long fingernail, leaving evidence. After locating and stealing the bag, he put it up the side of his robe, put the roof tiles back in place, quickly climbed out, and escaped, forgetting about the broken fingernail piece.

When Han Wen came back, he looked for the jade elephants, but couldn't find it anywhere. He asked his family if they took them, but they all denied it. One of his slaves told him he saw Chen stealing it while walking to the bathroom, but Han Wen said he would never do such a thing. Not long after, his roof cleaner came and told him there was a strange-smelling fingernail clipping stuck between some loose roof tiles. After a few more minutes of searching, he went to Judge Pao for help, as he had heard stories of Judge Pao's great feats. After Han Wen told Judge Pao everything he knew and gave him the fingernail clipping, he brought it to his nose and smelled it, and smelled ginseng. Judge Pao immediately asked his guards to ask every pharmacist in the village to bring some ginseng to him in person, as he was already hatching a plan in his mind.

By the time Judge Pao's guards came back with the pharmacists, Judge Pao had already fully developed his plan. Judge Pao pretended to act worried and said: "You may be wondering why I brought you here. I have a close friend who is very sick. I was hoping you could give me some ginseng to help him." The pharmacists were very kind, so they calmly gave Judge Pao their ginseng. Judge Pao accepted the ginseng until he saw Chen's broken fingernail. Judge Pao yelled "Halt!" and everyone quickly froze in terror. Judge Pao pulled out the broken fingernail clipping and found out it matched Chen's broken fingernail completely.

Judge Pao stood up and bellowed: "So you stole Han Wen's jade elephants!"

In his defense, Chen said: "My brother Tan sent me to steal it!"

Judge Pao knew Chen could be telling the truth, so he asked Chen to tell where Tan was. He knew Tan went to the local casino to gamble every day, and that was where he was.

After the guards brought Tan to Judge Pao, he asked: "Did you really send Chen to steal the jade elephant sculpture?"

Tan knew he could lie and get away, so he said: "No, I didn't. I warned him against stealing it, but he didn't listen."

Fortunately for Chen, one of the pharmacists overheard them plotting to steal the jade elephants because the window was open.

The pharmacist said: "He's lying. When I was going home for dinner, I heard some loud talking from upstairs. I looked up and saw an open window where the talking was coming from, so I decided to eavesdrop to see what they were talking about. I heard something about stealing jade elephants from a man named Han Wen and something about sharing them."

After hearing this, Judge Pao said: "Very well. That does not sound like a lie at all." He turned to Tan. "And as for you, you have been found guilty of theft, bribery, framing, encouraging others to commit crimes, and lying to a judge! I sentence you to 25 years in prison. Guards, bring him to his cell."

He turned his attention to Chen. "You, Chen, are found guilty of theft. You will be sentenced to a year in prison and three months of community service. Guards, put him in his cell."

Finally, he looked at the pharmacists, Han Wen, and his family. "Apologies. You may leave now."

The first to leave were the pharmacists. They all were shaking from nervousness, as they only thought they were there to give Judge Pao ginseng for his friend. Next, Han Wen walked away, his hands shaking with fear because of the intensity. Finally, Han Wen's family exited. All of Han Wen's family looked like they were about to faint.

However, after they calmed down, they all walked happily back home, talking about the events of the day.

This story teaches us to choose your friends wisely (Han Wen and Tan), to think before you act (Chen stealing the jade elephants), and to be honest to people (Tan lying to Judge Pao).

New Tales of Judge Pao

St. Stephen's College Preparatory School, Qiu, Lily – 9

Judge Pao was a crusading figure who fought crime. No criminals had ever escaped from his fierce axes! People admired him as much as they were afraid of him!

But he also had a soft side. He cared for everybody and would listen to them genuinely regardless of where they came from and whether they were rich or poor. All his motives were to help the people in his country.

One story of his famous detective skills is 'The Dog who Disappeared'.

It starts like this: There was once a man called Chen Chao, and he had a very intelligent guard dog. One day, when he returned home from work, he realised that his dog was gone!

Chao's dog was a faithful and intelligent German Shepherd. Chao was very worried and immediately started searching everywhere for his dog. But he couldn't find his dog anywhere. So he returned to his house, tired and defeated. He sat outside, on a bench staring blankly at the open space.

A neighbor noticed his weariness. "What's wrong?" He asked. "I lost my dog!" Chao replied despondently. "I've searched everywhere, but I can't find him!"

"Perhaps somebody took it while you were gone," the neighbor suggested, "and then sold it."

"You should go to Judge Pao," the neighbor continued. "He'll help you find your dog!" Then the neighbor left.

So, Chao did. He went over to Judge Pao's court right away and begged Judge Pao to help him find his dog. At first, The Judge was reluctant. "There are many other more important cases I have to solve!" He snapped. "Not just yours!" But Chao wasn't one to give up easily, he kept begging the Judge, explaining he had exhausted all means with no result, and he believed someone had stolen his dog.

In the end, the Judge gave in and said "All right, all right. I'll help you find your dog. I just hope it's worth it! Come to me tomorrow in the morning, 11 o'clock, and I will tell you the plan." Then he shoed Chao away.

The next morning Chao woke up early. He felt apprehensive over hearing about the Judge's plan to find his dog.

He ate a breakfast of rice porridge, got dressed and quickly dashed to Judge Pao's court. He paced from one foot to another as he nervously waited to go in.

The moment the doors opened, Chao rushed in. He threw himself in a trembling kowtow before Judge Pao. "Master," he cried, "What is the plan?" "Be patient, Chao," Judge Pao said. "I will eventually tell you, don't worry."

After a while, the Judge started to tell Chao the plan. "My guards and you shall put up posters everywhere to tell everybody that my team would like to hire a working German Shepherd dog, because that's your dog's breed. The posters shall also say that whoever sells a dog like that to me will get paid 100 taels of silver.

"You will put up posters tomorrow asking people to bring their dogs to me the day after tomorrow. When we meet the dogs, you shall be there, although nobody except for me and my guards shall know your presence. You will then identify which dog is yours. Does your dog have any special features?"

"Yes, it does." Replied Chao. "Once it was injured in a hit and run, so it has a scar on its left leg. The tip of its right ear was also scratched off."

"Alright." The Judge says. "Now you can go!" Chao thanked Judge Pao and left.

The next day, Chao returned to Judge Pao's court. The Judge sent him and his guards with loads of posters in their arms to the town square. Later they got split into a few groups and started to put up the posters.

On the third day, the people started arriving with their dogs. There were farmers, traders and beggars, all with their German Shepherd dogs. But none of them was Chao's.

It was getting late in the afternoon. Chao almost lost all hope, thinking of giving up. Suddenly, a young man walked in. He was holding a big German Shepherd dog on the leash. Chao recognized his dog immediately. He stood behind a pillar where only Judge Pao could see him. He gave Judge Pao the signal of finding his dog. Judge Pao had a glimpse of the scar on the dog's left leg and the scratch on the dog's ear. He knew at once that it was Chao's dog.

He questioned the young man, "Where did you get that dog? Is it yours? Does it have any scars or injuries?"

The man lied, "I got this dog from an alleyway. It was abandoned there. It was a puppy when I found it. I have treated it well ever since. And no, it does not have any injuries. It is a healthy, strong and intelligent dog."

But then Judge Pao slammed his fist on his table. "You lied!" He shouted. "I can clearly see a scar on his left leg! And the tip of his right ear is gone!"

The man knew he was caught, and he trembled with fear. "Tell me the truth!" The Judge commanded. "Is it or is it not your dog?"

Judge Pao also asked Chao to present himself. Chao's dog saw its master and ran to him thrillingly with its wagging tail. The man knew he could only spill the beans about what he did. He admitted he had stolen the dog from the neighborhood. The Judge said "I will not give you the money since it does not belong to you. But I will give you a last chance. If, next time, you steal again, you will be locked up and put in jail!"

So the man got his warning from Judge Pao, and Chao got his dog back. That's the story of 'The Dog who Disappeared'. See how smart and helpful Judge Pao is?

New Tales of Judge Pao

St. Stephen's College Preparatory School, Tang, Yuen Hei – 10

Far away from the land, on a remote island, a massive dragon came from the sky, destroying and attacking villagers. It had stolen the gemstone of nature's heart. The villagers had been threatened at least twice by the dragon previously. The destruction of nature would prove devastating to the mainland. Yura's parents believed the dragon was dangerous, and everybody was expecting the worst. They told Yura the story behind the legend, which aroused her curiosity about the dragon. Yura felt a deep connection to the island and to all the creatures who belonged on it. She wanted to save the island and stop the tragedy from happening.

The small islands of Joy and Peace were connected to the Emmanuel Mainland by a bridge. Joy Island was known for its happy memories. This island used to be filled with laughter and musical melodies flowing through it. But it changed after the island's heart was stolen. Happiness was gone, and flowers were wilting.

Yura took a deep breath before she entered the forest.

The forest was dark.

The forest was quiet.

Yura passed a high cliff along the wooded passageways and climbed over glowing stepping stones. The route ran through a forest on the small, volcanic island of Peace, which was connected to the centre of nature's heart. With every step she walked, she saw some QR codes popping up from the ground. Yura pointed her camera at one of the QR codes, tapping the banners that appeared on her phone. It showed a route on Google Maps directing her towards underwater mazes and tunnels.

Along the way, a scene of a stunning, mysterious underwater world glimmered with magic. To her astonishment, a group of sea creatures led Yura to an unknown destination – The Kingdom of Judge Pao.

Judge Pao was invited to participate in the journey to find the gemstone and face off against the dragon in a heroic final battle to restore the balance between darkness and light. Before Yura entered the dynasty, Judge Pao took out his smartphone. He swiped up with his finger and unlocked his phone with his face ID. Capturing Yura's face on the app called "BaoZheng". Judge Pao was wearing an iPod, which transferred Yura's data with the help of advanced technology. According to the information he received, Judge Pao noticed that Yura had been sent by the spirit of nature! Meanwhile, a bevy of doves flew over his head.

He started to locate the dragon's location with Google Maps. The dragon was flying over the gigantic mountains, all the while ruining the heart of the island. Judge Pao summoned bats and soldiers to hunt the dragon down. He aimed to insert a SIM card into the dragon's brain.

Soon after, the soldiers emerged from the forest. The soldiers were panting and sweaty, holding a massive white net. Inside the net was the dragon. It was dark green, its scales sparkled, and its mouth was tied shut with tape. It tried to roar as loud as it could until it was out of breath. Yura and Judge Pao were in total shock after they had witnessed the scene with their own eyes. Judge Pao took a deep breath, slowly released the dragon from the white net, and removed the tape. The dragon roared again. This time it was so loud that you could have heard it on the

moon. The dragon flapped its enormous wings and tried to escape from danger. Judge Pao placed his hand on the dragon's head and prayed. SIM card inserted.

Yura and Judge Pao thought this was the best way to stop the dragon from polluting and destroying nature. Therefore, Judge Pao talked to the dragon in its ancient language and said, "Dear dragon, we have an earnest request. We want to keep the world safe, so please don't torture people and destroy our island."

"Well, I have damaged trees and mountains these past couple of years just because I have nothing to eat..." cried the dragon.

Judge Pao had a great idea! He suggested that the dragon could come work at his underwater palace as one of the soldiers. In return, he would provide food for the dragon's family. They would not starve and bully the villagers anymore! As a result, the dragon smiled and happily agreed that it would never hurt anyone again.

Mei and the Judge

St. Stephen's College Preparatory School, Ting, Paige – 12

Centuries ago, there lived a brilliant judge. His name was Judge Pao. He had proven himself genius time and time again by solving crimes in the bustling city where he lived in China. But he'll show up later.

One summer evening, I was sitting in the library of my father's home with a scroll spread before me on the rosewood table. I could hear my stepmother and father arguing in the dining room. Stepmother Chang was nothing like the kind ladies in the fairytales I'd read. Everything I said or did, it seemed, was used against me. She taught me lessons on "how to be a lady", and "proper Chinese etiquette", but those lessons would soon be turned into weapons, as she would constantly harp on my unladylike air. This became my biggest shame.

Father sighed. "Mei is just a little girl!"

Stepmother Chang accused, "A little girl who reads! No proper lady should be literate. Hnnh, it wouldn't surprise me if she were in the library now!"

"She is your daughter too, Chang," Father retorted. "You should support her passions instead of spitting in her face about how unladylike she is!"

"Well, I don't see *you* reading to her!" Stepmother Chang shot back.

"What are you saying, Chang?"

"Don't always accuse me of being irrational! Really, you are nothing like a normal father. You just let her run wild and do what she wants, you don't care that she is a disgrace and embarrassment to our family, you don't care that she grows up to be a polite lady who doesn't disturb the room with her loud voice. Girls like her, especially, who always have a point to prove, they must learn that it's better to keep quiet like a lady should. What I teach her is a favour that she disregards."

"That is why she should have a kind mother figure in her life who will guide her," Father said sensibly. "I'm busy making sure we have enough food on our plates."

Stepmother Chang stormed off. Her footsteps drew nearer and nearer...

The creaky wooden doors of the library swung open with a ferocious bang.

I'd been caught.

Stepmother Chang pointed her bony finger at me. "Witchery!" She gasped. "A scroll teaching advanced biology? How dare you? You know full well this is forbidden, yet you still continue to read? And what are you wearing? Put on a proper dress instead of these plain rags!"

"Witchery?" I was puzzled. "I'm just trying to learn."

"Lies! This case will be reported to Judge Pao straight away! He will make things right, you little brat!"

"*What?*"

"That's right, Witch!" Stepmother Chang didn't give me a chance to explain. "You will be executed for performing dark magic!"

Oh my sky, I thought, *It's just a biology book. All you want is to get rid of me so you can have my father's money.*

The next day, Judge Pao came to my father's home to see our library, and examine the house.

As we stood before him in the library, he stroked his beard and said, "These scholarly scrolls are certainly very rare... I don't believe the child—Mei, is it?—was trying to perform witchery. What is your evidence?"

“This scroll! About biology!” Stepmother Chang spoke viciously and quickly. “How can she even comprehend this text without any proper education? It must be magic for her to teach herself!”

“This doesn’t make sense,” Judge Pao said calmly as he turned to face Stepmother Chang. “Look at this from a logical point of view. This girl must be smart if she has taught herself to read scientific works. Her mind works differently. And that’s a good thing.”

Frustrated and furious, Stepmother Chang turned to me and grabbed my arm so tightly it hurt. She whispered in my ear, “You, child, *you* don’t understand. And I *will* get you executed, just you wait!” She couldn’t find a way to argue against the Judge’s point.

While Judge Pao wasn’t looking, Stepmother Chang put her hand on my chest and seized me. I could feel my heartbeat getting weaker and weaker. Then I dropped to the ground.

When I woke up, I found myself lying on my porcelain pillow, with Father and Judge Pao by my side. There was no doctor.

“It turns out that your stepmother is an Evil Sorceress herself,” he said. “And yet she accused you of witchery.”

I wanted to laugh in triumph but my chest still hurt.

“I saw you going unconscious, but before I rushed to help you, the purple dust lingering above that witch’s hand caught my eye. When she realised that I had caught her, she tried to do the same to me too. As you know, I am Judge of the Underworld, so it’s not that easy to defeat me.

“Now she has been sent straight to jail, where she will be executed soon. I found in your biology scroll an extra page of bamboo advertising witchcraft and sorcery. She used the floating dust to take your energy. To steal your power. You do *have* magic inside of you, Mei. But you have yet to harness it. And when you do, promise me that you will use it for good.”

“Yes, Judge Pao,” I replied.

Father nodded in agreement as he put his arms around me.

“I must admit that before today, I thought I knew many things,” the Great Judge said. “But you, my girl, have taught me a lesson that no teacher would teach: girls can be smart too.”

For the first time since Father married this Sorceress, I smiled a true smile.

New Tales of Judge Pao

St. Stephen's College Preparatory School, Tsoi, Wai Ching Honey – 10

One day, I decided to tidy the storage room a bit as it was very disorganised. As I looked around absentmindedly, I saw a black figure with the shape of a house lying beside me. I picked it up immediately and discovered that it was a broken wooden cuckoo clock. The hands of the clock weren't secure and a figure bird was dangling out of the clock. I was somehow amazed by my discovery and uncontrollably began moving the pointy hands on the face backwards. I tried to stop myself, but I can't. It was as if my hands had brains of their own. I tried to pull my hands away, and run out of the room, to no avail. "Help! Help! Mum? Dad? Please help me!" Just then, my muscles felt numb and I fell onto the floor. Then, I fainted.

When I woke up again, I was sitting on a makeup table which didn't seem like my mother's. I looked at my surroundings. I saw a red four-poster bed with pink curtains and a large wardrobe. I glimpsed back at the makeup table and saw a horrifying sight in the mirror. I was not me! My face was different, and I was wearing a long pink silk robe. It was embroidered with white flower patterns and frames. It was utterly gorgeous. My hair was tied like a breadstick attached to my head, covered with golden clips. I adjust my head well for a good look at my appearance.

While I looked at my new appearance, I thought, wait, one moment I was in the storage room with a cuckoo clock and the next I am in a bedroom that belongs to another person in the past? Hmm...what happened? I sighed, unable to think of a reasonable answer. I decided to think on the fancy four-poster bed.

I pulled the curtains and I smelled a queer odour from the bed. I tugged the blankets to see what was the source and gasped. A dead woman with a big tummy covered in blood was lying on my bed! I shrieked, glanced at my hands and they were covered in fresh blood. I discovered that the entire bed was covered in blood as I touched different parts of the bed. I opened the door with my bloody hands and yelled, "Anyone! Help!" I heard nothing except for my echo. Feeling exasperated. I screamed again in Mandarin, "Help!" A young woman dressed in a blue robe came rushing in.

"Sister? Why are your hands covered in blood? Who did you kill?" questioned my so-called sister hysterically.

"I didn't kill anybody!" I protested in my best Mandarin. "I just found this dead body of a pregnant woman on my bed!"

"YOU KILLED PEARL?" interrupted my elder sister. I blankly looked at my bloody hands. There was a lot to process. I am in another body, I would probably be put to prison for a really long time or get executed because they would suspect me of murder. I must be framed. But who was the real murderer?

"Did you kill your eldest sister, Pearl, who was pregnant with a boy?" questioned my mother.

"No!" I explained, relieved that somebody was willing to hear me out rather than to see the framed evidence in my hands. "I woke up on the makeup table and found the bed." I was furious. Why didn't anyone believe me? I had to solve this mystery. After quite an investigation and arguments between me and the police, they sent me to court with handcuffs on my hands.

After a while, the guards pushed me to the cramped courtroom and pressed me down to kneel in front of the judge's podium. The judge's podium was simply a table with tea, and a long wooden chair the length of a sofa decorated with carved dragons. Judge Pao signalled me to speak, suddenly, a surge of memory burst into my brain. I remembered things that the ordinary Jade Mei Chen experienced. I didn't know how it came, or why it came only when I was facing the judge, but I know this memory would be the only way to save my life.

"I remembered," I said confidently, "my elder sister, Moon Li Chen and Pearl Ling Chen were sending me my tea while I looked for my missing makeup products. I drank it immediately and felt dizzy. Then, Moon took a knife, walked towards Pearl, and pushed her onto my bed. I could only witness Moon stab Pearl with the kitchen knife while Pearl screamed in agony as I didn't have any energy to move. However, since the murder took place when nobody was at home as they were greeting my fiancé, there were no witnesses, except for me. Eventually, I fell on the makeup table, fainted, and I forgot everything."

Judge Pao's serious, concentrated face slightly relaxed, "I believe that your experience is true,"

"Indeed," explained judge Pao. "That is the main reason why everyone suspected that Jade Mei Chen murdered Pearl Ling Chen. On the other hand, I have noticed for a long time that you had tiny drops of blood on

your wrist and rough marks on your hands. You must have forgotten to wash your shoes because your shoe tips are covered with blood! Jade Mei Chen's story made perfect sense. I was extremely impressed by Judge Pao. I should learn from his attentiveness.

"I am a fair judge. I will only punish the ones that are wrong and let go the ones that are right. Your attempt to kill two people, and framing another is punishable by death. Bring me my dog sword and secure Pearl on the piece of log. Tell the press to announce the results of today's trial in the papers."

I smiled when I saw Moon's terrified face. I was satisfied to see that this problems was resolved.

Just then, I felt lightheaded , then, I fainted again.

Stories of Judge Bao

St. Stephen's College Preparatory School, Wang, Yucheng Maggie – 10

About 1000 years ago, in ancient China, there was a brilliant detective named Judge Pao. He was born on the 5th of March, 999, and he was commonly known as Bao Gong. He has a passion for justice and he was such an honest and rightful man that he would even betray his own blood relatives for the sake of the law.

One day, he received a message saying that Miss Du was found dead in her own bedroom, so he decided to go and investigate the scene. He rode on horseback for about an hour, and finally arrived at the crime scene. He examined the room and noticed that there was blood all over the floor, and a body without a head. He searched the whole house but all he could find was a note on the wall saying that “When a fish and a pig meet in the sky, you will meet me.” Judge Pao ripped it out from the wall and carefully put it in his nangbao.

He examined the body and he noticed that the blood was not yet dry. He took out a small handkerchief and used it to wipe the floor so it would be stained with blood. Then he examined the room and noticed that there was a hole in a painting on the wall and the shape of the hole – similar to the one on the victim’s body. Judge Pao realized that this sort of holes could only be made by a sword, for it was the only thing that could make such a small marking yet could also break through such a hard painting.

He brought all the evidence he had found back to his office and present it to the authorities. They examined he scene themselves. So, they all went there at once on horseback. When they arrived, they carefully searched all the corners of the house. They noticed that nothing was stolen but there was a hat in the wardrobe that was not Miss Du’s hat. Since they couldn’t find anything else, they just took the hat back to the office.

When Judge Pao saw it, he thought: Why wasn’t it there when I went there? And who put it there? Could it be the murderer? He pondered about this all day, trying to figure out if he had been watched by the murderer all along. It was as if the murderer was playing a game.

Soon, they found out the three suspects that could have murdered Miss Du and left the strange note. The three suspects were Mr. Men, Mr. Lin and Mr. Hu. Suddenly, Judge Pao looked up in the sky, and he saw two clouds shaped like a pig and a fish meet in the sky. After hearing what the suspects had to say, Judge Po thought about it and decided to put the most suspicious one in jail. The most suspicious one was Mr. Lin, because he was sweating even when the wind was strong and he kept on thinking of something he was doing and where he was at that time.

The Tales of Judge Pao

St. Stephen's College Preparatory School, Wang, Yuxing Mak – 12

It was a chilly evening, the wind was howling like ghosts and the sky was as dark as a black hole. A lonely house stood in the middle of a cold and abandoned hillside, looming over the skeletal looking trees. Suddenly, an ear piercing scream pierced through the hillside, the wind was howling louder than ever and the tiny hillside seemed to rumble. . .

March, 1025, Judge Pao was questioning a rich man about his wife's mysterious disappearance in his office. The rich man claimed that it was just after he showered that morning, when he found himself in front of a puddle of fresh blood in the living room. He also said that the window had been broken forcefully.

Judge Pao arrived at the little hillside, which was the rich man's house, about half an hour later and carefully inspected the living room. There was dried blood on the floor and, if you look out the window, you could see wooden shards in the garden. He suspected that the man had lied about the incident happening this morning because the blood looked like it had already dried up several days ago.

Suddenly, Judge Pao caught a smell of rancid odor that came from a nearby cupboard. He opened it, and to his horror, he found a chopped-up body part dipped in blood; and a women's head with one missing eyeball and blood flowing from her mouth and nose. Judge Pao ordered his men to arrest the rich man, and then had him sentenced to death.

It was the day of execution, the rich man was tied from head to toe, Judge Pao's servants forced him into the dungeon. Surprisingly, the rich man's eyes were blank and emotionless, he didn't even struggle, it was like he was possessed. As the executioner lifted the silver blade, his eyes rolled up and he dropped to the floor, the executioner was dead. When one of Judge Pao's servants opened the dungeon door, neither of the rich man or the executioner was in sight. It was said that the servant died three hours later.

The next day, Judge Pao sent a servant to collect the women's body. When the servant got there, the house was darker than usual, and it was not stinky! When he opened the cupboard, nothing was there! Then, he heard whispering, so he turned back, and everything went dark...

Judge Pao was pacing around waiting for the servant who was supposed to collect the women's body. His patience was wearing out, and he was getting increasingly anxious and started walking toward the door when suddenly it burst open and a woman, staggered her robe soaked in blood, screaming "help! Judge Pao! A man wearing a servant's uniform broke into my house and killed my son!" and broke down in tears. Judge Pao quickly locked the door and inquisitively asked about the killer's appearance. The woman told him what the killer looked like between huge sobs and suddenly added, in a very misty, mysterious whisper "I am a demon!"

Without warning, the woman suddenly jumped up as high as the ceiling morphed into the most horrible looking creature. The creature looked like a giant bat crossed with a hairless monkey, her eyes were blazing red and her ghastly mouth was filled with black, withered fangs. Her disgusting claws were dripping blood on the floor and the nails looked rotten, and as if they had been bitten by cockroaches.

The nightmarish creature landed on the floor with a loud thud and started quietly walking towards the horrorstruck Judge Pao. Judge Pao could actually smell her revolting breath and he felt like he was about to faint, the demon was getting closer ... and closer... when...

Dong! Judge Pao suddenly sat up he looked around, drenched in sweat. He was in his bedroom. His heart was pounding in his chest, so hard that he thought his ribs were going to explode. Everything made sense now that Judge Pao had found out all of it had been a dream. His breathing eventually slowed down and he casually got off the bed and went down for breakfast when he saw a puddle of blood on the floor...

The Legend of Judge Pao

St. Stephen's College Preparatory School, Wong, Hing Yuet Anna – 9

Do you know who Judge Pao was? Judge Pao was a justice fighter in China who lived more than a thousand years ago. His full name is “Pao Zheng” and people sometimes called him “Pao Gong” or “Pao Qingtian”. Similar to a Japanese Detective, Conan, Judge Pao started to inspect many cases when he was young. For example, he solved an arson case when he was a student and several other murder cases after he became a judge. He was known as being fair and he dared to punish powerful families if they broke the law or crossed any form of legal line. Judge Pao is still to this day one of the most celebrated cultural symbols of justice in Chinese society.

Judge Pao was born a thousand years ago in Anhui, China. He was a strong and tall man. He had black skin with a long beard. He also had a half-moon mark on his forehead. His outlook was different than that of the general Chinese. The Pao family included Judge Pao's two elder brothers and they had over 15 years age difference with him. He was the third son of the Pao family. There is a rumour surrounding his birth. Judge Pao was born when his parents were very old. When his mother gave birth to him, it was not long after that his father found Judge Pao's skin to be darker than usual. He told his second brother to throw him into the mountain and let the lions, cheetahs or tigers eat him. They did this because his father thought Judge Pao would bring bad luck to the Pao family. After a while, his eldest brother did not want his little brother to die so he carried him home. At the same time, his brother's wife also had a baby. However, they did not have enough milk to feed both babies. His eldest brother and his wife decided to give their own baby up and take care of Judge Pao. That's why Judge Pao had the best relationship with his eldest brother and his wife. When he was young, he was already a clever, honest and upright student. He was helpful and liked to study law related stories. He sometimes helped his teacher solve difficult problems. As he grew older, his kindness grew and he helped more people. Everyone liked him so much and wanted him to be their leader. With a strong team behind him, he got victory in several investigations over the course of his life.

One particular day, Judge Pao was investigating a case of thievery. The case involved a poor child. His father had died and his mother was sick. One day, the poor kid was selling some oily fried dough. Luckily, he finished selling all the fried dough and earned 100 coins. It was enough to buy medicine for his mother. After walking for an entire day, he was tired and slept on a rock beside the road. After he woke up, he could not find his coins. He was sad and anxious, so he cried and cried.

At the same time, Judge Pao was walking near the little kid and asked “Kid, why are you crying?”.

The kid answered, “My 100 coins were lost.”

Judge Pao asked “Who stole your coins?”

The kid said “I don't know.” He continued “I just slept on the rock.”

Judge Pao said “I know who stole your coins. The rock stole your coins!”

After Judge Pao said that, he ordered the police to arrest the stone and question the stone in the court. Everyone in the court felt weird and funny about the fact that the stone stole the coins.

Then, Judge Pao asked the stone “Stone, did you steal the kid’s coins?” Of course, the stone did not answer. Judge Pao asked a few more times, but the stone did not answer so he ordered some policemen to punish the stone. Then, everyone in the court started making malicious gossip about Judge Pao. He was angry, so he punished and fined them one coin each. Everyone in the court had to put one coin into the bowl filled up with water. Suddenly, a man threw one coin into the bowl and the oil floated to the top of the water.

Judge Pao shouted at him, “You stole the kid’s coins!”

Judge Pao explained “The fried dough had oil on it. When the kid used his oily hand to touch the coins, the coins will have oil.” Judge Pao told the thief to give the 100 coins back to the kid.

This was only one of many solved cases. He actually helped more people to solve cases during his adult time. To sum up, I will share my view to Judge Pao. First, if you watched more of Judge Pao’s television drama, you will know that Judge Pao liked to observe the details of all matters. Second, I guess Judge Pao liked to gain new knowledge too because it helped him to solve complicated cases. Do you think Judge Pao was a lucky child or not? Anyway, Judge Pao was a smart and upright man. His story taught many young generations to extend justice and help more and more people like himself. He lived a miraculous life and will always be remembered for his service to the law.

The Empresses

St. Stephen's College Preparatory School, Wong, Sze Ching Hannah – 12

Somewhere in the Universe, there is the Milky Way. And in the Milky way, there is our Solar System. And the third planet from the sun is the Earth, the home to all living things, animals, plants, and people. And in ALL people, there are heroes, to bring justice to the world... Once you hear the word 'hero', I assume you'd think of heroes like Ironman, Superman, or even Deadpool! But I'm not talking about those Marvel and DC heroes, but real-life heroes, detectives, spies, and so on. This story is based on one detective. Before you get going on with detectives like Detective Pikachu, Batman, or Sherlock Holmes, I just have to tell you that it's none of the above. More than a thousand years before any other justice fighters, there was – drum roll, please? –

Judge Pao!

Back in the Song Dynasty in Kaifeng city, there lived Judge Pao who was famous for his impartiality and uprightness. He was a judge in his court in the daytime and was the Maya from Hell in the nighttime.

One day, Empress Liu was invited to eat lunch with her son Emperor Renzong. She accepted the offer and went to the imperial palace the following day to meet him. In the luxurious royal palace sitting room, they were having fun, talking, and laughing. Of course, I didn't dare to eavesdrop on them. After conversing for quite a while, they ate some extra fancy royal dishes and drank some fine wine. The empress and the emperor had a good mother-and-son relationship.

A few days later, the emperor and empress were having lunch together again. Only this time, the emperor found his mother unusually quiet. 'She used to have so much to talk about,' thought the emperor. The emperor later decided to ask the servants why his mother was acting so strangely. After asking every single servant that worked in the palace, there was finally an answer. One of the servants admitted to being bribed to keep the secret that the real empress had been killed by someone. The emperor was furious. He suspected that the fake empress was the killer, and asked Judge Pao for his help in solving this mystery.

Pao did a quick observation, then told Emperor Renzong that there wasn't enough evidence. Judge Pao wanted to know the truth of the story, so he asked his bodyguard, Zhanzhao, to secretly investigate the dead empress's grave and skeleton.

That night, Zhanzhao went out to the real empress' grave and dug out the skeleton. Suddenly he felt a sharp pain in his back, and when he turned around, he saw that a man dressed in black had snuck an attack on him.

'How?! I didn't even hear footsteps! Could it be a ghost?' Zhanzhao quickly got up to his feet, drew his sword, and ran toward the man in black, ready to attack him. But as Zhanzhao sliced his opponent with his sword, he turned into a big boulder. How suspicious! Zhanzhao decided to ignore it for now and focus back on the job he was given.

He took the skeleton out of the grave and carried it back to Kaifeng. He also reported to Judge Pao about his findings and experience at the graveyard. Pao thought it was very strange. I mean, who could imagine themselves walking across the road and the man standing next to them turning into a boulder, in the blink of an eye? If it were me, I would've freaked out, and run away at the speed of a bullet! But Pao wasn't only curious, but he was also very cross. So, he ordered some of his men to capture the person dressed in black from the other night. After capturing them, Pao's men brought the person to Judge Pao.

Judge Pao and that person went into a room where they could talk privately. The same question was asked repeatedly,

“What do you know about the empress’ disappearance?”

Quite a while later, Pao finally came out of the room, looking like he had just come back from mars! Now that he got some more clues, he was ready to solve the mystery and end this huge mess.

It was midnight, and Judge Pao, Zhanzhao, and the rest of his men were at the gate of the emperor’s palace. Once they found the culprit’s chamber, they waited for everyone to fall asleep before they barge into his room. The duke was shocked to see them in his room, so much that he fell off the chair he was sitting on! XD

Pao told his men to wait outside, then he walked closer to the duke. The duke stepped back and out of nowhere, he sputtered,

“I—I didn’t kill the empress! It wasn’t me!”

“I didn’t even say anything yet! Are you admitting your wrongs already?” answered Pao. Immediately, the duke covered up his mouth before he could spill anything more.

But cheaters will get caught, one way or the other, with all the evidence and witness on the table, the duke had no choice but to plead guilty, and he was sentenced to death.

In front of the crowd of people, Judge Pao called out the Dragon’s head guillotine, and everyone in the court held their breath, thinking about whether or not Judge Pao dared to chop a member of the royal family’s head. The air was still and in the longest silence, with a blink of an eye, the emperor’s brother was long gone...

Well, you know what they say, “ When Judge Pao is around, justice is around!”

New Tales of Judge Pao

St. Stephen's College Preparatory School, Wong, Yeuk Kuk Darren – 9

“Hello, Harold! I’ve got a brand new toy that I want to show you.” I told my best friend Harold.

“Wow! It has a lot of modern modifications.” Harold said.

“I don’t know a lot since it’s my first time playing with it, but I’m pretty sure this is the ‘start’ button.” Then I pressed the start button and in no time we got teleported into some blue mist.....

“Harold, what’s happened?” I asked.

“I think by pressing the start button, you got us teleported to this random place!”

Harold and I were still trying to figure out where we are when someone came towards us. He went closer and closer, and then we saw a dark-skinned man wearing traditional Chinese clothes. What amazed me the most was that he had a crescent moon on his forehead. He said: “Hello. Who are you? I’m Pao Kung, an investigative judge.”

“Do you have any cases right now?” Instead of answering Pao Kung, Harold asked, “By the way, can we call you Judge Pao?”

Judge Pao smiled and said: “Of course you can. I also happen to have a case right now. The King’s crown is stolen!”

I immediately got excited and asked: “Can we tag along? I bet we could help!”

Judge Pao seemed to be interested in the idea. “Why not? What could go wrong?”

While Judge Pao was saying this, I suddenly saw a man passing by and holding something like a crown in his hands. I screamed at once: “Look! I think he’s the thief! Let’s go and get him!”

Unfortunately, we did not quite match the pace of the thief and he disappeared in the fog. “He’s gone. We’ll have to look for other clues.” Harold said.

We were disappointed and then walked for some time until Judge Pao said: “My instinct tells me that the robber swung by not so long ago.” He then shone the ground around us with UV light that was supposed to be a modern technology. I guess I learned something new. Suddenly, Judge Pao said: “I found some footprints! Let’s follow them.” As we followed the footprints, we reached a traditional Chinese palace. As we were about to enter the palace, Judge Pao was ambushed and taken away suddenly. “Judge Pao is kidnapped! What are we going to do now? Without Judge Pao, we are in big trouble!” I screamed.

“We can’t give up! We can’t abandon our mission and just leave.” Harold said. I am convinced and then we trudged into the darkness.

It was very dark inside the palace and its corridors were narrow. It looked more like a dungeon than a palace. We soon found out there were guards lurking around at every corner. When we calmed down and our eyes adapted to the darkness, we tried to move forward but suddenly stepped on a trigger and fell into a hole.

We had a severely hard bump, but after we recovered, we noticed the mist was cleared. We saw a dark shadow, which to our surprise, belonged to Judge Pao. After we woke Judge Pao up, we searched around the room and soon discovered a brick that was uneven with the others. Judge Pao pushed the brick into place and then a door was revealed. The door led us back to the corridors of this dungeon. The dungeon was basically a maze, but with the lead of Judge Pao, we managed to find a big red door at the end of a corridor. We opened the door but all that we saw in the room was a note on a table! Judge Pao read it out: “Congratulations for reaching here! But I have gone to the Royal Palace to ridicule the King’s family already. Judge Pao exclaimed: “That’s the most forbidden sin in the entire country! This can’t go on!”

After learning this shocking news, we quickly searched for an exit and found a secret door, which is a shortcut out of the dungeon. After a long walk for almost a day, we finally arrived the Royal Palace. Judge Pao said: “This is the capital city of our dynasty and civilians are not supposed to enter. But in this case of extreme emergency, I believe we shouldn’t worry about the rules anymore!” Harold and I agreed: “We can’t just sit here and let the evil ridicules the royal family and takes over the country!”

We pushed open the big red door of the Royal Palace and went past numerous rooms. I got increasingly nervous as we went past rooms after rooms. Finally, we were standing in front of a door with the sign: Royal Throne Room. We held our breath and entered the room quietly. Just at the same moment, we heard the thief saying to the royal family: "Give me the throne or I will kill you all!" Out of natural reaction I shouted: "No! You can't! We won't let you steal the throne!" On the count of three, we all charged at the thief. We defeated him and returned the stolen crown to the King. The King said: "Thank you for returning the crown. For that, you three will be allowed to stay in the Palace at all times. Harold responded: "Sorry, we can't. Although it's a true honour, our parents are waiting for us to go home. The queen said: "It's OK. Family is the most important."

Just as the queen finished her words, we suddenly were caught in a mist again, except this time, it's a red mist. When we regained consciousness, we were already back in my bedroom. As we glanced at the clock, it was still 9:15 in the morning. Although no time seemed to have passed, I couldn't stop thinking: If the toy can bring us back to ancient China, then what other time and places could it also bring us to?

New Tales of Judge Pao

St. Stephen's College Preparatory School, Wong, Yik Hei Eron – 11

The dogs were barking. The sky was gloomy and dim, and the wolves were howling. A loud rumbling sound could be heard coming from the graveyard. A bright light shone onto the graveyard, and suddenly a muddy hand reached out of the ground. Another dirty hand gripped the ground, and out came a dark-faced man with a white beard. A crescent moon glowed brightly on his forehead. It was the one and only, the legendary Judge Pao.

Fast forward to the present day, Judge Pao had risen from the dead. He was confused and didn't know what year it was. His clothes didn't look like other people's, and everyone stared at him. He felt out of place and just plain weird. When he tried to cross the road, he heard an almighty noise. Then he saw something very fast zooming by. It was a car! He was in shock. He had to know what year it was, so he asked someone. Luckily the person understood what he said, and he replied, "It's 2023."

Judge Pao was flabbergasted. Then the man said, "You better get some new clothes before embarrassing yourself even further."

"Where can I buy them?" asked Judge Pao.

"Right across the street," the man said confusedly. The man thought Judge Pao was strange and acting suspiciously, but he was too scared to ask.

Judge Pao was afraid to cross the street, but he did it anyways. He leapt over car after car until he reached the other side of the street. It was his greatest accomplishment yet! He walked into the store, and an old lady came to assist him. The old lady looked at his clothes doubtfully and asked, "Do you want to buy new clothes?"

"Yes," replied Judge Pao. He scoured through all the clothes until he found something that he liked. It was red and green.

"So, you want that?" asked the old lady.

"Yes," said Judge Pao.

"\$89 please," said the old lady. Judge Pao checked his pockets. They were empty. "No money?" asked the old lady.

"Sorry, I don't have any money," said Judge Pao.

"It's fine, you can have it," said the old lady kindly.

"Thank you! Thank you!" Judge Pao said gratefully.

“No problem,” said the old lady, and with that, Judge Pao left the shop.

The news of an unfamiliar old Chinese man who slept on the streets and asked people for food reached the government. They did some research and discovered that it was Judge Pao. The government reached out to his grandchildren, who were also judges and lived in Hong Kong, and asked them to take care of their ancestor who was sleeping on the streets. His grandchildren couldn't wait to be introduced to their famous ancestor. However, Judge Pao was not so excited to meet them. He didn't want to accept their help at first, but soon, he had no choice but to since no one else was willing to give him food anymore.

One year had passed, and Judge Pao was no longer unfamiliar with Hong Kong. One day, he turned on the television and watched the news. A building had been set on fire, many people were injured, and some even died. Judge Pao took an immediate interest in the case. It certainly seemed like one of the most challenging cases he had ever come across. He really wanted to help, but he wasn't a recognised judge in Hong Kong, and he didn't even have a university degree!

Fortunately, his grandson was involved in the case and wanted Judge Pao's help. When they went to the scene of the fire, Judge Pao saw many suspicious things. He found a lighter and saw many heavily burnt spots. But by far, the most suspicious item was the burnt-out toaster. Inside the toaster, there were black, sandy breadcrumbs! Judge Pao immediately came to the conclusion that the toaster had caused the fire. He gathered the occupants of the building and asked them several questions. One man said he had a slice of bread in the toaster when he had to leave his flat in a hurry. When he came back, the building was on fire. Judge Pao told the police everything, and they realised it was just an accident. No one was guilty! After that, Judge Pao became the Chief Judge of the High Court and helped Hong Kong with many cases.

The Amazing Judge Pao

St. Stephen's College Preparatory School, Wong, Yu Ting Liam – 11

It was a beautiful sunny day in the city of Hefei, Anhui.

This is my home – a rural city in Northern China. Flowers are blooming, and we are surrounded by natural rivers and lakes. My family works very hard raising cattle and other animals. Life should be beautiful... but we all have an underlying fear that shadows us from above. The government is very corrupt and has made our life miserable, especially when there is a dispute. The rich and wealthy always win, even if they are guilty. This fear has finally become a reality, the beginning of my nightmare.

One day, I was feeding the animals when I noticed several of our biggest cows were missing. I spent a long time trying to look for them, combing every inch where they could have wandered off. I then realized that they probably got stolen since they were nowhere to be found, so I decided to go for a little adventure and went searching for the cattle. I eventually found them on the Lee family's farm.

The Lee family were the richest household apart from royalty. They had several bulky guards guarding the farm, making sure no trespassers entered the farm without permission. That didn't scare me, though, I was determined to get the cattle back for my family, so I snuck in and attempted to get the cattle back. Just as I thought I

had succeeded, I was swarmed by guards, and they immediately beat me up. When I got home that night, my family immediately noticed my bruises and scratches, and they demanded I tell them what had happened. I then told them about how our cattle got stolen and how the Lee family's guards beat me up with tears streaming down my face. I was so angry and frustrated that I decided to call the authorities for help. They told me to write a pleading before I could report my case! The problem was none of my family members had a proper education, so none of us knew how to write. Most of us just gave up on the case and decided to go on with our lives and breed more cattle.

I hadn't given up yet, though. I heard there was a new judge called Pao Zheng, and he allowed people with little education to make complaints orally without having to write a pleading. My family and I then approached him and complained about the Lee family. Miraculously, Judge Pao listened to every detail we had given him, and after his judgement, he decided to take action and summoned the Lee family to court. The Lee family tried to bribe him with money and jewellery, but Judge Pao was having none of it. The Lee family then realized that the judge couldn't be bribed, so they decided to pin the blame on my family, accusing us of trespassing and attempted theft. My family and I then explained that the cattle is ours, and they proved it to Judge Pao by showing a tag strapped to all the cattle on their front-left hooves that had our family's last name on it. The Lee family had been busted because of Judge Pao's reluctance to be corrupted. Judge Pao sentenced the Lee family to 10 years for theft and dishonesty. Moreover, they had to give us half of their family's riches as an apology.

We had been living in authority's shadow for years, and the peasants and poor people never had the power to accuse the rich and wealthy. We were lucky to have someone like Judge Pao, an incredible law enforcer because of his integrity and fairness. Since his arrival in town, the government had been influenced by his philosophy and had given true meaning to justice again. Pao is a real uncompromising judge, someone who hates corruption and "speaks truth to power", a symbol of justice.

The Tales of Judge Pao

St. Stephen's College Preparatory School, Wu, Shengwen Sean – 12

It was pouring with rain in the town of Kai Feng. Judge Pao was sitting in his seat, writing on his to-do list, feeling bored. While wondering what to have for lunch, he heard a series of knocks. He urgently called his men to find the person who kept knocking on the door of his grand mansion. It was the famous artist Wang Yu Xing, who had just returned from a trip to Luo Yang town. When he returned to his mansion, he realized his unfinished masterpiece, an extremely realistic temple drawing, had been ruined by a giant black splotch of paint. He pleaded with Judge Pao to investigate, and so Judge Pao headed toward the Wang Mansion. When he got there, he immediately locked his sights onto 4 suspects: Mr. Wang's assistant, bodyguard, wife, and babysitter – all of whom didn't know that the painting had been ruined yet.

After interviewing them, the results were as follows: The assistant said she was out with the babysitter, playing with the baby in the playground. The baby and babysitter confirmed this. The wife said she was at a birthday party at a friend's home, and the bodyguard said that although he was the only one at the mansion, there was never black paint in the mansion.

After a few seconds of thought, Judge Pao realized that the suspects didn't know that Mr. Wang's painting had been ruined yet, so there would've been no way for the bodyguard to know that it was ruined using black paint, unless he was the culprit himself.

Judge Pao ordered his men to arrest the bodyguard, but the bodyguard suddenly pulled out a sharp katana and threw a barrage of slashes and thrusts at Judge Pao. Luckily all these attacks were blocked by the defences of Judge Pao's men. They kept exchanging slashes, thrusts, shouts, and cries. In the end, the bodyguard was overwhelmed by Judge Pao's men and had no choice but to hold Mr. Wang and his baby hostage to temporarily protect himself from the sharp, smooth, and swift blades of Judge Pao's men. He challenged Judge Pao in his booming voice, "Hey, Kung Pao Chicken! If you answer this riddle correctly, I'll let these idiots go. If you don't answer, I'll kill them. But, if your answer is incorrect... I'll slaughter them and you must let me go anyway. Deal?" Judge Pao thought of ignoring him and making his men just grab Mr. Wang and his child away from the bodyguard, but he thought again: *'If I make my men go grab Mr. Wang and his child back the bodyguard might react quick enough to pull out his katana and slice them into sashimi, but if I'm lucky enough to answer the riddle, they'll be saved.'* So, he agreed.

The bodyguard gave out his riddle: "I am the beginning of eternity. I am the end of time and space. I am the start of every end, and I am the end of every place. Who or what am I?" After roughly 5 minutes of deep thought, Judge Pao replied, "Beginning of eternity? The start of every end? More like the start of dumb criminals. The answer is just the letter E."

After that, the shocked and scared bodyguard dropped Mr. Wang and his child and hopped out of a window and escaped. But he was soon captured by Judge Pao's men, and the Wang family's lives returned back to normal, all thanks to Judge Pao.

Later that day, Judge Pao returned to his mansion and, after hours of interviewing the bodyguard, finally figured out the reason why the bodyguard had destroyed Mr. Wang's masterpiece. It turns out, Mr. Wang had often mistreated the bodyguard and even lowered his salary whenever Mr. Wang thought he was a bit annoying. That anger had kept building up in the bodyguard's heart for a tough eight years, and he couldn't bear it anymore. So, he decided to wreck Mr. Wang's masterpiece as payback and revenge. After hearing this, Judge Pao returned to the Wang mansion and sued Mr. Wang for mistreating his bodyguard, but also made the bodyguard buy him another masterpiece from India in return for ruining his one. He sentenced the bodyguard to a few years in jail for keeping people hostage and endangering their lives.

Then, Judge Pao thought to himself, "Arggh, I forgot what I was planning to have for lunch! I guess I'll just go grab some food on the street and rest for a while..." He yawned.

After lunch, Judge Pao returned to his own mansion, only to see that it had been robbed! He was then notified by security that Mr Wang's bodyguard had escaped and had already murdered Mr. Wang and his family before leaving Kai Feng town in a chariot. Embedded on the chariot he was riding, was the logo of the Assassin Association, revealing that the bodyguard from Wang mansion was secretly a spy assassin sent to assassinate and

destroy Mr. Wang and his masterpieces! Before leaving, he even robbed Judge Pao's mansion as payback for arresting him! After hearing this, Judge Pao was enraged and ordered police and his men to search and hunt down members of the Assassin Association, especially the bodyguard from Wang mansion.

How will the big hunt against the Assassin Association turn out?

Will Judge Pao be defeated in a battle of wits and assassinated, or will it be the Assassin Association that will be demolished and broken apart?

We'll find out soon!

The Tales of Judge Pao

St. Stephen's College Preparatory School, Yan, Hoi Yin Claire – 11

Accident

'Bye!' said Grandpa as mom drove off. She had to drop me off for her upcoming trip as she wasn't coming back for a while. As I entered his house, I marvelled at its size.

I decided to walk around and stumbled into an antique room; my eyes fixated on a diamond vial in a velvet pouch. I took the pouch out from the glass case and saw the crystal clear, well-preserved vial, with intricate carvings of flowers and plants. The cap was made of gold, and the liquid inside was orange.

I recalled reading about this in an ancient Chinese medicine book— It was made from a broken piece of a Time Machine, a Sundrop Flower essence for de-aging abilities, and 198 more ingredients. But the activating spells for them were unknown.

A BANG! brought me back to reality. I turned, startled by the sound. As I heard footsteps approaching, my hands started shaking. I accidentally dropped the vial and it shattered into a million pieces. A strong beam of light appeared. Before I realized, I had activated its time-traveling ability!

A different world

A few moments later, I felt like falling through the sky. I landed in a village with houses of straw and wood. This looked like an ancient Chinese historical village during the Song Dynasty.

I strolled around, meticulously admiring my surroundings. Not long after, a sign caught my attention: Kai Feng Fu. A fair-skinned man came out of a building, he must be Judge Pao, I thought. I cautiously walked over to him. 'Hello?' I greeted. He turned over. "I know the language Western people speak." He nodded. 'Forgive me for my bad English.'

I introduced myself and explained all the prior events that led me here. He didn't seem too surprised and asked how I got the potion. His description matched my observation. Pao knew about the potion's abilities!

A Royal Plead

I wanted to keep experimenting with the potion's magic. The Judge objected; 'The potion is with the royals,' he said.

I pleaded with the Judge, 'Please, Pao. Do you know that your cases are easier than the cases in the future? Let's travel forward to see how to prevent them.'

'The stakes are too high. We can't.'

We argued until he grudgingly agreed. He decided visit the royals the next morning.

At the Imperial Palace, Judge Pao knelt before the emperor. He appealed, 'Our kingdom's case numbers have been increasing recently, and I would like to propose an idea. We need to see future cases to prevent them.'

'I see you want the royal potion. You must understand it's a very dangerous idea you are proposing. However, I will grant it to you because I trust you have good judgment.'

Britain

Judge Pao came back just before sunset with a triumphant face and the potion in his hand. The next morning, we splashed the potion on the floor and a beam of light penetrated through, we jumped into another space tunnel.

We saw blonde-haired people around us after landing. This must be Britain, I thought. We walked around and saw a man with a corn pipe and a man accompanying him. They must be Sherlock Holmes and Watson, his assistant.

We glanced around and observed the people in distress.

'What is happening?' asked Pao. I knew what to do. I squeezed Pao's hand and approached Holmes. 'Hi, I'm Celina, are you detective Holmes?'

The man replied with a frown, 'Yes, I am. What do you want from me?' The man looked around in confusion. I continued, 'It is all a case, waiting to be uncovered.'

He hesitatingly nodded. He said, 'We have to solve this case! Going to the library to research is always the best.'

Some Research

We divided into teams and searched. In a great Western elixir book, I found a potion that brought the storybook characters to life. 'That's it!' I exclaimed, calling the others.

'I know the elixir belongs to the Alexander family.' Holmes stated.

'Let's go quickly.' Pao said.

Holmes and Watson lead us to an unlocked golden gate. We walked across and knocked on the door of the great mansion. A servant wearing duck feathers and a mink scarf came in. 'Please.' he said. We walked in and the servant introduced us to the young Lord Alexander.

'We are here for an important matter. Is your story elixir stolen?' Holmes inquired.

'Oh yes. It is.' He sighed. 'I suspect Alexandras stole it. They only wear goose feathers and silk dresses. Take a look.' He showed us some dyed violet goose feathers. 'This is the evidence I have.'

Pao suggested, 'Let's go to the Alexandras and find out.'

Evidence

Next door, the Alexandras had a great mansion like the Alexanders, but of gold, it was hot pink. Lord Alexander knocked on the door, and a servant greeted us. 'Your Greatness, Lady Alexandra is inside.' she said in a tender voice.

We saw ourselves in. Lady Alexandra appeared stunning with the silk fan and her dress, talking in a melodic voice, 'May I know the reason of your visit?'

Lord Alexander filled her in and showed her the goose feathers. She inspected it and called, 'Cordelia! Come here now!'

'Yes, madam.'

'What did you do?' Alexandra showed her the feathers.

Cordelia's dumbfounded reaction said it all and as she stormed off into her room, I realized Pao and I started...glowing. I remembered we couldn't time travel for more than 3 days. We waved goodbye and found ourselves in the space tunnel.

Not The Last Goodbye

We were back in the ancient China. Pao said, 'Thank you for accompanying me on this journey.' I knew this was our farewell. Before leaving, Pao gave me a bottle of intricate carvings with orange liquid. I was surprised.

A few minutes later, I was back in the antique room. As soon as I raised my head I saw Grandpa. 'I'm sorry, I used your potion without permission. Please forgive me!' I cried.

'It's okay, tell me your experience,' said Grandpa. I told him about my adventures with Pao, he interrupted me, and what he said left me speechless: Pao is our ancestor, that's why you are Celina Pao.

I smiled. We were not just friends, we were family.

Cow

St. Stephen's College Preparatory School, Yao, Yao Wang Ethan – 12

I bet you've heard stories and tales of superheroes, like Batman or Superman. They can be very interesting, but everyone knows that these people are not real and their stories are just make-believe. What if I told you that there was a story about a hero, which was just as interesting as the other stories, but was actually real? This is the story of Judge Cow.

You've probably heard of Judge Pao before, right? He was a Yama at the Department of Hell. Well, so was Judge Cow, and they both worked there in the same office.

Judge Cow was a Chinese person from 1000 years ago. Just like the other superheroes we've heard of, his job was simple: to fight crime, protect innocent people and guard the city.

During the day, he saved many lives, and many people admired him. But at night, he became the "Yama" at the Department of Hell, also known as "The Infernal Bureaucracy".

Although everyone knew Judge Pao, Judge Cow was not really recognised by anyone. But that never discouraged him. Judge Cow was a proud judge, sorting out the affairs of the people who he couldn't save during the day; a very brave man who stood for justice and equality to all, regardless of social status, gender, race, education, or age!

Now, not only was Judge Cow kind and fair, but he was also a very smart and diligent person. When he was a little kid, his family was poor and there was a limited amount of education he could receive. He understood that the education offered by the village school wasn't enough, but since they were very poor, there wasn't any other way to go to the city schools.

So, Judge Cow decided to teach himself. Every day, after finishing what he had to do, Judge Cow would spend his free time reading Chinese history books to understand more about his country, the system, the people and everything he needed to know.

When it was too dark to read, he would go over to his rich neighbor's house and sit outside their window to read beside the brightly-lit house. He slowly grew to enjoy reading books and it even became his hobby!

As he grew up, he became very smart. His friends and teachers simply called him a genius. He even got attention from the gods above, which was how he got his job as a "Yama" in the Department of Hell.

Judge Cow had a very big family. He was married and had many kids and grandchildren. He was living a very happy life.

One day, a doctor was killed in a chariot accident. The doctor was a very nice person, and he had saved thousands of lives. After looking at his background, Judge Cow decided that the doctor should not be taken away into hell, and the judge revived him. The doctor was very thankful and travelled around the world sharing the story of Judge Cow's greatness.

A local mayor started to pay attention to Judge Cow. The mayor worried that if Judge Cow kept getting people's recognition, news about his good deeds would spread to the Emperor. Then, maybe the Emperor would make Judge Cow the new mayor! That was too horrible for the mayor to think about. He would find a way to make Judge Cow disappear by sending the local police to arrest him.

As the police were passing the streets, all the villagers came out to stop them and defend Judge Cow. The police then retreated. The mayor was later fired by the emperor. Ever since then, Judge Cow decided to make seeking justice and fairness his life's mission.

A few years later, a village in China was getting targeted and attacked by other nearby countries. Villagers were

injured, houses were destroyed, and it seemed like the end of the world for the people living in that village. One of the villagers decided to seek help from Judge Pao. Sadly, Judge Pao had just left on a trip to another city.

Just when the villagers were feeling despair, another “Yama” —Judge Cow, from a different province, appeared. Judge Cow was a lot more powerful than Judge Pao in a mysterious way. Judge Cow had the power to punish people from other countries in the unusual world, and that was what he did. Judge Cow knew that the attackers were winning and that the village was far too remote to get help from the capital. So that’s when Judge Cow decided to use his special power.

He brought the attackers to the unusual world and punished them, letting them see the suffering faces of their own families and burning villages, making them understand the turmoil war brings, not only to the people who are attacked but also to their own families. These images were enough to make these attackers reconsider their actions and they decided to leave and never come back.

After the attackers left, Judge Cow used his power to resurrect the innocent villagers. They were very grateful and decided to build a temple to worship Judge Cow and remind others of the help they received from him.

Judge Cow passed on his beliefs and ideas to his family members. He taught them to be modest and focus on being righteous, fair and brave.

Judge Cow once told his grandsons that he wished to see his grandsons fight crime. So, Judge Cow’s grandsons started learning the laws, hoping to seek justice in the right way.

Over the years, Judge Cow’s family won many corruption–fighting awards. There was even a time when they stopped a bank robbery!

Judge Cow’s descendants became the famous ‘Fighting Four’ and went around the world to help the ones in need.

Until now, there are still many who admire Judge Cow, and worship his statue in temples around the world.

Judge Pao and The Evil VR Goggles

St. Stephen's College Preparatory School, Yeung, Ka Yui Vivienne – 10

Ni hao! I am Judge Pao; I am a detective and a judge. People always recognized me because I have a moon birth mark on my forehead. I have solved numerous cases since I was 28, when I became a qualified Imperial Scholar. But this time I got a troublesome case – it's just around the corner because we found my brother murdered! I must find the murderer!

I searched for clues at the murder scene for an estimated 3 hours, but I couldn't find any evidence at the crime scene, I only found blood in my brother's room. I called the FBI from America, and they arrived in less than 1 hour because they used jetpacks that can go 20,000km/hr. I also called the HK police to support me.

“SIR!!! I FOUND SOMETHING!” said an FBI agent.

“Let me see!” I said.

“Look, I found another dead body, a knife and a VR goggle.” He said.

“That guy looks like my neighbour...Let me take a closer look”, I said curiously.

“ACCHOOOOOO!” somebody sneezed.

“Close one, you almost scared me. I am a judge and detective, I am NEVER scared. Let's get back to the clues. Can one of you wear the VR goggles and hold a wooden spoon from the kitchen?” I yelled so that everybody could hear me.

“I will try,” said a brave FBI officer in a cold voice. He wore the VR goggles and suddenly jumped up and down, left and right, this way and that way!

“What is wrong with him?” I thought. He held the wooden spoon and began speaking nonsense.

“Shabooooom! You are dead! Capow!!! Swaggabagabang!!!” Also, immediately he started poking other people in the room.

“Put him outside! Put him outside! Oh, and take off the goggles before you leave him behind!” I roared. Six FBI agents and two HK Police officers carried him out and two officers took off the goggles.

“Power OFF modeeee....” The goggles sounded.

“Weird...the goggles can talk?” I said. “I don't think goggles can t..talk? I must be dreaming...”

“No sir!” the goggles can talk! Maybe something is controlling it sir!” said an officer.

“Can you shut the entire thing down, take out the batteries and give it to me please?” I asked. After they did their job I put it on myself and saw a “PREVIOUS” button. (They didn't really turn it off because there's no “OFF” button! Only “ON”.)

I used my hand to press “PREVIOUS” button and then I saw the whole entire murder scene:

The VR goggles were placed in a gift box outside my neighbour's house. He loves presents so he opened it and put it on so that he can play VR video games. But in one of the games, it was about the murder. He played it and didn't even know his sword in this game was a real sharp knife!

He ran to my house in order to kill a goblin to score points, but instead, he killed my brother thinking that it was a goblin! He saw another goblin on himself via the VR goggles and he again, tried to kill it. But instead, he killed himself.

“GREAT...(in a sad mood)”, I whispered. Now I know that it's the VR goggles that killed my brother, I will give these goggles to the science lab for them to study further so nobody will murder any innocent people anymore.

Stay tuned with me – I still have a lot of other mysteries to solve in the near future. One more thing: My mission is done, let's all go out for dinner!

New Tales of Judge Pao

St. Stephen's College Preparatory School, Yip, Hei Sen Evangelia – 9

On one beautiful day, a hard-working personal secretary of Judge Pao—Matthew—saw a wealthy-looking man wearing a black business suit and holding a large box ran into his office. He looked like a cat on hot bricks. Once the marvellous man saw Matthew, he immediately told him he wanted to meet Judge Pao. A few minutes later, a man with an extremely long moustache and a moon-shaped birthmark on his forehead appeared in front of the man. He was Judge Pao! The businessman quickly ran to him and opened the gigantic box, and there was a colourful CD and a flower-scented perfume inside. Then, the man told Judge Pao a superbly rare pearl was stolen from him!

Judge Pao told the man to calm down. The mysterious man introduced himself to Judge Pao. His name was Mack, and he was running a global business. The Judge Pao told him everything. The stolen pearl was a family heirloom that cost trillions. Mack said the fantastic pearl will be given to the oldest son of the family once he turns 18. His son was now 17 and was always looking forward to having it. However, the precious pearl was not with him anymore. Mack then started to explain what happened on the day it was stolen.

It was a dark and stormy night. When my son and I were reading books in the family room, my daughter suddenly screamed when she noticed that the shimmering pearl was missing! We ran into the forbidden room to find the safe containing the minute pearl shattered into pieces! Just then, we all got so scared that our hearts skipped a beat. After we all calmed down, the shocked kids left the room. I left behind a colourful CD and a flower-scented perfume hidden behind the safe. I ran like the wind to the watchman who should have had CCTV footage recorded, but we found that the footage of that room had been deleted!

When Mack finished his detailed explanation, he just swallowed, as if there was a lump in his throat. He told Judge Pao the thief might be someone in his house, so he refused to call the police. Judge Pao agreed to help him and told him to go hit the hay to give him time to strategize. Mack told Judge Pao to break a leg in return. After Mack left the office, Judge Pao discussed the case with Matthew and tried to find any missing clues. Then, they visited Mack's house and interviewed everyone there. After the interview, Judge Pao concluded the list of suspicious people.

Mack's daughter – She had snuck out very early with her best friend to go shopping for new clothes with her saved allowance. When she came back and walked past the room, she realised the door to the forbidden room had been opened.

Mack's son – He went to the café and waited tables because there was a very expensive toy he wanted to buy.

The watchman – He was supposed to stay in the CCTV room for the whole day. He told Judge Pao that only the family members have the key to this room, and he claimed that he didn't know anything about the missing footage or the pearl. But when Judge Pao brought up Mack's son's conversation, he began to shiver uncontrollably, as if there was something hidden behind him.

The maid – She cleaned that part of the mansion every morning. Judge Pao asked her about the CD and the perfume, but unfortunately, she said it wasn't there in the morning. When Judge Pao brought up the subject of the suspicious son, she appeared to be concealing something.

Judge Pao and Matthew visited the mansion again the next day and looked for evidence. They snuck into the son's room and could smell a familiar scent. It was the flower-scented perfume! They saw a clean flowerpot with a half dead flower in it. They dug through the disgusting dirt and found the fabulous pearl! Turns out the son stole the white shining pearl, so he could sell it to buy the toy he eagerly wanted. Judge Pao finally realised that the watchman was threatened by the bratty son! The mysterious maid was the wife of the watchman, and the smart watchman told her to put the scented perfume and the CD in the room. As the CD was the clue to point out that Mack's son was the culprit. His name was Cyrus Donald!

When Judge Pao informed Mack that his selfish son had stolen the wanted pearl, he had a face like thunder and barged into his son's room! At last, Mack took away all his son's pocket money, grounded him for 5 months, made him clean his younger sister's messy room every day, and made him serve his younger sister for 5 months. His younger sister was next in line to receive the family pearl. The son was furious and tried to run away that same night, but the angry servants in his house caught him, and reported it to Mack. Now, he must serve his sister for 10 months. He didn't want to serve her any longer, so he tried to settle in and get used to it for a while.

Mack didn't know how to thank Judge Pao, so he decided to take him out for delicious ice cream and enjoy any flavour he liked. Judge Pao could then take a break and relax for once, but that wasn't all! Mack kind of spoiled Judge Pao a little and kept thanking him until he said it was enough. Judge Pao told him happily that it was his job and he enjoyed it a lot! Mack finally stopped spoiling him, but remained ever grateful to Judge Pao for his hard work.

New Tales of Judge Pao

St. Stephen's College Preparatory School, Zhou, Kei Kwong Darren – 10

It was a normal summer day, I was reading a book about Judge Pao in the library. I used to be a fan of Detective Conan, Sherlock... until I came across this book and realized China had a talented detective as well. I was totally drawn by the stories and didn't notice someone came and sat beside me. "This is an interesting book, isn't it?" "Yes, it is," I answered casually and flipped a glance when turning the page. I suddenly jumped up when I realized the person sitting beside me was Judge Pao! I rubbed my eyes, it truly was: a square dark face with the typical crescent shape between eyebrows. "Are you...are you.... Judge Pao?" A smile floated on his face and he said, "Alright Jamie, I suppose you know me now." He pointed at the book in my hand, "It is talking about me killing Chen Shi Mei." He gave me a look that meant *that ungrateful man deserved to die*.

"Well," I said. "Judge Pao, I admit that Chen is not a good man, nor is he a good husband and a father. But in Hong Kong these days, he would not be sentenced to death. "What? Do you mean I made a mistake? How is that even possible? Everyone compliments me and says I'm a fair judge!" shouted Judge Pao. "No, I'm not saying that. First, Hong Kong has abolished the death penalty since 1993 which was replaced with life imprisonment. So, even if Chen killed somebody he still won't get sentenced to death. Second, Chen's crime was bigamy, and he can get sentenced for up to 7 years in prison nowadays." "But I am the judge, the case should be dealt by me!" "That's another big difference now, we don't only listen to the judge, but get opinions from the jury as well". "What is a jury?" asked Judge Pao. "Not a jury, a jury!" I said. "It is a group of people that is present in the courtroom, and help the judge give a verdict on the case in question. And if he hasn't killed anyone, he will not be sentenced to death. Going to jail and paying a penalty are the most likely.

Oh, I see. Jail is too light a punishment for such a bad guy, but to think of him living in a dark, humid dungeon, eating and sleeping with mice and cockroaches is so satisfying!" said Judge Pao. "You are wrong again. Modern jails are very tidy and hygienic, there would be lessons to be taught, work to do and time to rest. "What! Why do you treat the criminals so kindly?" "Because we think every human being, even the bad ones, still have basic human rights. They will be reminded of discipline and respect in jail, they are more likely to turn out to be a better person when they finally get out." "I see." Judge Pao fell into thoughts and said, "Thanks Jamie, I have learned a lot today. I need to go back and maybe change my sentence for Chen. Goodbye!" "Wait, where I can find you again?" "Maybe next time when you are dreaming..."

Dreaming? Am I dreaming? Someone patted me on the shoulder, I opened eyes. It was the librarian. "We are closing now." I lifted my head, the sun outside window was setting on the horizon, with a yellow shadow across the sky. I looked around and I was the only person in the room. Packing up my books, I think to myself, was it really a dream? Judge Pao on the book cover seemed to smile at me...

The Hidden Secret of the Zhao Family

Stanford American School Hong Kong, Choi, Yeonsoo Lucy – 10

“Oh my, how could he *do* such a thing?”

“He’s going to pay for this!”

“I thought he was such a good person...”

Judge Pao pushed his way through the people. When he reached the notice board, he saw what all the commotion was about – a crumbled sheet of paper read, “People are suspecting that emperor Zhao Cheng’s most trusted servant, Ming Yang, was the murderer of him. While Ming Yang was Zhao Cheng’s most trusted servant, he was also jealous of emperor Zhao Cheng, and he wanted his throne, too.”

Judge Pao put his hand on his chin and nodded gently, while narrowing his eyes.

Later, Judge Pao walked to the palace to tell Zhao Cheng’s son, Zhao Li, about the suspect.

“Hello.” Zhao Li greeted Pao.

“Hello, your highness. There is a rumor going on outside that Ming Yang, your father’s most trusted servant, murdered him. I heard that he wanted your father’s throne, and I think that may be true.”

“Really?” Zhao Li gulped.

Judge Pao nodded and explained, “I plan to find Ming Yang, and then I’ll investigate him and settle the case.”

“Great!” exclaimed Zhao Li, “You should leave the palace now. It’s getting late.”

“Yes, your highness. Thank you for your time with me.” Judge Pao said and walked out of the palace.

“That was a quick conversation,” he thought.

“Pitter patter, pitter patter!” The rain started showering, and the wind became stronger and stronger. Judge Pao sat down on his old wooden chair to read a book about the Zhao family.

“The Zhao family was known for their enormous wealth.” Pao touched his long and grey goatee and kept reading, “But there was a hidden secret...” The page stopped there. The next page was ripped off. What happened?

“That’s weird...” Pao suddenly had so many questions, “What was the hidden secret? Why is this page ripped off? Is it something connected to Zhao Li and the servant?” His mind was racing.

The next day, Judge Pao went to the palace and instructed Ming Yang to sit on a chair, while Zhao Li was witnessing the investigation.

“Ok, here we go...” Judge Pao thought by himself.

“You are on the suspect list of murdering emperor Zhao Cheng.” Judge Pao said, “I’m going to ask you some questions.”

Ming Yang nodded. His body was trembling out of nervousness.

“At 12:00am on December 28th, what were you doing?”

“I, I was sleeping...”

Judge Pao nodded, but then something happened so fast that Pao hardly believed his eyes. Ming Yang glanced at Zhao Li and frowned. His lips were shuttering, which looked like he was talking to himself.

"I, uh...I have something to say..." Ming Yang announced, "I did murder the emperor."

Gasps and whispers spread around the palace. Judge Pao looked at Ming Yang with a puzzled expression on his face.

"Is that so?"

"Y—yes..." Zhao Li looked at Ming Yang, looking very sad.

"My highness, do you agree that Ming Yang actually murdered your father?"

"I, I..." Zhao Li sighed, and he saw Ming Yang secretly nodding at him, "Yes..."

"Will you send him to the dungeon?" Judge Pao asked.

"Uh...Y—yes..."

"As you wish."

Then, the guards grabbed Ming Yang by the arm.

"Ming Yang shall be beheaded tomorrow." Judge Pao finished with a knock on the judging table.

The air froze. Judge Pao noticed that Zhao Li's fist clutched. He saw a corner of an old, rusty paper sticking out of his fist. Touching his long, silky beard, Pao thought, "Would that be the ripped paper from the book?" Judge Pao went closer to Zhao Li.

"Excuse me, may I ask you something about the paper you're holding?"

"Umm...actually, this is confidential. Only the royal family can look at." Zhao Li muttered.

Judge Pao narrowed his eyes. After a moment, he announced, "Ming Yang, you shall be sent to jail immediately and wait for your death!"

The guards squeezed Ming Yang's arms and started pulling him towards the underground dungeon.

Suddenly, Zhao Li yelled, "NO! Don't send Ming Yang to jail! I—I'm the one who murdered my father!"

The palace fell very quiet.

"The truth is..." Zhao Li started, "On the night before the murder case, my father told me to murder him on his bed while he was sleeping because... because... he was not actually my grandfather's child! He was chosen as an emperor because my grandfather didn't have any children. My grandfather had to get someone else with the same family name to cover this secret, and the child who got chosen was my father. My father found out this confidential document and tore it off from the book. He instructed me to kill him as soon as possible and burn the paper, so no one would ever know the secret. Ming Yang was just covering for me!"

No one spoke for a moment. While everyone else was standing in shock, Judge Pao remained calm.

"Thank you for your honesty." Judge Pao broke the silence.

"I'm so sorry... I shouldn't have lied..." Zhao Li's tear dripped down his face.

"It's ok." Judge Pao said with a warm smile, "Everyone makes mistakes. Even me!"

"Really?"

"Yes, and you're still young. You have a lot to learn. You don't need to act like a mature adult emperor. You can just be your true self."

Judge Pao said with a pat on Zhao Li's head, "Your father would be very proud of you."

Zhao Li smiled. The guards released Ming Yang, and he came over to bow at Zhao Li.

"Ming Yang, thank you. Thank you so much!"

"No, no, it's fine. You did the right thing by telling the truth. I'm proud and honored to be serving you."

Now Judge Pao knew he had accomplished his wish. He made the town happier and more cheerful with one less secret lying in the palace. He did it by being himself. Nothing more.

Museum Mystery

Stanford American School Hong Kong, He, Chengxuan Lucas – 9

Startled, Judge Pao jumped up from his couch and rushed to the door to answer it after he heard a knocking sound on the steel door in his house. As he opened, someone immediately came bulging in. He wore a black jacket and black shorts. He looked as if his head was a waterfall.

The person was panting, “Hi, Judge Pao.” He spoke.

Pao recognized him immediately after he talked. He was the museum guard, Mr. Cheung. Pao knew something was wrong. So, he went to the kitchen and got two cups of tea and put it on a tray, then he took it to the table and then got the mysterious person on a chair.

“So, what’s wrong?” he asked the mysterious person dressed in black.

“I came here to tell you about a very recent case on a missing piece of jewelry in the museum.”

Pao was very surprised he hadn’t read anything in the newspaper. He was excited, since he hadn’t had a single crime for months.

Mr. Cheung told Pao this necklace was the most valuable and precious piece in the whole museum. After Mr. Cheung spent a whole 30 minutes talking and repeating the preciousness of the necklace, Pao took his magnifying glass and walked out with Mr. Cheung to the museum.

When they got there, Judge Pao discovered a trail of footsteps that led to what looked like a secret hatch. As he lifted the entrance to the hatch and walked down the spiral staircase, he walked down the stairs. He kept his guard up because he knew that if he didn’t, someone could ambush him easily. Down the staircase was a table that had a plan mapped out on a piece of parchment.

Judge Pao looked at it and said, “We have been tricked. Look at this map! It is clearly a plan for 3 people.”

He took the parchment with him and started to use a magnifying glass to look at the details. He didn’t want to miss a single piece of evidence. Suddenly, he found a hair on the ground. It seemed to be a short strand of hair.

That night when Pao went to sleep in his big pajamas. He dreamed of the criminal in a bar on Elm Street. Suddenly, Pao jumped up from his bed. He didn’t know what he saw or what happened, but he got the feeling that the bar should be the first place to check for the criminal just like in his dream.

Pao told the police to come with him to the bar on Elm Street. When they got to the bar, the first sound he heard was people’s laughter. But instead of Pao trying to find the criminal, someone came up to Pao. He tried to talk, but Pao pulled him up by his sleeve and the police cuffed his hands together. It was easy to notice Pao with the moon on his forehead. Everyone in the bar stared at him. While they took him to the police car, they put him in the back seat and drove away with the criminal. On the way there, the person muffled and tried to talk but the tape on his mouth was tighter than steel.

Back at the police headquarters, Peter the criminal was immediately cuffed to a chair and was interrogated by Pao. After a lot of questions, Peter admitted that he was a part of the plan. They had a deal to share the money, but instead he got scammed and the other two bailed on him. Peter also mentioned the names of the other two to them while he was talking. Peter wanted to work with Pao.

Now Pao thought of a plan. He wrote to a newspaper that they had found the names of the museum heist and were very close to solving it.

When the two robbers saw it, they were nervous and they thought, “We’re going to get caught anyway. There’s no point in trying to escape.”

So, they called Pao, "I know you're on to me, so how about we make a deal? I give you half of the money and you stop haunting me."

The person on the phone had a weird and mysterious voice. Pao was thinking, "This could be my chance to catch them."

Pao thought that he could ambush them and bring the police with him.

"You have a deal," Pao said, "but no sneaky stuff, ok?"

The mysterious voice said, "Sure, tomorrow at 2pm in the high mountain, so nobody sees us."

"I need to get there before 2pm, and I might need to take a gun in case they scam me." Pao thought.

He took the police with him and drove to the mountain with a large truck, but Pao had planned. He thought that he could say the barrels were filled with alcohol to celebrate, but it was filled with policemen. When he got there, he saw nothing but trees. He tried to find them, but they were nowhere to be found. In the end, he found them behind a large tree.

Without hesitation, Pao said, "Where's the money?"

The two took out a case of money. Pao pretended to be happy and went to open the barrel of "alcohol".

When Pao looked away, the two people whistled suddenly. More robbers came out of the woods, but the police could hear them talking and they cracked the barrels. The police came out of the barrel with weapons, and they outnumbered the criminals. Finally, the police caught every one of them and put them back into the barrels. Pao watched them getting brought away in the truck as the sunset brightened the sky.

The Mysterious Bloody Handprint

Stanford American School Hong Kong, Ho, Yutong Charlotte – 10

In the dungeon, there was a prisoner called Timothy. He has killed many people before. He has stayed in the dungeon for eight years, but he still didn't know what he did wrong.

A moment later, a little tiptoeing sound came from the gate. Timothy looked uncomfortable and squirmed on the floor. "Hi Bro, you don't have to be scared. I'm Kelvin", whispered a voice with echo sound. "I know you are angry about the one who made you here eight years ago. I can help you", said his brother Kelvin giving a little grin to Timothy. "Please honour your words", said Timothy. His brother gave him a big nod and left the dungeon in a second.

At midnight, Kelvin was staying so vigilant while walking towards John's house. "Where would John going to be?" he mumbled. Just then, he heard some boof-beat sound and quickly hid behind a tall tree. "Am I really going to kill John?", then Kelvin realized that he has already promised his brother Timothy. So, he ran straight to John who was on a white horse, pulled him down, grabbed his axe then chopped his head off. Kelvin didn't feel sorry for John. Then just a moment later, he picked up John's backpack.

"Mother, why father still not yet come back?" asked Johnny. "Just wait for a while, I think he will be back soon.", replied Lisa. An hour later, they saw only his father's white horse coming back. "Mother, why is there only the white horse but father is not here?" asked Johnny as he stared at his mom. Suddenly Johnny's mom screamed "Oh my God! Bloody hand print!" Lisa yelled again, Johnny was shocked and grasped at his mom's hand. "Is that father's blood? You see, this is a four-finger print!", asked Johnny gazing at the bloody hand print.

The next day, Lisa went to Judge Pao's court. On her way, she saw a guy holding an axe walking in the forest, she heard the man mumbled "if someone knows that I killed John, I will be in a big trouble" Lisa was shocked and followed the man to where he was going. As they arrived Kelvin's home, she stopped and waited Kelvin to go in, she peeped into the house, searching for signs of evidence. Lisa saw Kelvin sipping on a cup of tea, the next thing she needed to do was to wait Kelvin to leave his house.

The next day, there was a guard blocking the way of Lisa as she almost arrived Judge Pao's court, "I need to see Judge Pao, and this is an emergency!" Lisa yelled as she was looking at the humongous court. "Come in", Judge Pao said in an imposing way. The guard led Lisa into the court. At first Lisa was feeling really afraid of Judge Pao because of his extra tanned skin. There were many guards surrounding him as well. Lisa knelt down in front of Judge Pao and said, "it is a pleasure to meet you. And I really need your help." She said with a really nervous face. Lisa stared at Judge Pao. "Are you coming here without a reason?", shouted Judge Pao. "My husband promised to have dinner with us but we didn't see him, only his white horse came back, what I saw is a bloody four-finger hand print on the horse."

Lisa screamed and with tears dropping onto the floor. Judge Pao and Lisa gazed at each other for a second. "There is only a bloody hand print and you think that your husband is killed?", squealed Judge Pao. "It's actually not only the hand print, I followed a suspected guy to his house yesterday, and saw an axe with blood stained on it and my husband's backpack in his room!" screamed Lisa with tears. Lisa brought in the axe and the backpack she found in Kelvin's room. She handed them to Judge Pao. Judge Pao held that axe and closed his eyes. Lisa knelt down on the floor waiting for what Judge Pao say. "Show me the way to the man's house", Judge Pao demanded.

They knocked on the door, Kelvin opened the door with a shocked face. Judge Pao ordered, "Show me your hands." Kelvin didn't know what to say and kept quiet. Judge Pao ordered again, "Show me your hands." Kelvin didn't answer and ran away the house quickly. "Go chase him!", screamed Judge Pao to his guards and the guards chased after Kelvin. Lisa followed them. The guards really did catch him and Kelvin was forced to reveal his right hand – only with four fingers, for the middle finger lost a few years ago to an accident.

The guard brought Kelvin to the court and everyone was watching. Kelvin knelt down on floor in front of Judge Pao and Lisa stood next to him. All the evidence were in front of Kelvin, he looked really afraid. “Kelvin, you are charged with murdering John!”, shouted Judge Pao, “there is a blood-stained axe and John’s backpack found at your home, and you matched with the four-finger bloody handprint on John’s horse!”, shouted Judge Pao. Kelvin confessed finally as all the evidence are in front of him. “You are sentenced to death!” yelled Judge Pao. Lisa gulped, “take out the chopping machine!”, shouted Judge Pao.

And the guard took out the dog-head like chopping machine, some guards pushed Kelvin’s head on the machine, and “3, 2, 1 chop!” shouted Judge Pao giving order to them. Then the guards pushed the machine hard and Kelvin’s head was chopped off. Everyone left the court after watching except Lisa, “heartfelt thanks to you, Judge Pao!” said Lisa smiled at Judge Pao, and Judge Pao gave back a smile to her, “You are welcome.”

Judge Boas

Stanford American School Hong Kong, Song, Emily – 9

One day, Judge Bao has fallen asleep, and he dreamt of something. When Judge Bao opened his eyes, he was surprised! He saw that the place was not the same as the place that he had been living before! He time travelled. But he had no time to think. When he walked on the streets, he saw some people were staring at him. Judge Bao saw a crowd of people reading an announcement—Shall anyone catch the infamous Jack, HKD 100,000 will be awarded.

Judge Bao was happy to see it because he knew that if he caught Jack, he would have the HKD 100,000. First, Judge Bao had to find a picture of Jack. He wrote the details of Jack, such as, blue and green hair, slender had a happy face. Second, he went to the crime scene, he saw Jack's fingerprint. He decided to examine the print. But he found out that they did not match. It was not the same people! Judge Bao said to himself, "How can this fingerprint not be Jack's?" He continued, "I know! Jack is using other people's fingerprint!" But Judge Bao had no evidence so he couldn't not prove it at all.

Meanwhile, he went back to the crime scene and saw the footprint was Jack's! Now, he was sure that it is Jack's. But now he got a big question, and that was, "How to catch Jack?" He decided to ask people if they had seen Jack before. Most of the people said No. And when he went to another house and a little kid said, "I have seen Jack." Judge Bao asked, "where is he?" The little kid said, "I see him at the store at the front." "Thank you", said Judge Bao. Just as Judge Bao went into the store, he saw two Jacks! One must be the one he needed to catch. But just as Judge Bao wanted to catch the Jacks, they ran away! He followed them into an alley, but there was only one Jack. He must have been hiding somewhere. He took Jack to the police office and said, "I find Jack, but there are two Jacks and the other one ran away when I was chasing this Jack and he hid in some place. There must be one that is the one you have to catch." The police said, "Ok, but we need to find the other Jack to see which one is the real one. If all of them are not Jack and you are lying, I will catch you and you will be in the jail."

Judge Bao said, "Ok, but if one of them is the one you need to catch, you need to give me the money." The police said, "Ok, I won't forget." They arrived the alley, Judge Bao ran to find the other Jack. First, he asked the two Jack, "What is your name?" They all replied "Jack." And the police asked, "how old are you?" The first one said, "35." The second said, "35." "How tall are you?" The first one said, "1.71m." The second one said, "1.71m." This would be hard for the police to know who the real Jack was and who was not. And he was thinking about how to find the real Jack. Just then, a boy said, "You can asked Judge Bao, he must know how to find the real Jack!" the police said, "That maybe will be a good idea." First, he found Judge Bao and asked "Do you have an idea to find the real Jack?" Judge Bao said, "Yes, I have a good idea but I don't know if it will work." The police asked, "Ok, I will think it". Judge Bao told him his plan and walked away.

The police thought that Judge Bao's plan was a good one. And the police asked for the people that wanted to be in Judge Bao's plan and a lot of people said Yes. They talked about the plan and agreed. They first found Jack's Mom and demanded, "You need to come with us". And Jack's Mom asked, "Why? Why I need to come with you?" And the police said, "Come with me and you shall know". When Jack's Mom exclaimed, "My son!" They asked "Who is your son?" Jack's Mom said, "The one that have the black dot on is hand is my son". And the police said, "Open your hand". They revealed. One had a black dot while the other had not. Now he knew who the real Jack was. The real Jack wanted to run but the police caught him. And the police found Judge Bao and gave him the money. Just as Judge Bao got the money, he woke up. It was just a dream.

Judge Pao and the Big Save

Stanford American School Hong Kong, Yeung, Tse Ying Hailey – 10

It is 9:00pm, I was supposed to call my aunt. But when I started to call her, Judge Pao showed up instead. After two seconds, Judge Pao said, “Hailey, I’m calling you because the children from my village have been asked to go to a wonderland but they never came back. I would like you to come to my place to investigate with your powers.” I nodded and asked, “Judge Pao, what happened to my aunt?” Judge Pao said, “I facetimed your aunt and told her that you are busy.”

Judge Pao sent me a storybook and left the call. I quickly went to epic to read this book, but when I started to read the book, I saw a portal in the book and it started to suck me in. After a few twirls in the portal, it dropped me back to Song Dynasty. I looked around the place for a bit. When I was walking, there was a letter on the ground. It said, “come to the office”. I did what the letter says. A few minutes later, I found it. I politely opened the door. Judge Pao greeted me and asked me to sit down. I sat down with a thump, Judge Pao said, “At our mission to stop the kidnapper, you can take this note to drop notes what is the kidnapper did. if you’re done taking notes, you can teleport it back and I will teach the kidnapper a lesson. But remember, you should also free the children and the real wonderland officers.” I nodded. I took the note and teleport away without forgetting to say bye to Judge Pao.

I arrived at the wonderland. The wonderland is like a landfill house. Children are sewing clothes for money. I was a bit terrified of what I saw. The kidnapper saw me writing notes. The kidnapper said: “Hahahaha, you want to save these pesky kids?” I nodded. “If you want to save them, take this!” shouted the kidnapper. He jumped down the roof while unleashing a tackle with his full body. But luckily, I dodged it by teleporting away. The kidnapper hit the ground. It was powerful enough to have smoke around him. It also left a hole on the ground. When the smoke clears, the kidnapper was unconscious. I thought it was the best time to free the kids and the officers of the wonderland.

I started to sneak into the junk landfill, it’s smell really terrible. When I arrived at the sewing room. I freed all the kids and the officers. But when I was about to free the last kid, the kidnapper came with a wooden bat. He hit my back head and I fell unconscious.

Just when kidnapper was about to end my life, the kids pulled the kidnapper’s clothes. A kid yelled, “You are not ending her life.” Another kid shouted, “Yeah, and it is now our time to help her out because she saved us.” The officers cheered the kids. Finally, I woke up and said, “Now, let’s teach him a lesson.” The kids brought a string. I tied the kidnapper up. The officers destroyed the kidnapper’s land. I teleported the note pad away with the kids.

After a few minutes, Judge Pao and his henchman came. Judge Pao said to the kidnapper, “You are arrested for kidnapping kids.” The henchman pulled the kidnapper and locked him up at Judge Pao’s office. Judge Pao said, “Well done Hailey. You can go back to your place, but before you go back, take this. This is a special phone, you can call me with this.” I thanked Judge Pao and waved goodbye. I twirled around the portal for a few minutes. After that, I arrived home and it landed me on the bed. I happily slept in the bed with a smile.

A few months later, Judge Pao called me, “Hailey, please come to my place and go to the wonderland. It is safe now.” I nodded and closed the phone. I opened the book and twirled through the portal. When I went back to Song Dynasty, my aunt waved at me. She was standing right in front of the wonderland! We went in had a lot of fun in there. I liked the remodelled wonderland more than the junky one. Me and my aunt happily played in the wonderland and went back to our place. The kidnapper is forever locked up and I became Judge Pao’s partner. We cracked a few more case together!

A Swarming Mystery

Stanford American School Hong Kong, Yun, Eunje – 10

“Knock, knock, knock”

“Who is it?” Judge Pao asked clearly.

From the other side, he heard a voice trembling urgently, “Judge, I am called Farmer Li. I have come from a nearby village to speak to you.”

Judge Pao summoned Farmer Li inside his big hut. Farmer Li was a shrubby man. Farming had tired him out, so he looked older than he was. As Farmer Li stumbled in, Judge Pao sighed and shook his head.

Farmer Li, still trembling, looked up slowly.

“Please speak.” Judge Pao said warmly, pouring jasmine tea into 2 chipped dragon teacups.

The poor farmer lifted his head and stared with awe at the wise detective.

“Our crop... millions of insects have invaded it.” stammered Farmer Li.

Judge Pao placed the warm teacup onto the farmer’s hand and steadied him to sit on his porch. He handed a fruit cake to the farmer.

“Tell me more about it.” Judge Pao said.

Farmer Li looked up to the judge and swallowed, “In a nearby village, there is my farm, and it is the biggest one of all...”

Judge Pao nodded at Farmer Li while sipping his tea.

“As I was saying, the farm was wonderful and everything was in bloom, all the time. Then insects came and ruined it suddenly.” Farmer Li shrank down into the seat, with his small, tired eyes.

Judge Pao nodded, “I understand, but to help you, I must see for myself.”

So that day, at dawn, Judge Pao and Farmer Li set off to the south on a rickety wooden carriage. It was morning when they were almost at their destination.

“Oh, finally!”

“Please be quick!”

“He’s here! He’s here!”

Judge Pao was hurriedly led to the location of the bug invasion as soon as he arrived. It was a disaster. Locusts were ruining the whole plantation as quickly as a wildfire could fly.

Judge Pao took one look at the ruined crops and cringed. While he carefully tiptoed along the field, avoiding the swarm, he stated, “We must do something, but what could have caused something like this?!”

He walked along a bit more and found a certain area that had particularly more bugs crawling rapidly around it. It made him suspicious.

Suddenly, Judge Pao’s eyes spotted something, a rake. “Maybe...” he thought.

Then, Judge Pao said urgently, “Listen up! Let’s rake the soil down now!”

“Are you sure we can find clues by digging the farm?” Farmer Li asked.

"I'm not sure, but we may find something useful..." Pao answered, raking some soil in the corner. Judge Pao and Farmer Li were exhausted from raking the soil and were beginning to lose hope. Judge Pao walked around the farmland, observing the bugs and scraping plants. It was just then when Farmer Li yelled, "I found something!"

Judge Pao ran over to see a large blue bottle of liquid and a straw hat.

"Is this your hat?" Judge Pao asked Farmer Li. Farmer Li shook his head.

It was the next morning when Judge Pao was knocking on doors to find the owner of the hat who was quite likely to be the culprit.

"No..."

"Sorry, no."

"Hmm, it doesn't look familiar to me."

Judge Pao had already knocked 16 doors, and no one had said yes.

At that moment, Judge Pao knocked on a rusty wooden door. A young-looking bald man opened it, arms crossed and with a gigantic pout on his face.

"What do you want?!" He complained, with an even bigger frown.

"Are these yours?" Judge Pao asked, waving the hat in one hand and the blue bottle in the other.

"NO!" He said quickly, without a hint of nervousness.

Judge Pao frowned in thought. Quickly, he jammed the straw hat onto the man. It fit perfectly! This made the man speechless.

"Now, what is this?" Judge Pao asked calmly, waving the blue bottle in front of the person.

"Are you the one that did this?" Judge Pao asked.

Suddenly, the person fell to his knees, begging for forgiveness. Farmer Li ran over and gasped when he saw the man.

"Why? Why would you do this?" Farmer Li said, shaking his head with great force.

"Because..." the man, whose name was Zheng, "that's fair." He said blankly.

"You ruined our plants, and you think it's FAIR?!" Farmer Li shouted, losing his temper.

"If you don't agree, then come." Zheng said bitterly, snatching his hat out of Judge Pao's hand and motioning them roughly to follow him.

Zheng brought Judge Pao and Farmer Li to an abandoned dark field, "This is MY farm."

Farmer Li's jaw dropped, "This was a farm?"

"Yes, this is my farm. This area itself didn't get enough sunlight, because I got the worst land of you all. If my land fails, others' must fail too..." Zheng said angrily.

"You would never listen to my problem. But now, with the bugs, it's all fair now." Zheng cackled.

Judge Pao smiled secretly. All this questioning had helped reveal the truth. But now, after finding the culprit, it was time to save the farm.

Back at the farm, everyone followed Judge Pao's orders and dug out every single blue bottle. Immediately after that, the bug swarm started to repel.

"I knew it had something to do with the blue liquid attracting the bugs!" Judge Pao said quietly to himself.

Later, the culprit was sent to speak to Judge Pao. Even though he did something bad, the man was forgiven. Judge Pao explained that jealousy was natural but doing something like that was not acceptable and would lead to a penalty.

The Kidnapped Girl

The Independent Schools Foundation Academy, Cao, Chloe – 9

Do you know who Judge Pao is? He is a famous detective and judge from China. He lived long ago and was very good at solving crimes. Even as a child, he was intelligent and solved mysteries.

When he was a child, he was in the same class as Grace and me. We were all friends. One day, I asked Grace for a sleepover at my house because it was Christmas. She was very pleased and said she could come next Friday.

The following Friday was Christmas Eve. We first played a bunch of games, then we had pizza and s'mores for dinner. At last, we felt exhausted, so we decided to go to bed. Grace slept in the guest bedroom, and I slept in my room.

The next morning, when I woke up, I knocked on Grace's door, because it was time for breakfast. But she didn't answer. I was shocked the moment I went in. It was a huge mess, and Grace was not anywhere!

I immediately ran downstairs and told mom what had happened, but she also didn't know what to do. So, I grabbed her phone and called Judge Pao. With no surprise, Judge Pao said, "I'll be here in ten minutes!"

When Judge Pao came, he told me, "I'm pretty sure that someone kidnapped Grace." I agreed. So we started to look for clues in the guest bedroom. When we went in, I saw something odd. Grace's window was open. Judge Pao saw it, too, and he said, "I think that is a very important clue." So he took out his notepad that he carried all the time and wrote it down. Then, we looked over the rest of Grace's room. Unfortunately, there were no other clues.

So I suggested, "Let's go downstairs and look for other clues." But there were also no clues in the living room or dining hall.

Then, Judge Pao thought of this great idea, he said, "Of course! Why haven't we thought about that? You do remember about the window, don't you?"

"Yes," I said.

"The kidnapper must have climbed out of the window! Let's go look in the backyard for footprints!" As soon as he said that, we ran outside into the snow.

At last, I saw it. "This is it!" I exclaimed. "This tree! Look, its branch is sticking from the open window into the guest bedroom! So the kidnapper must have taken Grace and climbed out the window. Then, climbed down the tree and took her somewhere else!" Right away, we started looking for footprints at the bottom of the tree.

Fortunately, we found many footprints, leading us to a restaurant named Happy Kids near my house. The restaurant was closed for a week because of a lot of snow. There were many big wooden boxes in front of the restaurant. Judge Pao and I immediately knew that one of the boxes contained Grace. We eyed each other, then started opening the boxes at the same time.

Finally, I saw Grace in the tenth box that I opened. Her whole body was tied together with string, and her mouth was covered with a cloth, so that she couldn't talk. Judge Pao and I instantly untied her, and I took away the cloth on her mouth. She could finally move and talk!

Then, Grace told us about the whole thing. How the man tied her up, carried her down the tree, put her in the box, and left the box outside Happy Kids.

When we got home, Judge Pao and I still wanted to find out who the kidnapper was. Because then we could tell the police and send him or her to jail. I thought of an idea. I said, "We can look at the CCTV in the guest bedroom!" So we sprinted up the stairs and watched the CCTV replay. It showed that the kidnapper was a man dressed all in black, and because of his torch, we saw his shirt read Happy Kids!

We frantically ran to the police station and told the chief of police about the kidnapping. After he heard about the whole story, he went to Happy Kids and found the man. The kidnapper's name was Nick. Nick planned to hold

Grace for ransom, so he could get money from her wealthy parents, who were famous singers in our city. But he insisted that he had no idea about the kidnapping and was only dressed in black because it was his favorite color. Luckily, Judge Pao stepped up and said we all saw him on the CCTV and recognized him by his hair, face and clothes.

Finally, Nick knew he couldn't cover up his lies anymore, so he came up with another plan. He knelt on both knees and pleaded for Judge Pao to let him go. He even offered to give half of his ransom money to Judge Pao and said, "You will become a very rich person now!" But Judge Pao still wouldn't let him go. That's why Judge Pao was my best friend. He always used the facts we already know and never lets a bad guy go, even if they offer him a lot of money.

Since Judge Pao and I acted fast and solved the mystery, Nick was never able to put his plan into action. Instead, the police sent him immediately to jail. After that, we all went back to the police station. The chief said Judge Pao and I were very clever in finding the clues. We both blushed and said thank you. So the chief gave us each a lollipop to take home. "Yay!" we cheered.

From that day on, Judge Pao and I solved a lot of mysteries together. Now that Judge Pao has grown up, he is a very famous detective in China. I am very happy for him, and still his best friend.

Silver Knife

The Independent Schools Foundation Academy, Cen, Yang Victoria – 11

The door creaked open. A shadow crept into the room, the only light source being the gleaming knife in his hands. Walking over to the bed, he raised the knife and struck. He laughed as he crammed the body into a leather sack, blood covering the blade and his hand. The knife fell to the ground with a clang in the darkness, with one word engraved: revenge.

Ahhhhhh! Yongnian woke to a distant scream and a pool of blood on the floor.

"Where's Mother?" He asked, barely awake. "Guys, this isn't funny."

"Yongnian, she was murdered!" His sister cried.

Yongnian looked around for her, but when his search failed, he started sweating. Yongnian picked up the silver knife lying on the ground and slipped it into his pocket. His mother had perished at the tip of this blade.

"Yongnian, your mother was killed, and all the murderer left behind was a silver knife. We've captured Chengyan, the criminal. He owns the same knife, and he wasn't on good terms with your mother when she was alive, thus he's arrested." Yongnian's father concluded.

The police had come to his house, and they spent an hour talking to his father. He could also see a man in a yellow and black robe with a long beard—the legendary Judge Pao, known around Bai Ning as the Master of Justice; no criminal could escape his watchful presence. Yongnian recalled what had happened—the pool of red blood; the creaking sound he heard at night—but something was wrong. He could tell from Judge Pao's hard, cold stare; the feeling of the silver knife; and how it was nearly about to cut through his pocket. Chengyan was innocent.

"They have no evidence that it is Chengyan. Anyone can own the same knife as the criminal! Besides, I know Chengyan isn't the type to have killed someone he argued with." Yongnian exclaimed angrily, to himself. He was sure Mother would never allow an innocent man to be sentenced to death, he had to do something.

"I know. However, we have no evidence to prove him innocent. Tell me when you get some evidence, I'll be doing some investigations of my own." Judge Pao replied, calmly.

Yongnian sighed, Judge Pao was right, he'd need to be patient.

Yongnian stared at his mother's bloody corpse. It was midnight, and he'd snuck into the cemetery, dug out his mother's grave, and was now looking for evidence. He tried to find evidence for the entire week but found nothing useful. Tomorrow, they would trial Chengyan, and he would most likely be guilty if Yongnian couldn't find evidence. He saw one deep, bloody scar on his mother's body, but nothing else. That was weird. His mother definitely would've put up a fight, but there was only one scar. Besides, she argued with Chengyan the day before, and they hadn't seen each other since. Mother would have been on high alert for an attack, making it difficult to murder her. The pieces clicked together, and Yongnian left the cemetery, feeling accomplished.

"Anyone has any evidence that Chengyan is innocent?" The judge, Cai Boqin asked. It's your turn now, Yongnian thought to himself. He stood up, legs shaking, and raised his hand. The judge nodded, allowing him to proceed.

Yongnian felt as if everyone was looking at him, but he saw Chengyan's pleading look and began. "There was one deep scar on my mother's body, with no sign of struggle. However, she would've put up a fight if someone tried to murder her. Also, she had an argument with Chengyan just days before the murder, and she would've been on alert for some attack. It wouldn't have been so easy to murder her. The most likely suspect would've been Cai Boqin, as he ate with my mother the night before, and our house keys were missing right after he left."

"How dare you! Would you believe a mere child, or a well respected member of the community? He is lying!" The judge's face went red, as he yelled angrily. The crowd erupted into chatter, everyone believed Boqin. Just when Yongnian thought everything was hopeless, the door crashed open. The crowd gasped, as Judge Pao stormed in, and stood next to Yongnian. Even the jury was shocked, everyone stared at Judge Pao as he spoke.

“Yongnian is right. I’ve asked the knife seller, and he said he sold the exact same knife to Chengyan five years ago and to Boqin the day of the murder. Furthermore, the drug store owner has told me he sold sleeping pills to Boqin on the day of the murder. I have searched Boqin’s house, and we found this.” At this, he held up a familiar key. “Our house keys!” Yongnian’s father shouted. “Capture Boqin!” the crowd shouted. Suddenly, the room went dark. There was a banging sound, as the door opened, a single gunshot, and a scream. Then, everything was silent.

Yongnian took out the silver knife that had committed this massacre, studying it carefully. It was days after the trial, and he couldn’t help thinking that something was still missing. After looking closely, Yongnian saw the word revenge carved onto the knife. He understood everything now. Boqin used to be poor; he just wanted to kill all the rich people because nobody sympathized with him.

Yongnian remembered something. When he was younger, he recalled his mother pointing at a poor man and saying, “He’s a thief for sure; don’t help him, Yongnian.” That man was Boqin. Yongnian hurried to the graveyard. He took out the silver knife and placed it carefully on the icy-cold gravestone. There was a clanging noise, similar to when the silver knife first dropped and started the mystery.

The silver knife rested on the gravestone, waiting for another person to pick it up and ignite another offense. The word: revenge gleamed in the dark graveyard. Revenge.

Love and Loathing

The Independent Schools Foundation Academy, Chan, Tin Hang Ethan – 12

Prologue:

That day, snow blanketed the landscape, the land, once lush and green with plants, was now barren and lifeless, and the harsh winter cold gnawed into the roots of the great tree which stood mightily in the centre of the city square. A man sat in his melancholy shed, as he plotted vengeance for one who he loved so greatly, and to exterminate one who he had a cold and bitter hatred for, as cold and bitter as the winter day itself. Exactly one year later, his wish has been fulfilled

The Death:

A metal dagger whizzed through the air, pinning the man's hand to the wall behind him, then another dagger was briskly aimed at the man's other hand, fully pinning him to the ground. "Who are thou?" The man's words tumbled out unevenly, and his lips shivered as he spoke. "Why do thou need to know?" A figure emerged from the shadows, revealing a well-built, robust figure with a fair face. "My name is not to be given to dishonourable fiends and murderers like thee." He did a gleeful jig in the darkness as he launched a dagger at the man, sending him to his demise.

He stepped forward to taunt his victim and to hear his last words. "Death is only the beginning, I will haunt thou to the end of thy life." As the man died and was sent on his way from the comforts of the living realm into the underworld, the figure dipped his finger into the victim's blood and smeared the walls with the words "Li min" in his Kaifung dialect "no one could read it, and I would probably get an alibi" he thought, and briskly left the room.

The Arrival of the God of detection:

Waitress Ye was weary. She woke up at first light for attendance, and had to serve breakfast to their hotel guests "ere first hint of dawn" as her senior said, because their guests are all "light sleepers". She was assigned to the toughest pleaser: Zhao Yan, uncle of the king and magistrate of the Yinchuan, where the Miao tribe established a settlement.

Drowsy and longing for a tranquil corner to sleep and rejuvenate her eyes, she knocked on Zhao Yan's door to realise it was open. "Most peculiar thing, I thought Master Zhao always valued his privacy. "Huh, who knows, the people who come to the Hefei hotel are always peculiar." She pushed open the magistrate's door to reveal the body of the dead magistrate.

As they sent for a detective, a figure stepped from the crowd of audiences. "I will solve this case."

The hotel manager smirked and desperately attempted to hide his prejudice towards peasants in a lower social class than he is. "What is thy name?" He asked politely.

"It is I, Bao Qing Tian, High judge of the royal court of justice."

The manager's disdain turned into admiration, and he frantically sent him to a private room to talk.

The evidence:

“May I survey the crime scene, good sir, I have many worthy assistants to help me. You are of wonderful service, dear manager.”

Bao turned to the manager, and unhesitatingly the manager left.

“What do thou think of him?” Bao turned to his advisor, Gong Sun Ce.

“Almost impossible to be the criminal.” The advisor replied to his senior. “As you, good master, can see, there are characters smeared onto the walls of the room, most likely to be in blood, irreversible damage to the wall. How, would a hotel manager destroy the walls of a hotel he paid so dearly to build?”

“It shall be as thou say.” Judge Bao made a final search for anything suspicious in the room and noticed the knives that pinned Zhao Yan to the wall.

They were Butcher’s knives, something one only with a butcher’s license would possess. “Awaken every client, tell them to cut each a strand of pork for dinner, each three inches wide.”

Gong Sun Ce obeyed, but he turned to face his master before he went out. “Wouldn’t the murderer have already escaped?” Bao shook his head unhesitatingly, and the advisor left. Bao was about to leave when he caught the words smeared in blood in the corner of his eye. It was written not in traditional Chinese, but in his mother tongue. It wrote: *Li Min*.

Moments later, Bao arrived at the kitchen to inspect the investigation being conducted. Before anyone starts, he beckoned his armed and flawlessly trained bodyguard Zhan Chao to be stationed at the entrance. The investigation commenced, one by one, clients were called up to cut the pork three inches wide, and cooks examined them. The fourth client cut the meat into exactly 3 inch pieces, and Bao beckoned him to come with him. “How did thee”

Bao felt a searing pain his leg as the client launched a knife at him, and sped to the entrance, only to be stopped by Zhan Chao. The client, seeing no hope, resigned, and followed Bao into his compartment.

The Confession:

“Tell me,” the client said, breaking the silence, “how did thee know it was me?”

“It’s simple.” Bao explained. “The knives thee used to kill Zhao Yan were Butcher’s knives. Only butchers would have them, because of the recent disarmament policy. Therefore, the one with the best knife—work is the killer.”

“How do thee know it’s not one of the chefs?”

“We have checked all the knives and none are missing.” Bao’s tone softened to a soothing, charming voice. “Now, why did you kill Zhao Yan?”

“I killed him to avenge.....” the client began.

“Yes, Li Min.”

“How did thee know?”

“I was from Kaifeng.”

“Okay, Now, here it goes. My name is Yan Ming Li Min was my Fiancé. She was loving and charismatic, and I was promised her hand after I saved her and her father’s lives by fending off bandits who were attacking them. It was all so blissful until Zhao Yan came and threatened death to her and her father if she wasn’t promised to him. Desperate to save her daughter, her father agreed. A few days before the wedding, they were both killed by Zhao Yan, who left in pursuit of another maiden.

Later, my village doctor diagnosed me with blood poisoning, and there were reports saying Zhao Yan snuck into my room the day he left. I had two years to live. I killed Zhao Yan to avenge Li Min, her father and myself. After all the sins he had committed, isn’t he the one who deserved being punished?”

Bao hesitated before replying. “God has his sympathies for thee. I shall present the case to the royal court, and secure a verdict for you, and I would have the honor to retire from the case.....”

Blood Blossom

The Independent Schools Foundation Academy, Huang, Qinlan – 11

"Run..."

A feeble voice alarmed Xi Wo. A high-pitched scream broke the silence in the abandoned mineshaft. Footsteps echoed in the dim tunnels and increased rapidly. Xi Wo broke into a sprint, her heart pounding aggressively against her chest. As she progressed further and deeper into the unknown, the footsteps faded away. Was she safe? She stopped her footsteps and checked her surroundings. Just as she sat down against a rusty minecart. "Thud!" It was too late...

"The victim died at exactly 4:44 pm in the abandoned mineshaft. There were no traces of anyone, other than the victim inside the mineshaft." Wu Long, an Officer, reported while smoking a cigarette to Judge Bao. "This was the same clue the murderer left when killing his family 45 years ago." He pondered and stared at the empty hole dug in the dirt ceiling, a desk fell from this hole, but no one had been in the mineshaft other than herself.

"Detective! I think you should take a look at this..." Officer Wu interrupted his thoughts, as he slowly approached the wall three meters away, he saw a blood-drawn blossom. Judge Bao was deep in thought when he noticed a glimmering ore in a half-opened drawer on the desk. He picked up the ore and put it in a bag for further investigation.

After Judge Bao returned to his office, he took the glimmering ore from the sealed bag. It looked similar to metal, yet so different. The ore had a silver surface and soft texture, which most metals did not have. After a few hours of investigating, Judge Bao determined it was a rare type of metal — Erbium. This was a metal found in the inner-Mongolian mines of China. But they were currently in Sichuan, far away from Mongolia. So the only possibility of this ore being here is that an inner Mongolian must have brought it in from inner Mongolia.

Judge Bao immediately went with Officer Wu to knock on Xiao Li's door. Mr. Li seemed to calm however when Officer Wu introduced why they came there, Mr. Li was distressed.

Mr. Li stuttered as he opened the door wider to the officer's request. As Judge Bao and Officer Wu stepped into the house, they started investigating. But, they found no evidence whatsoever. Officer Wu, while smoking a cigarette, gave the news to Mr. Li. He sighed in relief and rolled up his sleeves. Judge Bao then noticed a blood blossom tattoo on Mr. Li's right wrist. Officer Wu had discovered this too, then forcefully dragged Mr. Li, into the police car.

The next morning, Officer Wu called in sick that day, so Judge Bao was going to transfer Mr. Li to Iron Heights prison himself. But there was this feeling inside of him. Telling him this was not the end. While Judge Bao was strolling through the police station, he noticed a rusty white van with a blood blossom drawn on it in a grim alleyway nearby. It was the same drawing from the mineshaft. He sprinted and took a glance at the car window. Police uniform, green eyes, black luscious hair, it was Officer Wu! Judge Bao was in awe. The person they have been looking for was his partner this whole time? The van stopped, they knew he was compromised.

"Hello.." The maniacal killer beamed and at his arrival.

"Remember me?" Demented snickering filled the air. Judge Bao stood there frozen. He remembered that night clear as water. That night he was just 7 years old. The dark sky mourned as gusts of wind blew into his window. Young Judge Bao remembered what his father said to him. "No matter what happens stay inside." He had touched the cold brass doorknob but resisted the urge to open it. Ignoring the shrieks and cries for help outside, he squeezed his eyes shut, wishing it all to end. When it did, Young Bao rolled out of his hiding spot. He opened the door to see a bloody massacre. It was smeared all over the checked wallpaper as a blood blossom. Young Bao recognized the corpses' faces. He saw his mother and father lying dead in the living room. A bloody silver knife. Young Bao was traumatized. As police sirens entered his ear in the distance, He did not want to face reality. At least not yet. So he ran away until a kind couple adopted him and made him the way he was now.

Judge Bao stood there; he was still tasting the little bits of sorrow in his memories. The killer hurled shards of glass, awakening Judge Bao from his nostalgic moment and directly blinding him. He screamed in agony, while blood splattered onto the nearby wall. Darkness engulfed the world surrounding Judge Bao. He was covered in a cold sweat as he crawled up cautiously, shivering. Judge Bao rubbed his head and eyes, but he was blind. He couldn't see. He was lost.

The deranged serial killer clutched his silver dagger made out of erbium. Although Judge Bao could still move, he could not see. Judge Bao was panicking. The blade was inching closer and closer by the second. Judge Bao reached his nose out to smell. "sniff~sniff~". Cigarettes. The murderer. He reached into the concrete floor for a weapon, but there were only shards of broken glass. Judge Bao snatched the glass from the concrete floor and thrust with all his might. "Thud!" the hysterical assassin dropped to the ground unconscious.

Soon after, his eyesight returned to normal vision. Judge Bao ventured inside the van. Inside reeked of rotten flesh, where there lay a navy blue body bag. He unzipped the bag. It was his own mutilated corpse! Even Judge Bao himself could not believe it. He looks up to see the vicious homicidal maniac leering evilly at him.

Judge Bao realizes that the psychotic slayer murdered him along with his family and that his ghost is now becoming aware of the horrifying reality.

Crystal Deception

The Independent Schools Foundation Academy, Hui, Jay Carson – 12

“You can never outrun karma.”

As he muttered his last words, a jaded dagger cruised through the air with quick succession, releasing an uncanny cry that engulfed the crimson warehouse. The sun shone on what once was a lush city square, full of life with a blossoming plum tree which towered over a simplistic yet rustic village. Now a barren wasteland ravaged by war and the elements, the same plum tree still bloomed as a beacon of hope and peace.

“Clickety clack,” the sound of horses trotting through the town roads hung in the air. Bystanders gazed in disgust at the affluent entourage which entered the once tranquil village. Inside the carriages sat General Han and his five most prominent and courageous soldiers, all who felt a sense of sympathy for the decimated village. The entourage rode past countless sombre scenes, the most wistful being young men playing a melancholy tune on the flute.

“We’re here,” the driver croaked. As the retinue stepped out of their carriages, unbeknownst to them, they were playing right into his hand.

“Stand at attention!” screamed General Han whilst his five soldiers fell into formation. “All of you have been selected in accordance with your tremendous courage and intuition you have shown on the battlefield. Now you shall be rewarded.”

General Han marched up to the formation with five Jaded daggers in his hand, handing out the pristine blades to the awed soldiers, all of which had a striking resemblance to Han’s own dagger which he carried in his belt. “Hence forth, you all shall be known as the five brothers!”

The next day, the soldiers woke up to an astonishing surprise; rumours were spreading around the barracks that the renowned Judge Pao was coming to visit the brothers. Judge Pao was a crusading detective with a passion to fight crime like no other. The five brothers were especially ecstatic and thought of him as an idol. Despite this, General Han had a concerned face which he quickly masqueraded with a wry smile.

As he finished touring the barracks, a member of Judge Pao's attache, Jax Xi, approached him with a frightening look of distress. "We've had another victim, Judge. He was murdered in the woods outside of the barracks. He was a prominent soldier, a rival of this unit, General Kuo. The only connection between the two victims was that they both had multiple missing limbs and they shared the same sister. Their sister died in the bombing of Hong Kong," he whispered.

Judge Pao retorted, "Anyone missing from these barracks yesterday?"

Jax quickly responded, "Only the five brothers."

Just hours after the visit, Judge Pao and General Han gathered the five brothers for interrogation. "Where were you yesterday night during the murder of General Kuo?" Judge Pao queried in a stern voice.

The first and second brother's alibi was that they were in the mess hall. At least ten of the catering staff there supported this claim. The third and fourth brothers claimed they were both training platoons of judicial forces, this was also confirmed by the regiment's platoon leaders. The fifth brother claimed he was hunting game in the woods with General Han. He also stated that the General disappeared for an hour and then suddenly reappeared back at the base when he returned from his trip.

"Outrageous! I never went hunting with you!" General Han adamantly denied.

Throughout the conversation, Judge Pao noticed that the fifth brother's eyes kept darting from the direction of the woods to the direction of his room.

"Thank you for your cooperation, you are all free to go." Judge Pao hurriedly dismissed them. He then motioned to a squad of soldiers standing nearby to bring a UV light and follow him. As the party arrived in the fifth brother's room, they started scanning the room for any sign of dried blood. Soon enough, they found a trail of blood from the door leading into the closet. Inside the closet was a dismembered hand.

"Creak....." The door flung open, and the fifth brother charged in, gun cocked.

"You had me startled for a moment, I thought there was an intruder," said the fifth brother in a worried tone. His eyes slowly started to wander to the opened closet and gasped.

"Drop your weapon! In the name of the Chinese government, you are under arrest for the murder of Xu Lee and General Kuo, soldiers, detain him!" Judge Pao cried.

As the soldiers exited the barracks with a cuffed fifth brother in hand, many soldiers looked on in disgust. "Do not worry, you will have a fair trial." uttered Judge Pao sarcastically.

Three days later, the trial commenced. General Han began by grilling the defendant. "Was there any motive for your actions? Why would you slaughter and torture innocent people, the very citizens we sworn to protect?" Despite this, the fifth brother stood quiet for the duration of the trial. His ardent eyes only met General Han's with a murderous gaze.

"Very well then, has the jury reached a verdict?" Judge Pao asserted.

"We have your honour," replied the jury.

"With murder in the first degree, you are sentenced to execution via guillotine, effective immediately," the judge stated.

"Serves you right, filthy traitor, you're getting what you deserve after using the very knife I gave you to murder. " General Han snickered.

Judge Pao let out a gasp of epiphany, "let go of the fifth brother this instant," he declared, "General Han, how would you know that the victim died of knife wounds, when we never told the court the cause of death?" At this point, General Han knew that the gig was up.

Simultaneously, two soldiers barged into the room, showing the gory scene of many human body parts stitched together, creating a woman with striking resemblance to the victims' sister.

"At first I was madly in love with Ju Kuo, but as time went on, she started seeing me for who I was, a psychotic monster. When she died during the bombings of Hong Kong, I couldn't live without her, it drove me mad. I started mindlessly killing, taking body parts from each of my victims, sewing it up so I would never have to live without Ju ever again." the General confessed.

"Execute him!" The judge exclaimed.

As General Han was brought to the guillotine, he looked into the eyes of the victim's loved ones one last time.

"Any last words," croaked the executioner.

"Out of the eight billion hearts on earth, I fell for the one that didn't beat for me."

And with a thwack, it was all over.

Time Travel Adventure

The Independent Schools Foundation Academy, Hui, Kaylee – 11

Judge Pao was having a very good day. He had handled three cases already, and it wasn't even lunchtime yet. He solved a case of someone robbing a baby, a case of shoes in a shoe shop going missing, and finally, he unravelled the mystery of who stole his favourite hat, which turned out to be found in the cabinet.

965 years later, Katie Huang was also having a good day too. But she didn't have much appetite, so she went to the supermarket and got an apple. Not just any apple, it was a magical apple! Meanwhile, 965 years earlier, Judge Pao also had a magical apple in hand... Crunch! His apple was crunchy and juicy! He smiled with pleasure and he thoughtfully munched away. Crunch! Katie's apple was crunchy and juicy! Katie grinned with pleasure and she thoughtfully munched away. Judge Pao closed his eyes in satisfaction and chewed some more. When he opened them, he didn't know where he was! He also saw a 12-year-old girl dressed very strangely in front of him.

That's when Judge Pao found himself in modern-day Hong Kong.

Judge Pao looked around, his surroundings looked so questionable and fascinating. He gave the girl another blank stare, she frowned, then finally said " Who are you? Why do you look so weird?"

Judge Pao's face showed a perplexed expression, he replied, "Who are YOU? Where am I? I've always dressed like this." Judge Pao turned to leave and suddenly saw something on the wall like a magical window. He walked up to it and thought: This is way too bright! Let's close this odd-looking window! He reached out to the side of the "window" and slapped it hard, attempting to close the "blinds."

Katie ran over and shook her head back and forth, she grabbed Judge Pao and asked "Uhm, why are you slapping the TV screen?"

Instead of answering, Judge Pao asked a different question, "What's a TV? Why won't this window close?"

Suddenly, the TV broadcaster said "BREAKING NEWS, the Mona Lisa, on loan from the Louvre has been stolen from the Hong Kong Palace Museum. If the painting has been discovered, please contact the number 5381 1182."

Judge Pao's eyes lit up, he turned to Katie and squealed, "WOW! A new case for me to solve!"

Katie looked unamused. "Are you crazy?! How could a man that doesn't know what a TV is solve this complicated case?!"

Judge Pao smiled, "Follow me and you'll find out."

Reluctantly, Katie hailed a taxi and they both went off to the Palace Museum.

In the Palace Museum, there were ancient pots everywhere, there were ones that looked like marbles, ones that looked like seesaws, and even ones that looked like peppermint candy! Judge Pao walked over to the security guard and asked, "Where is the Moona Lisa?"

The guard frowned, then started fidgeting with his pants. "Y-You m-m-mean the Moona, shoot, Mona Lisa? Yeah, the Mona Lisa..."

Judge Pao chuckled. "Right, the Mona Lisa."

Then both Katie and Judge Pao followed the guard to the Mona Lisa glass display, Judge Pao leaned forward and stared at the blank wall. Then he finally spoke: "Ah I see. The thief broke the glass and swiped the picture." Katie glanced

over to the security guard's arm, there were a few glass pieces on it! She tapped Judge Pao's shoulder lightly, and whispered, "Look! Is he the thief?"

Judge Pao shook his head. "I don't think we should jump to conclusions."

When Judge Pao picked up the pieces of glass, the guard saw him and jumped in fear. He eyed Judge Pao nervously and ran away. As he ran, something fell off his suit. Katie picked it up. It was a printed logo of the Palace Museum! She immediately ran to Judge Pao and reported her peculiar findings.

Judge Pao studied the clues and recalled earlier how the guard was fidgeting with his pants and stammering. Then, it came to him. He nodded and told Katie, "We have everything we need to solve this mystery. The main clue is the printed symbol, the guard must be in disguise. If he was truly a guard of this museum, he would have a proper uniform with badges sewn on, not stuck on."

Katie called the police. Meanwhile, Judge Pao pursued the suspicious security guard and followed him to an underground tunnel. He heard a person growl, "Get ready to ship the Mona Lisa!" Judge Pao peeked through the door and saw the same guard ready to run away, the Mona Lisa in his hands. Judge Pao sped over and snatched the painting at the speed of light. He pinned the guard to the ground. He then heard footsteps approaching him; suddenly he was surrounded by a gang of criminals ready to pounce.

Just then, a shrill voice shouted, "STOP!" Everyone whipped their heads around and were stunned to see Katie and dozens of police. Within seconds, the police grabbed all the thieves and put them in handcuffs. Katie was so shocked that Judge Pao had managed to retrieve the Mona Lisa that she leaped and jumped in excitement!

Judge Pao looked at her, then he looked back at the painting of the beautiful Mona Lisa. He gazed into her charming hazel eyes and sighed, "So this is what the Mona Lisa looks like..." He smiled and felt a patch of dizziness, so he closed his eyes.

As he opened his eyes, he felt like he was in a very familiar environment. He looked around and saw his favourite hat laid on his desk with lots of old scrolls and papers stacked on the side of it. He realized he was back in his own home! But that didn't seem to matter much now, what mattered was that he had made a new friend, Katie, as well as found the missing Mona Lisa. He chuckled to himself, "Well, that's another case solved!"

The Stolen Burner

The Independent Schools Foundation Academy, Lu, Qinqi Kiki – 11

The palace hall resonated with shrill hisses from the Three–Gold–Snakes as their heads fell to the ground. The palace Crafter WuYe was performing the making of the burial object for emperor Zhen Zong’s funeral. WuYe was the most skilled Crafter in Song dynasty and he could perform crafts better than anyone. Today, WuYe was making the burial object dragon burner with the blood of the Three–Gold–Snakes.

The Three–Gold–Snakes, Ze, He and Le, were believed to have spirituality. Emperor Zhen Zhong had wanted the blood of the three snakes to be in his burial object.

Mist swirled into the air from the boiling hot pot of liquid gold. Slowly, WuYe dripped the snake blood into the melted gold. At last, the burial object ‘Jade Cloud and Dragon Burner’ was finished. Tomorrow, it will be presented at the grand ceremony of Zhen Zong’s funeral and go into the grave along with the emperor’s coffin.

No one thought that anything would go wrong until the morning of the funeral ceremony. The ‘Jade Cloud and Dragon Burner’ went missing from the royal treasury. Everyone was awoken in the early morning and there was a frantic search. Without it, the funeral wouldn't happen!

A worried Zhang Heng ran to alarm the palace detective, Pao QingTian, and soon after, Judge Pao had come to the scene. After investigations, it was suspected that a maid, MeiYi, had stolen it. She was immediately sent to the palace court.

With every whip of the lash, MeiYi pleaded again and again. Every whip left a scar on her back and she knew that as a palace maid, she was powerless, powerless like an ant under an elephant hoof.

“Please, I swear with my soul that it wasn’t me. I never had the Dragon Burner with me.” She wailed.

“Enough! I declare the execution of MeiYi to be held in the afternoon.” Bellowed Judge Pao.

However, one young princess witnessing the scene, ZiYu, was the most tense person of all. She calculated the time in her head, it was already 11 in the morning! A wave of anger and fear washed over her.

This is unbelievable, how could Judge Pao believe it was her? She thought to herself.

She was the only person to fully witness the scene of the dragon Burner being stolen. She had seen the process of how WuYe, the maker of the dragon burner, had made the poor maid MeiYi go into the royal treasury, then stole the Dragon Burner for himself through an open window. However, this was the problem, no one would believe her when she told the scene. After all, Crafter Wu was the most trusted palace craftsman. She had to find a way to find the Dragon Burner before execution, and prove to everyone that Crafter Wu was the real thief.

But there is a big problem, how? She couldn’t solve the case by herself, but with the help of others, it might just seem like a possibility! ZiYu decided to meet the goldsmith, Feng.

She told Feng all about her witnesses.

“Well, I see a possible way to solve the case,” Feng said with excitement.

ZiYu listened eagerly.

“In one way or another, Crafter Wu must touch the dragon Burner to steal it. If I’m not mistaken, I was the nearest person to him while he was putting the blood of the Three Golden Snakes into the boiling gold. I saw snake blood on his left thumb. Snake blood will stick and leave a permanent mark on gold once cooled. If he only touched the dragon burner while making it, the blood would still be removable. However, if he touched gold after it cools down, which is about a few hours later during yesterday night, the blood would leave an orange stain permanently. Not only would there be an orange stain on the dragon burner, his left thumb will also have gold dust on it since gold dust sticks to blood. Gold dust would only be removable at least three days later,” Feng explained with detail.

“You could tell this to judge Pao!” exclaimed ZiYu.

Feng and ZiYu rushed to Judge Pao and told him Feng’s idea.

“Worth trying,” said Judge Pao.

Immediately, everyone was summoned to the palace hall.

“Stand in a line and show your left thumbs!” Judge Pao gave out his orders.

ZiYu stood beside Judge Pao and looked tensely at Crafter Wu.

Earlier, she had already told the palace guards instructions on what to do when Crafter Wu was found guilty. She had told the guards to tie him in ropes and give him whips.

Not sure of what was going on, everybody showed their left thumbs, confused. Only Crafter Wu refused to do so. His face was pale and he was trembling terribly.

“What about Wu?” said Feng with bravery in his tone of voice.

Everyone had their eyes on crafter Wu and a second later, he started to sprint towards the open palace doors. The guards were ready and caught him just outside the steps.

“Show your thumb!” said the tallest guards.

“For a chance to live!” added the other guards.

Wearily, crafter Wu showed his gold-dust covered left thumb.

There were shrieks and gasps of disbelief. He was the most trusted crafter in the palace and the emperor’s favourite. There was plain disgust on everyone’s face.

“I declare you to hand over the dragon burner in this instant and MeiYi will be spared from the execution this afternoon. ” said Judge Pao calmly.

The tears of anger in Mei Yi’s eyes turned into tears of joy.

That afternoon, the ‘Jade Cloud and Dragon burner’ returned and the funeral happened as planned. Crafter Wu never appeared at the funeral. The next morning, he was missing from his chamber. No one knew where he went but all knew why.

Good actions receive good outcomes in return, and evil actions receive evil outcomes in return. The good is always rewarded and the bad is always punished.

An Underworld Hero

The Independent Schools Foundation Academy, Sun, Brandon – 8

Heroes do something extraordinary that makes the world see them in an entirely different light. I respect them because they always fight against evil, proudly follow a virtuous path, and can clearly separate right from wrong. However, not all heroes wear capes! My worthy protagonist who captures this attitude is Judge Pao, better known as Bao Zheng, an intelligent Chinese crime fighter who existed over a millennium ago during the Northern Song Dynasty. He was a gifted student from a young age, and as he rose up in the ranks, people respected him for his commitment to justice and always standing up for his beliefs. To make his legacy even more interesting, he did not only operate during the day! His instincts were so powerful that he also became an underground deity with the ability to judge wrongdoers floating hopelessly in purgatory.

Bao Zheng was born with a cocky attitude although used his wisdom for good, and believed that anybody could make mistakes, as long as they were willing to improve their faults and push forward from the lesson learned. As a judge, he constantly encountered criminals and misfits who felt remorse for their previous actions. After hearing their story, he gave them good advice and told them that anybody could become a better human by accepting their flaws, asking for forgiveness, and becoming more aware in the future to avoid any unnecessary crimes. His reason for the triumph of good over evil came from his pure intuition, and he was forced to follow the right path, or else he would feel physically sick to his stomach. If he did not listen to his gut feeling, it would be impossible to return to his normal self. This was the driving force behind his actions and it led him towards great success!

His iconic reputation became well known all over the globe, and soon, Hades, the Lord of the Afterlife, decided that Bao Zheng deserved a more important position that engaged with the supernatural world. One night fell, Bao Zheng descended into darkness and became the official guardian for the hellish Afterlife. This was not a place for weak minded people, and he earned the right to judge criminals purely because of his bravery and responsibility. Hades gifted him with two important companions during his nightshift. The first was Cyberus, a loyal watchdog with a blue glow emitting from his eyes who could deliver a devastating bite. He became Bao's shadow, monitoring every movement and never leaving his side, not even for a moment. Secondly, a tree branch infused with magic called Cxyculus helped Bao analyze the underworld text for every new case, with the mythical power to send souls straight to Heaven or Hell. Both Cyberus and Cxyculus were crucial pillars towards his duty to judge the Afterlife with a final verdict.

The most genuine act of Bao Zheng's empathy was shown during the case of Benjamin Yufu, a poor man who had died in an unfortunate car crash. Deep down in the underworld at the moment of this man's Judgment Day, Bao noticed something strange about Cxyculus when the mysterious figure knelt before them. Normally, the branch would create a visual hologram which showed a full background study about the man's life. To Bao's surprise, Cxyculus did not react to the text and had no background about the man, so his study of good and bad deeds did not appear as usual, without a clear decision on where Benjamin would end up. Bao then took it upon himself to personally go back in time to investigate and question Benjamin's friends and relatives. He had to count all of Benjamin's good and bad deeds in the past; if he had completed over seventeen good deeds in his lifetime, then he would be sent to Heaven. However, if he had sinned over seventeen bad deeds, then he would immediately go straight to Hell.

As he set forth on this difficult task during a dark and cold November, Bao entered the portal that took him back in time with Cyberus and Cxyculus. Disguised as an old man with crutches, he slyly questioned the Yufu family on their crumbling balcony. Bao asked: What has Benjamin done as a good person? He learned that at the tender age of four, Benjamin already insisted on carrying his mother's handbag for her. And then just two months later, he rushed towards people who had fallen down to help them stand up again. These wonderful stories of his acts of kindness continued, as Bao counted them effortlessly. Aged fourteen, Benjamin saved his junior troop at Scout Camp from a grizzly bear attack during a camping trip in the wild. Two days before his unfortunate demise at age twenty-eight, he had made sandwiches for the most impoverished homeless people on the streets. By this point, Bao had reached eighteen deeds and Benjamin's verdict was obvious – he had earned the right of an angel in Heaven. Most judges would never have taken the time to dig deeper into the truth, but Bao's honesty and determination set him apart from the rest.

Clearly, Bao Zheng was an admirable historical figure who we can all look up to as an ancient Chinese hero. We can keep asking the question of what drove him to practice goodness throughout his life, and how we can apply this wisdom to our own daily decisions. He never assigned his work to others and made it his duty to improve his skills and insight as a high-powered judge. He felt pride in his position and never let his guard down so that others could not take advantage of him. Personally, in reminiscing about Bao's achievements, I feel compelled to follow the same values in my own lifetime. I hope that you, the reader, feel this way too.

Judged for Disconsolate

Victoria Shanghai Academy, Cheng, Ashley – 10

Judge Pao, a Chinese legend, was a man for no match.

You may seek a question, “Legends are fake, so there is no Judge Pao.”

But that isn’t the question you should ask, you shouldn’t be asking any questions at all! What you really should know is, Judge Pao isn’t a legend, he existed, he really did.

Yes, yes. There were many detectives that lived their lives, but Judge Pao is different. He is a figure with a passionate heart to fight crime and clean up the land for others.

Judge Pao lived more than a millennium before any of the others above rang the bell worldwide, there were books and movies inspired by such an amazing living legend, his bell rang the most.

This legend lived, like I said. His fame spread all over the land, the world. But his fame also spread when he was alive, with people saying that he shared justice before the sun sets.

But when the moon brightly rises above our heads, he becomes the immortal Yama of the Department of Hell. Known as “the Infernal Bureaucracy” and works as a supernatural judge sorting the incidents of the Afterlives.

“Where did you last see your bag, ma’am?” Pao asked, as he patiently waited for her answer.

“B—before the figure s—stole it...” She shattered, her arms moving up and down, tears beginning to form in the corner of her sapphire eyes.

“I see...” Pao lightly stroked his chin, “I’ll get it for you by tomorrow, ma’am.” He insisted.

“Really?” Her eyes glowed, tears swallowed back inside, he nodded as she immediately bowed. Pao chuckled, waving his hand as a signal for her to be not so formal.

She looked up, “Thank you, I will be waiting.” She answered.

Pao’s laughter slowly floated away as he turned around. He looked down on his watch, carved by wood with Lady herself, with romanian numbers on it. ‘IV’ displayed next to the yellow moon. He smiled, thinking about his wife, who passed away a day after she finished making this lovely watch, for Judge Pao.

“Alrighty.” He said as he setted off to find the missing bag. He looked almost everywhere until dusk came in the sky. No sign of the bag. He has never found something for this long, it took him 4 hours.

“Tsk, where is it?” He was frustrated, why? He was always so perfect, which is why he is so moody today.

He took a breath as the sun went down, his mind wandered somewhere else, and there was only one place he could think of, the Department of Hell.

‘Mister Haru died because of a car crash...’

‘Miss Jin Ming’s death caused a murderer...’

‘Mister Nikolai died because of cancer...’

'Mister Kim Jung-Hoon died because of sadness? [not confirmed]'

Pao furrowed his brow, he looked through the stack of papers given by his boss. Being a Yama is hard, looking through pieces of paper every night is monotonous.

Until he stopped, his eyes travelled down to *her* face.

'Miss Pao Yue Ke died because of-...'

Instantly, a single tear rolled down his cheek as he remembered his wife, singing a song, cooking for him and their children, her laughter.

He shook his head as he looked outside the window, the sun rising up. 'Something isn't right... What is it... Wait—Madam's bag!' He hitted his fist into his palm as he instantly got up, and vanished into thin air.

Pao ran and ran, he knew where the bag was, precisely where it was placed. He found a box, that said “包的榮耀” Or “Pao's Glory”. There it was, where the bag was hidden.

Why, why didn't he know?

Why didn't he know the bag was there the whole time?

Why would Lady, herself hide it there?

Is there some sort of connection between the Lady and the woman?

Queries kept appearing inside Pao's head, he took this and that all out of the gigantic rose box, until his eyes caught a black bag no bigger than his hand.

He grabbed the bag, what was inside isn't necessary now, he needs to give it back to the women.

“This is your bag, I suppose?” He questioned, making sure he got the right bag.

The woman gasped, and carefully took the bag out of Pao's hands.

“May I?” She asked.

“Of course, it's yours after all.” He answered.

She put the bag to her forehead as she mumbled something. Then, she opened the tiny bag, her sapphire eyes glowed, tears flowing already flowing down her cheeks. She covered her mouth with a handkerchief, and coughed.

“Ma'am? Are you alright?” He asked with a worried tone, she gestured her hands. “May I ask what your name is?” He asked once again, this time in a polite voice.

“Pao Yue Ke.”

How did he not remember his own wife?

Shocked, Pao dropped on the floor, “W—what?” He stuttered, she smiled, “*Judge Pao*, I'm still alive, you know.” She chuckled, so sweet like honey.

And what was inside the bag? A watch, made by Lady herself, and for herself too. In Romanian numbers, the hand displayed 'XI', an orange sun carved by wood; this masterpiece was finished on the same day as her birthday.

Now, what was interesting about him is his connection with Hong Kong. Hong Kong was a bustling place full of chatter, laughter and wondrous people. Judge Pao's descent has been carefully recorded, and the Pao family was famous. Known for the elder Sir Y.K. Pao, or just Judge Pao.

Hong Kong was home and heart to his family, especially his grandchildren, who regularly wins awards in global indexes for having a world-class legal system and one of the planet's best bribery-fighting actions.

Winning awards and being famous is one thing you could always change, but being honest, caring and truthful is a thing you cannot change inside your heart.

And of course, Judge Pao would be proud of his family, holding such power, such power in all their hearts to come.

The Crisis of Fan Qie Jiang

Victoria Shanghai Academy, Cheng, Henry – 10

“My son disappeared mysteriously,” said an old woman mournfully. “Yesterday, he went into the forest for a bear hunt and did not come back.”

“My husband went into the woods with some friends to go fishing,” cried a young wife whose eyes were red and hair disheveled, “but, no one came back.”

Sighing heavily, the provincial Governor, Fan Qie Jiang, in the courtroom continued to play chess with his friends. “Tell the irksome people to leave and say that we will start an investigation once everyone goes back to their home”, he told his servant, who looked skeptical as he knew his master too well; his master would just turn a blind eye to the complaints.

Two days later, an overwhelming number of people occupied the courtroom with groans from all sides because another six people had left no trace. One of them was an old, sagacious teacher, three of them were teenagers and the remaining two were physically strong young men. The missing people’s visibly distraught families were shouting and urging the official to investigate at once.

Annoyed by the crowds, Fan Qie Jiang came out and announced that a team of investigators went into the woods, and found tracks shaped like an arrowhead on the ground. “I suspect that a vicious creature hiding in the forest might have taken away the people for dinner.” Instantly, people shrieked with fear. Unfortunately for the official, his smirk gave it away because in the crowd stood the bright, old Pao, who was suspicious of the look and decided to mount a case against the official secretly.

First, he decided to visit his friend Fu Yang Zhi. “I heard internally that the governor had recently taken a bribe of one hundred kilograms of pure gold,” whispered Fu Yang Zhi, who was risking his life for his steadfast and just friend. “Unfortunately, I couldn’t find out the person, or group, behind this bribery.” After gathering all the details his dauntless friend said, Pao decided to spy on activities in the forest alone.

At midnight, he slyly climbed up a tree to observe in the dark. He had prepared a rope trap to capture anyone suspicious. He waited for hours but no one, not even a stray dog, was in sight. As soon as dawn came, some crunching sounded like a group of animals walking in his direction broke the silence. Worrying that what Fan Qie Jiang said about the wild creature was real, his heart nearly parachuted out of his chest. Then, there were some voices in human language!

“The grand lady and her family live in the most lucrative place on the earth!” chuckled one with a red patch covering his left eye. “I wonder whether that palace at the outskirts of this village raised the green-eyed monster of the emperor! ”

“Of course!” shouted the man with a saber that had a jade-made handle with a precious gem-encrusted on it.

“Can’t you guys be quiet? We may cause attention to us!” cried the person with a cape made of tiger fur.

The judge smiled to himself, thinking that they had already caught the attention of someone. He set up the trap, and as soon as the trio walked onto the trap.....THwarp! They were captured. Pao dragged the criminals to his interrogation room, which was a dark room illuminated only by a candle, with four isolated wooden chairs and one table.

As soon as the captives woke up from unconsciousness, the interrogation by Judge Pao began.

“You have been found in the forest armed,” Pao said slowly. “What do you think you were doing?”

“We were searching for the creature!” cried the trio at the same time.

“You sure?” asked Pao, noticing the markings and the sophisticated inscription on the blade of their lances. “You brought a weapon that costs a fortune to kill a wild animal. Why don’t you just hire someone to do it for you?” As he was talking, he handed them each a cup of tea which the trio sipped suspiciously.

"Maybe your master hired you to help the village by killing the monster.", Pao continued, slowly as if he was drinking half a pint of beer.

"We are honest," muttered the leader, shuffling his feet. The nervous fidgeting was noticed by Judge Pao who is experienced in detecting deception. He unsheathed the sword, which caused the trio to flinch, and inspected the blade: there were cherry red blood stains on it.

"How many creatures have you guys killed?" Pao questioned.

"We didn't kill—OW!" said the person with the tiger cape before getting kicked in the shin.

"So," concluded clever old Pao, "the missing people were kidnapped by you! You killed and murdered whatever people coming your way. Right?"

"Ne—"

"Don't interrupt!"

"We were paid to do that. Our master, the richest woman in town, is inventing a medicine to become immortal and she needs people to experiment," confessed the trio in unison after realizing that there was no hope of talking their way out.

"That is enough. Guards, seize the trio and take them to prison!" ordered the emperor, who had been in the dark corner of the room with five other guards throughout the interrogation. After the three guards were taken, he ordered another guard to take over a group of people to arrest the grand lady on the outskirts and also Fan Qie Jiang who had been covering up the truth.

"You have done well, my friend," the emperor spoke proudly before leaving the room. Surprised that a grand friend who was higher in place than him would ever congratulate him, Judge Pao froze on the spot. When he stepped out of the room, he turned to face the blue full moon, which reminded him of her parents who told him that unparalleled honesty, integrity, and fairness were worth more than anything and these precious attributes were what made him the respected Judge Pao.

The Sudden Disappearance of Zhan Zhao

Victoria Shanghai Academy, Huang, Bruce – 9

A Thursday at Song dynasty in Kaifeng fu Yamen, Judge Pan was in his seat, like usual. But his investigation partner Zhan Zhao isn't here at work yet.

Hours passed, and Zhan Zhao didn't come, not even at the critical meeting that day. The emperor got extremely mad, and after the long and meaningful discussion, he called some of his soldiers to find Zhan Zhou. Unfortunately, after hours of searching, the soldiers still didn't see him.

Having no other choice, the emperor had to send a great detective to investigate the case, and then he knew that the greatest detective who ever lived was Judge Pan.

Judge Pan started investigating as soon as he received the case. Like most of the detectives, he first interviewed Zhan Zhao's family members. His family mentioned that Zhan Zhao had came home late in the past few days, and he did leave home to work that morning.

After the interview, he reported the discussion to the emperor. The next day, Judge Pan was missing too. Since there is no other detective in town, the mystery is still unsolved today.

The Case Of The Stolen Money

Victoria Shanghai Academy, Huang, Peter – 10

John and Joe were brothers, they were bun sellers.

John and Joe learned how to make buns at 8 years old, they could make buns with many different ingredients, so the buns that they made smelled very good.

One day, the governor said, "There will be a food competition for 50 competitors. They will each make one dish for me to eat and I will pick a winner. The winner will get 1 thousand dollars of gold."

After John and Joe read the message in the newspaper, Joe got an idea and said, "I think we should work together and win the competition."

Then John said, "Great, let's do it."

When they registered for the competition, they promised each other if they won, they would split the prize in half.

After the competition the governor announced, "The food competition has ENDED! Now I will announce the winner, it is JOHN AND JOE!!!"

When John and Joe saw this notice, they were very happy. They jumped up and down and shouted, "YES, WE WON AND WE WILL GET 1 THOUSAND DOLLARS OF GOLD !"

John Wang is a famous bun seller, who won the food competition for the past few years. He was very envious and he decided to kill John to get the gold back.

At eleven o'clock the next evening, Wang was wearing all black and he was quietly breaking into John's house. At the same moment, John was getting out of bed to use the toilet. In the dark, he saw a shadow opening his money box and was starting to get the gold out. He thought that was Joe because John Wang's appearance was very similar to Joe's. Then he screamed, "Don't take my gold, Joe!"

Then Wang used his knife to cut one of John's hands off. Wang put some poisonous food into John's mouth and tried to kill him, but he never killed anyone before so the poison was not that heavy. When Wang grabbed his knife he accidentally dropped his belt in John's house. Then Wang took all the money and ran away. At that same time Judge Pao's guard Peter was walking back to work, and he saw that Wang was running out of John's house. Wang was running too fast and Peter heard somebody was screaming, so he decided to rescue the person who was screaming first.

When John screamed so loud in the moment that his arm had been cut, his neighbour Ben, who is a doctor, also ran to John's house and rescued him. After half an hour of being rescued John was a lot better and Peter had to go back and tell Judge Pao.

After that night, when John's wound was better, John and Ben ran to Judge Pao's office and he bowed. He wrote down what happened last night, and Ben told Judge Pao how John's wound was now, and John showed his wound to Pao. Pao already knew what happened last night so he believed what they said. Judge Pao told them to stay in his office until the case was solved.

Because Peter did not see how Wang looked, Judge Pao told Peter, "Go to the city, and ask the neighbour what they saw that night, and tell Joe to come here, also try and find some clues in John's house!"

Few minutes later Joe came in, then Judge Pao interrogated him.

Joe knelt down and said, "It was not me, that night I was in my bed sleeping, if you do not believe me then try and find a belt inside John's house the belt is the thief's."

Then Judge Pao said, "I believe you, can you help us find out who it is?"

Joe answered, "yes, of course."

Joe also stayed at Judge Pao's office, when Peter came back, he said, "I heard that in the past few years there was a person named John Wang and he won the food competition but this year he didn't. Also, one of their neighbours said that night he saw a person wearing all black going into John's house. I also found a belt and some poisonous food inside John's house. On the belt it said John Wang."

When Judge Pao heard this, he said, "this is a very important clue."

The next morning, John went to see Judge Pao and wrote, "Are there any clues?"

Judge Pao said, "The thief is not Joe, it is a person named Wang."

Then John continued writing, "then where is Wang now, and also can I see Joe?"

Judge Pao answered, "Now I already told my guards and soldiers to catch him."

Then judge Pao said, "tell Joe to come here and see John."

Only a while Joe came and looked at John.

Joe is very surprised when he saw what John looked like.

Joe said surprisingly, "Who made you like this?"

Then Judge Pao answered, "A thief named Wang."

Suddenly Peter came and reported, "Criminal Wang was caught."

Pao said, "Great, bring him up."

When Wang was brought up, Pao interrogated him.

Judge Pao slammed a block on the table and said, "You also entered the food competition but you did not win this year, so you stole five million dollars of gold and you cut John's arm and tried to kill him with poison. Now everyone knows the truth, why don't you confess?"

Then Wang said confidently, "It is not me, it is John's brother!"

Then Joe said, still bowing down, "How is it me, I was sleeping that night!"

Then Ben added, "If that night me and Peter did not rescue John, he was already dead."

Wang continued talking, "Those are all fake, none of them are real."

Judge Pao slammed a block on the table and said, "Oh really look at this!"

Judge Pao took the belt and the poisonous food out and said, "Those are all real none of them are fake, you use the poisonous food to try and poison John, and you accidentally left your belt in John's house."

Wang looked down and he knew that he couldn't continue lying so he confessed.

Then Pao said, "take him to jail!"

Pao continued, "It is great that you confess, but you have to be in jail ever."

After Wang had been killed, Pao told John and Joe to not be scared, Wang had been killed and I told my guard to return everything back to you guys.

After this, John spent a bit of money to hire a worker because he lost his left hand. After all, John and Joe lived happily ever after.

The Rebirth

Victoria Shanghai Academy, Jin, Louie – 10

There once lived a girl in ancient China. She was neither shorter, taller, smarter, dumber, uglier, or prettier than any of the children in town. And for as long as she could remember, her nation had been under the rule of many horrible leaders. Her community only allowed men to get an education while girls had to stay at home. People often teased her for being so skinny, but to her, it was an advantage. She could slip through narrow alleyways without being caught. It was awfully necessary, as her family had to steal food to survive through the scorching heat of summer and the numbing cold of winter. Until one final day...

News spread about the young man that arrived in town. People called him a curse, a monster even. His skin was as black as it could ever be, and if you ever saw him in the dead of night, it would be like he merged with the dark. There was a crescent moon carved on his forehead, and he looked unnaturally intimidating. The boy was named Zheng Pao. Even though he was a rule breaker, the girl could never pry her eyes off him. She could feel, know, that there was something special pulsing through the veins of a boy whose father abandoned. Yet she never lifted a finger to help when the emperor's soldiers hit him every time he fought back against the injustice of the emperor using up all the resources and leaving them to suffer and die. Until, of course, the war began to rage across China.

Families were broken apart, and the cries and weeps sliced through the air. The girl tried to hold her tears back as she watched others yell and scream at the soldiers, but helpless against the military forces. But then, she saw Zheng watching from afar, motionless. She spun around to face him, but with a huge metal *Clunk*, he fell to the floor.

"What happened next? What happened, next mama?" Leo Charlton said excitedly, bobbing up and down. He sat under the cozy duvets with a sparkle in his eyes.

"It's just getting to the good part. We've got to continue, no?" Mama looked down on her child with a smile that would make even the sun melt.

"Yes! Yes! You're the best!" Leo practically jumped up from the covers and danced in exuberance.

"Instinctively, the girl ran after Zheng as fast as her skinny legs could take her. Two men in black were dragging his unconscious body into a pitch-black alleyway. She yelled and yelled at the men to stop, but they didn't listen. When she got close enough, out of rage and hatred, she threw her fist at one of the men's eyes. He staggered back and fell to the floor. The other man speeded up and carried Zheng's body, and ran into the alley. The girl managed to grab Zheng's leg, she mustered all the energy she had deep inside and yanked. He fell headfirst to the floor. The girl picked up his body and disappeared into a nearby bar. The bar was empty, as it was already past the hours. The girl fell to the floor and slumped against a wall. She eyed Zheng and wondered why she had gone through so much trouble to save a scrawny boy who she didn't talk too much. She carried Zheng home when she saw that he still wasn't stirring, turning back every once and then, just in case the men came back. When they arrived, the girl lay Zheng's body on the bed as she attempted to rub the sleep out of her eyes. After a few minutes, the girl had fallen asleep on the edge of the bed. Zheng stirred a little then snapped his eyes open and shot up from the bed.

"Ueghh...What? Finally, you're awake. Can you explain why?" The girl rose too, due to the sudden movement of Zheng.

"Why what? And...where am I and who are you?" Zheng stared into the girl's eyes with a mind full of confusion.

"Are you for real? Why are you stupid and decided to talk back against the soldier? No doubt those were the ones who attempted to assassinate you! Also did you not ever notice that every time you get in trouble, I'm there at the scene?"

And you're at my house. Do you realize how much trouble you have caused?! You should be lucky enough to be alive right now because I saved you from the assassins!" She stood and glared at Zheng with fury rising in her stomach.

"I never asked to be saved! If you don't mind, I'll be taking my leave. Thank you very much." Zheng threw a mocking smile at her and stormed to the door.

"There's 99% there' countless soldiers waiting for you to be alone and defenseless. So, if you don't want to die, I suggest you stay here." The girl said, with sarcasm. Zheng stopped short and considered it for a moment.

"Hm... I think I'll take my chances." He shrugged and slammed the door. A blinding light lit up and everything went black. The end."

"That's the worst ending of the century! Tell me what really happened!" Leo crossed his arms and scrunched his eyebrows with a frown painted on his face.

"That is really what happened." Mama tried to keep a straight face. She rose and proceeded to close the lights.

"HMPH! You're lying about the end! You're only doing that to make me go to bed early. If you promise to tell me—" Leo began, but midway through the sentence, Mama closed the lights and left the room.

In truth, mama wasn't even halfway lying. She just didn't tell the whole story. Mama thought about it.

The blinding light had happened, only when it did, it went black for the girl only. She disappeared from the house quickly. She had woken up in a hospital as a baby. Her surroundings were completely different. Futuristic. She had somehow been rebirthed in 1977. She played along and finally grew up to have a husband and a child.

A child named Leo Charlton.

Judge Bao's Message

Victoria Shanghai Academy, Liu, Sofia – 9

I opened my office door and locked it behind me. I put the parcel in my hands down on the table and sat down. I slowly untied the string. It was not a package I was excited about. I took out the results and laid them on the table. The strands of hair left at the site. The shoeprints in the soft gravel. Fingerprints on the car. It was all from somebody I know. Very well.

It was a week ago now. A masked figure had crashed a car into a person, then ran away. Their fingerprints were on the car. Their hair was on the ground. Their shoeprints were in the ground. And it was all someone I knew. The strands of hair contained his DNA, and the fingerprints pointed clearly at him. The shoeprints were identical. And the judging was tomorrow.

I didn't think that it was possible. How did the policemen and detectives find this out so quickly? Is it accurate? This couldn't be true. Technology just isn't reliable. A moment later, I heard this weird voice. "Did I just hear you say that you didn't trust technology?" A nanosecond later, I saw this weird man in front of me. Everything about him was super bright. Light blonde hair, a black judge's robe with white trim, white glasses, white shoes, and even white gloves. "How dare you! Technology is one of the most accurate ways of proving something. DNA tests, fingerprint tests, blood tests, you name it!" The person said. "Um... hello? Who are you and why are you in my office?" I asked grouchy. "Not important. The thing is, you've gotta trust tech. See how much info you've got here. Would you be able to tell with only your pure eyes?" The man asked. I shook my head. "So there you've got it! Technology for the win!" He shouted. I covered my ears and opened the door. "Get out of this place!" I ordered. "Alright, alright. A little surprise for you. I am FBZ. Future Bao..." The man started. But he was gone. "Aha. Future Bao... Zheng!" I exclaimed. I looked over the evidence once more. It pointed at Jay.

Jay McDri was my law teacher. He taught me a lot about how to judge fairly, and not let bias overtake me. I sat there, and let the memories flood me. Once he gave me a pen that read 'Law & Justice'. It's still my best pen today. He gave me quite a few books about law, that I use even today. The memory reel stopped. "He couldn't have crashed that car on purpose! Maybe he just tried to park but that person was getting in the way. Or maybe his eyesight isn't so good anymore. That's all possible." I thought to myself.

How could he? Thoughts started taking over my head. "Should I punish Jay? Or should I offer sympathy to him?" That question played like a loop through my head. "Hello, welcome to my world." A voice said. "Future Bao Zheng?" I asked. But he was gone. A man appeared, but this time there was no doubt. He was wearing a judge's futou hat and had a crescent moon on his forehead. It was Bao Zheng! "What are you doing in my office, great judge Bao Zheng?" I asked. "I am here to help you with that decision of yours. And please, call me Judge Bao." Judge Bao answered. "I think justice is all about fairness. Sympathy is another thing." Judge Bao started. "Well, nowadays some people call you the Iron-Faced Judge. How did you earn that title?" I asked. Judge Bao almost cracked a smile, but he didn't. "From my time, lots of people believed in Confucianism. Confucius once said that the father won't tell on the son and the son won't tell on the father. I think that idea is wrong." He explained. "That idea is debatable in the present too." I replied. "I'd say you should choose to be fair, but it's not me doing the judging. It's you. But justice is about fairness, and we want to be fair." Judge Bao finished, glancing at me. He started to fade. And then he was nothing.

My brain started up again. Future Bao Zheng, and Judge Bao, they were all with me, and they always will be. They will assist me by giving me suggestions. Their suggestions were very useful too. Now I knew the answer to the riddle that people had put in front of me.

It was around midnight. I pushed open the heavy wooden door. The Lady Justice statue smiled at me from Central, and I smiled back at her as the lonely city lights shone down onto the sidewalk.

New Tales Of Judge Pao

Victoria Shanghai Academy, Pao, Riley – 10

Chapter 1

I have a close connection with Judge Pao, we are in the same family tree! On March 5th, 999, a legend was born... He was a very famous detective. This case started when a person called Chan Bong Bong was murdered! Chan Bong Bong went to find Judge Pao, and told him to find out how he had died... So Judge Pao and Jin Chiu packed up, and headed to find out what happened. Judge Pao asked Chan Bong Bong if he remembered anything, Chan Bong Bong said "I remember! I was in my house, then suddenly a whole crew broke in, they had knives, a lot of sharp knives" Judge Pao answered with the word INTERESTING. Judge Pao then asked Chan Bong Bong where he lived, Chan Bong Bong told Judge Pao that he lived in Mountain bing, then Judge Pao went there with Jin Chiu and Chan Bong Bong. They saw a trail of water. They followed it, day and night, up and down, left and right, and they finally arrived...

Chapter 2

Judge Pao and Chan Bong Bong arrived, while Jin Chiu protected the other citizens. Judge Pao saw the crew of bad guys, he spied on them, suddenly a knife flew past their faces, they found Judge Pao... Judge Pao tried to run, but the bad guys had stabbed him, it was too late... He saw light, a very bright light... He went up to heaven. "Where am I?" asked Judge Pao, a voice from behind answered him, "Your time isn't up yet, you still have so many crimes to solve, please let me bring you back to your body" Then, Judge Pao went back to his body. Chan Bong Bong screamed "HOW DID YOU COME BACK TO LIFE??? THE LAST TIME I CHECKED, YOU WERE DEAD!" Judge Pao said "It doesn't matter"

Chapter 3

Back in Jin Chiu's village, the village was getting attacked!!! Everyone panicked, Jin Chiu tried to fight them off, but he couldn't... He needed support, that's when a person came from behind and said "I will help you..." The person is called GongSun Ce, he told Jin Chiu that he was very wise. A lot of citizens were injured, some broke their legs, some got blood everywhere, it seems that the bad guys are only aiming for the citizens... They were very suspicious. Suddenly, the floor was shaking rapidly, they were all screaming. It was a very serious earthquake.

Chapter 4

Chan Bong Bong told Judge Pao that his family is still out there. He told Judge Pao to say hi, so Judge Pao did. Judge Pao then asked Mrs.Chan what happened the day Chan Bong Bong died. His wife said that Chan Bong Bong had died due to suicide on the field.

Chapter 5

That night Judge Pao went home with Chan Bong Bong, Judge Pao shouted at him angrily "Tell me the truth!" He said "I did!" But Judge Pao didn't trust him, Judge Pao did some more investigating... The next morning Judge Pao decided to go to the farm that Chan Bong Bong worked on, Judge Pao asked his colleague what happened the day Chan Bong Bong died, the colleague seemed nervous... Acting a little bit suspicious but alright. The colleague said "He died when it was lunch time" But Chan Bong Bong's wife said he died on the field... So it wouldn't be lunch time... There are way too many possibilities.

Chapter 6

The most suspicious one right now is Mrs.Chan, she somehow knew that Chan Bong Bong died on the field? How did she know Chan Bong Bong died and how did she know Chan Bong Bong committed suicide? After that, Judge Pao went to the field.

Chapter 7

Judge Pao heard a conversation between two mens, they were talking about a woman here this morning. Judge Pao asked them who the woman was, they said “She has brown eyes, she has a pink dress with red stain on it?” “oh no...” said Judge Pao... They said “The women went to the pond.” Judge Pao was shocked by what they said...

Chapter 8

Judge Pao went home and saw a note under his bed, it said “Hello there Judge Pao, if you are reading this, you are in trouble, i have seen what you did, you found out it was me... So, again if you are reading this, watch out, cause i can be here any second!!! Yes I killed my husband. I swear I removed all evidence...” Judge Pao immediately wrote a note and replied. “I found out by first knowing you were gone the whole morning, then you somehow knew Chan Bong Bong was dead, you didn't tell me how you knew, so I knew something was wrong. Then, I went to his colleague's crime scene and saw two people talking, they said there was a woman with a pink dress. I instantly knew it was you! Do NOT try to trick me, you will never succeed with your silliness” Judge Pao then went to sleep.

Chapter 9

After Mrs.Chan received the note, she knew she had to attack. Meanwhile, Gongsun Ce became friends with Judge Pao. When Mrs.Chan arrived and threw knives, Gongsun Ce somehow surprisingly saved Judge Pao's life.

Chapter 10, The start of a friendship

They hid in a cave and then Judge Pao said “You, you saved my life, but why?” GongSun Ce replied, “You were my hero, you saved my life once, you just didn't notice... I owe you one!” Judge Pao had a flashback and remembered the first crime he solved... It was about a racoon invading a poor village, and he had to know who held control of the racoon, and before the racoon could attack GongSun Ce, Judge Pao saved GongSun Ce... They then became friends and formed a trio... A few weeks had passed, and they were planning on something big...

Chapter 11

The day has come. They went to find Mrs.Chan, she had knives, waiting to attack them, she was so evil, she held big knives. They fought, they stunned Mrs.Chan with a rock launcher GongSun Ce had invented, they caught Mrs.Chan in a rope, and brought her to a cell, the cell was also built by GongSun Ce, “I told you GongSun Ce was very wise!” Said Jin Chiu. GongSun Ce took care of Mrs.Chan and built extra security just in case...

New Tales Of Judge Pao – Yama Now And Then

Victoria Shanghai Academy, Qin, Winston – 10

People called me Joe. My family was small. We lived in an average house and led a simple life. I went to an average school. Likewise, my grades were mostly average. My life was ordinary until that extraordinary day.

There has been a lot of injustice in our town, it was inequality between the rich and the poor. For example, rich people can evade their criminal sentence with money in lieu of imprisonment. The poor people have no choice but to go to jail. I had been bullied by a group of senior boys due to my appearance and size. Two boys initiated a fight today and I was trying to defend myself. As a result, I was given the same punishment as the other two bullies. This was my first experience of injustice.

One day at home, as I was working on my history project the other day when there was a knock on the door. I opened the door and saw my best friend, Fred. He had always been hooked on the paradox of science and history. He was carrying a suitcase which was sleek and black with the mark, “Pao”, engraved on it.

We sat down at the dining table. Fred lit up a classic mad scientist grin and said, “Check this out!” Then he pressed a button on the suitcase. The suitcase expanded, and what came out, in the end, was a machine the size of a car. I was amazed. The machine was void-black, with a large window at the front. Fred told me its name, “MK117 Hawk of Time”.

“How did you do that?” I asked him. I think this was the most advanced machine I have ever seen.

Fred grinned, then he said, “It’s nanotech, like it?” I nodded. “They are small nano-particles called nanites. They can fit into very tiny spaces, and they also can also build up onto each other in an impressive amount of time.” Fred had been into technology too. I did not know that.

Fred opened a flap of the machine and disappeared into the machine. “Hop into the machine,” he said.

I hesitated. I think that this was a really magnificent piece, but I do not necessarily think that it was safe enough for me to get in the machine. Despite all of that, Fred was my friend. I did not want to make him upset so I opened the flap and got in the machine.

Inside the machine were a lot of buttons and levers. Fred pressed a large button and pushed three levers. We looked through the window in front of the control panel. A wormhole started growing. Then the machine started shaking. At the speed of light, we zoomed through the wormhole followed by a complete whiteout.

When my vision cleared, I saw a golden room filled with people wearing strange robes and strange hats. At the end of the corridor sat a large, black-faced man in glorious golden robes which seemed to glow with the sun shining in, and a golden cap. There was a crescent moon-shaped scar on his forehead. I instantly realized that he was Judge Pao. He was a really skilled detective in solving crimes in ancient China. He and the imperial guards were currently standing in a solemn hall with round golden pillars and high walls decorated with silver sculptures of dragons, lions, and other fierce Chinese mythical creatures. I realized that we had traveled back in time to the ancient Song Dynasty of China.

Suddenly, Judge Pao rose up from the throne. He raised his golden cane and yelled in Chinese, “I now order fair and peace among all citizens of my province. Rich and poor, everyone must pile up all their goods on a mountain. Then we will split the money equally among all citizens of my province. From now on, there will be no more injustice among my citizens, and soon, anyone in the world will be treated equally and fairly!”

I am stunned by his speech. I think that we should act like Judge Pao, trying to restore justice to every single human being or organism, if you count that humans are animals. However, for now, there is still injustice. We need to work hard together to restore the justice needed for the economy. Whenever there is injustice, there is justice.

The Mysterious Detective

Victoria Shanghai Academy, Saunders, Alicia – 10

Before there was a batman, before there was detective pikachu, before there was even a sherlock holmes there was a mysterious detective , he worked in the shadows no one knew who he was, no one knew where he was from and he was not gonna tell anyone.

Some people tried to guess who he was but when they started to guess and decide on one person then went to interview them and get them to say that they were the mysterious detective ,they always got the wrong person so eventually they gave up , the townspeople eventually thought he did not exist and stopped doing anything dangerous . Soon the town became a boring lifeless town. The skating parks were shut , so were the trampoline park , rock climbing centre and the roller blading , water parks and basically anything fun that was ever there the only things that were there were ... the sandpit , trees , ice cream shop , farms , supermarkets , and the playground , it was as safe as safe could be maybe more every corner sharp , slightly round , dented even just round there was protection there in other words it was a huge baby paradise .

Well that was before

It was a sunny day and kids were playing suddenly they heard glass breaking and window smashing then they heard glass bottles breaking and people screaming , but what they were confused about was why all this was coming from ms. murfys house , normally she was such a kind ,caring , gentle woman !

So they tried to climb over the fence but were stopped when 4 black cloaked figures ran out the back door ,as trained they ducked into the bushes and listened for the footsteps of someone they were about to come out then suddenly they heard voices and immediately ducked back into the bushes they didn't come out until they heard their parents voices after that they immediately bursted into the house and found ms. murphy in a clump on the floor sobbing , they asked her what happened then she blurted out everything from the start of the sunny day to the kidnapping of her son pedro they reported it to the police but even after a week the police couldn't find anything but on sunday afternoon a note arrived at her door with her son in a blanket sleeping ,she was overwhelmed with joy she started crying everyone was so happy for her but wondered the police already gave up on the search so who figured it out ?

But she was too grateful for having her son back that she pushed that thought to the back of her head and celebrated , but the next day she really did want to find out what happened so she decided to set a trap (a fake crime) ,sure enough a note at their door telling the culprit but they came prepared a really smart machine to put a tracker on him without him noticing ! They followed the tracker and found their way up to heaven ! so the detective was a god ! That explained everything . they threw a thank you party for the god on earth they became friends with the god and all lived happily ever after!

Kaifeng Never Sleeps

Victoria Shanghai Academy, Tsao, Joshua – 10

Thump! Thump! Thump!

Judge Pao thundered, 'Someone is outside requesting assistance!' As the doors opened, Judge Pao saw his guards escorting an overweight old man dressed in old grey farmer clothes, bawling as he entered the Kaifeng courtroom.

'Great Judge Pao, my name is Gao, and my neighbour Bing stole my sheep. I saw some of my sheep in her front yard with pink collars, which is how I identify them! Her dogs have been attacking my sheep ferociously, and she has stolen them this time! She has gone too far! The sheep are what I live on. Without them, I will go broke. Please help me!' Gao cried.

'Very well,' assured Judge Pao, 'I will send someone to investigate. ZHAN!' summoned Judge Pao. A man in a red robe rushed in with a sword on his waist. 'Help this man find his sheep and get to the bottom of this.'
'Yes, Judge Pao,' Zhan answered.

After hours of riding his carriage, Zhan arrived at Bing's house. He knocked, and a frail old lady dressed in tattered robes opened the door. The woman recognising Zhan in his red robe knew he must be from Judge Pao's office and said, 'Thank goodness you're here! My name is Bing. Just now, I found two of my neighbour Gao's sheep on my farm, and he accused me of stealing all his sheep. Please help me!'

Zhan was shocked. 'I am investigating this very case! You are accused of stealing Gao's sheep. Please answer questions truthfully to aid the investigation.' Zhan demanded.

'No! No! I didn't do anything! I am innocent!' Bing wailed in fear.

'I will get to the bottom of this' Zhan said.

Next, Zhan walked to Gao's barn to find more evidence. This case is becoming more complex by the second; every piece of evidence throws no light on it, and no signs of the missing sheep, thought Zhan. He began to look around the empty barn. Looking around thoroughly, he noticed some tracks that led outside. He kneeled at them and saw they were sheep tracks. Some tracks headed toward Bing's farm and the rest were headed to the woods. This is very suspicious, mused Zhan. He followed the sheep tracks warily that led to the woods, ensuring that he didn't lose the path.

After four hours, the tracks finally stopped in front of a deserted barn. Why did the sheep tracks stop here? Are these the real sheep thieves? Zhan pondered. Fearing there may be criminals inside the barn, he moved stealthily and leaned against the wall of the barn. He slowly and gingerly peeped through the first window and, as expected, saw lots of sheep with pink collars, but why were they here?

He crept to the second window and noticed a pale man dressed in tattered robes speaking with Gao. 'This is very strange. Why is Gao here? Why is he talking to this man?' Zhan muttered.

I must arrest them and take them to Judge Pao, Zhan thought. He swiftly moved to the back door, took a deep breath, and gripped the hilt of his sword tightly till his knuckles turned white. In one swift action, he leapt up into the air, drew his gleaming blade, and sliced through the wooden door. The men inside were stunned and immediately started to run.

'Halt!' Zhan cried.

Zhan ran after them, leapt up, flipped in the air, and landed in front of Gao and the pale man. 'Where do you think you're going?' Zhan asked coolly, with his sword pointing at the pale man's throat, 'Who are you? Why are you here with Gao's sheep?' Zhan questioned.

'I am—am Cai, and Gao paid me two silver yuanbao to watch these sheep for a week. I didn't do anything wrong,' Cai stuttered.

'Okay, Cai, you are an important witness to this crime, I must take you to Judge Pao. As for Gao, you are the mastermind of this plot, so you need to come with me.' Zhan said. Then, he snatched a nearby rope and tied up Cai, and Gao.

'Wait, Zhan, I can explain all this. I will give you all my sheep but please don't tell the truth...' Gao said in despair. Zhan paused, smiled and nodded, which relieved Gao. Then, Zhan dragged them to his carriage and drove back to Kaifeng.

With everyone in the courtroom, Judge Pao banged his gavel onto his desk loudly and bellowed, 'I now call this trial to order.' 'Zhan, please state your findings.'

Zhan reported what he saw at Bing's farm, the tracks from Gao's farm to Cai's warehouse, and how Gao tried to bribe an official to escape.

Judge Pao exploded. Spittle flew from his mouth. 'Your crimes were already horrible! Furthermore, you endeavour to evade punishment to help you get off your crimes! That's unforgivable!

As Judge Pao was yelling furiously, a breeze blew off the tarp on the guillotines, and the shiny blades of the three guillotines decorated with animal heads gleamed in the sunlight. Gao remembered how Judge Pao hated bribery and was afraid of being sentenced to death by guillotine, so he confessed to his crime.

Gao shivered and started whimpering. 'I'm sorry, I didn't mean it, I only did it because Bing's dogs have been hurting my sheep, so I devised this plan to teach her a lesson... Please forgive me!' cried Gao.

'Nonsense, that's no reason for concocting an evil plot to incriminate your neighbour Bing, you should always resolve differences with neighbours peacefully. Since you have confessed, I would spare you the death sentence by guillotine, but for being the mastermind of an evil plot, lying to the court, and attempting to bribe a court official, you are sentenced to jail for 5 years. Gao, remember to be kind to others and be kind to yourself. Case closed!' lectured Judge Pao.

Thump! Thump! Thump! 'Zhan! Another person is outside requesting assistance!' Judge Pao thundered!

The 25-year-old Mystery

Victoria Shanghai Academy, Wang, Benjamin – 9

One early morning, Judge Pao was strolling in Kaifeng Mansion with his legal executive partner Mr. Gongsun and his fourth-rank guard Zhan Zhao.

Just then, A soldier approached Judge Pao hurriedly and reported that a precious jade amulet had disappeared without a trace or footprints in the study. Judge Pao Gasped in horror as the amulet was awarded by Emperor Chenzong as a recognition of his intelligence. Who could have possibly stolen it?

The soldier led Judge Pao to the study. Judge Pao noticed a ray of light as they walked in the study. He also noticed a piece of paper written with blood on the smooth floor. The paper said:

“Emperor Chenzong holds the key to the amulet.”

Judge Pao was petrified. He recognized the handwriting but could not remember who wrote it. He remembered he had seen something similar to the handwriting when he had just become a judge of Emperor Chenzong.

To unveil who wrote the message, Judge Pao went to the palace to investigate since he heard rumours that most of the people that had gone there were people that were injured. They inspected the palace room by room until they came to the Emperor's bedroom. They looked around carefully, until Zhan Zhao found a blood stain on the floor. Mr.Gongsun softly touched it. It was still wet.Mr. Gongsun told Judge Pao the man was still here. Judge Pao ordered Zhan Zhao to lead some of the soldiers in the palace to chase him. A few minutes later, a soldier came back carrying an old man, he placed him on a bed and let Mr.Gongsun inspect his body which had a large scar on his left arm. Judge Pao looked at the man and recognized him immediately. Judge Pao asked “Are you Liu Guo?” Everybody stared at Liu as he served Emperor Chenzong just when Judge Pao had become a judge. He was well known for his bravery and loyalty. Judge Pao asked Liu: “Why are you here?” “Did you steal the amulet?” Yes, I never meant to deny it, in fact, I’m here to tell you what happened. It’s a long story. Everything began 25 years ago.” Liu Guo replied calmly.

“It all began when I was stabbed in the arm – which means I did not injure myself. An assassin attempted to kill Emperor Chenzong and I dashed in front of the Majesty to protect him. The dagger landed on my chest. I was rescued by the guards, but from then on, I felt a lot of pain after that. Your legal executive Gongsun Ce is an able physician, and I trust that he can cure me.”

“Is this the mere reason for you to steal the amulet?” Judge Pao asked.

Liu Guo smiled bitterly, “I’m afraid not. I stole the amulet to lead you out of Kaifeng Mansion, and I’d like you to come to the palace.

“What do you want to show me?” Judge Pao asked.

“Emperor Chenzong was killed by Empress Li.” Liu Guo replied gloomily.

“Liu Guo! Do you know what you are saying? You have offended the Majesty and the Empress! ” Judge Pao roared fiercely.

“I have not lied. Empress Li had always wanted to manipulate Emperor Chenzong. When she realised that Emperor Chenzong disobeyed her, and was trusting Consort Liu more, she decided to plan an assassin and kill Emperor Chenzong. The amulet was evidence because there was a secret message hidden in the amulet. Just break it and you will know.” Liu Guo said unhurriedly.

“The jade amulet was awarded by His Majesty. Breaking it does not comply with my veneration to the Majesty!” Judge Pao roared.

Liu Guo insisted that Judge Pao look inside the jade. “If breaking it allows you to reveal the secret, the Majesty will be pleased.”

Judge Pao pondered in silence. He studied the amulet and saw a tiny piece of paper strip inside. He ordered Zhan Zhao to throw the amulet onto the floor. He smashed it into pieces. In the midst of the broken shards of jade was a piece of paper that says:

“Empress Li planned the assassin after against Emperor Chenzong. I swear to God with my life this is the truth.”

Everyone was astounded.

Liu Guo composed himself and uttered weakly, “The amulet was a gift from Consort Liu to Emperor Chenzong. Originally Consort Liu wanted to congratulate the Majesty at his coronation. She later discovered the evil plan of Empress Li, but was already monitored by spies and could not say anything. She therefore scribbled the words and hid the message in the amulet.

Unfortunately, it was too late. Before Consort Liu could say a word, she was murdered by Empress Li’s most-trusted spy. Empress Li’s next target was His Majesty. It was a close call. Thankfully I was able to save the Majesty from the assassin.

After the incident, I hid in the cold palace as I knew Empress Li was outraged at me. I have been waiting for this day for 25 years to reveal this secret.”

Judge Pao brought the case to the Emperor, together with Liu Guo and the broken jade amulet. He patiently told the Emperor what had happened.

Emperor Chenzong was heartbroken, but he trusted Judge Pao and Liu Guo. Most important of all, he recognized Consort Liu’s handwriting.

Finally, Empress Li was sent to the Cold Palace. She was never visited by the Emperor. Emperor Chenzong praised Judge Pao’s intelligence and Liu Guo’s bravery. Still, he was sad to see his wife, once his most-loved wife, in the Cold Palace.

Catching Up With The Dead

Victoria Shanghai Academy, Wu, Chloe – 9

The moon looked down at an old well in the dark forest, wind blew around softly, giving a slight chill. Birds were chirping quietly, communicating in a way humans didn't know about. Something came and broke the silence of the dark forest.

Heavy footsteps were approaching the old well. It had once been a magical place, now the stones which made the well were covered in moss, bits of it had disappeared to unknown places. It just wasn't the best place to be in the night.

However, someone stood beside the well tonight, Judge Pao.

Judge Pao was a powerful man, his name may ring bells nationwide. Being powerful was only one of the many reasons he was famous. Judge Pao solved cases, and punished those who had committed crimes. At night, he became the Judge of the Underworld, solving cases between the two worlds. Exactly what he was doing now.

Two days ago, Narcissus, a young girl from a village, came to Judge Pao's palace. It was a cold day and clouds showed no pardon for her.

"Excuse me, Masters." Narcissus said politely to the guards, her coal black eyes stared up at them. "May I speak to Judge Pao?"

"Sorry, Judge Pao is in...a bit of a mood." The guard's robotic voice replied, their red capes flew in the air, strong arms were completely opposite, stuck at their owner's sides.

Narcissus bit her lips, her fingers were crossed and started to sweat behind her back. "I promise what I have to say is very important, you won't regret letting me in." She bravely said.

Judge Pao's guards stared at the young girl, her long raven black hair in a neat bun, attractive drooping blood red earrings with red silk dress and black boots.

"If he is in a temper and rejects you, don't blame us." The guards' stated in robotic voices again and moved out of the way.

"Thank You, truly." Narcissus put a foot forward and entered Judge Pao's palace.

Huge tapestries decorated the walls of the palace, Narcissus had never seen this before. Her eyes swivelled around the room, heart beating.

Narcissus went up the stairs with golden bannisters and blood red steps, starting to bite her lips, all she had to do was get Judge Pao to help her.

In front of Narcissus, was a door, which was different from others. Narcissus tried to calm down and convince herself as she gulped and turned the doorknob.

It was Judge Pao's private chambers. Pictures of famous sites in China hang on the beige coloured walls, ancient looking furniture had been placed in the corners, except Judge Pao's famous rocking chair. And there was him, the Judge Pao, sitting in it.

His black face and a crescent moon on the forehead seemed so recognizable. His black eyes that seemed like they could see other's souls, stared into space.

"Um, Judge Pao?" Narcissus said quietly, her voice was almost impossible to hear. Judge Pao looked at the girl, eyes were still blank.

"Could I...uh..." This was harder than Narcissus had thought.

"Speak up." Judge Pao spoke softly.

“Um...could you...help me...” Narcissus stuttered, she bit her lips, hard.

“Spit it out!” Judge Pao looked seriously and glanced at his ancient clock.

“My family...has all died, in their sleep.” Narcissus sobbed but tried to look brave. “Every morning there’s one...when I go to get help... I hear a blood curdling voice.” Narcissus shivered terribly. “I rushed to whichever family member. However, her...his body...has...gone.”

Now, this was what Judge Pao needed, a new case, he had been practically dying of boredom.

“Death.” Judge Pao murmured, just loud enough for Narcissus to hear. “What exactly do you want from me?”

Judge Pao seemed like he was calm and kind, so Narcissus looked Judge Pao in the eye and spoke clearly.

“I want to bring my relatives back, and I know they may not really return forever, perhaps you could figure out why they have been taken.”

Judge Pao took a deep breath. “Of course I can. I am Judge Pao, the Judge Pao.” He said in an emotionless voice, staring at Narcissus.

Now, Judge Pao was staring at the well.

“Something tells me this is the key to solve this case.” Judge Pao said to himself while circling the crumbling well.

Cold air blew around the dark forest, sending goosebumps to Judge Pao. He shivered, but kept his eyes on the well. His brain was muddled up, he clung to the side of the well, staring down into the empty darkness.

“Judge Pao, how wonderful to see you here. Don’t waste your time here any longer, you won’t be helping anyone after this.” A blood curdling voice just like Narcissus mentioned entered Judge Pao’s ears.

“I know who you are!” Cried Judge Pao, a bell rang in his head. His eyes grew large, fist curled up. “You are the thief I caught last month, Jacob Wang!”

“True, so ever true. You shall pay for killing me with those things of yours!” The fugitive’s blood curdling voice was there, again. A cold air swooped out of the well and suddenly, Judge Pao’s jacket didn’t seem to work anymore.

“You Devil, give me back Narcissus’s family. Whatever made you take them?! ” Cried Judge Pao, his hands froze, an anger he didn’t know existed ran out of him.

“I needed company, do you understand how painful this month has been for me?” Jacob Wang’s voice grew louder, scaring the birds who were nearby.

“Jacob, give me back Narcissus’s family. I mean it. You know how painful both worlds could be, you wouldn’t want to cause a little girl this pain.” Judge Pao tried to reason with the villain. He would risk his life to help Narcissus, as he had promised from the depths of his heart.

After moments of frosty silence, Narcissus’s family flew out of the well landing on the grass around it.

Judge Pao smiled, satisfied.

Judge Pao's Secret

Victoria Shanghai Academy, Zhang, Sean – 10

2022, May

“Wow! Look what I found!” Zheng exclaimed. He and some other archaeologists were at Judge Pao’s Birthplace, Hefei, because he had dedicated his life to spreading the knowledge of Judge Pao to the world and researching Judge Pao’s life. After the dirt in an area near a hill was cleared, Zheng found a giant hunk of burned metal near Judge Pao’s supposed home. It was black in several spots and had indications that it was over 1000 years old, around the same time when Judge Pao was alive. As Zheng reached to touch it, it was as rough as a chipped rock.

“ This doesn’t add up...metal THIS old and so close to the Judge’s house?”He ran to his friends.

“ I have to do some up—close research, Jin, you can come with me. I found a piece of burnt metal from around when Judge Pao was alive.” He announced.

“How would you do close—up research?” His good friend, Jin, who also loved Judge Pao, joked “ Like ASK Judge Pao? He died 1000 years ago!”

“Well, we’ll use this new tech I got just in case we needed it: A time machine!”

Everyone gasped in awe as Zheng proudly yanked down the cloth covering what they thought were ancient artifacts but instead was a brand new, shiny time machine.

Everyone cheered as Jin and Zheng got in the machine. “ Wind flaps...Check. Fluxel calibrators...Check. Chrono Machuzigy...What’s a Machuzigy? Whatever... Check.” Recorded Jin. As the cockpit of the time machine suddenly vibrated like crazy, there was a sudden feeling that they were getting pulled, pulled, and PULLED away, Far into time...CRASH!

998 AD, February 6th

As Zheng and Jin emerged from their now smoking machine, they immediately realized something was wrong with his time machine. A giant hunk of the side wall flew straight off and into the ground, and promptly burst into flames

“ Oh no,” said Zheng, desperately fumbling around with the controls “ Our machine has gotten damaged, and that wasn’t supposed to happen...I don’t know if we can ever go home”

“ That means I’m STUCK here?!” exclaimed Jin.

“ Yes, maybe,” Zheng remarked, looking at the broken time machine “ We will have to pretend to be normal people now, at least until someone comes and takes us home.”

“ Wow! What a busy place!” Jin exclaimed, as the smell of cooked pork filled the air. Several people were shouting out what they were selling “ Roasted Chestnuts! Diced pork! Raw chicken!”

“ Yeah, right?” Zheng replied “ The past doesn’t suck THAT much” Jin and Zheng were walking amongst the streets of the little town they had landed in. Suddenly, They heard sobbing coming from a house. Zheng, being as kind—hearted as he was, rushed over to see what was happening.

“ What’s wrong?” he asked the sobbing man.

The man told them his story “ I was a farmer and had one ox to plow my fields. Without it, my family and I would go hungry. Today, I found out that my ox’s tongue was cut and will die soon and I will go to jail for the death of my ox. Please help me find out who killed my ox and bring him to justice.” Just then, Zheng’s phone started to ring.

“Wait for a second,” He told the very confused farmer and answered the call “ who’s there? ...Oh? We can go home? Yeah..ok..right now? No sorry, we can’t. Ok bye.” “ Our fellow researchers had just called and they said we can go home but—” He started to tell Jin

“ YAY! WE CAN GO HOME!” Jin whooped

“ BUT,” Zheng told him “ BUT we can’t just leave this farmer. So I told them no, we are not going home YET.” “Aw....”

“ Sorry for the inconvenience,” Zheng told the farmer apologetically “ So did you have any known enemies of yours that might want you to go to jail?”

“Not that I know of...”

“Were there any footprints or fingerprints on the property?”

“You can see for yourself,” The farmer told them and led them into his farm. Near where the ox was dying, Jin found some blood fingerprints. Zheng took out his Finger detector app from his phone and scanned the print. “ The print is safe now,” Zheng told the farmer.”Now I have a plan on how to find your ox slayer. First, you need to kill the ox and sell it. The killer will try to accuse you of treason and I can confirm that it's him with this fingerprint I got. That's how we catch him.” And so, the farmer did what Zheng told him and killed the ox for meat, then sold it. Soon after, a man came to Zheng and Jin and told them to arrest the farmer for killing a sacred ox. All the evidence met up. The fingerprint test was positive and the farmer knew this guy as they had been bickering over the price of an object two days ago. Zheng had his culprit. After introducing him to a place called ‘Jail’ and thus the case was closed. Jin and Zheng got famous after that case and were asked to solve case after case. Zheng was even given a nickname: Justice Pao. He even got someone to write a biography about him!

2002, July

Thump! Thump! Thump!

“Stop jumping around, or you’ll break something!” Eight-year-old Zheng was jumping around his house, ignoring his mom's calls. *CRACK!* Suddenly, one of his floorboards cracked.

What’s this? WOAHI! Is that a scroll?! He wondered as he gently picked up the bamboo scroll. Slowly, He unrolled the scroll. *What does this say? Judge Pao was a Judge in the Song dynasty of China and solved many cases. He was also given the nickname Justice Pao. He also...* Zheng soon found out that this scroll was a biography of this person: Judge Pao.

The Baby Pillow Mystery

Victoria Shanghai Academy, Zhao, Roy – 9

There it was! I shouldered my way through the crowd at the newly opened museum to steal a peek at it: a crystal white, shining porcelain artwork descended from a thousand years ago. Not in the familiar shape of a vase or a plate, it came in the shape of a plump baby boy lying on his belly. With folding arms to support his little head, his smooth crouching back seemed so comfortable to rest your head on. Wow! A porcelain baby pillow, a rare treasure indeed.

I gazed at every curve, every line, every flower, and every cloud. Where did it come from? Who could have made it? ... My thoughts drowned me. I felt sleepy, ready for slumber.

And I did.....

I opened my eyes, still surrounded by a huge crowd. But the people around me were not modern-day museum visitors, but those in plain cotton long gowns, looking simple and natural.

“Hush! Judge Pao is going to hear a new case!” a man nearby could hardly conceal the excitement in his whisper.

Judge Pao?

Every Chinese must have heard of him, the legendary detective judge of the Northern Song dynasty known for his unparalleled wisdom, uprightness, and integrity. He stood there, facing the crowd, straight and solemn as a fir tree. Dressed in a black and gold official robe, his hat looked quite strange: it was a black square hat with one long flap on each side—long enough to hit anyone within one metre from him. His pitch-black skin could make a criminal shudder in fear. Yet anyone who believed in justice would be naturally drawn to him, looking up to him as a bright moon in the dark night, just like the little crescent birthmark on his forehead.

In front of the god-like judge were two men on their knees. “Please do me justice, Judge Pao,” the thinner man of the two sobbed. “My name is Lee Ming. Two days ago, I made a porcelain artwork for His Majesty’s kiln. But my neighbour Chan Tim stole it and claimed it to be his work!” Pointing to the fat man beside him, Lee’s eyes were fiery with anger.

“This is an outrageous lie, your honour,” said the fat man in a brown silk gown. “It is true that we are neighbours. But I didn’t steal anything from him. I made the pillow myself.” He pointed to a small piece between him and Lee.

There it was! The rare treasure, the baby pillow, was lying quietly before Judge Pao. Just as vivid and exquisite as I remembered, but somehow seemed different...

Pondering for a moment, the wise judge raised his eyebrows, “Since both of you claimed to have made this porcelain piece, you should be very familiar with it. Therefore, I will ask you three questions. My final ruling will be based on your answers to them.”

Both men nodded in agreement.

“Here is my first question: why do you make this piece of porcelain in the shape of a baby?” the judge sounded serious but kind.

Hesitated for a second, Lee said timidly: “I... I made it in a shape of a baby as a blessing for... for a happy family with many children.”

“Your honour, we Chinese love big families, so I made the pillow to bring good fortune to His Majesty’s rule.” Chan bowed with a sly smile.

Judge Pao frowned but didn’t say anything.

“All right. Now here is my second question: which one of you can explain the process of how you made this porcelain?”

Chan caught the chance to start talking first: "First I got some clay and mould it into the shape of the baby pillow. Then I put it in the stove to dry. Then I... I..."

"I also trimmed and smoothed the mould before drying." Lee added in a low voice.

The crescent on the Judge's forehead became thinner. The crowd started whispering.

I looked at the porcelain baby pillow. It looked familiar but somehow different. The one in my memory was a shiny white treasure. But the one before me was of a slurry, greyish colour...

With a courage coming out of nowhere, I took a step forward.

"Judge Pao, may I ask the third question?" I heard myself speaking.

Every gaze was on me now.

The kind judge seemed surprised for a second but soon smiled: "Yes you may, young judge."

I stepped forward and spoke at the top of my voice: "Uncle Lee and Uncle Chan, what is the colour of the pillow when it is finished?"

Dead silence swept through the hall. You can hear a pin falling on the floor.

Chan stammered, "Your honour, the pillow is grey, as you can see."

"No, that's not true," said Lee timidly. "The pillow is grey at this stage because it is not finished. In the final stage, I will dip it in glaze and burn it again. When it is finished, it will be shiny white."

I bowed, "Judge Pao, Uncle Lee is the real maker of the baby pillow."

"How do you know this, little boy?" Judge Pao asked with a smile.

"This is because I've seen the baby pillow, from a thousand years later!"

"Really? Then thank you, young judge, for coming to help me from a thousand years later." Judge Pao smiled, the crescent on his forehead became wider and brighter, almost like a full moon.

I opened my eyes again. There it was! The shiny porcelain pillow descending from a thousand year ago was right there, glazing with time, bearing the legends of a bygone age.

Fiction

Group 2



New Tales of Judge Pao

Wycombe Abbey Primary School Hong Kong, Yuen, Aimee – 8

It was a dark and stormy night. A sparkling, golden crown stood still in the perilous, tight treasure room. Then one day, it was stolen.

A detective was called to find out who stole the precious treasure. There were three suspects. A normal school teacher, a chef and a talking cat. They were all in the treasure room when the treasure was stolen.

The detective questioned the chef first. “I was only here because my talking cat ran away here.” said the chef.

Then the detective questioned the talking cat. “Is this true?” he asked the cat. “Yes, it is. But it was for a good reason. Let me explain. The chef was cooking pizza when he spilled tomato sauce on me! I was wet and sticky, so I came here to stay for the night.” The small cat answered.

“It is true. It was an accident.” After the chef apologized for what he did, the cat cleaned up and the detective questioned the other suspects.

“So, what brings you here?” The detective said.

“Well, I was just marking math homework when the paper flew out the window and landed here.” The teacher replied innocently.

The detective thought for a while. A while later, he figured out who it was.

It was the school teacher because, if he was innocent, he would have had the paper with him and had shown the detective the paper if he had it.

The teacher was sent to prison, and weeks later, the detective was on the news, not because he solved the mystery, because he was the one who stole the treasure! He was secretly a spy and worked for a company that stole treasures and valuable items. The spy was forced to hand over the crown and was arrested.

The whole city was warned about what happened and the spy never stole again. Later that day, the teacher escaped from prison and went back to marking homework in his bedroom every night. And for the chef and talking cat, they stayed in the restaurant all day and cooked a big pizza for everyone, except for the spy, of course.

A Talking Corpse

Ying Wa Primary School, Lai, Ching Hang – 11

Wandering around in a flea market, I caught sight of a miniature of dog-head guillotine in a stall selling second-hand products. Out of curiosity, I pushed the lever of the guillotine, and it instantly began glistening, as if thousands of light bulbs were simultaneously emitting a dazzling light. Suddenly, a powerful force sucked me into the dog head of the guillotine.

The next moment I opened my eyes, I gasped in shock at the sight of my own reflection in a mirror. “My face is black with a crescent shaped mark on my forehead! I look so alike Judge Pao!” I murmured in utter amazement. In no time, I figured out I was strolling in a market in Kaifeng, the capital of Song Dynasty, accompanied by my retainers.

The narrow, twisting alleys were lined with tea houses, butcher stalls, temples and so on. Amidst the bustling flow of people, cries of hawkers and galloping of horses pulling wagons filled my ears. “What a vibrant city!” I muttered under my breath as I scanned around in a sea of unfamiliar faces.

“Oh no! Someone has been killed!” Out of the blue, a shrill shriek echoed throughout the hustling and bustling of the market. Snaking through the swarming crowd to that direction, I caught a glimpse of a corpse lying at the west gate of the market. The victim was dressed in rags as if he was a beggar, and there was a large hole in his head with dried blood.

“Hmm? I didn’t see this corpse when I passed by here this morning!” one of the onlookers doubted, scratching his head.

“Me too!” another shouted in chorus. “It should be dead for some while as the blood has dried up already!”

“Everyone, please be quiet. Judge Pao is here. Please make way for him to investigate,” one of my retainers exclaimed. The crowd immediately gave way, and I approached the corpse, knelt down and examined it.

“Does anyone here admit that you have killed him?” I asked. Everyone wore an innocent look, gossiping with each other.

“If no one here killed this man, let this corpse tell me who the murderer is,” I suggested.

Having listened my weird idea, every man and his dog gasped and took a step back, attentively watching how I would interrogate the corpse.

“Corpse, who killed you? Tell me the truth!” I bawled into the corpse’s ears, and then put my ears close to its mouth, as if it was whispering to me! All the onlookers held their breath, gazing eagerly at the corpse for its answer.

After a while, I announced soberly, “Everyone, the corpse has already told me the truth. I know who the murderer is now.” All onlookers hung their mouths wide open, and their eyes bulged out of their sockets.

During that moment of dead silence, I questioned the soldier guarding the market gates, “Who has brought straw into the market just now?”

“Judge Pao, Mr. Pao Yue was the only one who brought straw into the market today,” answered the soldier earnestly.

In next to no time, I ordered my retainers, “Immediately arrest Pao Yue! We can’t let the malicious murderer get away with this insane crime!”

A while later, Pao Yue was escorted into the court.

“Judge Pao, I’m innocent! Please release me! RELEASE ME!” Pao Yue denied his murder as he struggled frantically.

“Upon interrogating the corpse, I actually examined it closely and found some straw shreds in its hair and nostrils. I believe you had killed him somewhere, put him on your cart, covered him with straw and dumped him at the west gate of the market. Do you admit the murder?” I hollered with steam pouring out of my ears like a kettle.

Realising that I have all the evidence proving he was the murderer, Pao Yue reluctantly confessed.

“Murder is a serious crime. You are sentenced to death,” I ruled solemnly.

“Judge Pao, I am the cousin of your prestigious uncle! You should show mercy to your relatives!” begged Pao Yue, kowtowing desperately. “If you free me at once, I promise to give you one thousand gold ingots. Please don’t kill me!”

“Definitely not! Before the Law of Song Dynasty, everyone in this country is equal. Corruption by no means overrides justice. Retinues, execute Pao Yue on the dog-head guillotine!” I ordered sternly as I pounded my fist on the table.

Sobbing miserably, Pao Yue bowed his head low. His body trembled uncontrollably like jelly as he was sent to the guillotine.

“I hope this can bring justice to the poor victim,” I thought to myself and heaved a sigh of relief.

As soon as the blade of the dog-head guillotine was pushed down, gleaming rays of light glowed from the dog-head, and I suddenly found myself in the flea market, clutching the miniature guillotine. “What a fantastic and thrilling experience of being an impartial Judge Pao to dispense justice and clean up the land in the Song Dynasty!” I pondered as sheer satisfaction rushed over me.

In Good Hands

Ying Wa Primary School, Lee, Sing Yu – 11

Think of all the people in your life that love to have money and power, the people who want everything at their fingertips, the people who want to be gods.

Now go to them and tell them they are making a bad decision in wanting to be a god.

Sure, the whole everything—you—could—ever—want thing is nice, but it gets boring. The duties are pretty horrible and the higher—ups are really strict. People who try shirking their duties, which I don't blame them for, go into the higher—ups' office and never come out the same way. Rumors fly, but I keep my head down and do my job.

This time, I was sent to monitor Pao Zheng. Again. I swear the higher—ups have some kind of vendetta against him, but I wasn't there to ask questions. I sighed as I let my mind wander free, turning my mental slate blank. The surrounding hustle faded and the colors around me coagulated into a shimmering iridescent sphere, a warping marble before my sealed eyes. Then, I focused hard on the vivid ruby—red walls, on them a painting of the sea and words of justice; the majestic marble lions outside, so lifelike they seemed ready to pounce at a moment's notice; even the three sacred guillotines, each imposing in their own rights. With a blow of air, the colorful orb scattered, filling my once—blank vision with bright palettes, taking up the empty canvas, spiriting me to somewhere new.

As the all—too—familiar scene popped up around me, I smiled.

I was getting better at this.

I quickly morphed into my guard attire before looking at my objectives. "Same old, same old..." I muttered to myself, smirking as I ran off to my business. However, not long after, I heard something that made me stop in my tracks. I quickly hid behind a wall to eavesdrop on a heated argument.

Guard 1 argued, "I think Pao Zheng will get him out of it. He's his elder sister—in—law's only son. You know what Pao Zheng's elder sister—in—law helped him through? She raised him like a son! There's no way he wouldn't repay the favor!"

Guard 2 scoffed, "There's no way Pao Zheng would let him go free that easily! He's known to be unrelenting in the pursuit of justice! He's a symbol of justice, how could he let family stand in the way of a case?"

Guard 1 replied, "Come on, not even someone as strict as Judge Pao would execute their nephew, right?"

Well, this was certainly news.

Against my rational, rule—following mind screaming at me to report this, I decided to keep quiet and see where things went from here. I had a report to write on Pao Zheng after this and to say I was running out of material would be an understatement. So, I left the two of them to their bickering and waited for the summons to the courtroom. Sure enough, it came along before too much hassle, and before long I was standing in the imperial courtroom. As the incense wafted through the stuffy room, the criminal was dragged in by two beefy soldiers, a look of blank solemnity on their faces. "We have delivered the criminal to court," they uttered in a deep, booming voice that resonated in the room. They then turned around and marched out of the courtroom in synchronization, taking up their posts alongside the chiseled marble lions. Finally, Pao Zheng stepped into the courtroom, thickening the tension in the small lodgings. His already—white hair and goatee wafted lazily as a small breeze came rustling into the petite building. He was wearing his signature jet—black futou hat, as well as an impressive crimson robe, adorned with grandiose dragons flying, unaware they were frozen in time. His unwavering eyes paired with his stern, wrinkled face gave away a menacing, intimidating aura as he stood behind his table, facing the man at fault — his nephew.

Then, all of a sudden, he spoke, and his voice was so loud it seemed a thousand more were echoing along with it. "Pao Mian, you have been accused of bribery and malfeasance. Do you have anything to say?" he thundered at the young man. Until now, I had never seen his face, but seeing as now was a good time, I stole a glance at him. He harbored some resemblance to his uncle, namely the hair, face and eyes, but his expression was of remorse and determination. Ultimately, determination won and he raised his head, saying to Pao Zheng, "I have nothing" — his voice broke — "Uncle."

I quickly reverted my attention back to Pao Zheng. His eyes softened as he stepped forward, and his voice dropped to a whisper. "I am sorry that I cannot save you, Nephew, but I cannot fulfill both concepts of loyalty and filial piety. It is my duty to execute you. I am sorry." Upon saying this, he took a shaky step back and took a deep breath. With a steady voice, he ordered, "Take the criminal to the dog-headed guillotine!"

As Pao Mian's neck was pressed to the guillotine, I had my eyes on Pao Zheng. Now was his last chance to cancel the order, to lift the gleaming blade aloft, to save his nephew.

But the action never came.

As Pao Mian's head was cut clean off, Pao Zheng only watched with tearful eyes. Through the blood, I stood in shock, reeling from the fact that this man killed his beloved nephew for the sake of justice. After that, everything was a blur up until the point where I scattered the ball of colors once more and returned to my regular duties. To this day, I have never decided if it was a good thing that Pao Zheng killed his nephew, but if a nation has a man so dedicated to justice he kills his family if they commit crimes...

I finished my report with a flourish:

"That nation is in good hands."

The Man from the Future

Ying Wa Primary School, Suen, Man Him – 11

Behind the clouds, the sun showed up, and as the winds blew, it snowed. Pure white snowflakes flattened in the morning breeze, glittering, shining, reflecting the bright sunlight into the judge's eyes. He put down his file stood up and pushed the door open. Silently, he stepped on the snow and embraced the surroundings. A piece of snowflake landed on his opened palm, under the warm sunbeam, it sparkled, and it glowed as if there was a word on it: justice. After all, it has prevailed, he thought, as he recently solved the case of the civet cat and the prince by forcing Guo Huai, the eunuch to confess.

He was Pao Qing-Tian, known as Justice Pao in the Song Dynasty. When Judge Pao first saw this case, he was interested. Therefore, he called Zhan Chao, the chief detective and Gong Sun Ce, the adviser, to investigate.

After a while, his two reliable assistants came back with worries written on their faces. Zhan Chao said, "This case involves royal family members, also the Emperor. Going ahead is very risky. The Queen of the former King may even try to kill you if you attempt to sentence her."

Gong Sun Ce added, "The suspect is a very powerful eunuch, and he is as sly as a fox. He denies all the accusations. It is not easy to force him to tell the truth."

Judge Pao listened carefully to what they said, touched his beard gently and grinned. "I see, anyway, get him to me!" Judge Pao confidently ordered.

"No problem. I will get Guo right away." Zhan Chao replied.

Then, Judge Pao thought of what future tools or technology could be used to solve the case.

In reality, he was a man from the future and time travelled back to different eras, like the Tang Dynasty and Song Dynasty, during snowing times, to fight crime and safeguard justice. He was good at using technology from the future to investigate cases, put criminals on trial and bring justice to people. For instance, he designed some hand-cuffs-looking lie testing machines. Whoever told a lie and tried to hide something, Judge Pao would let him wear the handcuffs and start to ask him or her questions. As the handcuffs were very powerful, Judge Pao knew exactly whether what the suspect said was true or not.

Then Judge Pao read about the case carefully. It was about the Queen and Guo trying to exchange a civet cat with the real prince, who was the emperor at that moment. Judge Pao made his estimation and got a plan to deal with the filthy eunuch.

Not a long time later, Guo Huai came. Firstly Judge Pao signalled the servants to yell his invented slogan "WEI WU –". Its special sound, rhythm, and tune were based on the advanced acoustic principle that made it highly hypnotizing. Most of the people would do whatever Judge Pao asked them to do after listening to the slogan. However, to Judge Pao's surprise, the cunning eunuch was too strong to be hypnotized, and Guo insisted he was innocent.

Then, he ordered Guo to wear the "handcuffs". Thereafter, he started to question Guo. He was highly confident about making the eunuch tell the truth because the handcuffs are very powerful, only one in a million couldn't be detected. Little did he know, Guo was the one who kept telling his fake story.

It made Judge Pao and his assistants very upset. In a few seconds, they even had the query that Guo Huai was invincible. Under these circumstances, all Judge Pao could do was suspended the trial for a week. That week, Judge Pao was racing with time. They did much research on the past and weaknesses of Guo, exchanged ideas, and figured out various ways to tackle the problem.

Finally, Judge Pao decided to use the eunuch's superstitions ghost and hell, therefore, he took a Virtual Reality (VR) set and designed the scenery of hell to make Guo confess.

That night, he and his assistants crept to Guo's house and put the VR set on Guo secretly while he was sleeping. After that, he woke Guo up. Once the eunuch opened his eyes, he saw ghosts, Yan-Luo Wang, the King of hell. Guo thought he was in hell, which made him very terrified, his body trembling with fear.

At that moment, Judge Pao pretended to be the King of hell and questioned Guo, "Tell me everything about you and the Queen exchanging the prince, or else, I will send you to hell."

Guo was horrified and he begged Yan-Lao Wang for mercy, told the whole truth without any hesitation and admitted the crime. The case was brought to the book eventually.

That morning Judge Pao felt very relieved as he stepped out of Guo's house. It snowed and Judge Pao embraced the environment when he leisurely walked in the garden, thinking, Justice has prevailed, after so much effort, from him and his assistants.

This was Judge Pao, the brilliant detective, as well as the rectitude judge, and the man from time ahead. It snowed, again. It was time for the great time traveller to go to bring justice to a society, whenever and wherever he was needed...

The Mystery of Monster

YK Pao Primary School, Chen, Evelyn – 10

One time, in the Song Dynasty, lived a young man named Judge Pow. He was an intelligent warrior who fought for the Emperor Taizu. He was one of the 9 officers of the king and he was the general of the swordsmen, as Pow has the most experience in combat.

One normal day for Pow, he woke up and got ready for work and training. He started to meditate since it helped him focus. But suddenly, Judge Pow couldn't concentrate, and he opened his brown eyes as sweat poured down his worried face.

The officer next to him rushed and asked, " what happened? "

"I saw the awful vision that happened when I was 3 years old," Said Judge Pow. Judge Pow continued speaking, "When I was 3, my father was murdered by a assassin who worked for another dynasty. It's probably the closest dynasty and I'll find him someday ."

TWO YEARS LATER DURING THE MISSION TO DETECT THE ASSASSIN

While Judge Pow was traveling with his crew, he was trying to find and eliminate the filthy assassin for the crime he committed. Suddenly, an arrow swished passed one of the eyes – almost unbelievably he was one millimeter of getting struck on the head. Judge Pow told his crew to stay back because they were not as strong and tough as Judge Pow. He shot an arrow at the direction of the assassin's spot however luckily the arrow scared him, and he shouted out loud. Now they knew the absolute direction of the murderer. While the hoard of people tried sneaking around the giant rock, they didn't notice that the mysterious assassin escaped. Judge Pow saw the track and went by himself ...

READ THEN SECOND BOOK TO FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENS TO
JUDGE POW!!!!!!

Bun bunn bun !!!!!!!

Woodland Adventure

YK Pao Primary School, Darley, Evan – 9

One month ago, something rather odd happened, it was even published in the Daily Prophet. But some people say it was not true. For example, a dad at the dinner table told, “Just a fairy tale son, it’s not real! Get your mind out of it!” But I must tell you that the people who say this is a fairytale are all wrong!

Here is what happened. There was a boy called Judge Pao. Previously he saved 35 children from a big explosion at Fair-live school! And for a gift, the children gave Judge Pao a handmade boy doll. Even if Judge Pao was 14 years old, he still enjoyed playing with it. He even named the doll Max. Judge Pao has coffee brown hair and a pair of grey eyes. His nose is sensitive and can smell lots of things from far away. His mouth has a smile that never fades away and he wears a yellow shirt that is like a warm sunset!

One day, Judge Pao was woken by a tremendous crash! He quickly got dressed and opened the door... what he saw was a wreck of his favourite treehouse Lego! He was furious! Guess what, Judge Pao’s dad was standing behind the treehouse looking shocked at his actions! Judge Pao stomped into his room and locked the door. He was so angry that he didn’t come out for breakfast! In this period, Judge Pao had a strange feeling that someone or something was watching him! He turned back expecting a thief to jump out from under the table and point a gun at him. Finally, Judge Pao found that nothing was extraordinary. Wait, Max was on the bed and now he is on the desk! Max suddenly opened his mouth and said, “Do you want to come with me to Woodland? It is my greatest honour!” And Judge Pao said something like, “Ye...” and suddenly there was a flash of light and after a second of darkness, Judge Pao was thrown headfirst into a bush. He struggled out of it finding it was raining. There was a wooden wall and a giant door. Max was holding a key which seemed like it could open the door.

As Judge Pao predicted, the door opened. In the darkness Judge Pao saw a blinding streak of light and he stepped into the giant wooden door. They were standing on a tall hill and Max was in front of him. There was a rocky path leading under the hill with lots of trees next to it. So they went down the path. It was hard going down the hill. The path was made from wood and was very loose. Finally, they reached a peaceful pit with strange grass all over it. It was all made of wooden shreds! Judge Pao at first was confused, then he looked at the strange grass closely and finally realised why the grass was coffee brown like his hair. Max said, “This is the famous wood grassland where all the grass is made out of wood shreds!” They laid back and Watched the wooden birds flying in the sky. It was almost noon when they realised time had already crept by!

They followed the grassland to a big forest. Judge Pao was looking at the view and forgot about the doll. When he turned back to ask where they were heading to, Max was gone! At the same time he walked to a lake. He thought he was lost and sat down. That lake has logs floating on the surface and they were like a tribe of long arrows. Suddenly, there was a loud honk and a big ship floated towards him with Max on it! Judge Pao climbed on the ship and the ship continued its track. Judge Pao asked, “What Lake is this?” Max replied, “This is Wood log lake! It has lots of logs floating on the surface of the lake.” They kept sailing and as they got nearer and nearer to the end of the lake, Judge Pao heard a small sound of a flute! Judge Pao continued to listen closely as the sound of the flute got bigger and bigger! Judge Pao noticed when the wind was stronger, the sound of the flute got louder! When the wind was small, the sound of the flute got softer. So Judge Pao thought it was another trick of Woodland. And it was!

When they docked on the riverbank, they saw a forest that had strange branches! So, Judge Pao went to the forest with Max nearby just in case he ran away to do something! Finally, they arrived at the forest and found out that the branches were wooden flutes! So, Judge Pao picked a beautiful flute with permission from Max and continued his walk. Soon, they arrived at a tall mountain full of flute trees! They climbed up a sloped, rock path and reached the top of the mountain! What Judge Pao saw was beautiful! There was a beautiful village full of fantastic, peaceful cottages! There were lots of places. Judge Pao was so excited that he ran down the sloped path and nearly fell 10 times. Finally arriving at the gates of the village with Max panting at his back, they saw a crowd near a tall church. Judge Pao squeezed through the crowd of people with Max in his hand, he found the most beautiful church he had ever seen! The tall ceiling raised into the white, fluffy clouds! Judge Pao asked, “Can we go in this amazing church?” Max said proudly, “This is where I wanted to bring you! It is called the church of library and holds lots of things that are very fancy which you can even buy.” Judge Pao was overwhelmed when he opened the door of the church! There were fancy crystals, army shirts, flutes, furniture and beautiful cottage paintings! So, Max tossed out a small box full of shiny wooden coins! Judge Pao took the box and bought a woodland painting

set! Then Max went into a small room in the corner and did a wink that indicted that Judge Pao could come in. So, they went in that room which to Judge Pao was very spooky! There was only one dimly lit light and a small door just wide enough for Judge Pao and Max to squeeze in. Max said in a strange, deep voice, "Please go in this door." Judge Pao carrying Max, went into the door. There was a blinding bolt of light and Judge Pao woke from his dream! It was just a marvellous dream. He opened the door to his bedroom finding out that his dad was adding the last piece of the rebuilt treehouse Lego! This is the best vacation ever! Sadly, Max never spoke or did something strange ever again!

New Tales of Judge Pao

YK Pao Primary School, Du, Cosmo – 10

You probably never heard of Vincenzo Perugia, but I know all about him. He was a famous art thief that stole the famous painting Mona Lisa from the Louvre Museum In Paris on August 1911. Vincenzo did a such smooth job that nobody noticed It vanished for 2 days.

Nobody could catch this thief, not even a hundred police, not even a 360 degrees camera stuffed in the museum, not even fifty security guards with a laser gun and a Ak47 with infinity bullets, not even super man!

Nobody but judge Pao.

Judge Pao is a detective but also a “Hero”, he solved a lot of robbery mystery that that wasn’t solved for hundreds of years, everything seemed easy for him, but when he heard the news of the stolen painting, he finally found an enemy who is sly and got some skills.

He traveled through time, to the time when the painting was stolen. He collected all the clues to make a solution that makes sense. (Such as footprints, finger prints). And finally, Pao knew the correct location of Vincenzo’s apartment and caught him red-handed looking and admiring the painting.

Even though they caught the thief, the thief could still escape.

Three years later, Vincenzo became a mad scientist, who wants to take over the world and kill pao. Judge pao knew it will happen and used technology from the future year 114514. And the battle began.

The two men faced each other, glaring. Suddenly, the sky began to rumble, and a flash of lightning blast to the ground, and the two men began to charge at each other.

First, Vincenzo threw an explosive-kunai at judge pao, but he dodges it easily with the speed of light. Then, pao jumps in the air and threw some smoke bombs at Vincenzo, consequentially, he could not see anything and as a result, he was blast to death by to missiles.

Judge pao is an unstoppable hero.

Judge Pao and the Miscreant of Tao City

YK Pao Primary School, Gao, Nathan – 11

There was once an old man who was traveling to Tao city to do business when he found that the city gates had already closed.

He stared helplessly at the closed walls, thinking that he could only sleep on the grass beneath the city walls and wait until morning. But then he saw a glow emanating from a house down in the streets surrounding the city. He rushed to the house and knocked. After a few seconds, a chubby man opened the door. He asked the merchant what he wanted, the merchant replied, "Sorry to disturb you sir, but I just wanted to ask whether you could let me stay at your house tonight." The chubby man agreed happily, and the merchant thanked him for his hospitality. Completely unaware that he was going into a house of a bandit and that he would never come out again.

'Dong Dong' The bell on Judge Pao's workplace door rang. Judge Pao called to hold court, and a weeping family came to the court. They knelt before Judge Pao and thanked him for holding the court. The fellow guards that lined the court started muttering about the family, so Judge Pao banged the piece of wood on his desk and the people in the court room became instantly silent. Judge saw that the husband had not come with his family, maybe something had happened to him, so the mother and son were coming to call for justice. Judge Pao addressed the mother of the two children, "What has happened to cause you and your family to be in such distress?"

The mother said while stiffening her sobs, "My husband was a merchant who came to this city to do business. But ~ But when he arrived at the city, we never heard from him again, he said he would come back after a few days, but he has not gone back home for two months and that is why I have come here to report it." Judge Pao was saddened by the events that happened to the woman's family, he promised that he would help the women find what happened to even though they were not from Tao city. The family thanked Judge Pao and went out crying the whole way.

Immediately, he talked to his fellow judges about how they could help the woman find her husband or find his killer. This will be difficult as Judge Pao needed to ask a lot of people about the people who go in and out of the city, but he knew that he must take the job for his and the city's reputation.

Judge Pao decided that he should ask the wife to make a portrait of the husband and ask the guard of the city if he had seen this person. The guard looked at the person carefully for a while and then decided that he hadn't seen this person before. Judge Pao shared this information with the wife, and they concluded that the husband was either killed or mobbed in the countryside surrounding the city.

Now Judge Pao had his sights clear that he needed to get to the countryside and find the bandit who caught the merchant, also he must do it very quietly and swiftly, or the bandits might run away. After some thought, Judge Pao decided to let his employees try to find some evidence that might give them some idea of who might have taken the money from the merchant. The workers went to the village to gather news about the countryside, and a villager told the workers that there was a man who had been a beggar a few months ago but had now become very rich. Judge Pao suspected that the villain was likely the man.

The next morning, Judge Pao and his guards went to the houses where the villain lived. They stormed in and took him to the courtroom. This was done while the whole village was put under custody.

When Judge Pao started to interrogate the villain, he firstly brought up the riches found in his house. He asked the villain how he got so many riches when he was only a beggar and did not have a job. The villain explained that he had saved all these riches all his life. The villain looked at Judge Pao in a threatening way, but Judge Pao kept his gaze on him and did not look away. "So, if I check the money count that a merchant said went missing, it would be the same amount as the amount of riches here. The villain's look of surprise could not have betrayed more of the truth. After Judge Pao checked the documents, he raged at the villain, wringed his hands as he shouted, "You have attacked an innocent merchant and made our city's reputation become terrible. Guards seize him and sentence him for treason and murder." The villain cried, "No please, Judge forgive me." As he got carried away.

Judge Pao walked out of the courtroom and was welcomed by a loud round of applause by the people and a tearful family thanking him for his just action and quick wittedness. As he walked on into the sunset, he knew that there will be more crimes for him to solve, but for now he just wanted to take a break.

New Tales of Judge Pao

YK Pao Primary School, Gu, Ivy – 10

Once, there was a boy in China called Pao. The young boy had plump, rosy cheeks and big, brown eyes. He loved playing the game pretend. If you went in his room, you would see dozens of wooden airplanes, and wooden men. Pao loved whooshing the airplanes through air and knock down bad guys. He would act like a crowd and shout, “Hooray for Pao! Once again, he caught the chief of China!”

Time quickly flew by, and Pao was already 15 years old. This young man loved reading books about detectives. He dreamt about it. He read about it. He learned about it. One day, on a busy street filled with shouting of hawkers, he saw a poster. It read:

Competition: All the young “detectives” of China’s opportunity to become a famous hero! We will put cases to solve all over China, let’s see who solved the most until February 9th. Write a report for every crime.

China’s Detective is about to be discovered. Sign up at the governor’s office at the city and remember to come on the due date.

It was January 7th, about one month from the due date. However, a question hit his mind. What am I attending the competition for? It’s a good chance to chase my dream, but what will I get if I win? A chance to be famous? Maybe I’ll start looking for crimes and think of it later. Soon, he found one. Three men were arguing about something.

“I told you, it wasn’t me.” A fat man said angrily.

“Look at your weight, anyone would think it’s you.” another thin man stood beside. Another man stood in between, eyeing suspiciously at the two.

“Fellows, let’s not argue. I will help you. Tell me what happened.” Pao stepped up and suggested confidently.

The others looked at him and exchanged looks. The man in between explained, “I’m a baker at the bakery. Someone ate a cake I made. There were only two people left at the bakery. They both said they didn’t eat it.”

“Hmm,” thought Pao aloud, “Did you find anything?”

“I found a feather. Probably the thief left it behind accidentally.” The man replied.

“Who likes birds?” asked Pao.

“Um, my brother likes birds, and he has them at home. I see them when I visit him.” the fat man answered first.

“And did you?” Pao asked.

“I didn’t, but I did five days ago.” the fat man said.

“Ah ha!” The thin man shouted, “You visited him, so you have a feather stuck on your body.”

“Not so fast.” Pao said. “Looking at this feather’s color, it’s still very bright. It isn’t fading and looks like new. Five days would be too long.” Then, he looked sternly at the thin man. “Did you go anywhere near birds recently?”

“Well, you know, I went to the flower and bird market yesterday afternoon. However, I didn’t get in touch with an emerald-colored bird.” the thin man answered nervously.

“Well, one last thing. Did any bird cages knock down or did you bump into someone with a bird?” Pao asked.

“Well, when I was paying, the fat man at the counter accidentally knocked down a green bird. I was not paying attention, so I only heard the noise and saw the bird cage on the floor.” the thin man replied.

“Okay, I know, it’s you!” Pao pointed to the thin man.

“Huh? How can it be?” the thin man was frustrated.

“You went to the market yesterday’s afternoon, right? A green bird cage was knocked down. You were standing right by the counter. You weren’t paying attention, so didn’t realize a feather sticking on your coat. I noticed a print on your coat that matches the feather, probably it was the feather. When you ate that cake, you must have left it by accident.” Pao pointed out.

“Alright, your right. I ate the cake.” the thin man admitted immediately.

“Congratulations! We made up this case for the detective competition. You solved it, and here is the sheet for the report.” The man in between smiled and spoke.

Wow! Way to go! Pao thought to himself. He thanked the men and went home to record all the things that happened today. As he walked, each step was lighter and confidence rushed through his veins, all over his body. He felt so happy that the sky seemed brighter, the air seemed fresher and whole city seemed to be smiling upon him.

One month later, Kiri entered his big brother’s room. Pao had entered this detective thingy and spent all his attention on it. Today was the day that “the peas come out of the pod”, as his brother always joked.

“What are you doing so early, bro?” Kiri asked with sleepy eyes.

“I’m counting the cases I solved.” Pao replied enthusiastically.

After a while, Pao grabbed his coat, wore a pair of shiny leather shoes and went. He was holding a file with papers and documents about himself.

“Good luck on the competition!” Kiri shouted at him.

“Thanks Kiri, I love you!” And with that, Pao stepped outside.

After hours of waiting after check-in, finally the results came out. “Everybody listen!” The judge’s voice popped out, “The third place is**Shen Kai Fa from YunNan!** The second place is.....**Li Jing Rong from An Hui!** And the final winner is.....**Pao Ming Qi from Bei Jing!!!**”

They said my name? The next second Pao was surrounded by Journalists and cameras. He was lifted by someone. “Dad!” Pao shouted out.

“Congratulations! Sweetheart.” “Pao, I knew you could do it!” Kiri looked up with big eyes.

Sun shone, and Pao thought about his feelings. He was confused of the purpose. Now he knew. He had a purpose to enter, he was chasing the dream of his life.

Many years later, Pao settled in Hong Kong. One of his descendants (Pao Yue Kong) created the school I attend! Now you know how I knew this story?

YK Pao Primary School, Hu, Kevin – 10

Lurk the forest,

End the darkness of black.

Doom!

Make way and you will see a SURPRISE!"

Molly asked "what does this mean?"

"We are still investigating." The first expert said. Molly closed the door and went back to sleep.

When Molly woke up, Molly thought about the paper that the experts found.

"Lurking the forest! I should tell the experts to search the woods!" She shouted excitedly and rushed to Yamen "The paper that the experts found in the alley has a line which says: Lurk the forest. That means the person wants us to search the forest!"

"Experts, you have an important job to do, let Molly explain it." Judge Pao commanded.

After Molly clearly explained what to do, the experts started preparing to enter the forest. They walked into the forest and searched for a long time which led them to a clearing with a hole. An expert, threw a stone in hole and started counting slowly "one, two, three, four, five....." Plunk! The stone reached the bottom.

"This hole is deep, we have to be careful." Another expert said. The expert tied himself to one end of the rope, the other experts pulled the other end, they carefully lowered the expert into the hole. Slowly, the expert, reached the ground, when he saw what's down there, he screamed in horror. The experts outside the hole heard the scream and started pulling up him as fast as they could, they pulled and pulled until a shivering hand grasped onto the edge and helped the shocked expert out of the gigantic hole.

"T-T-There was M-Mark's body!" The expert cried, gasping for air, his heart pounding.

"Let's tell Judge Pao and hide it from Molly, if Molly knows about that Mark is dead, she will be upset." One of the experts said.

"I disagree, we need to be honest, so others trust us." An expert with glasses protested confidently. Everybody didn't know which decision to make, so they went back to the Yamen and let Judge Pao to make the decision.

"Your right glasses, we have to be honest." Judge Pao said, "Tell Molly to come to Yamen."

"But Ju—" One expert cried.

"No butts, Molly needs to know the truth," Judge Pao cutted, his expression not changing.

A few minutes later, Molly arrived, looking worried, "what happened? Did you find mark?" Molly blurted out, sweating.

"Mark is DEAD, I am very sorry." Judge Pao said sadly. Molly's heart stopped pumping, her blood veins froze, she was heartbroken, her beloved Mark was gone. Then she fainted, "get some cold water!" An expert cried. A helper came with a pail of water and poured onto Molly, and Molly came to.

"Please, find the killer who killed Mark, please." Molly murmured weakly.

"I will." Judge Pao promised.

"Judge Pao, should we go for every suspect and search?" the expert with glasses asked.

"Yes." Judge Pao answered, satisfied.

A few hours later, the suspects came hand tied.

"What do you want us here? I have to go to buy carrots!" Sally complained loudly.

"Last night Mark died, know him?" Judge Pao mocked calmly.

"Who is Mark, I don't know him, let me go!" Katie screeched angrily.

"Then why are you at the forest last night?" asked Judge Pao.

“I wanted to camp there!” Katie explained.

“You can go Katie.” Judge Pao announced, “Now sally, why are you at the woods last night?”

“I am picking mushrooms at the woods!” Sally shouted, losing patience.

“What is related to you and Mark?” Judge Pao asked.

“We are neighbors!” Sally cried.

“If you are neighbors, that means you know a lot about Mark, right?” said Judge Pao.

“N–N–No.” Sally mumbled shakily.

“Then why are you saying it shakily, last night you were at the alley then went to the forest,” Judge Pao boomed and slammed the judge's gavel, “Guilty! In jail because of killing people and hiding the body!”

“Noooooooooooo, have mercy, please.” Sally screamed.

Molly smiled, she was glad.

Judge Pao

YK Pao Primary School, Huang, Ethan –

Pao was chained up, blood tickling down his face. He was beaten nonstop for a week now, after his parents died because of poverty. His cruel aunt and uncle promised to take 'care' of him. Pao was forced to do all the chores every day, and when he made a mistake, they beat him. Such as today when he was washing the dishes after lunch, he accidentally let a plate slide out of his hand. His uncle rushed into the kitchen at the dreaded sound, and saw Pao frozen in his tracks, fear visible in his eyes. His uncle roared and knocked him out with a punch.

Pao found himself waking up in the stables, the air reeking of horse dung. Every part of his body ached, some stinging like someone was poking him with a needle, and some was throbbing in a dull pain.

His uncle chose that moment to come in, carrying a whip, spiked with broken glass. He whispered "You broke the second most expensive plate in the house, boy. You will pay." His voice full of venom.

CRACK! And a yelp of pain. CRACK! CRACKCRACK! The whip was stained red, and the tip dripped with dark red liquid. Pao blacked out temporarily from the pain, but his uncle slapped him the moment he passed out. His uncle continued with the beating for a week nonstop after finally letting him down, making Pao look like he rolled into a pool of blades.

Pao had enough of this. He needs to excavate an escape plan before he gets beaten to death, and he very much wanted to stay alive, despite the torturous years he spent here.

The next day, Pao made sure he ate all the food that his uncle gave him, which is not a lot, but he needs all the energy he can get. He is already familiar with the house's doorways and windows, so he began to plan on his escape. He needs the darkness of night to help him escape successfully, as he can't run far before his uncle or aunt catches him in their chariot. He needs to scout the environment around to escape, since he needs more rocky and uneven landscapes to escape the chariot and the horses. In his 6 years of 'service/enslavement' in that wretched house, he has never been allowed outside once. He needed to get as much of the knowledge around as he can get, because his fate depended on it. If he escaped, he is going to be free. If he failed, then he is most likely going to be killed.

Once midnight came, he slid a pin out of his sleeve and picked at the lock restraining his wrists and ankles as quietly as possible to not wake up anyone. He winced as one of the floorboards creaked but thank gods his aunt and uncle did not wake up. He sneaked out of the house without a single sound and into the night. 'Free at last!' Pao thought. He did not dare to make any sound although he was already far away from the house. He stumbled, his rush of adrenaline fading, making him feel the pain of so many cuts and gashes on his body. Pao promised himself he would get revenge, but first he must heal.

Years after Pao escaped from the hellish 'home' of his uncle, he has grown into a man, serving justice on those who escaped punishment. As they say, justice might be late, but it will never be absent.....

New Tales of Judge Pao

YK Pao Primary School, Huang, Thomas – 11

“Pao Qing Tian” is the most famous judge in the world, and I am one of his descendants...Just a joke, but I still believe everyone would know that Judge Pao is a fair, momentous West Song Dynasty judge. So are you curious about the ancestor of Judge Pao, and also how he came to China from one place on this huge Earth? In ancient China BC, there is the name Pao in China, and it goes down and down and finally came to use in our ages. Nowadays, we still use names like Pao Gong, Pao Jing...But for Pao Qing Tian, this Pao means the rights and just of himself, and it manages to show off Judge Pao’s fair personality, so let’s start our journey to 220 AD, about the 3 country dynasty of China, and that is the start of ancestors of Judge Pao.

It starts in 221 AD when Cao Cao was invading China with Liu Bei and Sun Quan. And in Europe, West Rome is one of the most civilized civilizations there, and this is where the Pao family began.

Dr Pao Sheng Tian (Chinese name) from Country Shu in China, he is once a student in a school, he is one of the leader presidents of the student leader group in their school. So, once he is a child, Sheng Tian had gotten a leadership and fair mind, and willing to serve any people who needed help. So his teenage life is helping others and doing whatever he can do, but in 242 AD, when he is 21 years old. His father’s business was bankrupt and loads of people are coming to our house for money. For not giving out any money, he and Sheng Tian ran out of their house and called a carriage to the dock. They arrived there, bought some tickets, and went on the boat going to someplace they don’t know.

The boat goes down to India and goes north after 5 months of boat riding. Sheng Tian and his parents arrived in the west of Ancient Rome, they arrived at a dock and went down. One of the guards of the dock shouted using English which father knows well as a businessman, “Hey! Who are you all!” Sheng Tian’s father replied back, “We are people from China! In the east of the world!” After Sheng Tian and his dad explained to them using English, the people on the boat could then go into Ancient Rome.

While Sheng Tian’s father is having a business, he had been communicating with people out of China like people in Rome. So we knew a rich businessman called James Walker in Ancient Rome, and he is Sheng Tian’s father’s best friend in Rome. He is trading with him before of wines at Ancient Rome. Sheng Tian and his parents walked into the market in Rome, they seemed a bit awkward there. They walked for hours and hours, and at night, they finally reached James’ home. They stayed there for a long time, about 250 years, James and Sheng Tian died and Sheng Tian’s daughter Pao Ping He also died, and her son is Pao Kan Tian. And for that, Kan Tian and James’ grandson Michael Walker went on their journey to China (502 AD).

The first part of the journey is very tough, Kan Tian and Michael can’t find any boats and sail ships at the dock that send them here, so the only way they can get back to Kan Tian’s homeland is to walk on land, and firstly, they needed to go across cold Russia at the north. It is a tough route, they have encountered blizzards, barbarians and many different things. After they had gone more southern, the weather became warmer and become comfortable. This is also good for Kan Tian to go back to China more quickly. In the following months, it is very normal for Kan Tian, and they just went on their pace to China. But one day, when they are walking, Michael suddenly fell onto the ground and spat blood out of his mouth, not knowing why. When Kan Tian touched his body, he finally found out that he had a very high fever, Michael lay on the ground, and he carried him quickly to a village hospital nearby, the doctors said that Michael is okay, but needed to stay rested for a month. That month, Kan Tian met a beautiful girl, and they quickly fell in love and had their marriage. She is called Mary and they brought her on their way back to China too. Mary will be the mother of Pao Qing Tian further. They are already at the border of the Wei kingdom of China after 3 years of walking. They made themselves back in China and lived happily forever.

Part 1 Adventure of Judge Pao

YK Pao Primary School, Hui, Jared – 8

One time, in the Song Dynasty, lived a young man named Judge Pow. He was an intelligent warrior who fought for the Emperor Taizu. He was one of the 9 officers of the king and he was the general of the swordsmen, as Pow has the most experience in combat.

One normal day for Pow, he woke up and got ready for work and training. He started to meditate since it helped him focus. But suddenly, Judge Pow couldn't concentrate, and he opened his brown eyes as sweat poured down his worried face.

The officer next to him rushed and asked, " what happened? "

"I saw the awful vision that happened when I was 3 years old," Said Judge Pow. Judge Pow continued speaking, "When I was 3, my father was murdered by a assassin who worked for another dynasty. It's probably the closest dynasty and I'll find him someday ."

TWO YEARS LATER DURING THE MISSION TO DETECT THE ASSASSIN

While Judge Pow was traveling with his crew, he was trying to find and eliminate the filthy assassin for the crime he committed. Suddenly, an arrow swished passed one of the eyes – almost unbelievably he was one millimeter of getting struck on the head. Judge Pow told his crew to stay back because they were not as strong and tough as Judge Pow. He shot an arrow at the direction of the assassin's spot however luckily the arrow scared him, and he shouted out loud. Now they knew the absolute direction of the murderer. While the hoard of people tried sneaking around the giant rock, they didn't notice that the mysterious assassin escaped. Judge Pow saw the track and went by himself ...

READ THEN SECOND BOOK TO FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENS TO
JUDGE POW!!!!!!

Bun bunn bun !!!!!!!

The Prince or the Leopard Cat?

YK Pao Primary School, Jiang, Edward – 10

In China's Song dynasty, there was an emperor called Songzhenzong. When he was 50 years old, he still didn't have son to inherit his position. He had two young concubines surnamed Li and Liu.

One day, both concubines were pregnant. The emperor was overjoyed and sent them a handkerchief with his handwriting on it 'Dedicated to Li' and 'Dedicated to Liu' respectively. Then he told the two concubines, 'Whoever gives birth to a baby boy first will become empress!'

Li was a kind-hearted person, and welcomed by everyone in the imperial palace. Liu was greedy and deadly. Anyone who she disliked never got a good end, so she was feared.

As soon as Liu went back to her palace, she told her slyest servant Guohuai, 'I must be the empress and the empress dowager in the future.' Liu ordered, "Guohuai, you must not let Li give birth to a boy before I do."

"Yes, my Highness. However, if Li has a girl, then she will be spared." Guohuai made up her mind to kill Li's baby if he is a boy. Liu was pleased to hear Guohuai's plan. Ten days later, Li was going to deliver her baby.

A servant ran inside and told the emperor that Li has given birth to a boy-boy. Liu was sitting beside the emperor and snatched the words before the emperor, 'You'd better stay here. My emperor, since the path to Li's palace is cold. I can go visit Li!' The emperor was pleased to hear this.

Liu set off with an evil look in the corner of her eyes, which no one detected. Guohuai took off after her, and started operating the plan.

Guohuai secretly gave a block of gold to the doctor, who took out Li's baby and gave to Guohuai. Liu wrapped a dead leopard cat in swaddling clothes and head to the emperor palace. As soon as the emperor saw a horrible cat body as the 'baby', he was shocked and crumpled to the ground. This was something very unlucky for the nation by giving birth to a 'demon'. Soon Li was not allowed to come out and confined to a room. On the other hand, Guohuai carefully put the baby in an old basket and covered it with clothes. He told a servant surnamed Zhu to throw into a lake.

After a few days, Liu gave birth to a boy., and she became the new empress as her wished. Everyone in the imperial palace was delighted. Songzhenzong decided to hold the prince ceremony. Prince Zhaodefeng also came to wish luck to the baby, and asked the emperor, 'Can my newborn baby play with the prince? They will live together!' The emperor delighted.

His son, called Zhaozhen, was actually Li's baby, because servant Zhu did not want to kill the baby, so she sent the baby to prince Zhaodefeng instead.

Ten years went past. One day, Liu's son died unluckily of disease, so Zhaozhen was adopted by Liu and became the new prince. One day, Zhaozhen was walking on a small path with Zhu following. He saw a cute dog running away, and he followed the dog to an old house with steel bars for windows. An eerie cry sounded from inside the house. Zhaozhen walked towards the barred window, 'Who is in this poor house? Why are you crying?' A croaky voice sounded from inside, 'I am the royal concubine Li! I got into this mess for, for nothing!' Zhaozhen felt sorry for Li. Finally, it was time for Zhaozhen to go. He promised Li to bring more food to her next time.

From that day on, visiting Li became a daily thing to do. One day, Liu saw Zhaozhen stuffing food into his pockets, she asked, 'What are you doing?' 'I'm giving food to the poor royal concubine Li! ', answered Zhaozhen. The empress was fearful to hear this. She told Zhaozhen that she will arrange Zhu to send food to Li.

Soon after the prince walked away, Liu told Guohuai immediately to kill Zhu and burn Li to death. Zhu died by a heavy stick hit that day.

Her body was then wrapped in fabric, and servant Zhaozhong took her body outside the city to bury. An idea flashed across his mind, he decided to rescue Li. He took Zhu's body to Li's house and switched clothes with Li to manage Li to escape from the window. He told Li that she should ask for help from Minister Bao to undo the injustice herself.

Another ten years passed, Zhaozhen ascended and Liu became the empress dowager. The new emperor made a wise decision by appointing BaoZheng as the chief judge.

One day, Judge Pao returned to the capital. There were many people rushed to the street and cheered as Pao had brought Liu's brothers to justice who had committed lots of crimes in the country.

At that moment, an old woman in the middle of the road. She cried with grief, 'Pao! I am the concubine Li, and I am grievously wronged! Please save me!' Pao looked at the old granny astonishment. 'Concubine Li? Weren't you burnt to death years ago?'

'Yes, I am! Someone intended to burn me 10 years ago, but I was saved by a kind person', cried Li. Prince Zhaodefang muttered something in Judge Pao's ear, which Judge Pao listened intently with large eyes.

Pao asked the old women get on the carriage. They entered the palace and met with the emperor. The emperor was shocked and couldn't believe that the woman in front of him was his mother! Prince Zhaodefang spoke up, 'My Highness, my servant Chenlin and Zhaozhong will tell you the true things that occurred 20 years ago.'

Both witnesses were summoned to the palace. Their statement corresponded with Li and Zhaodefang. Li also took a handkerchief that Zhenzong gave to her with his writing on it.

The truth had been revealed. The emperor walked towards his mother with tears in his eyes, and hugged his mother. Everyone at the scene was moved to tears.

The emperor ordered Judge Pao immediately to arrest empress dowager Liu and GuoHuai. Liu was aware that she wouldn't be escape. She killed herself in her chamber. Guokuai was killed by an arrow.

The emperor was finally reunited with his mother. Those people who had offered their help to Li were all rewarded.

Even the story has passed many years, but it is still among the people. It speaks of that good men will receive reward while evil heart men will receive punishment sooner or later.

Tales of Judge Pao

YK Pao Primary School, Lee, Kylie – 9

Judge Pao stepped into a dark pit, shivering. Suddenly, warm air blew onto his face. As he opened his eyes, he was astonished by the surroundings. Everything seemed futuristic to him. Students walked by with rectangular-shaped plates that had moving people and drawings in them. The plates even made noise! When he turned his head to look outside, he could see snowflakes landing on the ground elegantly. But it felt warm. He shut his eyes and opened them. Students were still walking by. He tried to run outside to go back to where he was before, but he crashed into the invisible wall. That is when he realized that he was unable to go out, stopped by the invisible wall.

Judge Pao stopped a young person who was walking by and asked, “Where is this place?” The student replied, “This is Y K Pao school, sir. Who are you?” Judge Pao introduced himself: “What a funny coincidence! Your school has the same name as me. I am Judge Pao.” All students stared at Judge Pao in shock. There was a pleasant silence. Then, there was a loud, welcoming cheer! Some could not believe their eyes; others were jumping up and down in excitement!

The people in the hall were curious about Judge Pao. They bombarded him with questions. However, as he was answering the questions, he sensed that something was not right. He turned his head and saw a fifth grader teasing a first grader non-stop. Judge Pao stared at the fifth grader in disbelief. He came over to the fifth grader and said, “May I have a conversation with you, young man?”. “I guess so...”, the fifth grader mumbled. Judge Pao took the fifth grader aside.

“You mustn’t bully others. If you have ever been bullied before, you should know how it feels. It makes you feel sad or angry.” The fifth grader pictured all the moments when he was bullied during first grade. Now, he felt guilty for what he had done. Judge Pao said: “You made somebody feel bad through your words. It is impossible to take back words you have already spoken. It would be like breaking a bag of feathers and trying to pick them all up.” When Judge Pao finished his sentence, the fifth grader was turned into a first grader.

When the fifth grader appeared at the hall where everybody was, everyone laughed at him. “Do you know what it feels like to be a first grader?”, someone asked. The fifth grader slightly nodded. “You will turn back into a fifth grader in just one week. However, if you bully others, verbally or physically such as hitting, pushing, or stepping others, and deny it or say it was an accident, the one-week counting will start again. Good luck!” And poof! Judge Pao vanished into the air. From that day on, no one dared to bully others at YK Pao school.

Judge Pao

YK Pao Primary School, Liu, Dora – 8

In a warm sunny day Judge Pao came to a new place he walked and walked until he hears a loud cry. He saw a skinny old man crying loudly. Judge Pao asked “Why are you crying gentleman?” The man said “I am crying because someone was dead in my house and not only one it was two!” “Why?” Judge Pao boomed out. “First my girl was in love with a young man and when they surf together on the beach and the man make her not to balance well and then... you know it she falls.” “And your wife?” “She heard that my daughter dies she hang herself to dead.” The old poor man was still crying and even more harder. He said “I will find the boy” and so he search the shole world and find the boy to pay the money.

The New Tale of Judge Pao

YK Pao Primary School, Lyu, Abby – 9

Judge Pao planned to walk to the bustling city he was going to. It was quite a long way to go. It was annoyingly hot in a desert like road. Luckily, he saw a old, small cabin in the distance. He went inside it and rested for a while. It was cozy but dirty. Unfortunately, he was spotted by two nosy villagers living nearby. They thought they had to go to the emperor to complain. But Judge Pao was clever. He knew someone would notice. As he came out, he placed a single shiny coin on the front step. The two villagers knew that Judge Pao was being fair, so they didn't do anything.

Judge Pao continued to travel, and soon enough, he arrived at the city. It wasn't as beautiful and rich as he imagined. The streets weren't made of gold, they were just regular dirt roads. No fancy buildings and horse wagons. As he jostled through a noisy market, he noticed that someone was looking unpleasant. An egg seller told him his raw eggs were stolen. He asked Pao to catch the thief and get back his eggs but didn't want one cracked egg. Judge Pao looked around curiously. It seemed only farmers came to a faraway market like here. So, it should have been a sneaky farmer stealing the eggs. He attracted their attention by chatting loudly. After the hubbub quieted, Pao told the farmers to get out their eggs, for the farmers only sell boiled eggs. He noticed that one farmer's pockets were bulging. He kept close watch on him. Suddenly, Pao had an idea. He got it from the children playing. He remembered a game.

Next, he told them to spin the eggs like tops and use their fingers to stop them. Pao knew that the raw eggs wouldn't stop, while the boiled one would stop. He inspected all the eggs and saw that the farmer with bulging pockets had raw eggs.

So, the thief revealed the rest of the eggs and returned them to the egg seller. When the people of the city heard the news of what happened, they all agreed Judge Pao was indeed wise and observant. Many people started telling Judge Pao's interesting stories. Soon, he was world famous. Everyone asked him to be their judge and help them.

Afterwards, people respected Judge Pao and his name and history lived on for generations and is still famous today. This is the new tale of Judge Pao.

New Tales of Judge Pao

YK Pao Primary School, Mao, Matt – 10

Judge Pao however, was the fairest judge in China. He enforced the law impartially. I think you all know many fascinating stories of him, but I am going to tell you another story of Judge Pao.

Once upon a time, there was a tyrant emperor called Emperor Joel Wang WC JR. He asked for money every year. Anyone who did not pay that amount of money will be seriously punished. People were poor and China was in a terrible condition.

One morning, Judge Pao found out that some money, which was expected to give to the emperor, disappeared in his cabin. “Oh yes”, he thought, “I forgot to lock the cabin” . He knew that the person who stole the money must be in working in his court, because only those workers knew his exact address. He was so kindhearted that he didn’t want to find out the thief, because he knew the person who did that must need money more than he did. He even opened the cabin and left a note in the cabin writing “to really help those in need”.

The next day, he approached to the cabin to see if someone had stolen the money again. The person did it again! There were only 25 silver coins left. Judge Pao didn’t care, as he was kindhearted. He opened the cabin again and continued to allow that person to steal it.

The third day, he found out the money was stolen for the third time. He only had 20 silver coins left.

In the 4th day, no one had stolen the money, but Judge Pao could only afford to eat 5 spoons of rice every meal. He paid 10 silver coins to Emperor Joel Wang WC JR. Great news arrived at 5 in the evening. The evil emperor died because he was bitten by a Mamba snake (a deadly poison snake) in a warehouse when inspecting his treasury. He was so lucky that he got 10 silver coins by judging. Moreover, nobody stole Pao’s money ever since.

Nineteen years later, Pao had a fatal disease. Only a few doctors knew how to cure him. He asked many hospitals but in vain. Sleeping in his cold bed, he heard someone knocking the door. Judge Pao slowly stood up and opened the door. It was David the doctor. David cured his illness. However, David suddenly bowed to Judge Pao.

“Why are you bowing to me? And why do you know my exact address?” Pao asked curiously

“Thank you for helping me 19 years ago! I used to work in your court. I stole your money, and you continued allowing me to steal. I did that because I used up all my money to buy medicines for my mom. And I had no more money to pay to the greedy emperor. As a result, I was almost in prison. Desperately, I stole your money and it saved my entire family. After the Emperor died, I studied hard and became a famous doctor.” cried David

Doctor David sobbed and continued, “I became a doctor because of your help. I learned from you and I helped lots of others. You changed my life! You are the greatest person I have ever met!”

“It is okay. And a great thought to be a doctor. You saved my life. Thank you so much for curing my illness. I feel much better. You are now my best friend.”

THE END.

New Tales of Judge Pao

YK Pao Primary School, Peng, Caspian – 10

“You’ve got mail, Mr. Pao!” called the mailman.

Judge Pao was asleep when he heard the call. “Right, wait for me!” he replied. The mailman left silently. Judge Pao got up from his bed and walked slowly towards the mail post. He saw the envelope immediately and opened it. “Dear Mr. Pao, strange things have happened in our house. Please come and help us! We will tell you what it is when you get here!”, the letter says.

“Hmmm..... I’ll go!” Judge Pao took out his newest invention, a magic travel bottle that takes him anywhere he wants to go. He said the address to the bottle and in no time, he arrived at a white little house. A couple greeted them and Judge Pao asked what exactly happened. The woman told a strange and horrifying tale of creaking sound and voices at night and terrible dreams of being taken away by a ghost. “And these are not dreams, they were so real!” the woman said. “Honey, they are dreams. There’s no ghost in the world and you are still here”, said the husband. Judge Pao frowned and said nothing. He took out his magnifying glass and started to look around the house. Pretty soon, he found that a piece of broken wood on the floor. “Ah, the creaking sound is because of this!” Judge Pao exclaimed. “Now you can sleep soundly tonight!” he said, “but do call me if other strange things happen and here is my phone number”. The couple thanked Judge Pao as he left.

“Good night, honey! Finally, you won’t have bad dreams tonight.” The men said to the women as the couple got ready to bed that night. “Bang!” the couple were woken up by a huge sound. Their bedroom windows were blown open by a gust of wind. It was completely dark outside with no moonlit. The family dog was barking hysterically. “It must be the ghost! I told you it was not a dream”, the woman screamed and shivered. They hid in the bathroom and waited until sunrise to call Judge Pao.

“Alright, I will stop by.”, Judge Pao said. When he arrived, he looked around the house carefully again but nothing seems out of place. “Please don’t go,” begged the woman “I will not be able to sleep until you find out what happened.” Judge Pao stayed until sunset but still nothing happened. “I’ve got to go, perhaps staying in a hotel for few nights will calm you down”, Judge Pao said to the couple.

But as soon as he got up, his body froze. His magnifying glass was gone, and he was sure it was on the floor a second ago! But he said lightly to the couple “Well, it is late. How about I stay the night to keep you accompanied and you can pack up in the morning to stay in a hotel for a few days as we continue to investigate.” “That would be wonderful.” Said the woman.

But that night, Judge Pao heard the voices! “This is our first house, we will have it!” exclaimed a cold voice “Is this what you only want? Our master asked us to rule the world!” said another one. “Ah, people are so dumb, they don’t even know there are ghosts in the world! That would make it easier. And.....Hold on! I didn’t close the door!” “You are so stupid! Now they will know.....” “Shhhhh” And then, a bang, a door was closed. Then, everything went quiet.

In the morning, the family packed and left, but the family dog didn’t want to go. Judge Pao promised to feed the dog when he returns at night. After a peaceful day, he came back to the house. But, as soon as he went in, he smelled blood. Judge Pao traced the smell to a room and saw the family dog was dead! “Now, it’s your turn...”, a voice appeared suddenly.

One secret many people don’t know about Judge Pao was that he was an inventor. He invented many strange by useful tools. Judge Pao quickly pulled out something look like a phone and pointed it to the air. “Reveal yourself!”. With a flash of light, a man with rugged cloth appeared. “Got you!” Judge Pao held a gun in front of a ghost’s heart.

Judge Pao questioned the ghost, who said it was their master who wants to control the world. “Only the block of power will kill the master,” said the ghost with rugged cloth. “The block of power?” Judge Pao

asked. “Yes. It was hidden in the castle’s prison. I can turn you into ghosts and take you there. You also must promise not to kill me. I don’t really want to kill any human. I just want to live peacefully as a ghost.”

Soon the rugged man turned both of them into ghosts. Judge Pao then took out the magic travel bottle and said “kingdom of ghost!”. In a second, they arrived. The ghost led Judge Pao to the prison, which was guarded by two huge ghosts. Now, it’s time to use another peculiar invention by Judge Pao. He took out a little bottle and opened it to release smoke that is greenish grey. The two huge ghosts fell on the floor. “Follow me!” the ghost led Judge Pao into a small chamber and the block of power was right there, burning. “It’s very hot and I don’t know how to hold it.” “No worries!” said Judge Pao as he took out a small blue ball and throw it at the block of power. The thing went icy, and Judge Pao grabbed it quickly. He then took out the magic travel bottle and in no time, he was back in the house. Judge Pao was excited, now he knew he would only have to wait for the master of ghosts to come and fight them.

The New Tales of Judge Pao

YK Pao Primary School, Ruan, Ze Xiang Russell – 10

“What an amazing painting!” Jack shouted. Even though this is his fourth time seeing the painting of judge Pao in the museum, he still thinks the painting is spectacular.

Judge Pao was a judge who lived in China’s Northern Song dynasty. He was respected by all of the people from the Song dynasty to now because he is upright and selfless.

“I wish I could meet judge Pao for once,” Jack muttered. He has always wanted to meet judge Pao.

“Hello, Jack.” A voice said suddenly. Josh was been daunted by the mysterious voice. Then, a man wearing an ancient Chinese costume appear in my front. He has a dark face that is as black as a coal. He also has a crescent moon on his head. “I’m judge Pao. God give me the power to go to the future and also the power of mind reading. ”

The judge said affectionately. “ Let’s go back to the past. Maybe you can see me settle a lawsuit.” After he finished his sentence, he uses his hands to draw a golden, shining door in the air and then walk inside. I look around to make sure no one sees what I’m doing. Then, I entered the door.

Pao's study.

After an hour of talking with Pao, a guard ran into the study flustered. “Sir, there is a homicide case that happened a few minutes ago and the murder has been found!”

“Where did it happen?”

“At the emperor’s palace .”

“What!” screamed Pao. “Quick Jack, let’s go to settle the lawsuit!”

The palace

Judge Pao sits in the court, looking at the murderer with a serious expression. The murderer is wearing royal clothes, and the purple–gold crown on his head is glittering.

“What is the murderer’s identity?” asked judge Pao. “The crown prince” said the guards. “Then I will use the Dragon head chopper to kill him.”

The usage of the three–mouth copper cutting–edge tool is exploited for three types of people. The dragon head can be used to cut the bloodlines of the emperor, the relatives of the country lords and the descendants of the phoenix; The tiger's head can cut off corrupt officials and evil officials; A dog's head can cut off local tyrants, evil gentry and despots.

“Pao, you can’t kill me, I’m the king of the future. If you kill me, it means you are killing the king of the future,” the prince sneers at Pao, “and the king, who is my father wouldn’t allow you to do that.” “Zhao Shu, you are sure one of the princes, and you are the emperor of the future Song, but you corrupt splendour, wealth, and honour. According to the law, you should be judged. “How dare you do that!”

“The emperor arrives!” The emperor arrives! Now, Jack gives up the idea of judging the prince. No one can contrary to the emperor’s idea.

“Pao, what the hell are you doing?” The emperor asks Pao.

“I am handling a case.” Pao answer.

“But why did I hear that you are killing my son?”

‘Because he is a murderer.’ “Pao said calmly”.

“How dare you say my son is a murderer, do you have any evidence?” The king look at Pao. His eyes are ablaze with anger.

Pao reaches into one wooden box and takes out a sword from it. “My majesty, this is the sword that the murderer use.” The sword is about 60cm long, it shines like a silver snake in the light. Only the crown prince has this kind of sword.”

The emperor look at the golden floor in helplessness. “Can you don’t let him be killed?” The emperor asks Pao.

“My emperor, the rules of the court are the same for everyone. Maybe you can help your son, but who can help the poor, helpless, civilians? If the rules are unfair to civilians, who would want to live in Song?

It was time to say goodbye to judge Pao.

“Jack, where have you been? It’s time to go home!” cried dad’s voice behind my back.

I turn around. All of the characters have been gone. In my front is just the familiar painting.

“I just finished my journey with judge Pao,” he said with a smile.

New Tales of Judge Pao

YK Pao Primary School, Shen, Lucas – 10

It's a dark night, there's no moon. Everyone in the city is asleep, except.....“Knock,Knock!”, “Knock, Knock!” Ally Street #226's door was knocked. “Who is it?” a man with a black cloak walked out of a room and opened the door, yes, he is Judge Pao. A man in with long beard walked in , “Mark!” Judge Pao called out.

“Ha ha, Judge Pao! It's a long time we haven't met, isn't it!” the men called Mark laughed as they hugged each other. “Good these days?” Mark asked.

“Not really well!” Judge Pao shook his head, “The level of crimes are increasing every day, I don't even have time to rest, it's just cases and cases. Today I finally got a break!”

“Ha, then you better rest, Judge Pao, but today, I brought something fun for you!”

“Not a stinky frog again?”

“No no , that's just the past, I brought you –” Mark came closer to Judge Pao, “a time machine!” Mark went out the door, and dragged in a rectangular machine. “I got this when I solved a case two days ago, but I thought that you will need this more than I will, so I came!”

“I don't really understand what you're saying, what does a time machine have to do with my job?” Judge Pao asked.

“Well, ” Mark shrug his shoulders, “the case yesterday, you didn't find any clues did you? But maybe time can help you!”

“Oh, thanks Mark, I have to try it now! Thank you!”

“Easy, easy, okay I have to go now,bye!” Mark stepped out the house.

The robbing case they were talking about was yesterday, a robber robbed a lot of money in a famous bank and did not leave any clues such as footprints. Judge Pao sorted out lots of cases but really had no ideas for this case.

Judge Pao observed the machine carefully, “This doesn't look hard to control.” Judge Pao murmured to himself. He studied the thing for a minute, then took a deep breath. “Well, time to try it!” He pressed a key on the machine and a little door opened, Judge Pao climbed inside the machine. He looked at the surroundings, there's a clock like knob beside him. He slowly turned the knob clockwise until the pointer points to the words “1 day ago”. Finally, Judge Pao closed the little door and pressed a red key which says: “Travel Now”. within a second, Judge Pao disappeared with the time machine.

Within a flash, Judge Pao felt dizzy and closed his eyes. After a while, Judge Pao opened his eyes and climbed out of the machine, weirdly, he landed on a rooftop, beside him were shops and restaurants, and a bank. “Looks like the machine knows where I want to go!” Judge Pao smiled. He's sure that he landed in Docky street 138, where the rob happened, but in yesterday.

“Now I just have to wait till the rob happens and see who did it, and also find some evidence.” Judge Pao looked at his watch, magically, the time on the watch also changed, it's 4 PM now. The rob happened on 5PM, which means he still had to wait for 1 hour. “What should I do in this hour? Ah ha! ” Judge Pao jumped from the roof to the ground, and walked to the bank.

The bank guards saw Judge Pao, “Hey, Judge Pao, what brings you here?” a guard asked.

“Listen,” Judge Pao called out seriously, “you guys may not believe this, but I came from the future, yes, the future, and”

“You're joking!” the guards laughed.

“I'm not!” Judge Pao roared, “Not only I come from the future, but I know your bank will be robbed about a hour later.”

“He’s lying!” a voice shouted from behind. Judge Pao looked back, it’s a police man! “Ha ha, I was just patrolling and heard this joke! No one can travel in time, , even if you are Judge Pao!” the police man continued.

“It’s fine if you don’t believe me, then just wait for one hour and you will all see.”

“Well, I’m just gonna stay in the bank and see if the money flies then!” the police’s speech made the guards laugh again. The police walked in the bank, “What’s the password of this cupboard? I’m just going to hold money in hand and see if it’s stolen!”

“Ha ha !” a guard sat down, “Nothing to worry about, it’s 3289327419!”

“You shouldn’t tell anyone this!” Judge Pao suddenly froze. Because he saw a crew smile appeared in the police’s face.

“He’s right, you shouldn’t tell me, but you did, and the rob will happen now!” the police already opened the cupboard, he grabbed a bunch of jewels and ran out the bank.

“Catch him!” Judge Pao shouted, but the guards were too surprised that they froze!

Judge Pao had to chase the thief himself, he chased and chased, at a building’s corner he saw two police, “catch the thief, quick!”

The two police got up quickly, not long, they captured the thief. But the thief was not scared, “I knew you would catch me, as long as Judge Pao have been trapped, I’m satisfied!”

“What, trapped?” Judge Pao was confused.

“Yes, my partner’s trick worked! He left the machine to Mark on purpose, and he knew you would travel back. But think, you captured me now, the history changed. You captured me, the case is solved , so in regular time, Mark doesn’t need to give you the machine to help you, actually, the machine won’t even appear, so you won’t be able to go back to regular time and will be trapped in this time!”

“So you think it’s a good plan? I already thought of that really early, all I have to do, is free you to the bank, and let you do the rob again, and the history will recover! But now I knew you appearance, I would catch you easily!” Judge Pao smiled.

“What, No!”

And that’s what happened at last, Judge Pao caught the thief in regular time and kept the time machine in home.

New Tales of Judge Pao

YK Pao Primary School, Shi, Nicole – 10

Once upon a time, there was a person called Judge Bao he goes inside a forest , He find a house inside the forest , he was curious . So he goes inside it . He only saw one person sleeping on the bed . He doesn't think so much so he go to bed. While he was sleeping at home , he have a nightmare: He dreamed there is a person wearing all black go inside his house , the person looks like want to try to find something . It makes the house looks very cruddy. After that the person wearing black goes inside a room . It was quite weird that there was a female going inside his house after that. She looks like was also trying to find something too . But it seems that she find it , but why Is it just a book ? Was the person wearing black also finding that book ? Nobody Knows , Judge pao feels scared so he stop sleeping. But when he was waken , he did not find anything been sneak , he feels a bit strange but he thinks maybe the thing was over it would not happen anymore .

On the next day when he was about to go to bed , he feel there was a person touching him but when he turn his head , he doesn't saw anything . This time his dream was great but in the real life there was something scary happening . He remembered he didn't charge for the phone but when he was waken he saw the phone was been charged ! What a scary thing !

The third day he saw a person under his bed . Such a scary thing ! He run quickly in the forest . But suddenly he waken , was it only a dream ? Maybe or maybe not . He still feel scary he doesn't want to stay in the black forest but he also doesn't want to go back to the scary house which was his house . He feels scared of the house right now he want to have a good dream. Because he can not just stay in the forest so he still goes home . He was scared and he look under the bed , nobody there ! It was more weird ! This time he did not have a dream in night time .But he was still very scared about the nightmare for a few days before . He have no idea and he change a house . But he still have different bad dreams, but he was waken again , he feel a little strange right now is he still inside a dream or is it in the real life ? He saw that he was now in the old house , the house he made different bad nightmare . He has no idea . He don't know why he would sleep while he was sleeping it was strange and weird .

On the fourth day he got good news which is his family would come back , he wouldn't be a lonely person anymore. His family maybe can be he some more anchor. He feels happy . And he do not feel scared anymore. But without knowing why , his family start to have nightmare's too . What happen to his family ? Or what make them have nightmare. All The people in the family decided to change a house forever not coming to this house again . They go inside the new house they all like the new house . They like the new house , it was pretty and the strange thing was nobody was having nightmare in the new house . Does the old house has danger or was it just because of the people of the family ? The family decided to go the old house . But after he sell it , the person who buy it always have nightmare . The family was a bit doubt . He think maybe the house have some problem so they decide to sell it again and again so that they could know id=f it was the houses problem or is it the problem of the family . But the family got bad news which is all the person who buys the house , made different nightmare everyday . The whole family think it would be the problem of the house . They decide not to sell the house again , just leave the house over there because they think maybe there was somebody inside the house and if there was nobody there the person in the house can not stay there . There was nothing to eat , nothing to drink , nobody can stay in a place which has nothing to eat or drink .

When the family sell the house again , the person who buys it wouldn't have nightmare . Which was a great news for the family. Nobody would have nightmare there because of the house , but who was In there the time they live and how does he has water to drink and foods to eat ? Nobody knows anything about the person , nobody know where he was in the house , nobody know what he eat and drink , but it was ok because anyway the danger wouldn't happen anymore and nobody would be harm over there . The whole family was happy .

Every person makes great dreams at night time nobody has nightmare , what a great thing ! The police find a person without breathing under the sofa beside the television this person eat foods while people sleeping . Every person who lived there before think it was very scary . Nobody have looked under the Sofa for such a long time ! People was shaken it was so amazing !

New Tales of Judge Pao

YK Pao Primary School, Wang, Yoyo – 10

It all started on a winter evening, when Judge Pao came home from a long day of work, desperately hungry and barely able to stand from exhaustion. He stumbled into his pantry, clawing his way through the boxes of cereal and brownie mix he had got for Christmas many years ago. He never used brownie mix or any kind of cake mix. That was because he was a terrible baker, who couldn't even use a stand mixer without splattering the whole kitchen with egg yolk and flour.

Finally finding his favorite ice cream, he grabbed a box and crawled into bed. Later finding himself waking up in the middle of a sodden bed, with an ice cream cone and several strawberries that appeared to have fallen off his ice cream as it melted. Apparently, he had fallen asleep before he could take a bite of the ice cream. Judge Pao cursed as he stumbled out of his bed looking for some spare sheets. Right now you must be wondering why a full grown man is stubborn as a baby.

This is why: When Judge Pao was a school boy he was very popular, everyone adored him. He was an amazing football player and had rather charming looks, he never lost to anyone. But one day, he had a football match, but he had twisted his ankle the day before. Still, he was determined to play. Unfortunately, he had trouble keeping up with his teammates on his twisted ankle and therefore lost. Judge Pao was devastated, he had never lost a competition in his life! He doubted if he could do anything right. From then on he became the ungrateful soul he now was.

Now, back to the present, Judge Pao couldn't find any sheets, he had never learned to change them anyway. Thinking he could just ask his next door neighbor to help him, he brought some pillows to the living room couch and slept there, using a winter coat as a blanket.

The next day was an unlucky day for Judge Pao, even more unlucky than usual! He woke up late and hurriedly chomped down some bread, then dashed out of the door. Even though Judge Pao was running as fast as he can it was still barely faster than a sloth(He had lost his gift for running many years ago). He arrived at his office at 9 o'clock(30 minutes late), consequently he wasn't able to finish his work. He had to stay late to finish it. By the time he got home, he felt like he could sleep for a thousand years. He dragged his feet up to his bed not even bothering to take a shower, fell asleep as soon as his head hit the pillow.

His dream was no more pleasant than that day, He dreamt his worst fear, his dream recalled the horrible football match. He heard his friends laughing at him in the distance. He felt the burning rage that had constantly been inside him.

Suddenly, the vision disappeared, he was now standing between two enormous hedges covered with thorns. He looked around, the hedges seem to go on forever. "This must be a maze." he mumbled to himself. He was very curious, he wanted to know why he was here. He started to explore the mystical maze, then began to stride down the pathway, much faster than usual.

Judge Pao was feeling an exquisite feeling, he had never felt like that in his memory. It was a special feeling, it wasn't sadness or depression it was something else... Happiness! Judge Pao has long since forgotten how it felt like to be happy. His life had been dark and bitter for as long as he could remember.

On the way he noticed lovely things. Judge Pao spotted a rainbow shining through the fog, he had never seen such a gorgeous rainbow in his life. There were flowers and trees along the passages. He breathed the wintry breeze and smelled the fragrant scent of roses.

After a long walk, Judge Pao arrived in the middle of the maze. He cautiously peered around. He was standing in the center of a deserted field covered with grass that seemed to have been growing for a long time.

"Judge Pao," a startling voice whispered from nowhere. "You have finally arrived."

"Who's there?" Judge Pao asked with a trembling voice.

The voice and spoke again “It’s me, the teenage Judge Pao.”

A figure rose up from the ground, It was the younger Judge Pao! Judge Pao was stunned, “But...but how could you be here?”he stammered.

“This maze is called The Past Maze,” the younger Judge Pao replied. “It shows you your past.” “Don’t worry,” he assured Judge Pao, seeing the worried look on his face. “ This isn’t a deadly maze.”

“But it’s deadly for me; I’m the unluckiest person in the world!” Judge Pao exclaimed.

“You are not the unluckiest person in the world.” The younger Judge Pao declared.

“What do you mean?” Asked Judge Pao.

“Luck can’t get you very far.” younger Judge Pao informed him. “Didn’t you realize that you weren’t unlucky at all when you headed through the maze? You didn’t even trip.” The younger Judge Pao told him.

“So what?” Judge Pao shrugged.

“ You weren’t unlucky because you were happy,”exclaimed the younger Judge Pao. “ You were confident and for once you saw the good aspects of life.”

The word “happiness” echoed in his brain as Judge Pao woke up with a start. Today he was cheerful, he wasn’t clumsy anymore.

Now Judge Pao finally understood. Happiness changes everything.

After that encounter with his former self, Judge Pao’s life changed dramatically. He lived a normal life and had just the same amount of luck as anyone could have.

Happiness is everyone’s companion.

The Story of Judge Pao

YK Pao Primary School, Zhang, Alma – 10

Whoosh. Whoosh. The sound of the rain falling heavily on the window crashed into the famous judge, judge Pao's ears. That didn't sound happy, nor is judge Pao.

Judge Pao's emotion fits exactly with the weather, as if he controls it. There, the sky didn't have much light, and judge Pao didn't have much happiness at all. He sat on a chair, looking up at the gloomy sky, with his face in his hands, frowning slightly. All this could only mean one thing. Judge Pao is thinking.

It is such an incredible thing to see judge Pao think, because he is soooooo smart, a problem is an easy—peasy—lemon—squeezey thing for him. But now, just now, Judge Pao is having a problem he cannot solve easily. At this moment, you might have a question bump into your head instantly, which is “what is the problem? How and when did the problem appear?” The answer for these questions needs a time controller to see the past. It all began at yesterday afternoon:

It is a bright and sunny day. Judge Pao sat in a comfortable chair outside in his tea garden, having afternoon tea. Just like I said, the weather matches with judge Pao's feelings. The day is peaceful and shiny, and judge Pao looked all calm and relaxed. He drank his delicious tea lightly, with the golden sun giving warmth and peace all around. Beautiful roses and lilies danced in their flowerbeds, their soft dress flowing gracefully... But the happy time didn't last long.

“Judge Pao, sir!!! Judge Pao!!! Sir, I need to tell you something! A voice rang suddenly, a voice full of emergency. Judge Pao stood up, and walked quickly, searching for the voice. A man appeared, gasping for breath, still shouting for Judge Pao, “judge Pao, sir!!! Oh, thank goodness!” The man sat on the soft grass in tiredness. He looked a real mess: there are wooden pieces and grass on his shirt, bruises and injuries on his skin, his hair is ruffled and messy and his shoes have holes in it, he sure has come a long, tough way. Judge Pao walked over to help him get up, moved the wooden pieces and grass off his shirt, softened the pain on these bruises, smoothed his hair and fetched a pair of new shoes, telling him to wear those. He gestured him to take deep, slow breaths (because the man is too nervous to talk and respond,) and, finally, the man calmed down.

“Now,” Judge Pao asked calmly, “you can answer. What are you trying to say?”

“Judge Pao, sir, very sorry to interrupt you in your afternoon tea, but I have a very important mission to report. Super important!!!” The man exclaimed in fast speed, his chest still rising and falling greatly. “I have a killing mission to report!”

Hearing this news, judge Pao's calm face turned into a business-like face. He grabbed his notebook and fished out a pen out of his pocket. “Please continue,” he said.

“M...My wife is killed!!!”

“Who did it?”

“No idea. But my wife is killed by someone!!!”

“Please describe the scene.”

“I, I was going to work,” the man stuttered. “So, I left my wife to take care of the children, to make food and do chores and all that. When it is time to go home, I started walking as normal. But when I nearly got home, a loud, high-pitched scream filled the air, and I became seriously worried because the scream did seem to come from my house. I quickened my footsteps and ran home. I can see ripped curtains and a scratched table. I followed some blood drops on the floor and was led into our bedroom. I found a blood-stained glove, and pieces of broken glass. I looked up and saw that the window was broken and there is a half-opened dresser. I opened it and found a long box. Curiously, I opened it too. Inside it is...” he shuddered. “The scariest thing I've ever seen in whole my life. I saw my wife's... You know what.” He stopped at there, unable to speak anymore.

“I see,” judge Pao muttered. He finished taking notes and frowned. “Well, I will soon tell you who did it and solve the problem, Mr...”

“Leaver,” the man finished it for him. “I am so thankful, Mr. Pao. Super thankful. Well, it's nice meeting you, Mr. Pao, but I better leave, I have my kids in my house to take care of.”

“Bye, Mr. Leaver, it’s nice meeting you too,” judge Pao answered. “I’ll tell you the answer the quickest I can do.”

Well, I hope this past scenario haven’t made your head spin, because now we’re going to go back to NOW.

Judge Pao sat thinking for a long time, flipping through the notes he wrote, with the wind blowing harshly and the rain still falling from the grey clouds. Finally, he planned up. Without wasting any more time, he immediately hurried outside into the scary weather, and headed towards Mr. Leaver’s home.

Running and splashing in the mud and water puddles, judge Pao felt cold. He didn’t grab a fur coat and a umbrella because he thought that he must get to Mr. Leaver’s quickly. But he didn’t turn his heels to go back and grab those things, because he didn’t care much now. His target is going to Mr. Leaver’s as quick as he can, tell him the plan and explain what he must do, and head back in fast speed so he could do the plan.

“Mr., Mr. Leaver,” judge Pao panted, as he ran near Mr. Leaver’s house. “I finished planning, so I’ll tell you, as my promise.”

“Oh!!! Mr. Pao!!! Sir!!! Do come in! Oh my god, you look cold! Come in! Our house have floor heating.” Mr. Leaver hurried forwards, and welcomed judge Pao in.

Afterwards, judge Pao told him his plan. Judge Pao are ready to face the danger...

The Tales of Judge Pao

YK Pao Primary School, Zhang, Cecilia – 10

The shadow descended down the ancient stairs. Boom! The door was blasted to pieces by Judge Pao's pistol. The entrance was tenebrous and when the judge and his men entered slowly, spreading out, aiming with their guns carefully. The judge waved his hand to his men casually and they relaxed. Then—an uncanny silence. “Who's there? I warn you. We are armed.” As his men started to aim at the direction the judge was looking at, he interrupted them, sauntered a few steps forward, and spoke again, his voice caustic and equanimous simultaneously. “If I were you, I'd come out now. Wherever you're hiding, you'll probably regret this now.” Instead, no reply. “Last chance— three, two, one.” The judge's sharp eyes narrowed.

Judge Pao's temper rose. He put his hand under the blanket and declared that the owner of this house had been sleeping just a few minutes ago and then kicked away the bed. His men kicked the bookshelves. Judge Pao espied a secret passageway, which was full of copious dusty cobwebs. He motioned for his men to come with him. He pulled a flashlight out of his belt and was very hypervigilant as he slowly crawled through the passageway. He saw a dying man writhing in agony on the ground, which was spattered with his maroon blood. “Speak!” the judge commanded. “I s—s—shouldn't have hooked up with..... with *t—them*. I should've did *it* sooner.....All *t—that blood* on my hands.....F—forgive me for what I have done, p—p—please, have mercy!” he whispered, his voice cracked. Then he breathed his final breath and died. The judge rolled the man onto his stomach. He stared, unsurprised, at the body laid out onto the floor, at the dark stain spreading out beneath him, and most of all, at the long, curved dagger driven deep into his back. “Well. Death is fugitive; even when you're watching for it, the actual instant somehow slips between your fingers.....a Mughal dagger. From India. The sixteenth century. The curved handle's inlaid with gold and ivory. The grip's made of black cord, wound around the metal. *And* decorative pieces on the pommel and at the end of the hand guard. White stones, opals, I think?” Judge Pao mused. With one instantaneous swipe, he pulled the dagger out of the man's back. Cochineal and rufescent blood squirted from it, making a pool of blood.

He commanded, “Search him.” He wiped the blood from the dagger and studied it closely. “I wonder who killed him. Nobody could even touch this exquisite, priceless treasure. It was from a museum or an antique store.” “We found money, weapons, a pen and diary, and a passport.” One man reported. “Wait. Are you wearing gloves?” He asked, tense. At their nods, he breathed a sigh of relief. “We can't touch anything now. Put it into a bag and we'll identify them. Collect the body. Gather the stuff. HURRY!” They got to work at once.

They arrived back at their station. Judge Pao had an immediate meeting with the emperor, telling him about the case and the items he had found cynical. They studied them. The money was the dead man's, who was American and named Travis Clements. The diary was brand new. The passport read: *Birthday: 27-11-2004. Zodiac sign: Sagittarius. Birthplace: Los Angeles.* The emperor suggested that he return to the abandoned house with more men just in case, and he listened. He loaded up his truck and headed to the small village again. The passageway was untouched, but the window in the attic was open with a dangling bedsheet. Bloodstains covered the windowsill. “The murderer has escaped!” Judge Pao fumed. They collected the evidence and then left the house, and they double bolted its doors and windows, sealed up the passageway, and left a sign in front of the door with a warning. Just as they were leaving, the eerie, queer house, the judge decided to return. “I have an anomalous feeling that we've missed something.” Judge Pao announced. He searched the house again. Behind a painting, they found an ancient key with a note written in cursive: “4,7,1.— *Rose*”. “I have an idea. Leave some people here, and we'll move on to the other houses in this atypical little village. You three, follow me, the rest stay or we'll get in Brobdingnagian trouble with *this* many people. And search for people named Rose. It could be a code name, or it could be abridged, like Rosaline, etcetera. Good luck.” They hurried away. In one house, Judge Pao found a lock on one of the doors, so they fitted the key inside. It was an adequate miracle that it worked. Inside, it was spruced up, and very neat and tidy. The owner must have been a guy that worshipped books. In the room, every wall was full of books and there

were lengthy shelves all full of books with different colors: lavender, rose, azure, sapphire, indigo, turquoise, emerald, aqua, amber, gold, brown, scarlet, ruby, carmine, vermeil, black, silver, white.....of all sizes. That room didn't have any convenient information. Later, they found an electrical lock system. They inserted the password on the note: 4,7,1. It worked, and inside was a person who didn't notice them. He was sleeping. He woke with a start. "What are you doing?" He asked. "Don't be afraid. You'll only stay in prison if you admit your crimes. We can't do anything to you now, but the more time you waste, the less valuable your price will be. Think about it." Judge Pao told the man. The man looked up, troubled. "You have something hidden in your words." "For you to find." Minutes passed. He confessed. Judge Pao received a medal for solving this case within one day. It set a record. The villain was sent to prison. One day, Judge Pao was drinking tea with the emperor, and he told him, "It's quite nice to have a peaceful afternoon tea and not investigate cases."

New Tales of Judge Pao

YK Pao Primary School, Zhou, Jia Tong Emily – 10

Night settled on the city called Hefei as it fell asleep. Mr. Tao, the butcher was hurriedly running across the street with a huge burlap bag in his arm. The moon light shone on him as he ran into the woods.

A dozen soldiers are running behind him, each with a torch in their hand. They followed into the woods where Mr. Tao ran into. After the soldiers, a young boy called Hui snickered behind a tree. He slowly crept towards the house of the richest man in the village, Mr. Zhang. There had been a dozen soldiers at the door, but they had all gone after Mr. Tao, so the door was clear by now. Although there was a huge, golden lock at the door, it wasn't a big deal. Hui had always known how to pick lock in the rightest way. He had been stealing things and picking locks ever since his parents went to war and haven't come back and he had to take care of his young siblings. He had once stolen a flute, a ring, a chunk of cheese and an old man's golden tooth. Of course, all of these were sold out and turned into a cow that provides milk for the family.

Today, in Hefei, everyone had heard of the famous government official, Judge Pao. Everyone there was proud of him and admired him. They even set up some statues in memory of his influential goodness, wishing his spirit of wisdom and justice can spread and sustain for long. Everyone admired him a few hundred years ago, including Hui.....when he was even younger. At that time, he was a little boy who wasn't often noticed. That was why he wasn't caught when he crept into Judge Pao's room and peeked at him as he worked. At that time, he swore that when he grew up, he will become a man like Judge Pao, helping others around. However, his dream vanished since his parents left.

This time, he would rob an old treasure, from ten thousand years ago. If he sold that out in the black markets, then he and his siblings will never be poor again. He slowly pushed a piece of twig between the lock. Maybe the Empire would want him to work in the palace. The lock fell to the ground with a "Clang" and the door opened. He quickly checked that no one was heard the sound before he walked inside.

Suddenly, a few guarded men sprang out from inside, pointing at him with their spears. The Judge Pao walked out from the shadow and glared at him. Hui suddenly realized that it was all Judge Pao's trap. It was his idea to hide in Mr. Zhang's house and get him!

The next a day was Hui's trial. Judge Pao glared down at him and spoke. "Hui," he said, "I had heard that you are a poor young man. However, that is no reason you should go and steal other people's properties. You are a young man with a long future before you. But you just stole things and abandoned your future." As he spoke, Hui felt huge pressure hanging in his voice, but as he thought about it, it did make sense. A lot of sense. He was poor, but other people are poor too. The people he had robbed are once poor too, but they worked hard and became rich. He shouldn't take away other's hard work, but he should work hard himself. He has no reasons to wreck their life, even if his life was wrecked. If he worked hard, he could have a bright future. Now, he must die for his actions.

Judge Pao seemed to see his regret, for he said, "I wish there were other ways to take your crime but there weren't, eh?"

"No, sir." said Hui.

"Then I regret say that you must die."

"Wait! Mr. Tao is part of the plan as well! Why is he not dead?"

"There, young man, Mr. Tao is dead. The stones in his bag slowed him down as he ran. His head was taken down yesterday, as he was caught before you. I am sorry to say that although you are caught after him, you must die too."

He turned to executioner and signed before he said to them, "Kill him."

The sword was high in the sky before it fell, and the thin blade felt cold on his neck for a second. Hui saw his life flashed in front of him. And then, he remembered.....

That day ten years ago, when he crept into Judge Pao's room, when he saw Judge Pao work, and when he swore. He then saw that ten years later, he would steal and rob. At last, he saw a grave with the

name “Hui” on the stone. It was different from any other stone. There were no flowers on the stones. Instead, people had thrown all sort of rotten food on it and there was a pungent odor coming from the cold stone. No one will respect him when he died. He was looking at his life when he heard Judge Pao shout, “Run!” He couldn’t see anything as he did so.

When he finally opened his eyes, he was back on his bed. Is it just a dream? He looked down. The letter he was going to give to Mr. Tao to ask him to help attract the guards was in his hand. He stared at it for a moment, then he threw it into the fireplace. Fire danced around the letter, and he watched as Mr. Tao’s name melted and the letter slowly turned into ash. He won’t steal the treasure anymore, and he won’t have Mr. Tao die for him.

From that day on, Hui became the most helpful young man in the village.

Creative Writing
Fiction

Group 2

New Tales of Judge Pao

Alliance Primary School Kowloon Tong, Cheng, Tsz Kiu – 11

Once upon a time, there was a man called Judge Pao. He was a Chinese justice fighter, a Judge. He always orders soldiers to execute people who committed serious crime by chopping their heads off.

One day, Judge Pao found out his two vases and more important his sword awarded by the king were gone. Someone must have stolen them. Therefore, he ordered Zhan Zhao, the head of the soldiers to find the thieves and bring them to him. After a few hours, Zhan Zhao caught one of the thieves but the other one escaped. Pao interrogated the thief. Because the thief was afraid of being executed by chopping his head off, he finally admitted to Pao that they actually came from the future by a time machine. They stole simple, non-expensive things. However, when they brought back to the future, it would be worth a lot of money because people would treat them as ancient artifacts. Pao was very angry and decided to chase the other thief. And most important to take back the king-awarded sword. The thief begged Pao not to execute him by providing where and how to use the time machine. He also promised that he would go with him to find the other thief, return the stolen items and also would admit his crime in the future. Pao did not promise him but said he will make judgement later.

Pao went to the future with Zhan Zhao and the thief using the time machine. They were amazed by everything in the modern world. However, they are not used to the modern life. They did not know how and where to find the thief. No matter how smart Pao was and how good Zhan Zhao's "Kung Fu", they could not use their normal way to find the thief nor the stolen items. Finally, they decided to seek for the police and judge in the modern world to help. Pao told them what had happened. The head of police immediately drafted pictures of how they described the thief characteristics and the stolen items. They did some searching of data in the computer. And then, they sent all the information to different police stations and ordered them to search for the thief and the stolen items. After half day, with the high technology, they found the other thief and the stolen items in an auction house. Pao recognized the auction items were all his lost items. With this evidence, police went and caught the other thief. Pao decided to give both thieves to the modern judge to decide the punishment because they were from the future.

The judge brought the thieves to the Court. Pao was very interested and the judge invited him to join. Pao was very surprised that the judge finally sentenced the thieves to be in prison for 2 years and to do service work for another 1 year instead of chopping the thieves' heads off. The judge explained to Pao that they had different levels of punishment according to the seriousness of the crime but they basically never sentence a criminal to death. The reason was that everyone should be a chance to reform. They had had most of the cases that people would reform and back to be a good citizen after years in prison. And in prison, they provided a lot of different programs to educate the criminal to learn how to turn back to a good man. Pao and Zhan Zhao were also invited by the police officers to visit a prison, too.

Pao and Zhan Zhao travelled back to the past and destroyed the time machine to avoid any future thief who might come again. And another thing Pao did was put the punishment equipment such as the chopping head station into the warehouse. Zhan Zhao was surprised and asked Pao the reason why he removed the punishment equipment. Pao said "I was so amazed by what I saw and experienced in this trip to the future. But the most important thing I learnt this time is that we should allow a chance for people to reform themselves."

Save The Happy

Alliance Primary School Kowloon Tong, Chiu, Chin Wing – 11

In Song Dynasty, there was a holy place nearby Kaifeng called Happy Village. People who lived here used to be carefree. Unfortunately, one day "Lost Virus" had been spread throughout the village. The infected villagers appeared to be depressed, feeling lost. Indeed, it was curable by taking enough pistachio, so-called "Happy Nuts". However, A greedy businessman noticed the opportunity to earn more money raised the price of "Happy Nuts", so that he could make more money.

One morning, the businessman went back to his store. Once he stepped into the store, he was staggered by the scene in front of him. "Where are my "Happy Nuts"? Who took my Nuts?" cried the businessman. He was so furious and panicked that he went to find the village leader for help, bring along some gold beans. Unexpectedly, the leader was happy to help. He even invited his friend Judge Pao, the best investigator in the world, to help solve the case.

When Judge Pao heard the news, he worried about the people suffering from the disease. He asked his assistants, Zhan Zhao and Gongsun Ce, to accompany him to Happy Village. Villagers told Judge Pao that the "Happy Nuts" were too expensive and that they couldn't afford to buy them. Judge Pao told the villagers to calm down and said, "We're here to help you. Please make way for us to pass through. Thank you!" The villagers believed in Judge Pao and all stood back.

At noon, when they arrived at the store, the leader and the businessman had already set the table. There was feast enough for 20 people. Judge Pao did not have lunch with them, but only asked a few questions about the case. They both couldn't wait to groan, "The terrible thief stole my valuable cure. Judge Pao, can you imagine how much I lost?" While they were grumbling, Gongsun Ce spotted something and yelled, "Here we are! A cloth scrap on the hooks of the wall! I believe it's not yours, right?" he turned to the businessman. "Of course! it is cheap cloth?" Judge Pao looked at the cloth scrap for a while and decided to take it back to the government office.

Judge Pao sat in front of the desk and studied the cloth scrap carefully. When he smelt it, the special seasoning odour gave him a critical clue. The smell was similar to that nearby the crowd they were in today morning. And there was only one noodle stall on that street. To prove what he thought, Judge Pao told Zhan Zhao to get some water. Then he put the piece of cloth into the water, and some oil floated up. Judge Pao induced the seasoning's pungent odour and the oil should be from the oil noodles stall. Zhan Zhao went to the noodle store and waited there until late at night. Finally, he saw someone leaving the store with a bag of "Happy Nuts." Zhan Zhao followed the person and saw that he was giving the "Happy Nuts" to poor people in a different part of the village. Zhan Zhao went back to the government office and told Judge Pao and Gongsun Ce what he had seen. Judge Pao said, "Well done. Now my assumption has been proven. The thief is Mr Chan of noodle store.

"COURT-----" Mr Chan, the businessman and the village leader stood in front of Judge Pao. "Mr Chan, we found evidence that you are the person who stole the "Happy Nuts. Are you guilty?" Mr Chan numbed for a few seconds, "I just want to help the poor. The sneaky merchandiser raised the price to 10 times the original price. We should step in other's shoes and try to understand and help." Judge Pao maintained his poker face and said, "I repeat, are you guilty?" Mr Chan lowered his head and said, "Yes, I am. "My mum kicked the bucket because we couldn't afford enough "Happy Nuts" for her. It should not happen to my mum or anyone else. "

Judge Pao thought for a moment and then said, "I understand why you did what you did. You wanted to help the people who were sick. But you should have found another way to help them instead of stealing. However, I can see that your intentions were good." Judge Pao said, "Do you have anything else to say?" Mr Chan answered, "Well, in fact, except the businessman increased the price of 'Happy Nuts', the village leader has been bribed, he received the money from the businessman and helped him to make sure that the businessman was the only one who sold 'Happy Nuts' in this village.

The village leader whispered to Judge Pao, "Well, he is telling the truth. But Pao, consider of our friendship, let me go." Judge Pao said, "You are wrong. If I don't punish you, is it fair to the people who got in trouble because of you? And you too, businessman" The village leader and the businessman were speechless, Judge Pao said, "The truth of the case came to light. Guard, lock these two well." Judge Pao states, "Mr Chan, I will not punish you for what you have done. Instead, I will talk to the greedy businessman and make sure that he lowers the "Happy Nuts" price so everyone in the village can afford to buy them.

The villagers were pleased to hear this and thanked Judge Pao for his wise decision. From then on, everyone in the village could buy the "Happy Nuts" and the "Lost Virus" was no longer a problem. The village returned to being known as Happy Village once again.

It's essential to think about how our actions will affect others and to always try to find the right solution, instead of resorting to stealing or taking advantage of others. And that's how the village of Happy was saved.

The Crescent Moon

Alliance Primary School Kowloon Tong, Ding, Xi Xi – 12

Judge Pao (JP) is a famous person who investigates murders. Judge Pao felt tired from working too much so he went to Taiwan. At the same time, four Hong Kong university students (Charlotte, Din, Eddy and Shanice) had won a trip to Taiwan in a music competition. The friends were staying at an expensive 5 star hotel and Judge Pao's room was next door. The room was huge and had four bedrooms so that they each had their own bed to sleep in.

They felt joyful and excited to be at an amazing hotel, but there was a problem between them. Everyone argued and felt angry with Charlotte. The next morning, they all discovered that Charlotte was dead! They called the police but they refused to help because they were from Hong Kong. After that, Din and Eddy remembered that they saw Judge Pao in the restaurant a few days ago. They quickly found Judge Pao and asked him for help.

Judge Pao went to their room to look at the body and the crime scene. There was a candy on the floor and Charlotte had foam around her mouth. The door and the window were not broken. Charlotte's necklace was missing. Judge Pao interviewed the friends and asked about the argument they had last night. They all said they had not been inside Charlotte's room. Judge Pao didn't believe it. Shanice said that she could not be the murderer because she went to sleep at 7:00p.m. She thinks that Din could be the murderer because Din went to Charlotte's room. Eddy said that he was playing with Din last night until 11:30p.m., so he couldn't be the murderer. Din said he was playing with Eddy but he heard Charlotte's door open and close at midnight and he thinks that maybe Shanice murdered Charlotte.

Everyone looked at Shanice! Shanice was nervous and sweating. Judge Pao discovered someone is lying but he wants to find more clues. Judge Pao talked to a hotel worker. The worker said a girl took the insect poison from her cleaning cart. The next day, Judge Pao gathered all the friends together in the hotel room. He said he knows who the murderer is! It is someone in this room right now. The murderer is Shanice! I know she is murderer because the CCTV captured her going into Charlotte's room for 15 minutes.

Shanice shouted, "Yes! I murdered her! I made a pink candy with the insect poison. I hated Charlotte because Eddy liked Charlotte and he gave her a pretty necklace. I love Eddy so much! It's not fair for me so I wanted to kill her. And then Eddy could love me!" Everyone felt very disappointed by Shanice. Eddy said, "You can't kill someone for this reason. If you like me, you should say it to me. Not just kill everybody of I love!"

Shanice didn't feel sorry about what she did. Judge Pao said the police are coming right now and you will go to jail for 40 years. You need to take responsibility for your actions. Shanice said "I'm happy I did it! And I would kill her again. But you will never catch me because I have a prefect escape plan. She looked at Eddy and said, "Please come with me now! I have a boat ready to take us to Japan. We can get married and live there forever!"

Eddy shouted, "Go away! I don't like you. Take responsibility for your actions, please." Suddenly, the police came and caught Shanice easily. Shanice cried, "Judge Pao, I will kill you! I hate you!" Judge Pao said, "That was my most dangerous case but she will be in jail for 40years! I hope you see what happens when you start telling lies. The lies get bigger and bigger and sometimes it can end in murder."

New Tales of Judge Pao

Alliance Primary School Kowloon Tong, Kee, Wai Oi – 10

It was a stormy morning. Howling in the frosty air, the gusting wind gave the deep, dark forest an eerie atmosphere and the famous official Chen was wandering in this exact forest at that time. All of a sudden, a voice growled, “Pay me the debt you owe!” “Who are you?” retorted the furious Chen and he punched the person in front of him. The stranger growled, “None of your business!” *Thud!* After that, everything went black.....

The exact afternoon.....

“Sir, Sir Bao! Official Chen is missing!” said a messenger with a terrified voice, “Rumors have it that he has been killed.....His wife is worried stiff.”

The civil judge nodded solemnly as he knew that this would be a somber and dismal case indeed.

Bao Zheng, also known as Judge Bao or Justice Bao, was born on the fifth of March, year 999, in Luzhou, Northern Song Dynasty. He possesses a face as black as the night sky, often wears a judge’s zhanjiao futou hat and a crescent moon birthmark on his forehead can be seen. Known all over the world, Judge Bao assists the weak to solve complicated cases.

It was noon and our Judge Bao was still collecting data to solve this tricky case. However, he couldn’t find anything relevant to the case. While he was thinking, his helper, Gongsun Ce suggested an idea. Judge Bao listened and agreed. “It’s the most we can do,” he said.

After a while, his servants brought the few suspects to the court according to Gongsun Ce’s command. First to come up was the brother of Chen. Judge Bao inspected the young man from head to toe, then cross-examined him. “You can go now,” he told the man when he was finished. Next to be cross-examined was Chen’s friends Chu and Zhou. Bao studied them and asked Chu if he had gone outside this whole week. Chu replied, “No. I had.....something to do.” “That is a lie! Look at your shoes! They are covered with mud. You had to go out on a rainy day to adhere so much mud. And your face! It is bruised. It cannot be your family who made such a huge bruise. It must be a strong man who hit you. And it can only be someone you knew who made it, so that means you saw Chen this morning.” yelled Judge Bao. “Yes, I killed Chen accidentally. But it was because he attacked me first so I killed him.” Chu lowered his head. Then Judge Bao bellowed, “Chu is the culprit! Seize him and bring him on the dog-head guillotine for he is the murderer!” “Yes sir!” saluted the soldiers.

“3.....2.....1.....Chop-” “Wait! No!” yelled a voice. The soldiers halted straight away. “What is the matter?” barked Judge Bao. “Stop! Please give him a chance to repent!!” cried Chu’s wife. Judge Bao grimaced. “What is the matter, may I ask?” “My husband only wanted to call up Chen’s debt! Chen cuffed him in the face and Chu dropped backwards. In his anger, he picked a stone and threw it at a bush, but it missed and hit Chen in the face. In the end, Chen died from blood loss. But I must confess, my husband was the killer though he did not want to kill Chen,” said Chu’s wife helplessly.

There was silence.

Then, suddenly, Judge Bao announced, “Onwards with the death sentence!” Everyone fixed their eyes on the dog-head guillotine.

But, to everyone’s surprise, Chu’s little daughter spoke up bravely with her voice trembling, “Judge, Sir, I have a proposal for you. I know that you are fair and honorable, however, I must say, there is a better and more even-handed way to handle every case, that is, which my stepbrother from America told me. Did you know some other countries do not have death sentences? Their highest punishment is only no more than sentencing murderers to life imprisonment.”

Judge Bao frowned seriously and seemed to be thinking about something. After a while, he responded, “Little girl, I know what you say is educated. Yet so, our ancestors always convey with this proverb: an eye for an eye, a life for a life. Also, the death sentence can have a deterrent effect on homicide and protect more people from being killed.”

“Revenge is unacceptable! We, Chinese, respect the lives of people!” shouted the girl sternly.

When Judge Bao heard this, he felt extremely ashamed as he now knew he was being contradictory. As other citizens cannot kill, he himself should too be a good example to the community. Besides, now that he think of it, maybe sometimes he might prove the verdict to be incorrect, less say ten years later. As a result, he decided to throw over the death sentence and sentenced Chu to life imprisonment. Chu’s family was moved to tears and bowed to Judge Bao to show deep gratitude.

The complicated case was over at last. Still, Judge Bao had a question that lingered in his mind: What is justice after all?

New Tales of Judge Pao – The Two Murdered Girls

Alliance Primary School Kowloon Tong, Leung, Wing Sum Agnes – 11

Pao Zheng is a legend and cultural symbol of justice in Chinese society. He listened to the people's grievances and defended peasants and commoners against corruption or injustice. He established his fame of uprightness and justice with actions such as sentencing his own uncle, impeaching the Emperor's in-law and punishing powerful families. With no doubt, Pao was an astute judge. Moreover, Pao was born with the mysterious gift to connect with the afterlife which provided him with extraordinary capacity to scrutinise the most controversial homicide cases. More importantly, Pao was accompanied by his skilled bodyguard Chen Zhao and personal secretary Gongsun Ce, as well as four enforcers named Wang Chao, Ma Han, Zhang Long, and Zhao Hu, that they formed an invincible team to fight against the culprits.

In 1057, Pao Zheng was first posted to Kaifeng as the prefect and soon had an encounter with the afterlife.

On a warm spring morning, Pao was perusing case files with the company of Gongsun. Pao's attention was interrupted by the unceasing rapping sound of rat-tat from the drum placed outside the Yamen front door. Pao knew that there must be something happening and he quickly attended to the inquisitors, Mr Yao Meilin and Mrs Yao Lihua, the owners of the famous wine tavern. The couple burst into tears and cried when they saw Judge Pao. They muttered that the bodies of their two young daughters were found at the shores of West Lake.

Pao rushed to the crime scene with his team. They spotted Meifeng, whose body was lying beside a bush by the shore with a long slash from her left neck to her right chest; and Liqui was found stabbed in the heart. Their bodies weltered in their own blood. The murder was brutal and left no clues behind at all.

Judge Pao interrogated each and every servant of the tavern owners, but they all knew nothing. The parents didn't have any vice affiliations that might attract brutal revenge against their children.

Pao also questioned the maids. They believed that the girls were graceful children who always practised the Four Arts at home.

Now, Pao knew that the two girls were last seen by the tea house assistant and two customers the day before their bodies were found. They said that a man, who had a long scar on his face and a large burn mark on his left cheek acted suspicious and followed the girls.

While Pao assigned Zhan Hu to find the scarface, he and Mr Gongsun were perplexed by the information of the case, including how the girls were being transported to the crime scene and the motive of the murder. Mr Gongsun only left Judge Pao when it was already midnight and the full moon had raised up high in the sky.

Judge Pao was still in his contemplation of the case details when a man in a long white coat suddenly appeared at the doorstep of Pao's office. The man had deep, empty and hollow eyes and his long straight hair covered more than half of his pale face.

Judge Pao reprimanded in solemn voice, "Who are you? What are you doing here?"

The white coat stuttered, "Your Majesty, Judge Pao! My name is Kong Zemin.... And I'm the son of my late father. I passed away last summer because of my illness and my father was executed for his crimes last winter. Also, I don't have any vice intention but tried to reveal to Your Majesty the truth about the two girls who died by the lake."

"Tell the truth in front of me then and you need not be scared!" said Judge Pao. "Yes, Your Majesty. My father was an accomplice to a corruption case and was sentenced to death penalty by Your Majesty."

“My Father had jeopardised the lives of many innocents in order to make himself rich and powerful. His sin had passed onto me, so I had suffered from an incurable disease since birth and died painfully when I was only 20 years old. I cannot even have a reincarnation and my spirit was trapped on earth,” the white coat said bitterly.

“My spirit loitered in my home and I overheard my mother, Kong Qiaolian and my paternal aunt, Kong Xiuying. They were angry with you and Yao’s family as Mr Yao had testified about my father’s crimes. My mother and aunt wanted Yao to pay so they killed Yao’s daughters and misled you by a figment of the scarface so that you will also be rebuked for your inability to solve the case!” the white coat continued.

“My mother had paid the tea house assistant and the customers to tell lies,” the white coat added, “In fact, my aunt smuggled the girls to the lake side and they slaughtered them!”

Suddenly, Judge Pao was awakened by the cock crow and the white coat disappeared.

Pao could not differentiate if he really saw the white coat or if it was just a dream. Nonetheless, he immediately asked Zhan Hu and Mr Gongsun to investigate Kong Zemin’s mother and aunt. Judge Pao also ordered searches of their abode. Two daggers with dried blood were found in a drawer.

Eventually, the two wicked women confessed their sins during Pao’s interrogation and was beheaded by the guillotine with a dog head.

The people were amazed by Judge Pao’s competence to solve the mysterious homicide case so efficiently and competently, but they did not know that Pao had a special encounter with the afterlife.

Pao had other connections with the afterlife and resolved many more mysterious cases thereafter. He endeavoured in bringing justice and replenishment to powerless people who were mistreated or exploited. Most people believed that it was his noble character and abilities that convinced the spirits of the deceased to respect him and help him.

New Tales of Judge Pao

Alliance Primary School Kowloon Tong, Wong, Tsz Kiu – 12

Once upon a time, there was a man called Judge Pao. He was a Chinese justice fighter, a Judge. He always orders soldiers to execute people who committed serious crime by chopping their heads off.

One day, Judge Pao found out his two vases and more important his sword awarded by the king were gone. Someone must have stolen them. Therefore, he ordered Zhan Zhao, the head of the soldiers to find the thieves and bring them to him. After a few hours, Zhan Zhao caught one of the thieves but the other one escaped. Pao interrogated the thief. Because the thief was afraid of being executed by chopping his head off, he finally admitted to Pao that they actually came from the future by a time machine. They stole simple, non-expensive things. However, when they brought back to the future, it would be worth a lot of money because people would treat them as ancient artifacts. Pao was very angry and decided to chase the other thief. And most important to take back the king-awarded sword. The thief begged Pao not to execute him by providing where and how to use the time machine. He also promised that he would go with him to find the other thief, return the stolen items and also would admit his crime in the future. Pao did not promise him but said he will make judgement later.

Pao went to the future with Zhan Zhao and the thief using the time machine. They were amazed by everything in the modern world. However, they are not used to the modern life. They did not know how and where to find the thief. No matter how smart Pao was and how good Zhan Zhao's "Kung Fu", they could not use their normal way to find the thief nor the stolen items. Finally, they decided to seek for the police and judge in the modern world to help. Pao told them what had happened. The head of police immediately drafted pictures of how they described the thief characteristics and the stolen items. They did some searching of data in the computer. And then, they sent all the information to different police stations and ordered them to search for the thief and the stolen items. After half day, with the high technology, they found the other thief and the stolen items in an auction house. Pao recognized the auction items were all his lost items. With this evidence, police went and caught the other thief. Pao decided to give both thieves to the modern judge to decide the punishment because they were from the future.

The judge brought the thieves to the Court. Pao was very interested and the judge invited him to join. Pao was very surprised that the judge finally sentenced the thieves to be in prison for 2 years and to do service work for another 1 year instead of chopping the thieves' heads off. The judge explained to Pao that they had different levels of punishment according to the seriousness of the crime but they basically never sentence a criminal to death. The reason was that everyone should be a chance to reform. They had had most of the cases that people would reform and back to be a good citizen after years in prison. And in prison, they provided a lot of different programs to educate the criminal to learn how to turn back to a good man. Pao and Zhan Zhao were also invited by the police officers to visit a prison, too.

Pao and Zhan Zhao travelled back to the past and destroyed the time machine to avoid any future thief who might come again. And another thing Pao did was put the punishment equipment such as the chopping head station into the warehouse. Zhan Zhao was surprised and asked Pao the reason why he removed the punishment equipment. Pao said "I was so amazed by what I saw and experienced in this trip to the future. But the most important thing I learnt this time is that we should allow a chance for people to reform themselves."

The Case of the Deadly Necklace

Alliance Primary School Sheung Shui, Guo, Zihan Candice – 12

Judge Pao (JP) is famous for handing cases correctly. He travelled to Hong Kong because he had a holiday and was staying in a hotel. A group of friends named Amy, Judy, Tom, Sam and Jane also stayed at the same hotel. This hotel was on a small island and there were no other buildings.

The friends were having a nice holiday until suddenly they had a big fight. Everyone was angry at Jane. The next morning, Judy found her best friend, Jane, was dead in her room. She told Amy, Sam, and Tom. They wanted to call the police but a recent storm destroyed all phone service on the island. No one else on the island could help, so they asked Judge Pao to help them.

Judge Pao saw that the room was very messy when he went into Jane's room. All her things were on the floor and Jane's necklace had disappeared. It was a very expensive necklace. There was a knife with blood on it and the window was broken. Jane looked very shocked and scared. He asked them some simple questions, 'Does anyone hate Jane? Was Jane rich or poor? Who went into her room last night?' Then JP went into Jane's room with some tools to find more evidence and clues.

Half an hour later, JP found everyone and asked, 'Did Jane do anything that you didn't like?' Amy said, "I didn't like her because she is stupid but I didn't want to kill her." Judy replied, "Jane was my best friend, I didn't kill her!" Tom said, "She stole my pen and said it was a joke." Sam shouted, "She said I was stupid because of my poor exam results."

The next day, JP said that he knows who is the murderer. "I think the murderer liked the necklace. Therefore, I guess the murderer might be a girl." Everyone looked at Amy and Judy. JP continued, "The murderer is poor and greedy too because the necklace is expensive." Then JP looked at Judy, she looked very nervous. "I know that you are the poorest person here because I called the bank. Also, I noticed a small flower petal on your shirt. It was the same type of flower I saw in Jane's room."

"I'm sorry!" cried Judy "Jane was kind and always helped me but she was stupid and I was clever. She was rich and I am poor!" Everyone was staring at Judy angrily. "Her new necklace was beautiful and expensive and she said it was the cheapest she had in her room. Therefore, I tried to steal it but she saw me and was going to call the police! I hit her on the head with a flower vase but I didn't think that could kill her!" Judy said sadly.

In the end, Judy was regretful and agreed to wait for the police. When the police came, they couldn't find her. Everyone was angry and looked for her for a few hours. However, everyone was shocked when they found her because she was dead. The murderer was still standing next to the body. It was Jane's mum! She came to the island for business and heard her daughter had died. She was very angry so she killed Judy. In the end, the mother was sent to jail for ten years. JP said something very interesting to the friends, "Next time be careful where you go on holiday! This island is too dangerous!"

The Case of The Drama Killings

Alliance Primary School Sheung Shui, Ho, Tsz Yau Raina – 12

Judge Pao (JP) was a famous detective in China. He solved many cases. One day, he finished solving a case and he was exhausted. His doctor told him that he should have a rest so Judge Pao decided to go on a trip to Australia. At the same time, there was a group of people that were also going to Australia from Hong Kong. They were Amy, Betty, Tom and Ada. They were going to Australia because they joined a drama competition. They had no idea that a horrific murder was going to take place... ..

Three days later, the drama competition had started. Judge Pao bought a ticket and was watching the show. Amy broke a prop and her partners looked furious. Suddenly, the stage curtains closed and the audience was confused. Something terrible had happened! Tom, Betty and Ada were in a panic. Ada called the police but they said they were solving another case so they couldn't come yet. Ada saw Judge Pao in the audience and asked him to help so that they could find out the murderer quickly. Judge Pao went onto the stage and found Amy dead on the floor. There were some words written in lipstick on the floor. It said "Life for life!"

Judge Pao studied the crime scene and found there was no blood on the floor. He went backstage and pointed at a coffee cup on the table. He asked, "Whose cup is it?" Ada answered, "It's Amy's." Judge Pao saw some white powder in the cup so he sent the cup to the crime lab. He interviewed Tom. Tom said, "Amy always breaks the props. It is very annoying to repair the props all the time." Then, he interviewed Betty. She said, "Amy is too proud of herself and once she didn't memorize the script and we lost a competition." Judge Pao noticed that Betty was nervous and sweated a lot. At last, he interviewed Ada, Amy's best friend. She said, "Although she always makes trouble, she helps me with my acting skills. I am very upset that she's dead."

Judge Pao thought Tom and Betty are the most suspicious because they really disliked Amy. Judge Pao was confused, why was there no blood? How could she be killed during the show? Suddenly, Judge Pao's phone rang, it was the crime lab. Judge Pao knew who killed Amy. He called the police to come since they have already finished solving their other case.

Judge Pao gathered everyone at the theatre. He said, "I know who is the murderer! Ada cannot be the murderer because she's Amy's best friend and I believe she is honest. Tom dislikes Amy but this didn't cause him to kill her." Then he said, "Betty is the murderer because the crime lab found Betty's fingerprints on the cup and there was some poison in it! Also, I found a lipstick in your bag that is the same colour as the killer's writing."

Betty confessed, "Yes, I did it because her mom killed my sister by accident." Judge Pao said, "Although she killed your sister, their children have no responsibility to bear the deeds done by their ancestors." The people felt shocked. Betty started laughing and said, "You will never catch me!" She grabbed a stage rope and used it like a swing across the theatre to the exit door. She laughed again and opened the door to find 2 police officers ready to grab her.

Judge Pao laughed and said, "I asked the police to wait there already! You will be sent to jail for 20 years." Her old friends felt disappointed. Judge Pao said, "I am going home now but I hope you have all learned a life lesson; think clearly before doing anything violent." It was such an interesting case but Judge Pao still didn't get a chance to relax.

The Case of the Paintbrush Killer

Alliance Primary School Sheung Shui, Lau, Tsz Wan Pandora – 12

Judge Pao (JP) is a famous detective because he always helps to find lost people, stop stalkers, do surveillance and find out secrets. He is always so busy but in his free time he likes drawing and chess. One day, he attended an art exhibition for a famous artist named May Chan.

Her brother, sister, mother, father and her art students; Tom, Peter, John and Jenny also joined the exhibition to view May's new paintings. May's art student, Tom, carelessly soiled May's new painting. Everyone was angry but Tom said, "It's not a big problem. I can paint over it again!" Everyone noticed that he didn't say sorry. Later, May found Tom's body in the utility room. Everyone was so shocked.

Someone noticed that Judge Pao was in the audience so they asked him to help because the police said they couldn't come until tomorrow. Then, Judge Pao talked to May's family. They said, "We felt angry but we didn't kill him. We went out for lunch." Judge Pao also questioned Peter and John. Peter said, "I wanted to hit Tom but John stopped me. Then, we went outside to calm down." Next Judge Pao questioned Jenny. She said, "I was angry but I care about Tom so I gave him some cake and a cup of coffee."

Next, Judge Pao looked at the crime scene. He saw a thick paint brush on the floor and one end was sharp. It looked like there was some red paint on the end of it. He sent it to the crime lab and learned it was blood! He thought that the brush must be the murder weapon. Judge Pao thought Jenny and May were the most suspicious because they were the two people to see Tom last. All of the others had alibis.

Later, JP noticed that painting was drawn by a left hand person. When he looked at Tom's body he saw paint only on Tom's left hand. When Judge Pao talked to everyone else he offered them all a drink and they all used their right hands to take the drink. He also called the Art Gallery and asked about May's Art.

Judge Pao gathered everyone together to tell them all of his findings. He knew May lied and that the painting was done by Tom. May must be the murderer because she is the only one who has the motivation to kill Tom. The art gallery told me that soon you won't be famous anymore. Everyone was surprised and looked at May. Her hands were shaking and she looked so nervous. May said, "I haven't had any good paintings for almost 2 years. I was afraid of not being a famous artist. I saw Tom made a good painting so I forced him to give that painting to me and keep the secret. However, Tom soiled that painting carelessly and he said he could paint it again. Therefore, I killed him to keep the secret. I am sorry about that."

Everyone was shocked and unable to accept this reality. Judge Pao said "Tom had no intention of revealing the secret. He respected you! You should not have killed him!" May felt regret and cried, "If I could choose again, I would not kill my student!" In the end, Judge Pao called the police to take May to prison, but before the police came May had escaped. Before JP went home, he told everyone something they will never forget "Killing will make you regretful of all of your life!" Everyone thought carefully about him.

The Case of The Candy Killer

Alliance Primary School Sheung Shui, Law, Tzi Ki Kiki – 12

Judge Pao (JP) is a famous person who investigates murders. Judge Pao felt tired from working too much so he went to Taiwan. At the same time, four Hong Kong university students (Charlotte, Din, Eddy and Shanice) had won a trip to Taiwan in a music competition. The friends were staying at an expensive 5 star hotel and Judge Pao's room was next door. The room was huge and had four bedrooms so that they each had their own bed to sleep in.

They felt joyful and excited to be at an amazing hotel, but there was a problem between them. Everyone argued and felt angry with Charlotte. The next morning, they all discovered that Charlotte was dead! They called the police but they refused to help because they were from Hong Kong. After that, Din and Eddy remembered that they saw Judge Pao in the restaurant a few days ago. They quickly found Judge Pao and asked him for help.

Judge Pao went to their room to look at the body and the crime scene. There was a candy on the floor and Charlotte had foam around her mouth. The door and the window were not broken. Charlotte's necklace was missing. Judge Pao interviewed the friends and asked about the argument they had last night. They all said they had not been inside Charlotte's room. Judge Pao didn't believe it. Shanice said that she could not be the murderer because she went to sleep at 7:00p.m. She thinks that Din could be the murderer because Din went to Charlotte's room. Eddy said that he was playing with Din last night until 11:30p.m., so he couldn't be the murderer. Din said he was playing with Eddy but he heard Charlotte's door open and close at midnight and he thinks that maybe Shanice murdered Charlotte.

Everyone looked at Shanice! Shanice was nervous and sweating. Judge Pao discovered someone is lying but he wants to find more clues. Judge Pao talked to a hotel worker. The worker said a girl took the insect poison from her cleaning cart. The next day, Judge Pao gathered all the friends together in the hotel room. He said he knows who the murderer is! It is someone in this room right now. The murderer is Shanice! I know she is murderer because the CCTV captured her going into Charlotte's room for 15 minutes.

Shanice shouted, "Yes! I murdered her! I made a pink candy with the insect poison. I hated Charlotte because Eddy liked Charlotte and he gave her a pretty necklace. I love Eddy so much! It's not fair for me so I wanted to kill her. And then Eddy could love me!" Everyone felt very disappointed by Shanice. Eddy said, "You can't kill someone for this reason. If you like me, you should say it to me. Not just kill everybody of I love!"

Shanice didn't feel sorry about what she did. Judge Pao said the police are coming right now and you will go to jail for 40 years. You need to take responsibility for your actions. Shanice said "I'm happy I did it! And I would kill her again. But you will never catch me because I have a prefect escape plan. She looked at Eddy and said, "Please come with me now! I have a boat ready to take us to Japan. We can get married and live there forever!"

Eddy shouted, "Go away! I don't like you. Take responsibility for your actions, please." Suddenly, the police came and caught Shanice easily. Shanice cried, "Judge Pao, I will kill you! I hate you!" Judge Pao said, "That was my most dangerous case but she will be in jail for 40years! I hope you see what happens when you start telling lies. The lies get bigger and bigger and sometimes it can end in murder."

The Revenge Case

Alliance Primary School Sheung Shui, Chen, Hong Pok Oscar – 12

Judge Pao (JP) is a famous judge because he is fair and not afraid of powerful people. Many people ask him to solve crimes. One day, Judge Pao and his assistant went to the capital to watch the New Year's events. The people in the capital talked a lot about a famous criminal. They said, "There is a man named Max who is very annoying. He often does terrible things but no judge can catch him because he is very rich!"

During the events, Max came and made trouble again. The next morning, Max was murdered. His servant found him and asked the police to investigate but the police said that they wanted money. So the servant found JP. JP and his group started investigating.

First, he looked at the crime scene. He found some broken weapons. 'It seems that someone had fought here,' he said. He sent the weapons to the crime lab for scientists to study. Next he interviewed the servant, chef and the security guard. The servant said, "When I went to try to wake him up, I found he was already dead. The chef said, "I was cooking breakfast when the servant found him dead!" The security guard said, "I was guarding outside the door when it happened." JP thinks the servant and the security are the most suspicious but wanted more evidence to be found.

Later, the results of the crime lab study came out. He looked at the results and knew who was the murderer. The next day, he called the police to take the security guard to the courtroom. In the courtroom, he said, "One of your fingerprints was on a broken weapon, so you are murderer!" The security guard replied, "Yes! I killed him! He killed my parents ten years ago! I worked as his security guard to find an opportunity to kill him! But, if you want to catch me, that is impossible! Then the security guard broke the courtroom window and jumped out. He fell to the ground floor but his friend was waiting with a big soft pillow. He looked up at JP and said, "I will kill you when you least expect it! Be careful!"

The security guard disappeared into the city but JP wasn't worried because he had security guards at his house. Before he went home he told the police to be fair and not to take money anymore. One year later, JP came home and found Max sitting on his sofa with a gun! ... to be continued...

New Tales of Judge Pao

CCC Wanchai Church Kei To Primary School, Lee, Kin Wai – 11

It was a stormy morning. Howling in the frosty air, the gusting wind gave the deep, dark forest an eerie atmosphere and the famous official Chen was wandering in this exact forest at that time. All of a sudden, a voice growled, "Pay me the debt you owe!" "Who are you?" retorted the furious Chen and he punched the person in front of him. The stranger growled, "None of your business!" *Thud!* After that, everything went black.....

The exact afternoon.....

"Sir, Sir Bao! Official Chen is missing!" said a messenger with a terrified voice, "Rumors have it that he has been killed.....His wife is worried stiff."

The civil judge nodded solemnly as he knew that this would be a somber and dismal case indeed.

Bao Zheng, also known as Judge Bao or Justice Bao, was born on the fifth of March, year 999, in Luzhou, Northern Song Dynasty. He possesses a face as black as the night sky, often wears a judge's zhanjiao futou hat and a crescent moon birthmark on his forehead can be seen. Known all over the world, Judge Bao assists the weak to solve complicated cases.

It was noon and our Judge Bao was still collecting data to solve this tricky case. However, he couldn't find anything relevant to the case. While he was thinking, his helper, Gongsun Ce suggested an idea. Judge Bao listened and agreed. "It's the most we can do," he said.

After a while, his servants brought the few suspects to the court according to Gongsun Ce's command. First to come up was the brother of Chen. Judge Bao inspected the young man from head to toe, then cross-examined him. "You can go now," he told the man when he was finished. Next to be cross-examined was Chen's friends Chu and Zhou. Bao studied them and asked Chu if he had gone outside this whole week. Chu replied, "No. I had.....something to do." "That is a lie! Look at your shoes! They are covered with mud. You had to go out on a rainy day to adhere so much mud. And your face! It is bruised. It cannot be your family who made such a huge bruise. It must be a strong man who hit you. And it can only be someone you knew who made it, so that means you saw Chen this morning." yelled Judge Bao. "Yes, I killed Chen accidentally. But it was because he attacked me first so I killed him." Chu lowered his head. Then Judge Bao bellowed, "Chu is the culprit! Seize him and bring him on the dog-head guillotine for he is the murderer!" "Yes sir!" saluted the soldiers.

"3.....2.....1.....Chop—" "Wait! No!" yelled a voice. The soldiers halted straight away. "What is the matter?" barked Judge Bao. "Stop! Please give him a chance to repent!!" cried Chu's wife. Judge Bao grimaced. "What is the matter, may I ask?" "My husband only wanted to call up Chen's debt! Chen cuffed him in the face and Chu dropped backwards. In his anger, he picked a stone and threw it at a bush, but it missed and hit Chen in the face. In the end, Chen died from blood loss. But I must confess, my husband was the killer though he did not want to kill Chen," said Chu's wife helplessly.

There was silence.

Then, suddenly, Judge Bao announced, "Onwards with the death sentence!" Everyone fixed their eyes on the dog-head guillotine.

But, to everyone's surprise, Chu's little daughter spoke up bravely with her voice trembling, "Judge, Sir, I have a proposal for you. I know that you are fair and honorable, however, I must say, there is a better and more even-handed way to handle every case, that is, which my stepbrother from America told me. Did you know some other countries do not have death sentences? Their highest punishment is only no more than sentencing murderers to life imprisonment."

Judge Bao frowned seriously and seemed to be thinking about something. After a while, he responded, "Little girl, I know what you say is educated. Yet so, our ancestors always convey with this proverb: an eye for an eye, a life for a life. Also, the death sentence can have a deterrent effect on homicide and protect more people from being killed."

"Revenge is unacceptable! We, Chinese, respect the lives of people!" shouted the girl sternly.

When Judge Bao heard this, he felt extremely ashamed as he now knew he was being contradictory. As other citizens cannot kill, he himself should too be a good example to the community. Besides, now that he think of it, maybe sometimes he might prove the verdict to be incorrect, less say ten years later. As a result, he decided to throw over the death sentence and sentenced Chu to life imprisonment. Chu's family was moved to tears and bowed to Judge Bao to show deep gratitude.

The complicated case was over at last. Still, Judge Bao had a question that lingered in his mind: What is justice after all?

New Tales of Judge Pao

CCC Wanchai Church Kei To Primary School, Wong, Ngai Chi – 10

Judge Pao was famous in Kaifeng as being a fair judge promoting legal justice. He was not afraid of power and would not allow unjustly imprisonment as well as bad guys getting away with punishments.

One day, a lady broke into the court while Judge Pao was dealing with a court case. Her act was considered committing a crime as in accordance with the law, nobody was allowed to enter the court without permission. The lady screamed and was caught up in hysteria. She yelled in the court, 'My husband Ah Fook was innocent! He should not be sentenced to death! He was framed by the son of a chief judge called Ah Keung!'

Judge Pao commanded the lady to leave the court as her act was disrupting the operation of the court violating the regulation of the court. She should be punished. Considering there might have some grievance behind, the lady was forgiven and was asked to wait outside. Judge Pao would privately talk to her.

Judge Pao met the lady in a meeting room and requested her to explain in details about the incident she raised. The lady said, "Ah Fook had been working for a chief judge for ten years. The chief judge was called Ah Kwok. Ah Fook never made a single mistake and was loyal during his ten-year service. One day, he heard a loud bang coming out from Ah Keung's room. When Ah Fook ran to his room, he saw a bloody man lying on the floor hand while Ah Keung was sitting on a chair armed with a knife full of blood! Ah Fook was frightened and did not dare to make any noise, he ran back home and told me what he had seen. We discussed and decided to report the incident to the officials. Just as we left home, the offices came here and caught Ah Fook. Ah Fook was accused of murdering Ah Keung's friend --- Ah Leung. Judge Pao, Ah Fook is innocent! He could not be the murderer! He faints when he sees blood. Moreover, he is significantly weaker than Ah Leung who is a butcher." She cried throughout the conversation.

One annoying problem Judge Pao faced was that chief Judge Kwok was the senior of Judge Pao while the main suspect of the case seemed to be Ah Keung... Judge Pao went to see chief Judge Kwok and shared what the lady told him. Judge Pao wanted to see how chief Judge Kwok responded to the lady's statement.

To Judge Pao's surprise, senior Judge Kwok told Judge Pao to keep his hand off from the case and told him, "This case should have been concluded. No doubt Ah Fook is the murderer of the case. This case is NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS! There is no advantage for you to continue dealing with the case." He seemed to be threatening Judge Pao.

Judge Pao felt very uneasy about the conversation with senior Judge Kwok in his mind, the sole consideration is to ensure justice must be seen to be done. The threatening from chief Judge Kwok and his power is not at all any of his concern.

Judge Pao met up with the lady again to gather further details relating the case. He also interviewed all the servants and neighbors of Kwok's family. Furthermore, he called up few of Ah Leung's best friends for discussions. He also picked up the clothes and other objects attached to Ah Leung's body. Judge Pao tried to get a more comprehensive picture and background for the case.

With all the facts at hand, Judge Pao scrutinized every single detail and discovered the following:

Ah Leung never knew Ah Fook. There was no motivation for Ah Fook to kill Ah Leung. A servant saw Ah Fook working in the garden when the loud bang was heard. Ah Keung's hair and blood was found sticking on Ah Leung's body. However, none from Ah Fook could be found.

Judge Pao brought all the findings to the chief judge and requested for a retrial. Chief Judge Kwok was displeased and said, "I did ask you to stop dealing with this case, but you obviously disobey me. I warn you as the second time that you should give up processing this case, or else YOU WILL BE FIRED!" Chief Judge Kwok was apparently protecting his son --- Ah Keung.

It turned out to be a huge challenge to Judge Pao. If he continued to work on the case, he might get fired and never able to fight for justice, for the people. However, if he gave up the case, compromising the interest of Ah Fook's fairness, how can he face his family and the masses? He was struggling...

In the end, Judge Pao decided to go to the emperor directly and presented to him the entire case, together with the threatening message from chief Judge Kwok. Judge Pao politely asked the emperor, "How do you want to rule the country, justice or power? If you choose power, I would rather resign."

The emperor thought for a while and said, "Judge Pao, you can arrange for retrial for the case. You are now the sole judge of the case. Please ensure justice is properly done. Chief Judge Kwok will not be involved in this case by now."

After the retrial, Ah Keung was proved guilty and was sentenced to death. Chief Judge Kwok was demoted to a normal judge because he undermined the rule of law. Ah Fook was immediately released.

This was the other incident demonstrating how Judge Pao maintained justice, fairness for the society. These are no doubt the important values every citizen has been looking for. That was also the reason why Judge Pao was well respected and loved by all people.

New Tales of Judge Pao

CCC Wanchai Church Kei To Primary School, Yip, Wai Lam – 10

'Where is my phone?' Sam cried out loud. The whole class was startled and everybody was looking at him. Turning to gaze at Sam with a puzzled face, Mr Leung stopped writing the equation on the blackboard. 'What's going on? You know you can't shout in class, don't you?' Mr Leung raised his voice, putting the textbook on the desk.

'My phone was in my drawer but now it's gone! My mum will kill me!' Ignoring the teacher's question, Sam became more anxious. At this moment, all pupils fixed their eyes at Skyson, looking for a clue or maybe some help.

In Primary 6, pupils were allowed to bring phones to school. Everyone brought theirs too, Sam got a new phone, he was showing it off during recess. The boys were jealous and girls were envious, but Sam had already lost it when he brought the phone on the first day.

In 6A, Skyson happened to be the smartest pupil. He was curious, brave and sometimes a bit rude, but he was a quick-witted boy who could always solve problems for everyone and found out secrets that would make people's jaws drop. Just because his surname was Pao, the class nicknamed him Judge Pao.

'Let's give Skyson a few minutes!' said Mr Leung. Even our teachers thought that Skyson could explain and find Sam's missing phone. Skyson got up and left his seat, walking around in the classroom. He frowned, looked here and there, then bent down to check different corners. When he stopped and shot a glance at a classmate, he or she would avoid his eyes. When he walked past Mary, the class monitress, he stopped and pointed his finger at her. 'You'd better give Sam back his phone!' Skyson suggested calmly. There was an immediate uproar in the class. 'What? Mary? No way!' 'You must be kidding me! Mary is our monitress!', 'Maybe she really did it! Well, it's Skyson!'

'Could be Vincent, he sits next to him!' said someone softly. 'Yeah, Vincent asked about his phone earlier, didn't he?' replied another. 'Skyson, you must have observed something, please tell us,' asked Mr Leung, who looked very antsy.

Here comes Judge Pao's judgment...

In the last recess, when everyone was busy doing their homework or playing, Sam bragged about his phone loudly. 'It is the newest model of iPhone 14 pro Max – my birthday present from Mum!' Sam was showing his phone in front of the gathered crowd around him. Well, it was not the first time, Sam was cocky and boasted about everything: his toys, his shoes, his overseas trips, his extra-curricular activities, you name it. But his last smartphone did catch everyone's attention. 'Can I have a look? It's so cool!' Vincent requested with a jealous face. 'Just don't drop it., Oh no, it's very expensive, you'd better not touch it! Hahahaha!' Sam muffled as he gobbled his fried chicken bought from the tuck shop at school.

The recess ended quickly and everyone had to go to the music room afterwards. During the music lesson, Ms Chan taught the class how to sing the new song. It was unusual that many pupils asked to go to the toilet. When Alice and Jack went out, Vincent and Mary asked too. 'Right, what's wrong with you guys today? Everyone is going to the toilet!' Ms Chan seemed annoyed. The lesson ended with an unfinished song, and the class was told to practice singing this week. Music was followed by Maths lesson, so everyone returned to the classroom.

Just then, Mr Leung came into the classroom and called, 'Skyson, please come over!' Skyson ran towards Mr Leung. Mr Leung looked at him and whispered, 'But it doesn't mean Mary stole the phone, Skyson.'

'Everyone, look!' Skyson pointed his finger at Mary's hand and her dress. There was an oily patch on her uniform.' This is evidence!' Skyson turned around and continued.' Sam was eating his chicken and he swiped his phone with his oily fingers. I have checked Vincent's, Alice's, Jack's and Mary's hands. Vincent's, Alice's and Jack's were wet and clean and I couldn't see any dirt. Of course, these days under Covid, people would wash their hands thoroughly after going to the toilets. But Mary didn't! The reason why you went there was to hide the phone!' Mary looked pale as Skyson carried on . 'There were four students leaving the music room and you are one of them. I remembered you were there in the recess and you looked envious too!' Why did you do that?' Skyson challenged Mary.

'Oh yeah, you think that I stole Sam's phone?' Mary roared. 'Mary stole it!' Someone screamed with a cranky voice. Mr Leung asked a female teacher to search the girls' toilet, and found that the phone was in one of the compartments.

He walked to the classroom, took a deep breath, 'I believe that Skyson had already got the answer.....'

The whole class said, 'It's Mary!' Skyson crossed his arms. Mary was speechless. 'Mary, you are the monitor, how can you behave badly in class? I am disappointed. ,From now on, your monitress duty will be suspended,' announced Mr Leung. Mary pouted and walked away from the classroom.

Mary returned the phone to Sam finally. She never stole or behaved badly again.

New Tales of Judge Pao

Ching Chung Hau Po Woon Primary School, Chang, Lok Tung – 11

On a sunny morning, I sat under a tree and read a book about a case settled by Pao Qingtian—Blood Shirt Called Street. Just when I saw that the third butcher suddenly pulled out a dagger and chopped Chen Qiongniang's left hand seriously!, my book actually emitted a light and I sucked it in!

'Where am I?' I asked. I behind the tree. 'Oh, no! I sucked in the story!' I was scared. Then I saw that Chen Qiongniang was killed by someone! Then I remembered that I could go to Judge Pao. The original Chen Qiongniang husband was also reporting when I arrived.

Judge Pao asked, 'where are you from? And what are you doing here?' 'I know the ins and outs of this case.' I said. 'Are you a confident kid from there? I won't believe you?' he said. 'Was his wife hurt?' I said, 'Yes, but how do you know?' Judge Pao asked. 'It is because I know the ins and outs of this case, so can you trust me?' I asked. 'Alright, I trust you only once. However, can you give me some hints and ideas?' Judge Pao said. 'Of course!' I said confidently.

'I saw that there were three men who killed his wife. They were butchers. And you can ask one people to dress the blood coat and said this morning, when he was passing through the woods outside the city, he saw three butcher-like people being intercepted by robbers, one of them was killed, and the other two escaped...' I told Judge Pao what I saw. 'Well, I try it.' Judge Pao said. 'But, why do we need to do this?' he asked. 'It is because when one butcher's wife knows, she will find you, another you'll know in a while.' I said. Then, Judge Pao sent a man who called Zhang Shan, went straight to the busiest street in the city, and shouted loudly on purpose, 'Terrible! When I was passing through a small forest outside the city this morning, I saw three people who looked like butchers being intercepted by robbers, and one of them was killed and the other two escaped...' In an instant, the common people became a sensation, helping to promote it everywhere, and everyone was talking about it. Zhang Shan changed to another place and continued to yell, then he learned from the mouths of the people that a man named Zhang Man.

Zhang Man's wife hurried out after hearing the discussion, and asked Zhang Shan, 'My husband went out to buy pigs with two friends this morning. Could it be that something happened to them? Then the woman described her husband's appearance and characteristics. Hearing what the woman said, Huang Sheng was overjoyed, and pretended to be calm and said, 'It may not be your husband, so don't be panic. I'll go to your house and wait for a while. If your husband doesn't come back this afternoon, I'll take you to the court to see Mr. Pao .' Quietly made a record...

According to what Zhang Man's wife said, Zhang Shan found the homes of the other two butchers. After investigation, they found that they were indeed not at home, and they had gone out this morning and did not return... At this point, the three suspects had a specific target, and the Yamen immediately dispatched. People quietly set up an ambush. In order to wait for Zhang Man to come home, they caught him immediately, so they ambush in the grass behind Zhang Man's house.

Just afternoon, a drunk man walked in, and the woman rushed out to greet him, saying, 'Fortunately, it wasn't you who was killed, it almost scared me to death!' Before the woman could finish speaking, Huang Sheng pulled out the rope by surprise, and directly pulled out the rope. The dazed Butcher Zhang was tied up and taken to Kaifeng Mansion.

Master Pao saw that the butcher had indeed been arrested, so he ordered people to search his body carefully, and sure enough, several pieces of gold and silver jewelry were found. Master Pao slapped the gavel heavily, and shouted, 'Hurry up and recruit your accomplices, so you won't suffer from flesh and blood!'

The stolen goods were found in court, but Butcher Zhang couldn't argue with him. In order not to suffer, he had to confess his accomplices Butcher Wu and Butcher Liu. Master Pao immediately ordered Huang Sheng to arrest Wu and Liu. When the two arrived at the lobby, they saw Butcher Zhang already kneeling at the bottom of the hall, and were so shocked that their heads were covered with cold sweat. They knew that the incident of robbing property and hurting people had already happened, so they had to confess truthfully.

In the end, Judge Pao said 'Butcher Zhang slashed people with a knife. Although Jingniang's wife was not injured, he was vicious by nature. Blocking the road and robbing them is sentenced to exile for thousands of miles.

After the case was over, Bao Qingtian thanked me in a warm voice, said, 'If I couldn't have your clues and opinions, I might not have been able to think of a solution. I really shouldn't have questioned you in the first place. I hope you can forgive me.' I said in a blunt voice, 'You're welcome! The most important thing is to help you settle this case.'

Just when I was about to say goodbye to him, suddenly, the speed light shot in front of my face, helping me inhale it all at once! Suddenly I felt a shock, like falling from a high place, and I returned to the rooftop of my house, 'Is everything just a dream? But there is no reason. If it was a dream, why I would feel the impact? But I haven't finished the book yet? Then why do I know the following plot?' I thought I was talking to myself.

Although it was an unsolved mystery, this journey has taught me a lot. I have learned how selfless Judge Pao was, and it also allowed me to use my imagination to solve this mystery. It was a valuable lesson! However, I hope it won't happen again! Not only did it freak me out, my mother didn't see me and thought I was out to play!

One day with Mr Pao

Ching Chung Hau Po Woon Primary School, Fung, Yat Nam – 9

One day, I read a story about Judge Pao in the school library. I thought that he was a hero of China! He was a symbol of justice. He was a person with integrity, courtesy and a good heart. On the way home, I was thinking what Judge Pao would look like if he was a modern person. When I arrived home, my mum said, 'Cassie, a visitor is here.' I saw a man with dark brown face sitting upright on a chair. He said, 'Hi, I am Pao Zheng.' What a surprise! 'Why are you here, Mr Pao?' I said, lifting my eyebrows. 'Oh, I am very busy but today I can take a rest so I come to Hong Kong. Can you take me to some good places?' 'Yes, of course!' I exclaimed in delight.

I asked Mr Pao if he was hungry. He nodded, so I suggested to have our lunch first before starting the tour. 'Let's go to McDonald's,' I said. While we were heading to McDonald's, Mr. Pao kept looking up and seemed a lot of questions in his mind. He finally asked, 'Cassie, why do you all these high buildings in Hong Kong? Do modern people live in such high buildings? How do you go up to the floor you live?' 'In Hong Kong, most people live in high-rises like these and we take an elevator to go to the floor we want to go,' I answered. 'Elevator?' Mr. Pao looked confused. Mr Pao was amazed with the building technology mentioned. Soon we arrived at a nearby McDonald. I ordered a burger and a fizzy drink for Mr. Pao. When the food was served before him, he looked a little bit nervous and was not sure how to start with. So, I unwrapped the wrapping for him and asked him to try the burger. 'Wow! It's yummy! I have never eaten such delicious food in my life.'

After finishing lunch, I found that something was missing. 'Oh no! My Marvel pen is gone. It is a birthday gift from my dad!' I immediately took Mr. Pao to my school and looked for it. I told Mr. Pao that there was a cat sticker on the pen. When I was looking for the pen, I saw Candy, my classmate. I thought she took my pen as she loved it very much. 'Candy, it must be you. Where is my pen? Give it back to me!' I cried. But Candy was puzzled and shook her head. Mr. Pao said, 'Calm down, Cassie. Do you have any evidence to accuse your friend of stealing your pen? I will help you to find it.' We walked around the school to find the pen. Cindy, Candy's sister, walked pass us and looked at me with fear as if she had done something bad. Mr. Pao spotted that Cindy shoved her hands deep into the pockets of her pants to hide something inside. So, Mr. Pao asked if she had a pen that he could borrow. Cindy's heart was racing fast. She took out a pen from her pocket nervously. It was the Marvel pen with a cat sticker. 'That's my pen. I put cat stickers on all my stationery,' I cried. Cindy blushed and explained that she found the pen in the library. She just wanted to show it to her sister who liked Marvel very much. Mr. Pao said, 'Girl, if you find anything that does not belong to you, you should give it to the teacher instead of keeping it yourself.' Cindy returned the pen to me and apologized. I was so grateful that Mr. Pao found the pen for me. His investigatory power was well-proved. No wonder people like him very much.

We continued our tour. We went to a theme park. When Mr. Pao saw the castle, he said, 'That's different from ours. Did the King of Hong Kong live there?' I giggled and said, 'That's not a real castle and no one live there. Besides, there is no King in Hong Kong.' Mr. Pao experienced other attractions and games in the park. I bought him a Mickey Mouse shaped doughnut. He ate it with so much joy and said, 'It's the most delicious dessert I have ever tasted in my life!' At night, we sat down in front of the castle and watched the spectacular firework night show together. He was so thrilled with all the light and sound technologies. 'It's fantastic!' Mr. Pao exclaimed.

As the theme park was about to close, we followed the crowds moving slowly towards the exit gate. I wished the park would never be closed so we could spend more time there. At the exit gate, Mr. Pao turned round and said to me 'Cassie, thank you for spending such wonderful time with me today. The food, the people and the attractions are truly eye-opening. I will never forget this tour. Now I have to say goodbye to you. I need to get back to where I belong to and continue my duties.' We said goodbye to each other one more time and then Mr. Pao disappeared in the crowds.

New Tales of Judge Pao

Ching Chung Hau Po Woon Primary School, Pang, Lok Ching – 10

Pao Zheng was a Chinese Judge. Since he is a justice fighter and always heard the grievances of the people, people are honored him as a symbol of justice and called him Bao Qing Tian. One day, when Judge Pao Zheng opened his home door early in the morning. An old woman suddenly appeared in front of him. She bowed to the ground and said, 'Judge Pao Zheng, please help me! My son disappeared last night. I was very worried.' Bai Zheng was shocked. He realized that there was a big case waiting for him to investigate immediately. Bao Zheng asked, 'what is your name? What happened last night?' 'My name is Granny Chen and I am a farmer. My son left home and went to the market in the morning. I was waiting for him back for dinner last night but he didn't come back overnight. I tried to find him everywhere in the market but I couldn't find him yesterday. What should I do now?' replied Granny Chen. 'Pao Zheng asked, 'did you call the police last night? 'Yes, I called them last night but they said they could not find my son.' Judge Pao Zheng said, 'I will help you right now. I think you should go back home to take a rest because you did not sleep last night. Please wait for my notification. My two police officers, Wang Chow and Man Han will contact you if we can find your son. We will bring him home to see you.'

On the next day, Judge Pao Zheng and his officers searched the whole internet to find the whereabouts of Granny Chen's son. They went to Granny Chen's house and asked him, ' May we enter your house to investigate the missing person case? I want to look for things related to this case.' ' Of course! Please help me to find my son!' cried Granny Chen. Surprisingly, Judge Pao Zheng and his officers found a bag of drugs in Granny Chen's son's drawers. Granny Chen was very scared and shocked. His face turned white. She said, 'Oh my god! Why is there a bag of drugs at my home?' Pai Zheng tried to comfort her and said, ' don't worry and I don't know why too. We will help you to find out the reasons behind. You should stay calm now.'

On the fourth day, Pao Zheng searched the computer again and finally confirmed the location of Granny Chen's son. He was in a small hut in a village in New Territories. However, when Pao Zheng and his officers got there, they couldn't find Granny Chen's son in the hut. Suddenly, Pao Zheng heard a person shouting for help behind a tree in the forest near the hut. He followed the source of the sound and found Granny Chen's son.

Finally, Granny Chen's son clarified everything. He said he had never done anything about the bag. One of his friends asked him to keep this bag in his house one week ago and promised to take it back later. He did not know there were drugs inside the bag. Then two strange men kidnapped him on his way to the market and asked him where this bag was. They tied him behind the tree here and told him that they were going to escort him to take the bag from my home tonight. Granny Chen's son then thanked Pao Zheng because he saved his life.

In the end, Wang Chow and Man Han helped arrest the criminals in jail and destroyed all the drugs. Once again, Pao Zheng with his calmness and intelligence fought crimes and made great contributions to the society.

New Tales of Judge Pao

Ching Chung Hau Po Woon Primary School, Wang, Qianyue – 10

Denny was a very athletic and energetic child. He liked going on field trips, but he felt strangely uncomfortable this time. He was going on a tour of Judge Pao's museum with his class. He felt very bored as he looked at the sheepskin scribes hanging on the wall and the weird hats Pao used to wear.

Denny was very unimpressed by what Judge Pao did. "Everyone knows what a judge does. Why make such a fuss anyways?" He muttered under his breath. Denny snorted and walked away with his class. Little did he know, a drawing of Judge Pao stared at him, following him as he walked off.

As the day went on, Denny got steadily tireder and tireder. He yawned several times, and excused himself to the toilet. He washed his hands and he suddenly felt nausea creep in. He wanted to vomit, but he couldn't find the toilet stalls. His vision was blurring...

"Silence, court!" Denny woke up to hear a majestic voice shout. He was in court! He was not only surprised by the why he was here, but the courtroom was also made of wood! It was as if he was on a traditional Chinese movie set! As he steadied from his shock, he quickly hid himself behind a mountain of books and pots in case someone had noticed him.

He looked up at the owner of the voice. He was a tall man with a slightly scrunched up, angry looking face. He had a silky beard and mustache, fitting perfectly with his odd hat and his clothes. They looked like gowns and reached the floor. He sat behind a tall, fine wooden desk. He looked very menacing and Denny, after looking at his drawings so many times, knew exactly who he was — Judge Pao!

"We are here to review the case of the Kaifeng flooding." Judge Pat's voice boomed. Denny was almost scared out of his skin, but he didn't utter a sound.

"It has occurred to me," Judge Pao stated, his finger pointing towards a man, "That the reason for the flooding was because you, you built gardens and pavilions, blocking up the river, therefore causing the giant flood, killing crops, drowning cattle and destroying infrastructure."

The man wasn't terrified like Denny was. He snorted, and said arrogantly, "I have enough money to do it, so what concern do you have? You don't have a field, you don't have any cattle. It's none of your business!" He declared. He was very bossy and jewels and rare stones were literally falling off of him on all sides! He had a belt—full of stacked golden coins, each glimmering like the stars. He was obviously very rich, and in fact, Denny thought that Judge Pao was the one in trouble after shouting at the man.

Fortunately, Judge Pao was undeterred, and started to interrogate the rich man even fiercer. "What you have done," he said, his face scrunching up, "is, to be exact, illegal. You will be thrown into prison and you will stay there for the rest of your life! Your money will be donated to the charity, and as for the houses you have built, if they are not sold to honest people who don't break laws everywhere, they will be burnt and the ashes will be thrown into the water!" Judge Pao said it at such a pace that Denny couldn't hear clearly, but Denny knew Judge Pao wasn't happy.

"Ha! You think it's illegal? Check out these papers! They're about how I did a very famous, good deed for all of the men and women in the land, and it stats, promptly, that I have the right to build onto the river. Take that!" The man said gleefully. Denny was getting very worried about Judge Pao, but Judge Pao asked to see the papers which he was talking about.

"I will not give over my paper! You will copy my paper and make thousands of counterfeits so you can make illegal buildings!" The man said. It was a very decent excuse, but at that point, Judge Pao wasn't in the state of listening to him. He snatched the papers. "Hey! No stealing! My brother's at least ten ranks higher than you are. Do you want to get fired? Probably not!" The man threatened, an evil gleam in his eyes. He winked at Judge Pao, and smiled. "You'll get a very kind amount of... 'help'. There's no need to go further than that, is it?" The man said in a whisper, looking more and more crooked by the second. He was definitely a bad person, and Denny supposed it was counted as bribery. "I will not! All of houses will be removed!" Judge Pao said sternly. "Over my dead body! If you do that, nothing good will happen to you! Don't you dare! I'll tell my brother!" the man screamed into Pao's face. "Seize him!" Suddenly, Denny's vision blurred again...

"Class, assemble!" Denny heard the shrill voice of his teacher! How odd, he thought. He was now utterly sorry he hadn't respected Judge Pao a bit more when they were on tour. Now they were leaving!

Denny enjoyed his experience to Judge Pao's time, but being back home sometimes isn't a bad thing. Judge Pao was a very good judge, but his days were more than exciting for Denny. As Denny walked onto his bus, something caught his eye: it was a portrait of Judge Pao. But the odd thing was, it was winking at him!

P.S. some sources say "Judge Bao" but I used Pao. You can correct it if you think it's wrong.

P.P.S. I couldn't think of a really good ending maybe you could give me some ideas after you have it. I hope you like it!

New Tales of Judge Pao

Ching Chung Hau Po Woon Primary School, Wu, Xueer – 10

Pao Zheng is a popular and famous Chinese judge. Since he always helps people to fight the crimes, he becomes a symbol of justice. All people call him ‘Pao Qing Tian’. One day, Judge Pao saw a tall man who was holding a knife yelling loudly to a couple, ‘Give me your money and the lady next to you!’ ‘No. I can give you all my money but not my wife!’ cried the farmer who is wearing a dirty straw hat. The tall man was furious and used his knife to cut the farmer’s hands. The farmer then shook his fist at the tall man. ‘Stop! Stop! You two should not fight and hurt each other. Please b,’ said Judge Pao. Judge Pao ordered his assistants, Wang Chow and Ma Han to take the tall man and the couple to the court.

In the court, Judge Pao asked, ‘what happened? Why do you fight with each other? What is the matter?’ The farmer bowed to Judge Pao and replied, “Dear Judge Pao, my name is Ah Wong. I am a farmer in a village. She is my wife, Mei Yi. We meet this tall man when we are on our way home. He uses a knife to threaten me and force me to him all my money as well as my beautiful wife.’ Judge Pao looked at the man and asked, ‘what you are doing? Are you a robber? Do you know you did a crime which is an offence against the law? Please explain!’ The man’s face turned white and still kept silent. He suddenly took out a whistle from one of his pockets and blew it loudly. Surprisingly, a lady appeared in the court and wanted to help the tall man. “Don’t punish him. He only wants to have his own kids,’ said the lady in a sweet voice. The lady was very beautiful. Her hair was as dark as the night sky and her eyes were as shiny as stars. No one knew who she was. The lady wanted Judge Pao to release the man but Judge Pao kept going investigate the background of the tall man and decided to punish him as he offended the law by offense of extortion and intended harm.

The tall man ignored the judgement of Judge Pao and still kept blowing his whistle. Then, more and more pretty ladies came to the court to help the man but Judge Pao insisted on his verdict. He sent the man to jail for two years and free the couple home happily.

Judge Pao and The Talking Bowl

Ching Chung Hau Po Woon Primary School, Yiu, Ho I – 10

A long time ago, there lived a mighty judge named Pao Ching Tian. He was famous for his fairness, no matter if it were his closest of family or friends, any person in the wrong would be rightfully punished. One day, an old man called Ming came into court with a bowl to meet the well-known Judge.

“Who’s the person you’d like to report?” Judge Pao asked sceptically since Ming was alone. Ming replied helplessly, “this annoying bowl! For some reason there is a soul in it and it’s been haunting me for days, threatening me to bring it to see you.” Pao then let the bowl talk to see what was going on, but the court remained silent for a few minutes. He didn’t want to be mean to the old man, so he suggested Ming to get some rest as he might’ve just been seeing things.

Ming left the court in despair and complained to the bowl for not speaking up. As he furiously shouted at it for wasting his time, some villagers started small talking, wondering why he would do something so weird. Ming felt embarrassed and ran home, trying to go about his daily life without getting affected by the bowl. “Please help me! Help me fight for justice, I beg you!” A sound suddenly came out of nowhere. Ming was angrier than ever, “why didn’t you speak up earlier? You have made everyone around me think I am crazy and now you’re asking me to bring you to court again? What a ridiculous bowl you are!”

The next day, Ming and the bowl returned to Judge Pao once again. This time, the bowl started to speak. The soul inside the bowl said he used to sell rice on the streets, one day a powerful civil official came to his store and stole his rice! He tried reporting the official, but it was no use. In fact, the official even hired someone to curse his afterlife to be stuck in a bowl! That’s why he would like Judge Pao to find that official and punish him. “I roughly remember that official’s was Zhang Chen, please find him quickly!” The bowl begged.

After hearing what had happened to the poor bowl, Judge Pao ordered some of his men to find Zhang Chen. A month had passed, wanted posters were put up around the streets, many people were asked, yet nobody knew who or where Zhang Chen was. Many documents were searched, so they concluded that either Zhang Chen didn’t exist, or the bowl wasn’t telling the truth. Pao asked the bowl a few more questions, it seemed like it was telling the truth, so he turned the case away and left it at that.

Around a century after the incident, there were a number of traces of Zhang Chen scattered in magazines and newspapers. Including in an old documentary about dolphins, in a picture of an English style train and in a description about boats in a newspaper. Some theories state the man in an old Chinese outfit could be a time traveller from the future or simply a coincidence that a person was just wearing such an outfit. But whether any of these theories are correct or pure nonsense, is still up for debate...

New Tales of Judge Pao

Ching Chung Hau Po Woon Primary School, Yookhong, Wassana – 11

Everything in this world is mostly unfair. I say this because nothing can be balanced. For example, the rich survive while the poor are left to die, beautiful things are cared while the ugly are cursed, we can find evil or God anywhere whether in a casino or church, nothing in society is fair as long as the power is within a purse. Money can buy many things food, house, cars, watches, freedom and even one's life. It can be used to bail a criminal and blame an innocent. The right or wrong, money always win. It's true that money can be powerful, it can many things but not a man's value. He is an ordinary man but the greatest hero he doesn't have webs, he doesn't fly nor turn green and smash criminals like other heroes, what makes him great is his principle and his morals. He goes by many names, Judge Pao, Pao Zheng, Bao Gong etc. But for the sake of this fiction writing, I'll name him Agent Pao a member of the Avengers. Money to him is just a piece of paper and beauty is just nothing but an image. Agent Pao sees this world differently.

Agent Pao has an ability to see the good or bad with the small moon on his head. The small moon helped Agent Pao in many cases. Agent Pao first started as a detective. Since nobody knew him, his business was not very successful. Until a faithful day, Agent Pao was buying groceries when he came across a crime scene. He asked one of the policemen what happened which as he responds with "This man was found dead last night by his wife. We suspect that he was killed by a phantom. I know it's hard to believe but there have been cases like these in the past centuries. The victim was choked to death and so were the past case." Pao was laughing out loud as he heard that "the victim was killed by a phantom." "I'm sorry I couldn't hold myself, "killed by a phantom" ridiculous! Please tell me more info about this man." He laughed. The policemen all burst out laughing and said "And why should I tell you? We've been trying to solve this case since yesterday, how on earth can you solve it?". Agent Pao looked at all the policemen and said, "Bold of you to assume that I, a great detective can't solve this, just give me info about this man and I'll crack this case in no time!" Pao said confidently. "Alright then, this man is a billionaire, and his name is Mr. Elon Musk and as I told you before he was found dead last night by his wife, Mrs. Musk. We have four suspects. One his butler, Mr. Donaldson, two his chef, Mr. Fischbach, three his daughter, Exa Musk and finally we have his wife Mrs. Musk her full name is Riley Musk." Said the chef police. "Can I see them please?" the chief nodded his head and brought all four of them. Pao asked each one of them a few questions "Where were you all at the time of the murder?" "I was in the lobby when I heard Mrs. Musk screamed. I rushed there and found a lifeless dead body of Mr. Musk and I also discover a broken vase." said the butler. "I was at the kitchen when everything happened. I was mostly just looking at some yummy dishes to cook in my cookbook." Said the chef. "I was at a party with my friends last evening. I wouldn't have gone there if I had known that it will be the last time I'd see my father again." Exa said while sobbing. "I was the bedroom sleeping when I felt thirsty, so I went downstairs to the living room and when I saw my husband dead on the I screamed and broke the vase." Said Mrs. Musk as she was holding back her tears. "Mr. butler may I ask why were you in the library?" asked Pao. "I was in there to find a book that was called "Parry Hotter" since I heard that Mr. Musk had a collection of them." The butler answered. Pao then ask, "Would you happen to have an alibi?" "Yes, I do. When I was in the library the maid also there!" Pao asked, "Is that true miss...?" "Marry. My name is Marry and yes, I was there with Mr. Donaldson." "Well chef do you also have an alibi?" asked Pao. The chef shook his head. "How about you Mrs. Musk?" "No..." she replied. Pao realized that he couldn't crack this case, so he decided to use his ability. "Everyone, please stay still" yelled Pao. After a moment of silence, Pao then confidently said

“The murder of Mr. Musk is Miss Marry and Mr. Donaldson! Miss Marry you are the accomplishment of Mr. Donaldson! Mr. Donaldson you convinced Miss Marry to do those awful and dreadful things to Mr. Musk. It is unforgivable! You garb Mr. Musk by the neck while covering his mouth and told Miss Marry to stab him with a knife. Miss Marry couldn’t bring herself to kill a man so she decided to run off to the library. Mr. Donaldson saw this and decided to kill Mr. Musk and then chasing after Miss Marry so Mr. Donaldson, was my deduction correct?” Miss was overwhelmed with Agent Pao’s deduction and fainted right on spot. The policemen were stunned and flabbergasted. Mr. Donaldson was dumbfounded. “How on earth did you know that? I thought my plan was splendid! How on earth could you have known I was the one who murdered Mr. Musk? Yelled the butler. “As I said before Mr. Donaldson, I’m this town’s greatest detective. I’m one of the best of the best!” Pao responds.

In the end, Miss Marry and Mr. Donaldson were found guilty and was sent 15 years in jail. And the day was saved Agent Pao with his wonderful deduction.

New Tales of Judge Pao

Ching Chung Hau Po Woon Primary School, Zhu, Tung Fei – 11

I was walking in the fog of the countryside, and as I walked, under the cover of the fog, I couldn't even see the road ahead, let alone view the scenery. As I walked deeper and deeper, I suddenly noticed a large area, which was very dark. Except darkness, I couldn't see anything at all! As I was walking into the dark, I could hear my own footstep with great echo. After walking in, I realized that it was a huge cave! I walked into the cave cautiously, and a monster flashed by. I was terrified! After catching up, the monster yelled! My ears were almost deafened!

When I recovered, I was shocked that I was in the ancient times thousands of years ago! My clothes seemed out of place with the environment. I thought to myself, 'Is it the time travel mentioned on TV series? Am I dreaming? What happened on me? But anyway, amazing!' I was wandering in the streets and alleys, observing this brand0-new world, and at the same time looking for our protagonist—Judge Pao.

Judge Pao, China's Sherlock Holmes, (999–1062), courtesy name Xiren, was born in Hefei, Luzhou, and was born in Northern Song Dynasty. Dr San, to Shizhong, the captain of Shangqing Che, the founding marquis of Donghai County, 1800 households in Shiyi, 400 households in Shishi, and purple and gold fish bags. Gifted to the Minister of the Ministry named 'Xiaosu', Judge Pao was famous for his incorruptibility and justice in the world, and was called 'Bao Qingtian' by later generations. He was regarded as a god, which was worshiped by most Chinese. He is also known as 'the God of China's Judiciary'. Taoism teaches that he is the reincarnation of Wenquxing. After his death, he becomes the king of Yama, the fifth hall of hell.

Judge Pao was fair and impartial. He judged the cases efficiently, that was why he became famous. When I was walking around there, I met Judge Pao working on a case. Once when I just travelled there, I saw Judge Pao, who sat in a sedan chair, was patrolling with his entourages. A child who sat on a bluestone slab was crying. When Judge Pao saw the child, he got off the sedan chair and asked him, 'Son, what is the matter with you?' The child answered, 'I sell fried cakes. This morning, I earned two hundred dollars and put my money in a basket. After looking at the slate back to the county government, my money has been gone! And I wanted to examine the blue slate!' Many people came to watch it one after another after they knew about it.

Judge Pao then took the child to the beginning of the trail of Qingshiban, I saw him shouting at Qingshiban, 'You stole the child's money. If you don't return it honestly, you will be tortured!'

When people there heard it, they all wanted to laugh, but they didn't dare to laugh. I saw two Yamen servants picked up the board broke. At that time, people couldn't help laughing. Not only did Judge Pao laugh, but he slapped the gavel and said, 'You are so unruly, how dare you laugh at will in the lobby? Yamen servants close the gate, and don't allow anyone to leave or go anywhere!' The people quickly knelt down and begged for mercy.

Judge Pao said, 'It's alright to forgive, but you can let you out only if you pay a lot of money.' Judge Pao asked someone to carry a large water tank, asked the people put their money in, and stood by to observe. Several people threw their money into the big water tank. The water tank was gone, and everything was fine. When it was released from the Yamen, a man threw money into the water tank, and Judge Pao noticed a few oily flowers floating on the water.

Judge Pao said to the man, 'You are the thief! You have stolen the child's money! Hurry up and arrest him!' Then the man was taken aback and trembled with fight. Judge Pao also called the Yamen servants to search. Sure enough, one hundred and ninety-nine coins were found from the man. Including the penny he had stolen, the total was two hundred pennies.

Judge Pao returned two hundred dollars to the child. He asked the Yamen servants to beat up the thief who had stolen the money and drove him out of the gate of the county Yamen.

People who came to watch understood why Qingshiban was tortured at the beginning, and they admired Judge Pao for his shrewdness. He treated everyone and everything equally. People all admired Judge Pao from their whole heart. This kind of spirit is worth to learn.

Judge Pao is people's hero!

New Tales of Judge Pao

Farm Road Government Primary School, Au, Kai Lam Caleb – 11

On Sunday it was Mr. Wong's birthday. He was a rich man and he invited a lot of friends to his birthday party. When the party began, Mr. Wong showed them his shiny, golden ring. He put the golden ring on a box and let his friends look at it. Nearby, a boy was patting a cat.

Mr. Wong said, "Don't pat the cat. It will bite you!" The boy stopped patting the cat and everyone went to the garden.

After the party, Mr. Wong found out that his golden ring was gone! He thought Mr. Lam stole it because Mr. Lam was a bit poor and he admired Mr. Wong because he was so rich.

Mr. Wong went to Mr. Lam's house and asked him angrily, "Did you steal my golden ring at the party?"

"Of course I didn't!" replied Mr. Lam.

Mr. Wong and Mr. Lam argued for a long time. Even some other people came to see what was happening. Mr. Lam and Mr. Wong did not help each other and they wanted to find Judge Pao to find out who stole Mr. Wong's golden ring.

When they found Judge Pao, Mr. Wong said, "Judge Pao, Mr. Lam stole my golden ring!"

"Of course it was not me! Judge Pao, don't you listen to him! I didn't steal his golden ring!" said Mr. Lam.

"If it wasn't you, then who was it?" Mr. Wong asked angrily.

"Quiet!" Judge Pao shouted loudly. He asked Mr. Wong, "How do you know that Mr. Lam stole your golden ring?"

Mr. Wong answered, "It is because he is poor and he admires me very much. I think he must have stolen my golden ring!"

"But it really wasn't me!" said Mr. Lam.

Judge Pao went to Mr. Wong's house to help him look for the golden ring. When Judge Pao went into Mr. Wong's house, he sneezed loudly. He asked, "Why did I sneeze suddenly? Do you have a pet in your home?"

"Yes, I have a cat," replied Mr. Wong.

Judge Pao said, "I need to do an experiment and try to find out who stole your golden ring." Judge Pao put a coin on the table and he said, "If the coin is not here tomorrow, that means someone is stealing the things in your house."

The next day, the coin had really disappeared! But nobody saw who stole it or how. Mr. Wong was very confused. He didn't know who stole the coin, so he went to find Judge Pao again.

"Judge Pao! The coin really disappeared, but we didn't see who stole it!"

"Maybe we need to do one more experiment to find the thief," said Judge Pao.

This time, Judge Pao used a string to tie the coin. "If someone steals the coin, we can find the coin by following the string," said Judge Pao.

The next day, the coin had disappeared. They found the string and the coin, but they found string was broken. They couldn't find the thief again. Mr. Wong was so sad and frustrated. He needed to find Judge Pao again.

This time, they got a new idea. This time, they painted the coin with golden paint, so when the thief stole the coin, the golden paint would stain his or her hand so they would know who stole the coin.

The next day, they found some small circles on the floor. They followed the circles to the garden and they found that the thief was the cat in Mr. Wong's house! Mr. Wong was very surprised. He never thought that the cat would steal his golden ring and the coins. He said sorry to Mr. Lam for believing that he stole his golden ring. Mr. Wong was very happy, and Judge Pao had solved a mystery again.

New Tales of Judge Pao

Farm Road Government Primary School, Chan, Nam Hei Jayden – 9

In the Song Dynasty of China, there was a place called Kaifeng. It was a beautiful city. There was a group of people who always maintained the justice of the city. Under the group, there were five policemen who had strong physical capabilities and learnt very powerful martial arts. Their names were Wong Chao, Ma Han, Cheung Lung, Chiu Hu, and the police leader, Zhan Zhao. There weren't any thieves or enemies that could escape from their hands. At the top of this group, there was one man who was a judge and was leading the policemen. The name of this man was Pao Zheng and he was known as Judge Pao.

One day in Kaifeng, a lot of things became wrong. A villager came to the office of Judge Pao and hit the big drum which was outside the office to call out the policemen. Wong Chao and Ma Han came out from the office and said, "Good morning. What is wrong? How can we help you?"

The villager started crying and said, "My lovely dog is missing. I don't know where it is. Can you help me to find it?"

Wong Chao and Ma Han thought this was just a small problem and not an urgent case, so they did not take any action at that moment. They comforted the villager to stop crying and told her the dog would be found as soon as possible.

Three days later, Wong Chao and Ma Han still could not find the missing dog when another sad villager came to the office and hit the big drum again. Cheung Lung and Chiu Hu came out this time and they said to the villager, "Good afternoon! Why do you look so sad? How can we help you?"

"Sir, please help me!" said the villager. "My cat disappeared and I don't know where it is. But there is some blood on my house outside." The villager cried and knelt down.

Cheung Lung and Chiu Hu felt there was something wrong. They went to join Wong Chao and Ma Han and told them everything they knew. The four policemen thought these mysterious missing dog and cat cases were not simple cases that could be solved by themselves, so they went back to the office where there were a lot of villagers lining up outside. After a few minutes, the four policemen knew that all the problems and cases were the same. All the dogs and cats had disappeared from Kaifeng.

The four policemen went back to the office and told this big and mysterious case to the police leader, Zhan Zhao. The leader sensed that this case must be someone who was living in Kaifeng that stole the dogs and cats. He went to find Judge Pao and told him all the details of the case immediately.

After Judge Pao knew what the case was about, he agreed with the idea of Zhan Zhao. He sent out Wong Chao, Ma Han, Cheung Lung and Chiu Hu to ask the villagers if Kaifeng had any special or weird things happen recently. Judge Pao and Zhan Zhao went to visit all the houses that were related to the case. The heroes of Kaifeng started to look for all the clues hidden in the city and villages.

The four policeman team was asking the villagers about the things that happened recently. After a while, they came to an ugly and dirty street. It was full of rubbish and there were some beggars. The beggars were thin and weak. They seemed to not have enough food to eat. When the four policemen walked in to the street, the beggars stood up and walked to them slowly. The beggars started asking the policemen for money and food. Cheung Lung and Chiu Hu went to a tuck shop and bought some snacks for them. Wong Chao and Ma Han were asking the beggars for hints.

Suddenly, an old beggar came to Wong Chao and said, "Mr. Wong. I have something I need to tell you. My friend is a beggar and he also disappeared for a few days, but I saw him yesterday and he looked stronger and healthier than before. I thought that was weird because beggars should not look like this. We are always hungry."

Then, the four policemen started to look for that weird beggar in Kaifeng. At the same time, Judge Pao and Zhan Zhao were checking around the houses to find hints. They found out there were the same hints in all the house. Blood drops on the floors! Judge Pao sensed the criminal was not stealing the cats and dogs. The criminal was killing the animals in Kaifeng. Judge Pao and Zhan Zhao were so angry and said, "We will find you and punish you!"

Judge Pao assembled the four policemen and they shared their hints. Judge Pao used his extreme intelligence to calculate the route the criminal would try to escape. A few minutes later, Judge Pao sent Zhan Zhao and the four policemen to catch the criminal. They found many drops of blood on the ground. Then, Zhan Zhao's super ears heard a little sound. As they walked, the noise got bigger and bigger until they heard a crying child. They ran to the house where the crying was coming from and saw a man wearing beggar's clothes. He had long, dirty hair. It was the criminal! He was holding a knife and trying to murder the child. Zhan Zhao kicked the knife out of his hand.

The criminal was sent to Judge Pao's office. Judge Pao asked, "Why did you try to kill and eat that crying child?"

"I was hungry. I was just hungry. I ate everything in my path," he smiled creepily.

In the end, the criminal was executed and Kaifeng was safe again.

New Tales of Judge Pao

Farm Road Government Primary School, Choi, Cheuk Chi Serene – 11

During the Song Dynasty, there was hidden village called Liyue. There citizens there lived happily, until one day, screams and crying could be heard coming from an inn. A woman named Yun Jin was performing, singing and dancing on the stage for an audience. She put her daughter on a chair next to her, when suddenly a cloud of smoke burst throughout the entire scene and the place was in chaos. Only faint laughter could be heard. When the black smoke dissipated, she realized that her daughter had disappeared without a trace.

Yun Jin anxiously reported the matter to Bao Zheng, and he came to Linyue for the first time. Fortunately, his assistant, Yanfei, was a local there. When both of them came to the scene of the crime, they saw a note that read:

I am prosperous! You will never find me this time! Ha! Ha! Ha!

Signed, Rex Lapis

Bao Zheng shook his head and sighed. “Who is this Rex Lapis? It doesn’t sound like a local name at all!”

Yinfei quickly explained, “Rex Lapis is a famous thief in LinYue. Unfortunately, no one has seen his face before.”

Judge Bao walked up to a young poet and asked, “Do you know what happened?” The poet, Xingqiu said, “I was busy reading the latest novel at the time. Suddenly, Yun Jin stopped singing. I thought it was the end of the performance and ignored it. When I heard cries and coughing sounds from the audience, I realized it was a tragedy.”

Disappointed, Bao Zheng came to a middle aged man named Zhongli who was looking for something. Bao Zhong heard from his assistant that Zhongli had a wonderful and incredible memory. But just when everyone thought he must remember what happened, he refused to answer Bao Zheng’s questions.

“Oh, Zhongli, please! Your excellent memory could give us a massive boost! Please help us, I’m begging you!” begged Yinfei.

Bao Zheng was getting suspicious of Zhongli. He mumbled to himself, “Why would he refuse to help with our investigation? That’s suspicious.” He searched and searched in the room looking for more clues while Yinfei kept asking questions of Zhongli.

Bao Zheng thought, “All right. I should discover how the smoke started in the first place.” He thought and thought for a long time. Just then, a chef called Xiangling came out from the kitchen, coughing a bit. Bao Zheng noticed her hair and apron were a bit burnt.

“Excuse me, ma’am, why is your apron burnt?” asked Bao Zheng.

“Oh, I taught my apprentice to cook earlier and it turned into chaos. It started to smoke and I started to cough so much,” replied the chef.

Bao Zhen thought, “Maybe that’s how the smoke started.”

After that, they decided to take a small break. Just then, Bao Zheng saw Xiangling whispering to Zhongli loudly.

“Hey, our plan was a success, right? You stole the baby? I’m such a genius to invite my idiotic apprentice to fill the room with smoke,” she whispered.

Zhongli nodded in agreement and Bao Zheng thought, "I knew it! Zhongli was the mastermind behind this. But why would he steal the baby?" Bao Zheng couldn't figure it out. He knew he had to investigate more.

Around midnight, the sky was pitch black. There was not even a single star in the sky. Hope was not growing for Bao Zheng. Almost everyone had returned home to sleep. Bao Zheng wandered through the streets when he saw two people at the end of an alleyway. Out of curiosity, Bao Zheng peeked into the alleyway. Those two people were none other than Yun Jin and Zhongli. Bao Zheng leaned a little closer to see and hear what they were doing. Zhongli held Yun Jin by the neck and said, "You killed my child, and now I have your precious little baby. How do you feel?"

Yun Jin managed to free herself and screamed, "You're horrible, Rex Lapis!"

Zhongli replied with a calm tone, "You made like this, darling."

Bao Zheng Quickly left the scene before they noticed him. Questions popped into his mind. "Darling? Do they have a secret relationship?" he thought. "So, Zhongli is Rex Lapis after all!" He kept thinking. "What did he mean by, 'You killed my child'?" Bao Zheng quickly ran to Yanfei's house and told her what he had witnessed. They both decided to deal with them in court the next day.

The next day, they arrived in court. Bao Zheng ordered his guards to bring in a confused Xiangling. Bao Zheng spoke first. "Did you take part in Zhongli, Rex Lapis's plan to kidnap a baby?"

Xiangling panicked and realized there was no way she could get out of this. "Fine! As long as I get to free myself from these rusty chains." Then, she began her story. "I don't know much, but Zhongli offered me some money if I started a fire in the kitchen and made some smoke. That's a pretty good deal, if you ask me."

Bao Zheng said, "So, you admit you contributed?" Xiangling nodded in guilt.

"Bring in the convict!" shouted Bao Zheng.

Soon, Zhongli was brought in along with a baby. Yun Jin held the baby and was crying tears of joy.

Bao Zheng asked, "Now, would you mind telling us why you stole the baby? You can't refuse now. Xiangling told me about the fire."

Zhongli sighed and said, "It all started when Yun Jin and I were a loving couple. We started a family and had two children. One day I found out she was abusive to one of our children, causing his death. Ever since I divorced her, every time I see her, I think of the horrible memory."

Bao Zheng thought for a while and decided that all three of them were going to jail. Yanfei took care of the baby for now and Xiangling's apprentice took care of the restaurant.

New Tales of Judge Pao

Farm Road Government Primary School, Fong, Hei Man Lillian – 11

One thousand years ago, there were two women living in Kaifeng, the capital of ancient China's Song Dynasty. Mrs. Wong was the wife of a farmer, and Mrs. Chan was the wife of an owner of a restaurant. In the same year, both of them gave birth to their baby girls. They were very happy.

One day, Mrs. Wong finished her work with her husband on the farm. When they went back home, they could not find their baby girl. They were frightened. They went out of their home and ran to the main street of the city shouting. "Who has seen our one-year-old baby girl?" Mrs. Wong cried loudly, but no one on the street could answer her.

The next day, Mr. and Mrs. Wong went to the city center to find their baby. When they passed by the front door of Mr. Chan's restaurant, they heard the crying of a baby. Mrs. Wong shouted, "She's my baby!" They went into the restaurant immediately. They saw that Mrs. Chan was holding a baby.

"She's my baby!" cried Mrs. Wong angrily. "Give her back to me! Why did you kidnap her and bring her to your restaurant?" Then, she ran to Mrs. Chan to try to get back the baby.

Mrs. Chan said, "No! She is my baby! Don't try to hurt her!" Mr. Chan pushed Mrs. Wong hard and she fell down on the floor. Poor Mrs. Wong cried, "Give me back my baby, please!"

Frightened Mrs. Chan also cried loudly, "No! She is my baby, not yours!" Mr. Wong and Mr. Chan fought with each other.

An old lady was in the restaurant. She stopped eating and lifted up Mrs. Wong. She shouted, "Stop fighting, please! I have something to say."

Everyone looked at her, including Mr. Wong, Mr. Chan and Mrs. Chan, except for the baby girl who was crying very loudly now. The old lady turned to Mrs. Wong and asked, "What are the special characteristics of the appearance of the baby girl?"

"She has big eyes, a small nose and a small mouth," said Mrs. Wong.

The old lady looked at the baby and she saw exactly what Mrs. Wong had just mentioned. "Oh! She is actually Mrs. Wong's baby," said the old lady.

"No! Every single baby looks the same! This cannot prove that I am not her mother!" screamed Mrs. Chan.

The old lady was puzzled and could not say anything. The baby also screamed and cried more loudly.

At that moment, Zhan Zhao, the Imperial Guard of the Kaifeng Government, was leading a group of policemen past the front door of the restaurant and went in to see what was happening. Mrs. Wong and Mrs. Chan, who were both crying, told him the story.

Zhan Zhao said at once, "Both of you have to come to the police station with me. And you..." he said pointing at the old lady, "Please carry the baby girl for us."

They arrived at the police station and saw Judge Pao. Zhan Zhao briefly reported the case to Judge Pao who then asked the other people a few questions. Everyone reported to him one by one. Judge Pao asked a policeman to bring the baby to him. The baby was now sleeping quietly.

"Would this old lady please stay with us in the police station? We have a room for guests. Please help us to take care of the baby girl for a month. We will judge the case a month later," said Judge Pao. The old lady carried the baby and followed a policeman into the guest room and the other people returned home worriedly.

A month later, all the people went to the police station to see Judge Pao again. Judge Pao arrived and sat down. He looked at Mrs. Wong and Mrs. Chan and asked, "What is the baby's favourite food?"

At that time, most of the baby's in China liked pumpkin congee, and it was one of the most popular dishes of Mr. Chan's restaurant. Mrs. Chan shouted immediately, "Pumpkin congee!"

But Mrs. Wong knew that her baby hated pumpkin congee very much and liked eating fish congee instead. She replied confidently without thinking, "Fish congee! She hates pumpkin congee."

Hence, Judge Pao asked a policeman to go to the market to buy pumpkin congee and fish congee. He noticed that Mrs. Chan looked worried.

About an hour later, the policeman returned to the police station with two bowls of congee. One was made with pumpkin, one with fish. Judge Pao came out from his office and ordered another policeman to ask the old lady to bring the baby out.

The old lady came out of the guest room with the baby girl. "Have you fed the baby this morning?" asked Judge Pao.

"No. Zhan Zhao told me not to feed her. He said that was your order," replied the old lady.

"Then please help me feed the baby with the congee on the table," said Judge Pao. "Feed her the pumpkin congee first."

The old lady fed the baby the pumpkin congee, but the baby wouldn't eat it even though she was quite hungry. Then, the old lady fed her the fish congee. This time, the baby ate all the fish congee!

"Now, you may know who the baby's mother is," said Judge Pao. "In the past month, the old lady told me that the baby had picky eating habits. Therefore, I thought of this idea to find her real mother."

"Forgive me, please!" cried Mrs. Chan. "I did this because my baby died a month before."

"But that's no excuse for you to do such a bad thing," said Judge Pao. "And you..." he continued, looking at Mrs. Wong, "You should teach your child not to be so picky with food anymore."

"Thank you, Judge Pao!" yelled Mrs. Wong and she hugged her baby with her husband and went home. Mrs. Chan was sent to jail by the policemen.

New Tales of Judge Pao

Farm Road Government Primary School, Ho, Tsun Hin Nathan – 10

When we mention fighting crimes, we always think of Sherlock Holmes in Western countries. But do you know that there was a famous man called Judge Pao in ancient China? According to many books and movies with the main character Judge Pao, his figure was that of a fat and black man with a mark on his forehead. He always helped people to fight crimes and treated all the people in a fair way.

This story started one thousand years ago. A merchant was a trader who bought and sold silk fabric in different villages. One day, the merchant was walking with his horse in the forest carrying two bags of silk fabric before he arrived in another village for trading. Suddenly he was careless to step on some rocks and fell down on the ground. His legs were hurt, so he decided to take a rest in the forest. Then, he tied his horse to a tree with a rope and put all his silk fabric on a big log next to the tree. He sat down on the log for a rest and after a while, he fell asleep until the next morning.

When the merchant woke up, he was shocked because all his silk fabric and his horse were gone. He felt very sad and worried because he needed medicine for his sick mother. While he was thinking of a solution, Judge Pao passed by him. When the merchant saw Judge Pao, he quickly knelt down in front of the sedan chair and begged him to catch the thief. Judge Pao ordered his guards to stop moving the sedan chair and asked the merchant what had happened. Then, the merchant told Judge Pao the whole story.

After listening to the story of the merchant, Judge Pao told him, "I'll help you find the thief who stole your silk fabric and your horse, but first you need to point out the log on which you put your silk fabric yesterday."

The merchant didn't know why Judge Pao wanted to find the log, but not the silk fabric. Judge Pao ordered the guards to take the log back to his law court. All of his guards and the merchant felt very curious about his order. However, no one dared to ask Judge Pao and all of them followed his orders strictly.

Before starting to question the log, there were a lot of villagers standing in front of the court to see how Judge Pao asked the log questions. A moment later, Judge Pao came out and sat down on the Judge's chair.

"I'm not going to question people today. Bring the log over here for questioning!" Judge Pao said firmly.

The guards quickly brought the log and put it in front of Judge Pao. The judge asked the log loudly, "Log, tell me who stole the fabric?" All the villagers were very confused and didn't know why Judge Pao asked the log questions. They started to discuss softly with each other because they all knew that the log would not be able to speak.

A few minutes later, Judge Pao asked the log again. "Log, I'll ask you one more time. Tell me, who was the thief who stole the silk fabric?" Of course, the log didn't answer the question. The villagers became more curious and started to laugh loudly. Judge Pao got very angry when he heard the villagers laughing.

Judge Pao punished all the villagers in the law court by ordering them to take out the goods they sold if they were sellers. No one dared to reject Judge Pao's order and they started to line up in a straight line. The judge ordered the guards to take out a big, flat plate and put it on the desk which was in front of the villagers to let them put the goods they sold on it.

After all the villagers put their stuff on the big, flat plate, Judge Pao ordered the villagers to take back their stuff, except for the villager who put silk fabric on the plate. When all the villagers had taken back their stuff and left, Judge Pao called the merchant to come in front of him. "Is that your fabric?" Judge Pao asked the merchant while pointing at the fabric.

"Yes, it's mine!" said the merchant.

“How can you prove that the silk fabric is yours?” Judge Pao asked.

“I know its length, texture and mark,” replied the merchant. Then he started saying the fabric’s length, texture and mark.

After listening to the merchant, Judge Pao ordered the guards to check the silk fabric to see if the merchant was right.

One of the guards said, “The merchant was right, sir.”

Judge Pao said, “Catch the villager who put this silk fabric on the plate earlier.”

Several minutes later, the guards caught the villager and brought him back to the court.

“Do you have any more partners, thief?” Judge Pao asked loudly. The thief didn’t want to get punished, so he told the judge where his partners were. Judge Pao ordered the guards to catch the thief’s partners.

In the end, all the thieves were sent to jail and returned the two bags of silk fabric to the merchant.

“Thank you so much for your great help! I can have money to buy medicine for my sick mother!” said the merchant with tears of joy.

“My pleasure,” replied Judge Pao.

New Tales of Judge Pao

Farm Road Government Primary School, Li, Shun Hay Zwená – 10

During the Song Dynasty, when Pao Zheng was magistrate of Kaifeng, there was a thing that happened in Sum Ku's house. A few years before, Sum Ku had borrowed some money from Wong Wai. Wong had waited a long time already, but Sum Ku still hadn't returned the money to Wong Wai, so Wong Wai was very angry and killed Sum Ku's family members. When Sum Ku realized this thing, he decided one day he must do something to get revenge against Wong Wai.

One night, Sum Ku finally made his dream come true. On that night, Sum Ku burgled Wong Wai's house to steal his poetry and killed him. The next day, a villager saw Wong Wai was on the floor in a pool of blood. She was really shocked and scared. She ran to tell Judge Pao. Now, Judge Pao needed to solve the case.

Judge Pao went to Wong Wai's house to search for clues. He spent a few months to search and search and had lot of data to find out why it happened.

One day, he found some hidden poetry written by Wong Wai. This poetry was talking about how Wong Wai hated Sum Ku and all the things between them. He spent a week reading the poetry and found lot of sentences describing Sum Ku as a bad man who did lots of bad things.

Judge Pao wanted to know more clues, so he ordered his guards to ask the neighbours about Sum Ku and Wong Wai. Lots of people said Sum Ku always walked by Wong Wai's house doing something strange. Judge Pao decided to take Sum Ku to court and question him about why he needed to kill Wong Wai, but Sum Ku kept on denying that he did it.

Judge Pao thought of an idea. In the night, one of the guards dressed in Wong Wai's clothes and pretended to be Wong Wai's ghost. Sum Ku was very frightened because he was scared that Wong Wai's ghost had come for revenge, so he kneeled down and begged Wong Wai to forgive him.

He said, "I did not want to kill you, or I would give all my belongings to you." He told the truth and gave the reason why he had killed Wong Wai.

Judge Pao finally knew the truth and turned on the light. The guard removed his costume.

"Now you can't deny anymore," said Judge Pao smiling.

At last, Sum Ku was in jail. Everyone was happy. The case of Wong Wai was solved just because Judge Pao was a clever person with a never-give-up spirit.

New Tales of Judge Pao

Farm Road Government Primary School, Lo, Tsz Shan Sophie – 9

In the summer of the year 1044, it always rained. On a dark and stormy night, the thunder was very loud, and the Emperor was sleeping on his bed. He was very tired after a busy day.

The next morning, the Emperor woke up and said, “Good morning, everyone! How are you today?”

“We’re fine, thank you!” everyone answered.

When the Emperor went into his study after eating his breakfast, he found that the Royal Seal was missing. He had just placed it on his desk last night, but now he couldn’t find it anywhere. He looked carefully under his desk, on the bookshelves and even in the toilet. He was worried.

“Oh no! Where is the Royal Seal?” he shouted angrily. “Who took the Royal Seal?”

But nobody had any idea where it was. The Emperor didn’t know what to do, so he instructed his guards to tell Judge Pao to investigate who stole the Royal Seal.

The Emperor’s guards told Judge Pao’s secretary that there was an emergency case. The Emperor wanted Judge Pao to find out who stole the Royal Seal, so the Judge’s secretary woke him up and told him what happened. The judge hurriedly rode his horse to the palace.

Judge Pao started to look for some clues in the Emperor’s room. He searched on a desk, under the books, on the bed and many more places. But he couldn’t find any clues.

Suddenly, Judge Pao saw some strange fur on the Emperor’s desk. He didn’t know what kind of animal that fur belonged to, so he brought some of the fur back home. He instructed his secretaries to bring him some animals. He told them to bring him dogs, cats and hamsters for him to find out which the fur belonged to. He compared the fur one by one, but he still didn’t know what kind of animal had that kind of fur. Then, Judge Pao told some hunters to catch mice, rabbits and lions. But he still didn’t know what kind of animal had that type of fur.

When Judge Pao didn’t know what to do, an idea suddenly popped into his mind. “I think I need to invite an animal expert to help me,” he said to himself. So, Judge Pao invited an animal expert to help him find out what kind of animal had that kind of fur. The animal expert looked at the fur and started thinking.

“It must be a monkey’s fur because it is brown and is very soft,” said the animal expert absolutely.

Then, Judge Pao thought that he had to find all the trainers that trained monkeys in the city. “This is a hard mission!” said Judge Pao. “How am I supposed to find all the trainers that train monkey in this city?”

So, he found some Imperial guards to help him. It took them a few days to find the answer, but at last he found that there were about fifty trainers who trained monkeys in the city. There were so many monkeys in the city. Some were pets, some were in the zoo, and some were in the circus. Judge Pao was very surprised because he never thought there would be so many monkey trainers in the city.

Judge Pao borrowed some police dogs from the police station to smell out which was the suspect’s monkey. He gave the fur to the dogs to smell. The police dogs smelled the first monkey but they all shook their heads. When they smelled the eleventh monkey, some dogs nodded but some shook their heads. Judge Pao thought they should keep smelling. At the forty-seventh monkey, all the dogs nodded their heads and started barking. “Woof! Woof!” they barked. The suspect was shocked, then ran away with his monkey as fast as lightning. “Catch them!” shouted Judge Pao.

Judge Pao’s Imperial guards and police dogs quickly ran to catch them, but the suspect and his monkey ran so fast that they escaped. Judge Pao ordered the police dogs to track down the suspect and his monkey. After a few days, the police dogs finally found the suspect and his monkey in their home.

“Run!” shouted the suspect. But it was already too late. The Imperial guards had already caught them.

“Help! Please let me go!” said the suspect.

“No! Because you are the one who stole the Royal Seal, right?” answered Judge Pao.

“Yes, but I will never tell you where the Royal Seal is,” replied the suspect. Judge Pao didn’t answer. He told the Imperial guards to put the suspect and his monkey in jail.

The next morning, Judge Pao went looking for the Royal Seal in the suspect’s house. Eventually, he saw a secret door in the suspect’s room. However, when he tried to open the door, he found that it was locked. Judge Pao checked if the suspect or the monkey had the key. He saw a special necklace on the monkey’s neck and on the necklace was a key. He wanted to get the necklace, but the monkey was scared and it escaped through a small window.

Fortunately, it had dropped the necklace on the floor. Judge Pao took the key and went to open the door. He saw many stairs leading to the basement, so he walked down to search for the missing Royal Seal. He saw a lot of treasure, gold, coins, gems and pearls. And on a table, there was the Royal Seal.

Judge Pao ran back to the palace with the Royal Seal. “This is your Royal Seal,” he told the Emperor. “The thief told his monkey to climb on a rope and steal the Royal Seal. They are arrested now,” said Judge Pao.

“Thank you!” said the Emperor happily, and Judge Pao returned the Royal Seal to him.

New Tales of Judge Pao

Farm Road Government Primary School, Wong, Cheuk Kiu Miya – 10

It was a wonderful day until Judge Pao saw two criminals escaping, so he had no choice but to chase them and recapture them.

“Hey! Get over here!” Judge Pao shouted. “Why did you escape?” Judge Pao asked the criminals.

“I wanted to go back home. I miss my family,” said the criminal. But Judge Pao thought it was weird because he remembered the criminal had no family. So, he sent the criminal back to jail for thirty years.

The second criminal said he was innocent, but Judge Pao didn’t believe him since he knew that criminal murdered ten men and women. That criminal was sent back to prison also.

The next day, Judge Pao was walking down the street. He found a woman on the ground, unconscious. He asked the people who had seen her, but all of them said they didn’t do it. So, Judge Pao had to look for more evidence. He found a scarf and a mitten. Then, he saw a man who was missing a mitten, so he brought him to court.

At the court, Judge Pao told the man that he did a lot of serious crimes already, so he would be in jail for fifty years in total. The man was really in shock. He yelled at Judge Pao loudly, so Judge Pao had no choice but to send him back to the cell. Then, Judge Pao decided to go to bed and get a good night’s sleep. He slept happily and didn’t think about what would happen tomorrow.

The next day, a lot of thieves came to steal stuff. Judge Pao was in shock, so he decided to run to the thieves and defeat them. He defeated them one by one, all ten of them. The citizens were happy to have their stuff back. They said thank you to Judge Pao.

The next night, a lot of citizens were missing, so Judge Pao wandered around. Judge Pao saw the citizens were being taken away by thieves. Judge Pao managed to jump on their boat where he untied the citizens and escaped. The thieves’ boss wasn’t happy at all and commanded the thieves to get stronger and defeat Judge Pao once and for all.

The thieves arrived quickly. They were looking for Judge Pao. The citizens used a chair to crack their necks because Judge Pao was too sick to fight. The citizens gave him warm soup to make Judge Pao feel better. They did everything to make Judge Pao better, but sadly they ran out of food. They just had to wait until Judge Pao got better.

The thieves’ boss yelled at them for not doing better. He told the thieves to work harder and stronger at the same time, just to defeat Judge Pao. They trained a lot, so they felt strong and they decided to go back to the place. However, the citizens were ready to fight the thieves, and in a few hours, they did it. Judge Pao was impressed.

“Bravo!” he said. “Here are the gems I got from the thieves.” They took all the gems and shared them happily.

In the morning a lady screamed loudly, “Oh, my Gosh!” The other citizens came and found out Judge Pao was missing. The citizens were scared. They ran to every street until they saw a man holding a staff. It was Judge Pao dealing with the criminals again. The citizens were happy to see Judge Pao was still there. They were happy and hugged him.

Judge Pao said, “I know you guys miss me, but I have to do missions, all right?” After that, the citizens knew why Judge Pao was missing a lot.

The criminals were mad and wanted to escape, but it never worked. They decided to give up and wait until their sentences were over.

Judge Pao continued to deal with the criminals in court, asking questions and gathering evidence. He asked, "Why did you do it? The victim was innocent."

"I did it for money, of course! Who doesn't like money?" the criminal said.

"Enough with the excuses! If you ever do a bad thing again, you will be executed!" Judge Pao shouted loudly.

The criminal was in shock. He felt scared and remained silent.

New Tales of Judge Pao

Farm Road Government Primary School, Wong, Wai Chi Wisdom – 10

In the 10th century, there was a judge in Kaifeng. His name was Judge Pao, and one day when Judge Pao was eating his lunch, a rich man rushed into the court.

He yelled, “Judge Pao! Bai Wu stole my gold and silver!”

Bai Wu said, “Nope! I haven’t.”

“I saw you steal them!” cried the rich man.

Judge Pao shouted, “Silence! I will know the truth!”

When Judge Pao finished his lunch, he slowly sat down in his comfortable seat. He asked, “What proof do you have to charge him?”

“No, I have no proof, but I saw him steal my gold and silver!” replied the rich man.

Bai Wu laughed, “Ha! Then I will charge you for defamation of me!”

“You are a foolish man!” said the rich man.

“If you want to finish our deal, then you should have recognized my strength!” laughed Bai Wu. “Bye-bye!”

When Judge Pao wanted to stop him, Bai Wu had already jumped out the window and escaped.

“Oh no! What will we do now?” asked the rich man.

Judge Pao looked at the window and saw a gold foil bookmark. There was also a letter which read: Solve the clue and you will find my home. – From Bai Wu.

Suddenly, Judge Pao said, “I know where Bai Wu is hiding!”

“Where?” asked the rich man.

“Let me call some policemen to catch Bai Wu first,” said Judge Pao. Five minutes later, two policemen named Chiu Fu and Wong Chu came. They were deciding what to do.

The rich man asked Judge Pao impatiently, “Judge Pao! When will we catch the thief?”

Judge Pao answered, “Don’t be too impatient! We will catch Bai Wu tomorrow.”

“Why?” asked the rich man.

“Because we need to let Bai Wu think we don’t know where he is. Then he will put down his guard. If we attack at that time, it will be easier to finish him!”

“Oh, that’s right!” said the rich man.

“Go home first. When we catch the thief, we will return your gold and silver to you,” said Judge Pao. After that, Judge Pao called Chiu Fu and Wong Chu to come to the court. He told them the clues.

When everything was ready, Chiu Fu and Wong Chu went to a house with gold windows. “Open the door, Bai Wu!” shouted Chiu Fu. “You are surrounded! Surrender is your best choice!”

There wasn’t any sound in the house. Chiu Fu was impulsive, He wanted to break through the door and catch Bai Wu. Wong Chu pulled him quickly back calmly and said, “We will have some trouble. Bai Wu will notice we are here and will have put some traps in the house, especially the door. Let’s attack from other ways.”

Then they decided to dig a tunnel under the house and to go through the roof. Chiu Fu quickly dug a tunnel while Wong Chu hit the roof. When they got into the house, they saw it was messy. But where was Bai Wu? Suddenly, they heard a sound. Then, Bai Wu came out! Chiu Fu and Wong Chu immediately prepared to have a war!

Bai Wu attacked first, He used a knife and threw it at Chiu Fu, who jumped up and caught it. Then, he threw it back at Bai Wu while Wong Chu shot an arrow at him. Bai Wu caught his knife and used it to block the arrow. Then, Bai Wu pressed a button and a hidden small hole sprayed some smoke! When the smoke was gone, Bai Wu had already escaped.

“He is gone! How hateful he is!” said Chiu Fu. “We need to...Look out!” He pushed Wong Chu out of the way and quickly laid down. There was an arrow stuck in the wall! Bai Wu had shot an arrow from another house. The duo were shook by this trick.

They shot arrows back and ran to the house. Then, they attacked Bai Wu at the same time. Bai Wu dodged Chiu Fu and made him fall down, and used his strength to hit Wong Chu, who fell down. Bai Wu tried to kill him, when suddenly, two more policemen named Ma Han and Cheung Long came in. The two policemen kicked Bai Wu immediately. Bai Wu fell down and was subdued. Chiu Fu and Wong got up slowly. They saw Bai Wu had had lost his will to resist and they relaxed a lot.

Next, Judge Pao appeared. “I know you will have hidden the gold and silver under the books because you gave us a bookmark,” said Judge Pao. “And I knew you would have been guarding your house that day, so I ordered my policemen to find another day to catch you.”

Then, the rich man came. He asked, “Where is my gold and silver?”

“Here they are,” said Chiu Fu, and gave the money to the rich man.

“You, Bai Wu...” Judge Pao had started to say, but Bai Wu had killed himself. Everybody stared at Bai Wu.

“Everyone! Now, we need to go back to the court and continue our work!” said Judge Pao.

Judge Pao

Fukien Secondary School Affiliated School, Li, Kaitlyn – 10

Judge Pao, an extraordinary judge, is known for his passion to fight crime and clean up the land.

One summer morning, he woke up to hear a commotion outside his apartment. “What is going on?” Judge Pao asked, one little child explained “The Queen’s crown has been stolen and she’s ordered her guards to search every house until one of her guards found the crown. The guards have been storming our houses day and night, some of us can’t even get some sleep! The town is complaining and many of them want to leave the town. But the Queen won’t let anyone leave so she locked the gates. Now no one can go out.” Judge Pao was furious at how the Queen treated her own citizens this way. How could she do this?

The next day, Judge Pao went to give the Queen a little visit. A second before he knocked on the door, the Queen opened the door looking like a fire-raging monster, her hair was messy, her glasses were lopsided and the Queen had no makeup on. “What do you want now? Is everybody trying to ruin my morning routine?” yelled the Queen. “I am very sorry to disrupt your routine, your Majesty. But there have been a few remarks about your ways to find your crown.” Judge Pao said. The Queen opened her mouth to speak but before she could say anything, Judge Pao explained the situation “You have been telling your guards to look in everyone’s houses. But did you think that they may not like it? You should consider others’ feelings before doing something because they may not like it and you may hurt them.” “Oh, I never considered that. Well, I was going to your house anyway, I was wondering if you could help me find my crown?” “Of course! I’d be more than happy to help, but please just let people out and give them their freedom, or they will revolt against you!”

Surely, the Queen immediately ordered her servants to release the people from their “prison”. Judge Pao was asked to sit down, as a servant pulled him a seat, he started asking questions like “Where were you when you lost your crown?” “Who was with you?” “What were you doing?” It seemed like the Queen was having a meeting with the other Queens. Queen Margrethe II of Denmark, Queen Letizia of Spain, Queen Maxima of the Netherlands, Queen Silvia of Sweden and Queen Mathilde of Belgium. The Queen continued on how she was talking when she felt wind behind her ear, and suddenly, her crown was gone! The Queen had asked all the other Queens if they had seen it and all the other staff in the room, but no one had seen anyone steal her crown.

“Were *all* your servants there?” Judge Pao asked, clearly curious as to how the crown was so suddenly whisked off the Queen’s head so quickly. “No, I remember that Mody wasn’t there, his friends said that he’d gone to the toilet.” *Hmm, who is this guy called Mody? Does he have any interest in riches and gold?* Judge Pao thought. He had his first suspect and he jotted this note down in his notebook. “#1 Suspect: Mody”

The next day, Judge Pao went to the castle again and asked Mody a few questions. “Good morning, I am Judge Pao, if it is okay with you I would like to ask some questions,” Judge Pao said. “Um, am I being taken to juvie?” Mody asked, worried. “No, don’t worry, just some questions, where were you when the Queen’s crown was stolen?” “Are you accusing me for the crown theft?” Mody asked, “I was in the toilet, cleaning the bathtub!” “Were there any witnesses?” Judge Pao asked, “Yes, my partner Jenny was helping me.” Mody answered. Jenny suddenly burst inside the room “Mody! The Queen needs you to cook the food! Huh? Mody, why is Judge Pao here?” Judge Pao said “I am asking Mody a few questions, Jenny, was Mody cleaning the bathtub during the Queen meeting?” “Yes!” Jenny exclaimed *So Mody has an alibi, then he can’t be the thief!* Just then, Queen Margrethe II demanded “WHERE IS MY FOOD????” Mody left and Judge Pao went to question Queen Margrethe II.

Queen Margrethe II was startled to see Judge Pao, when Judge Pao mentioned the crown, Queen Margrethe II said “Ah, yes, Queen Victoria’s crown is beautiful! With diamonds and emeralds around it and a ruby to top it off, it must be expensive! I don’t even have a crown myself! A shame she lost it...” “Um, her crown was stolen not lost...” Judge Pao said *Hmm, Queen Margrethe seems interested in the crown, but she has a whole kingdom! I don’t think she would need to steal a crown.* Judge Pao thought.

But Judge Pao still wanted to investigate Queen Margrethe II, so he went to the Queen’s room and saw a secret room! What was inside the room? Did the Queen know about this room? Inside the room were a few missing paintings, some stolen royal coats, and a missing sceptre. All of these things were stolen and missing! But the thing that shocked Judge Pao the most was the Queen’s crown! Shimmering in the dense, dark room full of stolen, valuable things was the crown! Judge Pao couldn’t believe Queen

Margrethe II would do that! Suddenly, Queen Margrethe II walked into the room with another painting! She was stealing! “You’ve been caught red-handed, Queen Margrethe II! How could you steal?” “Ugh! Not Judge Pao! Who gave you permission to search my room? Anyway, I’m not even Queen Margrethe! I’m Vertit Glockenspiel! The most famous thief in the world!” She said, just then , two guards put cuffs behind Vertit’s back and arrested her!

“Case solved by Judge Pao!” Judge Pao said. The Queen thanked Judge Pao and all the stolen things were given back to the Queen.

New Tales of Judge Pao

Fukien Secondary School Affiliated School, Wan, Chi Tao Adrian – 11

The occasional breeze blows over Fuzhou. The moist and grimy clouds fill the sky. Magistrate Pao had come over for an inspection of the Army and the recent flood damages. As the boat docks on the harbour, he stepped out into the port. There were many waiting for him. Everyone was delighted to see the famed detective take foot in their hometown.

Magistrate Pao walks travels the streets, many houses had seen better days. Even though the city was dangerously close to a river, it was prone to floods. But it was rare to see the damage this serious.

After a while, he entered the local military garrison's base. A voice called out to him. "Welcome Magistrate Pao, it is an honour for you to come on such a day," said General Fu. "General Fu, I have received orders from the Imperial Capital to inspect the troops and to oversee their efforts to aid the people" Magistrate Bao said. "Yes, come this way" Answered General Fu.

Magistrate Pao glances at the sub-garrison commanders. But one of them stood out. He had a golden lining and a much richer clothing colour. Magistrate Bao could not stop himself from gaining suspicion. But didn't think much of it. General Fu then directed him to the recently destroyed dam. But the dam was newly built, it was the first time that a massive structure such as this would collapse with it being flushed away by a single flood. He wanted to ask about the abnormalities. But it was time to go.

Magistrate Pao walked back into the streets. He told his right-hand man, "Since we are going to hand in a long report, it would be wise stay for the night." Magistrate Bao sat on the judgement chair in the court. He signalled for the criminal to come. "Zhou Yi, you have been accused of thievery and assault" Magistrate Bao continued "Do you plead guilty?" Zhou Yi answered "Yes, your excellency. But it is because the army has not given me my salary for over half a year. I needed a way to have money to live and to provide for my family" Magistrate Bao answered "I will ask them myself. Put him back in the cell for future summoning!"

Magistrate Pao went back to the base. He asked General Fu "General Fu, please lead me to the sub-garrison leader the thief was in" When the sub-garrison leader came out, it was the same one with the expensive clothes. He asked him "A Soldier claimed that you were not giving out the salaries for over 6 months." The leader replied "Nonsense, we have always given them their salaries. We even have the account book." Magistrate Bao took a quick look, and ordered "Guards, arrest this man!" Magistrate Bao continued "This account book recorded his salary from June, but Zhou Yi already was under arrest since April!" He soon left. General Fu looked at Magistrate Bao and walked away into the sunset. One of the sub-garrison leaders said "Magistrate Bao is already on his way to uncover our schemes. It might be a good decision to solve the problem before it grows. "No, it would rise more suspicion about us."

Magistrate Pao returns to the court. The sub-garrison leader was right in front of him. He begged" Magistrate Pao, please spare me. Keep me alive and I will provide key information." Magistrate Pao answered," Him, well then tell me, where are the records for the purchases by the garrison?" The sub-garrison leader said" It is in the central bank, but the manager is on General Fu's side. He can't be compliant." Very well then, guards, send him to the cell!" Magistrate Pao told his right-hand man" Tell the manager to come to the BaoJia headquarters, then make him stay for some time. This will create mistrust between them and we can manage to get the records."

The next day. His affiliates inform General Fu about the news. "What!" He shouted "It is impossible, the leader must have ratted him out.?" His affiliate said "Magistrate Pao already is closing the gates of the city, you would be caught soon" Of course not!" General Fu said, "All my is wealth right here in Fuzhou, Try to go near the Baojia building" The affiliated answered, "Yes sir."

The bank manager had been staying in the Baojia headquarters for a few hours,. He asked Magistrate Pao's right-hand man" And when can I leave?" He answered," You can leave anytime now." The bank manager breathed a sigh of relief and hurriedly left. Outside, the affiliate asked him" What happened inside?" The bank manager answered" What do you mean? Nothing happened, stop asking. "

In the central bank, Magistrate Pao was already waiting for him. He asked the bank manager" Please give me the records of the purchases by the garrison recently." The bank manager answered," Sorry, Magistrate Pao, but the records are not kept in here." Magistrate Pao said" Look, if you do not comply, I will have to determine you a part of the enemy. This has nothing to do with you, hand over the records and be spared." Not wanting to be arrested along with General Fu, he reluctantly handed over the papers.

When Magistrate Pao returned to his residence, he opened the transaction book. And he was in great shock. He saw that General Fu had used the army fees to buy many luxuries like horses and wine. It was now evident. But Magistrate Pao did not need to catch General Fu. He slowly walked into the Court. He said” I had enough, you were such a nuisance to my plans. Now it is time to end you for once and for all.” He brought out his sword and threw it at Magistrate Pao, but he missed. Guards pinned him down as Magistrate Pao reads out his sentence.” General Fu, you have been accused of corruption and misuse of army funds. I sentence you to the death sentence, bring in the guillotine!” An iron instrument containing a large metal piece. General Fu tries to fight out of it. But the guards were too strong. And with one swift slash. He was dead.

Modern Judge Pao

Fukien Secondary School Affiliated School, Wong, Hoi Ling Alix – 10

On Monday, it was a lovely morning, with lively feelings everywhere, from birds chirping, to fish splashing around, to the wind blowing freely. While Detective Pao was sleeping in his broken, shaggy office with peeled wallpapers and a dim light. Suddenly, “Ring! Ring! Ring!” the bright red phone that was on the wooden table in the corner of Detective Pao’s office rang, and he sleepily went to pick it up from his broken black chair.

“Hello? Is this the famous detective Pao’s office? I might have called the wrong number, if it’s a fake from the newspaper.” asked the stranger. “No, I am Detective Pao. How can I help you?” Pao replied. “My diamond ring was stolen last night from the staff room near the Eiffel Tower. I want you to help me find the thief!” the stranger exclaimed panickily. Hearing that, Pao, who was still in China, immediately changed into his professional shirt and booked a flight to fly to Paris. “I’ll meet you at the Eiffel tower tomorrow evening,” Pao told the stranger, then he hung up. He was so excited that he could finally do something interesting that he jumped around the office. While that, he scared his little sidekick Armstrong the mouse and even knocked down the crescent moon decoration passed down from his family that had the words “Justice will always be served”. He immediately hurried and caught it, then carefully hung it back on the wall. He then packed things up hurriedly, straightened up his shirt, took up Armstrong to pat him on the back for a successful mission, and took the cheapest airport bus he could find to the airport. After arriving in Paris, he started to go outside and explore. When twilight came, only then did he go back to his cheap motel room to sleep.

The next evening, Pao woke up late and had to sprint over to meet up with the stranger and help him. The stranger was named Alan, and his diamond wedding ring was stolen in the staff room last night near the Eiffel tower. While he said that, Pao could only see that he was crossing his fingers, meaning he wanted and was nervous if he could get his ring back. Plus, Alan was well dressed, which meant that he was rich, which meant Pao could donate more to his favourite animal home. Alan said that he was careless and took it off to admire it, but then forgot to put it back when Jeremy the guard called him up. He said that finding the ring would save him from getting scolded by his wife, so he pleaded Pao to help. Pao was happy that it was an easy case so he could easily earn some money. He then asked for suspects Alan may have seen or found, and Alan told him it might have been Jeremy, who was jealous of his pleasant life, a customer named Bob that had passed by the staff room late at night from the restaurant, and the cleaning lady, Sophie cleaning near the staff room. Alan said that he knew Jeremy and Sophie were poor from the bank account numbers they gave him for work, but, according to rumours in the restaurant, Bob was very rich but still greedy. Pao said that he understood and went to round up the suspects. He talked to each of them for a while to know more, then he told them that it was for their own safety and put them in the suspension room and went to investigate. No one dared to move too as Pao told them they would be in trouble if they went away.

Pao climbed up the stairs to the top. While doing that, little Armstrong, found little food bits and went to eat them. He had also reached just about to the staff room when he found the floor quite wet, and parts of the Eiffel tower was wet too, and near them were some footprints of boots. Later, Armstrong again went to another direction and found a dirty napkin with the tower’s logo on it. These were all the clues Pao could find.

Pao said it must not have been Sophie, because the wet floor didn’t look like it was from the mops, but from the huge rain last night as it smelled like rainwater, and not like detergent with water. Alan also said that Jeremy needed to wear leather shoes for work, and the footprints didn’t match the prints from the shoes. But Bob had just come from the restaurant, which could explain the little food bits that were on the stairs, and the napkin could already tell them that the suspect came from the tower’s restaurant. Pao immediately ran to the suspension room, while releasing Sophie and Jeremy, he grabbed Bob and asked for the diamond ring. Bob unwillingly took the ring out of his pocket and gave it back to Alan. Bob cried, “I’m so sorry! I was too greedy when I saw the diamond ring, so I just stole it! Please forgive me!” Alan decided to let him go, but he would have to help wash dishes at the restaurant for five weeks as a punishment, but it was still better than going to the jail.

Pao was happy that he had helped solve another case again and even earned some more money to donate to some animal homes, so he happily went back to his office on a free flight booked by Alan. After arriving at his office, Pao fed Armstrong with walnuts to show gratitude. Just then, the red phone rang again, and Pao hurried to pick it up again.

Judge Pao and the Queen's Lost Ring

Fukien Secondary School Affiliated School, Wong, Hoi Yee Zoe – 10

It was a lovely morning. The sun was very bright and birds were singing everywhere. Judge Pao was sitting on a broken chair and reading a torn newspaper about his last case while grinning from ear to ear about his success. He was in his office located on the edge of a small city in China. Suddenly, the dusty red phone in the corner of the room rang and a very frantic voice screamed, "Help! My name is Queen Peach and my husband's name is King Adam. We live in the White House. Last night, my diamond ring got stolen. It was the ring that King Adam gave me on my thirtieth birthday. Can you come and investigate tomorrow?" "Yes!" replied Judge Pao. No one had called him for weeks and he was very excited as it would be his first time working with kings and queens. He immediately hung up and started preparing for the investigation. He got his shoes from the unstable shelf. He was so happy that the crescent moon on his forehead was shining brightly in the morning and he almost knocked down a humongous, messy bookshelf. He immediately went on a ferry as it was the fastest way to go to the White House.

Judge Pao arrived the pier early in the morning. He spent half an hour in a changing room to make himself professional before heading to the White House. He then rented a bike and made his way to the White House. He was very confident in solving the case.

Queen Peach and King Adam had just woken up when they saw Pao. They briefed Pao of the situation over a cup of tea and then introduced him to their workers and neighbours. On the way, Judge Pao found a few clues and rounded up some suspects. He suspected Mr. Tiger, who was an expert in Taekwondo and his dojo was just besides the White House. He named his dojo Taekwondo Dragons and had a green dragon as his logo. He also suspected Timothy Wolfson. He was an American Billionaire who lived across the White House and had always wanted to get his hands on the diamond ring. As mentioned by the queen, he always wanted to touch the ring when he came for tea. Although he was very rich, he never wanted to spend any of his money on bodyguards as he thought he could fight with his boxing skills. The last suspect was the guard, Jeremy. He was on duty the night before and he was always complaining about being poor. Moreover, he recently lost a big gamble and was always moaning about how he needed money desperately.

Judge Pao saw some books were missing on the bookshelf and there were holes in the wall. He saw footprints beside the bookshelf that were leading to a room in the White House. He then kicked open the door with his biggest force. Right after that, Judge Pao heard somebody was screaming and he rushed into the room. It turned out that the king and queen were scared stiff and with books in their hands. Pao's face turned red and his birthmark on the forehead looked like a chilli. He apologized and immediately dashed out of the room in a hurry, hoping that the king and queen were not scared.

He went to the guards' room and interviewed the guards. All the guards were knocked out the night before and Jeremy was in a coma and still in the hospital, Jeremy was then ruled out from the list of suspects. He looked at the guards, all of them were 6 feet tall. He took a deep breath and he thought, 'One guy took out 5 guards at the same time.'

A guard told him that it was a strong big figure and punched holes in the wall with ease. Another guard added that the figure was wearing a belt.

All the evidence pointed to Mr. Tiger, who was a Taekwondo master and could easily punch holes in the wall and knock out the guards. Queen Peach and King Adam went to Mr. Tiger's house and confronted him. When Mr. Tiger saw Pao's fierce face with very angry eyes that looked at him and was giving him anxiety. He was scared and immediately admitted his mistake. Pao would have called the police if Mr. Tiger was not begging so hard that the queen and the king had made an offer that if Mr. Tiger was willing to become their servant, they would tell the police not to send him to jail. Mr. Tiger accepted and he was being a hard-working and entertaining servant. The White House was spotless and full of laughter since that day.

Judge Pao was delighted as he had solved another case. Queen Peach offered Judge Pao a piece of gold, but he refused to accept something so valuable as he was not looking for money. After eating lunch and enjoying a few cups of tea, they said their goodbyes.

Back at his office, he continued to study about investigations and solve them in his tiny office. He still solved many cases in the court and received many compliments as his fame continues to spread, but he still did not care about that and had all his focus on solving cases as that was what he liked to do. More and more people knew him for his selfless and strict personality while solving cases. He had a very good life and enjoyed it a lot. The moon-shaped birthmark became the thing that many people used to recognize him.

New Tales of Judge Pao

Good Hope Primary School cum Kindergarten (Primary Section), Chan, Kin Hang Drishti – 10

Judge Pao was resting in his chair, reading a book about peace and war. A few moments later, he checked the time on his phone, got up, put on his coat, and went towards the barn.

He arrived at a barn made out of gold, silver and bronze. Inside the barn was a gorgeous horse. Judge Pao fed her and smiled warmly. He then left.

He was ready to set back on his book, but the moment he picked up his book, a girl ran in, weeping. Judge Pao stood up, concerned, and asked, "What do you need, little girl?"

The girl told Judge Pao her pet snake was missing, and Judge Pao asked her for details about the snake. The little girl said, "Her name is Slithery, who arrived almost instantly. 'Drive us to the forest where the snake was lost'. The servant saluted and promised to help Judge Pao to find the snake and arrest the thief. Slithery, she's a corn snake. She is just a year old, and she is close to humans. Slithery loves to drink blood and play with her spider friends, but she hates bugs. This morning, I let her wander in the forest as usual. She always come back after ten minutes or so, but today I waited and waited, and she never came back to me!"

Judge Pao thought for a while and said, "Little girl, your snake did not run away. Someone kidnapped it!" He called for his loyal, trustworthy

The servant hurriedly drove them to the forest where the snake went missing. Judge Pao ordered him to gather everyone who lives in the forest. Half an hour later, the servant found three local residents. Judge Pao questioned them one by one. He asked the first person, "What is your occupation, sir?" "I am a farmer, mister."

Then he asked the second person the same question, and the person answered, "I am a housewife, and my job is turn chicken into soup, food and feather dusters."

The third person said, "I have no jobs, I only mooch around in the house and milk the cows."

Judge Pao examined their clothes, then he brushed his beard. The little girl leaned in and whispered, "I think the housewife is the one who took my snake."

The servant agreed. Judge Pao raised his eyebrows and said, "She does look suspicious, but I don't think she took your snake. But I will inspect her house just to make sure..."

Judge Pao, his servant, and the little girl went into the woman's house and saw a duck bathing. To their left a dead duck was lying in a pool of blood. The little girl gasped and shot the woman a suspicious look. But Judge Pao just said, "Woman, you can continue with your pleasant cooking, there is nothing suspicious in your house." The woman smiled and opened the door for them to leave.

Judge Pao then went to the farmer's house alone for inspection, trusting his servant to take care of the little girl. He entered the house and couldn't quite believe his eyes. Piles of clothing were scattered on the floor. And there were bugs everywhere.

Judge Pao said in disgust, "I recommend investing in a proper pest spray."

"I grew up in a farm. Not scared of bugs." He shook his head and replied.

Before Judge Pao could question the last person, cries could be heard. Judge Pao rushed to investigate.

Standing before him was the little girl. She had found her snake, but the snake was on the floor, dead. Beside the snake was a stone drenched in its blood. Turned out the snake was not only kidnapped, but also killed. The girl wept loudly, but Judge Pao had no comfort to offer. Instead he thought, "After investigating the farmer and the wife's houses, it can be concluded that they're both innocent. I haven't questioned the person who is mooching around and milking cows yet, but he does have milk stains on his clothes, so he isn't guilty either. So the only suspect is..."

Judge Pao looked around for his servant, but his servant was nowhere to be seen. He phoned him hurriedly and yelled, "Come here immediately!" into his phone. The servant showed up almost instantly. Judge Pao quickly slid handcuffs onto the servant's wrists, and said, "You are under arrest."

"What...? What is happening?" The servant stuttered.

But Judge Pao said, "Cut the pretense, liar. If you truly are innocent, you won't be here – since I have never told you where to come to. You know where the snake died, because you killed the snake here!"

The servant's shocked face broke into an evil grin, as he whispered, "You caught me."

"Tell me," Judge Pao asked, "Why kill a snake? Ophidiophobia?"

"I had a cat" the servant choked out. "Very cute and lovely. He was my friend. My best friend. One day, he went out to play in the garden, only to be bit and killed by a venomous snake. Snakes are terrible creatures, I am doing everyone a favor by killing every snake that crawls before me!"

"A full grown adult who couldn't get over with the death of his cat" Judge Pao sighed, and called for the police.

"Mark my words!" The servant cried to the girl as he was being dragged away, "Snakes are horrible! You should thank me for ending its life!"

The girl now wept more loudly than ever. "I'm sorry for your loss." Judge Pao said to the girl as he patted her on the shoulder, and returned to his office. His book was waiting for him.

The Road Not Taken

Good Hope Primary School cum Kindergarten (Primary Section), Chan, Tsz Huen Evelyn – 12

Rumors of Judge Pao curl around the streets of China. Some say they are myths and madness, legends and lies.

Ming was one of them.

A dim flicker of light meets Ming's eyes, arousing him from dreamless slumber. He wakes up in a daze, sullen eyes disoriented in a haze of color. Someone is calling, a curious sound that pulsates through his head...

Terror grips his chest, his head reeling for the thirst for sight. Finally, the mesh of images clear up miraculously. He breathes unsteadily before the shadows shroud his sight with impenetrable blackness, and the peculiar light burns out.

The distant voice rings again, louder. Ming's heart leaps with a yearning hope for a savior.

"Erase those dire hopes, child. Truthfully, I never thought I'd see one of my own here in the gateways to Hell."

Ming steps back, legs buckling from inescapable fear. Again, the fury of sudden flames ignites the barren floor in a circle, burning through the soles of his worn shoes. Pain sears through his bones and anguished cries strangle his throat. He looks up, the light of the fire ricocheting off the present surfaces. The stone walls are broken down, dusted with ash and soot, and traces of burnt-out fire are obvious to be acknowledged. Everywhere he looks is devoid of color, until he sets eyes on his true peril. A looming, tall figure sits on a throne of blood and bones.

It can't be, he thinks frantically, could the legends of his lineage be true?

"Are you...you...what they say?" he stammers, perspiration stringing beads on his forehead, tormented by the sweltering heat, "Judge Pao?"

"Indeed I am," the figure – Judge Pao, replies, breaking into peals of almost derisive laughter, "this is my duty after my long career of dueling crime."

He rises from his throne, and Ming gasps. The timely tales the elders spin, they were right. They always have been.

Time seems to slow, and a barrier of stillness sets between them.

"You're here, Ming," Judge Pao chuckles ruefully, piercing the silence, "because you didn't believe, didn't make the most out of your legacy. You could've done great things, yet you are cast aside. Now the roads lead you here."

The flames diminish, and Ming pants, eyes burning through the swathes of darkness.

"Wait...what?"

"I know it all, Ming, especially since you carry my blood," Judge Pao explains with a sigh. "I'm rather displeased with how you chose your path in life. Running away to create your own villainized identity, to steal and..."

He trails off, obviously not wanting to visualize that picture.

"You were young, innocent, and had no idea what you were stringing yourself along...but you chose to abandon your family's crime-corruption duties, which strove for the good of the world. Then, in the cruelest stroke of fate...your life ended in terms of the most twisted of ways. You sacrificed yourself to crimes."

Remnants of the past remain scattered in Ming's river of thought, and he desperately tries to remember. Until realization hits him like a tidal wave.

Ming died.

He remembers the scars from wicked swords that slashed his skin like paper until he took his last breath. They stung from the memory as he traced his fingers along those open, fresh wounds. His demise was at his own hands. He remembers his family's pain, and the look on his mother's face, forever embedded in his memory. He can only imagine how much she mourned him, despite it all. He lost her trust the night he left.

How the sky has cursed him to realize that only now, in the aftermath of everything he had ever set his mind on, just minutes before death lulls him to the other side.

And Ming remembers it all. He doesn't know what to say.

Judge Pao draws a breath, and it feels like the room is falling with an essence of somnolence as he stands warily from his throne. "Ming," Judge Pao says quietly, obsidian eyes gazing at him, "you ended up where fallen kingdoms now reside. Tyranny, bloodshed, and defeat. They all wanted glory, but glory is fleeting when the price of it all is hatred.

"Most people are like that, heedless to the power of their desires. So drunk on power and pain, they forget that no true hero can fabricate their legacy unless they truly earned it themselves."

Ming doesn't sneer at the remarks like he used to. He is not unfazed or unperturbed, like when he listens to endless warnings and cautions. Quite the opposite, he understands.

"It's too late," he whispers begrudgingly, "I was vindictive, angry, bitter. It seems my story has come to an end after all, and time has finally allowed the end to its shame. I won't cause any more suffering, to anyone else."

"Time, the most complex device in all of eternity. You can't turn over its hourglass, yet it is always waiting for you, forevermore," Judge Pao remarks, "your story isn't over yet. You can go on the road not taken. The first step is to heal yourself."

Ming turns away, tears glistening in his eyes. The expectations, the neglect, the claims of him knowing nothing in the cusp of his youth. He muses over the recollections, for a moment. *What could've been? What could he have done right?*

"Now, Ming," Judge Pao says faintly, "I grant you something that the universe rarely allows me to do. The ability for you to cross back into reality, your one final chance."

Somehow his voice is dissipating, no longer clear enough for Ming to fully comprehend. "Fight the good fight" is what Ming hears last. They reverberate incessantly, once again.

Judge Pao and the lessons he taught still ring true to many if not all. Many say they are tried and true, sound and sensible.

Ming will always believe in his wise words, no matter what.

New Tales of Judge Pao

Good Hope Primary School cum Kindergarten (Primary Section), Cheung, Charlotte – 11

After Judge Pao died with honour and respect, his grandchildren took over his job for helping to continue the world-class legal system.

There was his grandchildren, one of them was called Pao Lung-Keung, was always below the standards of his brothers. He was always bullied, as he could not do anything about it. His brothers were even ashamed of him. He never succeeded in doing a hard move in karate, never excelled in studies, always so clumsy and never smart enough to solve a simple case. He himself also agreed with this devastating truth.

One day, when he was learning karate, he had failed again and didn't win any approval from his teacher nor his relatives. He felt unworthy to be a member of the Pao family and of the proud legacy.

He fell asleep in shame and in sadness, and drifted into sleep uneasily.

In his dream, Judge Pao, his grandpa visited him.

'Grandpa, is that really you? I'm sorry I have let you down! I have ruined the whole family's reputation, just because of my clumsiness! I'm so sorry!'

Grandpa Pao shook his head and smiled warmly.

'My dear grandson, you have done well. You have made me proud in a lot of ways.' whispered Judge Pao.

'But how,' Lung-Keung asked, 'When have I ever make you proud except disappoint you with all my failures!' He continued crying and tears fell down his face.

'You don't understand, my dear grandson?' Lung-Keung shook his head, sobbing 'You don't see it in yourself? You are one of my most well-mannered grandson! You are always humble, always respectful and always cheerful, always encouraging people to go on!' Judge Pao smiled broadly at his grandson 'My other grandsons make me feel disappointed, as they only boast and not optimistic at all! Not even like you! You have a pleasant personality and I think no one can deny it. You have loads of friends that comfort you, loads of people standing by your side, cheering you on! Your bullies are mean and miserable, don't you notice? Only having themselves as friends, and a lot of them don't even trust each other! But you, my trustworthy grandson,' Judge Pao this time patted his dear grandson's head. 'People always trust you with secrets and trust you with anything! You stand with your chin up high, and moreover, you still have time to improve, don't worry too much. I believe in you. Now go back to reality.'

'NO, grandpa wait! Don't go!'

But he was back, in his cozy little bed. He is determined, so determined to change and make his grandpa even prouder.

Lung-Keung tried his best in everything, and eventually he improved. He became the most loved, respected, honoured, smartest one of the Pao family. His grandpa looked at him in heaven, proud of him, and grinned.

Pao Lung-Keung has succeeded.

New Tales of Judge Pao

Good Hope Primary School cum Kindergarten (Primary Section), Chow, Hysun Valerie – 11

Presentation speech by Sir Charles Reiss, Chair of the Norwegian Nobel Committee, Oslo, 10th December 2047:

“At this very moment in Stockholm, Nobel Prizes are being presented to year 2047’s Nobel laureates in Physics.

I have the immense pleasure this year of recognizing Mr. Pao Gao–ji, a Hong Kong physicist, won this renowned prize for ‘groundbreaking invention of a time machine’. His invention was developed based on Albert Einstein’s theory of special relativity proposes that time is an illusion that move relatively to an observer.”

Pao accepted the prize with gratitude, “This honor doesn’t just belong to me. As the 40th generation of the famous Judge Pao, I was fascinated by the idea of how my great grandfather⁴⁰ summoned the court one thousand years ago. Enlightened by the theory of relativity, I believe time travel is not only theoretically but also practically possible after my intensive studies and experiments conducted on the curvature of spacetime. I successfully returned to the year of 1046 and secretly brought Judge Pao to Hong Kong in 2046.”

On 5th January 2046, Judge Pao didn’t know who the person “Gao–ji” was as he dressed so strange. However, Pao still decided to follow him. After repeated persuasion on time traveling and out of curiosity, Judge Pao finally agreed to follow Gao–ji, his descendant from future to the year 2046.

Judge is famous for his impartiality, probity and high moral standard. He was naturally curious on how the future would handle disputes. Gao–ji explained to him about the legal system, different law enforcement agencies and anti–corruption measures in Hong Kong. Judge Pao was delighted on the advancement and keen to see how they worked. Gao–ji then brought this respectable guest to attend District Court trials to feel the “success of modernization”.

The case was about a teenager who claimed his parents for \$100,000 as compensation for his loss of happiness and rest time due to intensive tuition classes, homework and studies since the age of three. The parents were remorseful as the relationship with the son was broken due to punitive parenting. The Court Judge concluded that the parents should compensate his son for losing the freedom to choose what he wanted to learn and the right to rest, being the maximum claim of \$100,000 less the cost of the tuition class and school fees. As a bystander, Judge Pao was in rage. “This young man should be brought to jail for not respecting and honoring his parents! He should be thankful for what his parents have done for him.”

Gao–ji tried to explain to Judge Pao, “Nowadays, some parents, labelled as ‘tiger parents’, micromanage their children’s lives to ensure that they meet their high expectations. There is no room for them to negotiate because their parents limited the children’s choice of studies, activities, friends or even career.” Judge Pao rebutted, “the idea of ‘tiger parents’ echoed with the Confucian philosophy which promotes hierarchical family structures, loyalty education and academic achievements. The Court’s judgement is contrary to our traditional values!” Gao–ji predicted his reaction and explained, “Yet, modern society emphasize human rights. While respecting the good intention, parents may need to strike a balance between their expectation and the children’s abilities, preferences and their right to choose. Therefore, the Judge fined the parents the sum as a ‘punishment for their good intention but wrong decision’. That said, the sum to raise this child is far more than the amount of the fine, which means that the Judge also honored the parents’ contributions in planning, time and money, despite in a wrong way.”

Judge Pao was shocked about this new idea of parenting. He was looking forward to the next trial.

Another case was about a homosexual man who was fired by his ex–employer because he is gay. This man sued his ex–employer discrimination based on sexual orientation. His ex–employer was sorry for his wrongdoings because he was once bullied by a gay classmate and wanted to take a revenge on this man as a scapegoat. Judge Pao was again astounded, “homosexual activity is not allowed. No one should explicitly

tell others about their homosexual behavior as it is a taboo!” The Court concluded that this man could seek compensation on early termination under labor laws, yet there is no law in the private sector on discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. The Court encouraged this employer to hire this man again, or write an open apology statement. Gao—ji told Judge Pao, “though there has been a long debate on legal protection against discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation, there is no comprehensive protection against discrimination.”

Despite he could not accept same—sex relationships, Judge Pao was startled by the persistent and perseverant of the minorities in fighting for their rights.

The final case of the day was about a woman on wheelchair who requested the government to remove a 100 years old tree because it hindered her way to the MTR station. Her wheelchair could not walk smoothly as the tree occupied much space on the pavement. While Gao—ji was busy explaining the sophisticated transport systems in Hong Kong and the development of transport inventions in the world, the Court concluded that the government should provide the woman a practical alternate way to the MTR station without the need to trim or remove the old tree. Once again, Judge Pao was stunned that the handicapped would stand out to fight for their rights. Nevertheless, he agreed with the Court that there should be some better ways of accessing to her place rather than solely cutting down the tree. Although the tree blocked her way, it also provided fresh air and a shadow under the sun for others.

This future adventure was thought provoking to Judge Pao, as he never thought of mitigating factors when considering his judgement and the need for prisoners’ rehabilitation. He worked hard to reform and he fame as a first—class Judge with attributes on impartiality, awareness of minorities and community engagement was eventually well—known to the world.

The Mystery of the Missing Sheep

Good Hope Primary School cum Kindergarten (Primary Section), Lam, Shing Chi Angie – 10

Once upon a time, there was a farmer called Javis. He lived in a small cottage with his wife Kate. They were living in a small village with another six neighbors around. Javis had twelve sheep in his barn. He sold wool, milk and mutton to gain money for his daily life.

One Sunday morning, his wife shouted loudly outside the barn and woke him up. “Oh dear, there is one sheep is missing! I remember that there are twelve sheep in the barn last night.” Farmer Javis rubbed his eyes and started to count. “One, two.....eleven, gosh, you’re right, where is it?” They searched all day long and still, cannot find the sheep.

Two weeks later, on Sunday morning. Farmer Javis was woken by her wife again. “Oh dear, one more missing sheep. How come?” cried Kate. They looked at each other and screamed out together “THIEF!” So they decided to found Judge Pao, the famous Judge in town next to their village, to help them.

So farmer Javis went to visit Judge Pao the next morning. When he entered the court, Judge Pao was sitting there already. His face was black and there was a logo of a moon on this forehead. He looked so dignified. “Why did you come here?” asked Judge Pao loudly. “I lost two sheep every two weeks and I don’t know what happened. Is there a thief or is it eaten by animals? I want to know because I could not lose the sheep anymore. Our life is depending on the sheep.”

“I see..... Did you lock up the barn every night?” asked Judge Pao. “Yes, Judge Pao. My wife counts the sheep before locking them up every night.” replied Farmer Javis. “Hmm..... If you have locked the barn every night. I can surely say that the sheep was not eaten by the animal.” Judge Pao replied seriously. “Anyway, I think I should go to your barn for investigation. “

The next day, Judge Pao went there with investigator Mr. Gin and six soldiers. When they arrived, Kate greeted them and gave them a tour of the farm that she and her husband owned. Judge Pao walked to the door of the barn and took a look at the lock carefully. “This is a hard, silver lock and it was never broken by anyone. How can the sheep run away by themselves?” said Judge Pao.

“Judge Pao! Come here and take a look at this!” shouted investigator Gin. Everyone ran to the back of the barn quickly. “I find that there is a wooden plank is loosen and can be taken away easily. I will show you.” replied Mr. Gin.

He took away the wooden plank from the wall. It was a small hole and of course, it cannot be passed through by an adult. “Good job, investigator Gin! This is the first clue that we got.” said Judge Pao.

“Javis, is there any similarities of the two missing sheep being stolen?” asked Judge Pao. “Oh yes! It both happened on Saturday night.” replied farmer Javis. Judge Pao thought for a second and said, “This is the second clue and I thought of a brilliant solution!”

“First of all, you have to paint some red paint on the hooves of all the sheep in the barn before locking them this Saturday night. Secondly, all of us will stay in your cottage. Turn off all the lights and pretend that you and your wife are sleeping. On Sunday morning, we will all go to search the missing sheep in your village. If someone have a sheep with its hooves painted in red, he or she is the thief!” Judge Pao explained carefully. “You are a genius, Judge Pao!” exclaimed farmer Javis. On Saturday night, Farmer Javis and his wife followed Judge Pao’s instructions. Judge Pao and everyone stayed in the cottage and waited for the entire night. They were too anxious that they barely slept!

In the early morning on Sunday, everyone woke up at once. A sheep was missing again, so they started to search for the sheep. They searched the neighbors one by one, until the sixth neighbor. Inspector Gin knocked on the door and a child opened it. It was a boy that was around ten years old and he was very slim. When he saw that many people outside his house, his face looked pale and nervous. “Our neighbor farmer Javis lost a sheep. We are helping him to find it. We have to search your house now.” said Inspector

Gin. The boy wanted to slam the door shut but he was stopped by Gin. The boy stood back and started to cry. Everyone went inside his house and found that there was a sheep in the kitchen. Kate checked the hooves immediately and said "All the hooves were red. This is our sheep. You are the thief!" Judge Pao said, "Calm down! Let's find out the reason why he steal your sheep."

"What's your name?" Judge Pao asked the boy kindly. "My name is Chadwick." replied the boy. "Can you tell me why are you stealing the sheep from farmer Jarvis?" asked Judge Pao. Chadwick glanced at Judge Pao and said, "My parents died during an accident last month. I lived with my grandma. My grandma was disable and I needed to take care of her. We didn't have money to support our daily needs. I have no way to find food for her. So I decided to steal the sheep and make food for her."

"Poor boy." said Judge Pao. Everyone felt sorry about that. "Chadwick, If you don't mind, you can work for me. Then you can earn money for your family." asked farmer Jarvis. Chadwick nodded his head and agreed. Everyone cheered.

Finally, farmer Jarvis and his wife thanked Judge Pao over and over again. They made a big feast to thank Judge Pao and everyone. Chadwick and his grandma were invited as well!

New Tales of Judge Pao

Good Hope Primary School cum Kindergarten (Primary Section), Lam, Sze Lok Charlotte – 11

“Breaking news! The famous painting ‘Mona Lisa’ in the Louvre, Paris, France, was stolen overnight! The Elysée announces a 25 million Euro reward to anyone who can recover the precious painting...” This was broadcasted through media all over the world.

Judge Pao, the honourable and cultural symbol of justice in China, was listening to the radio, shaking his head with disagreement. “People aren’t that dumb as I thought. It must be a brilliant person knowing how much this priceless artwork worth!” He muttered while he was updating his status on a social media. In the meantime, an email notification popped up coincidentally.

Dear Judge Pao,

Our renowned painting was looted by someone. We found no clues at all. In our desperation and pressure from everyone, we need your help for the investigation. As you are the best detective in the history, and with your traits in observation and attention to details, may we kindly invite you to come over and help, please? We could not thank you enough.

Yours sincerely,
The Elysée

Without a second thought, Pao set off right away. He rushed to the airport and got on a private jet which was sent from the Elysée.

Judge Pao arrived at the Louvre the next day. With his diligence in working on a new case, he started with lots of research near the museum and kicked off the investigation with full confidence. First, he asked the manager if he could check the security cameras of the room that kept the painting. From the playback, there was only one person appearing since the museum was close on the night before and he looked extremely suspicious. His name was Ricky, the overnight security guard who was in charge of the ‘Mona Lisa’ painting. The other dubious things as seen from the playback that he looked around furtively at the camera on one hand, and he tried to escape from the moving camera to the other end of the display hall on the other hand. With this piece of critical evidence, everyone supported that Ricky to be the culprit.

While everyone was finger-pointing at Ricky, Pao disagreed. “No, it wasn’t him.” Pao said affirmatively without hesitation. People there were shocked and doubted in a subdued voice.

“Come on, everyone! Take a look at the tree right next to the painting. The gardener has been sick for months and no one takes care of the tree since then. However, the tree is still so healthy and nourished. Don’t you guys feel wary of it?” Pao asked.

Everyone was puzzled. No one could relate the lost painting with the tree. “Well...um...it is me!” Ricky purred, whose face blushed with embarrassment, “I’m sorry, it’s me who pee on the tree every day. I thought no one would notice it as I did it when the cameras turned to the other side,” Ricky said in a voice quaking with fear. “I dare not going to washroom by myself in the evening as the hallway is always dark and chilly!”

If it’s not Ricky, then who else could it be? There was no one else who assessed the display hall. There was no sign of break-in from outside. There were no other clues like footprints. This burglary could be a mystery forever! However, never underestimate Judge Pao, who was going to demystify the whole thing!

Pao took out a photo from his pocket and said, “I captured this from the playback.” The photo showed a blurry human-like shadow which you could see a man with short hair gleamingly.

Indeed, Pao had the preliminary finding in his mind. There’s only one man who kept short hair here. The others either had dreadlocks or curly long hair. That man – was the MANAGER of the museum. He was being questioned by Pao in detail. Furthermore, he stuttered each second, stating his innocence. Pao found

out that the manager had been sleeping in the Louvre for quite some time as he was in debts due to addicted gambling.

To further attest his findings, Pao reviewed other videos playback carefully. He paused from time to time and captured some more photos. The process took so long and felt like forever. Everyone in the room was running out of patience.

“Listen! Please keep quiet!” Pao shouted and stared at the manager at the same time, “I know who the felon is!” The manager was shivering.

Pao showed everyone those photos he captured a while ago one by one and a convincing clue was found. The rubbish bin was moved!

“Show me your hands please,” Pao demanded the manager. Pao nodded his head with a smile and said, “Security guard, please handcuff the manager!”

The shadow from the playback belonged to the manager and he got orange stain on his fingernails which was from the rubbish bin. The ‘Mona Lisa’ painting was hidden with a cloth draped around the rubbish bin and got moved out bit by bit. The manager was planning to sell the painting to pay back his heavy debts.

The cat was out of the bag now! The manager was arrested and the painting was returned. Sitting under the Eiffel Tower, Judge Pao was treated with France’s beautiful red wine and mouth-watering foie gras. What a wonderful business trip!

New Tales of Judge Pao

Good Hope Primary School cum Kindergarten (Primary Section), Lo, Tsz Yan – 10

Pao was a very famous judge in China's Song Dynasty. Although Pao was a great official, he led a simple life. Apart from his intolerance of injustice and corruption, Pao was also well-known for his filial piety and his stern demeanor. He was an unselfish and straightforward judge. Wow, the hero really existed. Judge Pao had many exciting and legendary stories!!!

I share you one of his remarkable stories. After his son died of a sickness, he decided to return back to his own hometown. He found his uncle has occupied other villages' farmland. Judge Pao was very shocked about what his uncle has done. He managed to calm down shortly and instructed his bodyguard to arrest his uncle and determined strictly to interrogate his uncle. He consciously understood that he was doing a right thing without bias and stayed on his principal for being an official. This merit made me really appreciate for Judge Pao's personality.

Back to the scene after his uncle was arrested, he immediately made an order to the guards beating his own uncle by 40 rod punishment openly. Pao ordered him to return his land and property to the victims. Pao's heart was hurt and sorry for his uncle's bad act. Pao's behaviour and his way of performing righteousness spread quickly among his home town. All people in town appreciated Pao's decision and believed he was fair and would protect all people's properties and assets. At that time, their villages, towns, states and whole country were corrupted. They hoped that the all judges could follow Pao, being fair to everyone.

At this point, I guess you are keen to learn more Pao's stories.

One day, Pao was handling a case which a corpse of a kid was found in a quiet street. The mother of the child said she did not know anything since the child has been missing for a week. Pao was very fretful about this case, Pao was trying hard to figure out how to solve the case at the scene at midnight. By Pao's inborn senses, he finally knew how it happened. Then, Judge Pao immediately returned home.

However, Pao alerted someone was following him! He turned around and saw a man in all black holding a thick wooden stick and hitting towards his head. Unfortunately, Pao could not avoid being hurt, and was hit badly by that mysterious man and he fainted. When Pao woke up, he found himself in an alley. He walked around the unfamiliar place. He saw a horse surrounded by metal (a motor bike), everything was strange to him since he has travelled to the future. All of a sudden, there was a loud scream "Ahhhh!" Pao, as a judge, immediately rushed to the source of the scream, and saw a kid's corpse!!! So horrible. Some passers-by immediately call the police and ambulance, which Pao didn't know what was that at all. Pao was very worry, suddenly, he heard a voice again "Sir ? May you step aside?" Pao saw a cool but pretty girl asking her, when Pao looked at her clothing, he understood that the girl was someone who involved with the case, Pao thought, 'Maybe she is someone who solve the case.' However, before Pao stepped aside, an idea popped out of his head 'Why does this case looks like my case ? I must stay and see how the strange people solve it...' Pao immediately said that "Uhhhhh... I am also a 'people' who solve this case, please let me help..." He knew that the policewoman must drove him away, but to his surprise, the not-too-clever policewoman let him stayed. She introduced herself, she is called Lily and gave a police uniform to Pao. After a while the forensics told them that the kid was being beaten all day long, there are scars on the poor kid's face, arms, legs, body (basically everywhere). He was a kid who was being beaten everyday. Pao and the police rushed to the children's home and found the mother was packing some luggages, she decided to escaped from the law, Pao saw some rattan on the floor, he immediately caught the woman. The woman tried to resist but Lily used the handcuffs to arrest her. Finally, the real murderer was arrested !!! Suddenly, Pao felt that his head was very painful, he then fainted again, when he woke up, he found himself in his bed, his servant told him that he suddenly fainted in the street and the doctor said that Pao was too tired. Pao didn't care about anything now, he immediately went to the slaughterhouse to check the child's wound and found that the wound on this child and the child in his dream was the same he was very

grateful that the god has given him tips to solve this case. He went to the mother's home and found she was trying to escape as well, he was thinking why everything was like the dream? However, before Pao could think of others, the idea that why he was here popped out in his head again, he was here to catch the criminal. Then, as everybody knew, the mother was being caught by guards and was trialed by Pao, she was very afraid and admitted that she has killed her OWN child at once, she finally told the truth... She accidentally killed her child after drinking alcohol. At last, she was sentenced to death by Pao.

After this remarkable Pao's stories, I think you would also agree my views and treasure Pao's envy. That is the important core value at all time, all places and all countries.

We can learn so much knowledge from Pao, like he won't be greedy for money, he was definitely a great example for us and everybody admires him for his unselfishness. He has inspired many people.

New Tales of Judge Pao

Good Hope Primary School cum Kindergarten (Primary Section), Ng, Tsz Yin Hermia – 11

Judge Pao, commonly known as Bao Gong, was a legendary figure. He was very passionate to defend peasants and commoners against corruption or injustice. He was one of the most famous and important people in history. He was my greatest hero in my childhood years, but as I grew up I realized why people said to never meet your heroes. I am Anna Ng, known as the Mamba Killer.

In school, I was always bullied for being a nerd and not having a mom as she passed away and my dad changed when my mom died, he didn't care about anything in my life. He'd always come back home drunk late at night. Growing up, the only thing I cared about or comforted me when I was down was reptiles, especially snakes. I had a lot of pets over the years. I'm also very fascinated by the stories about Judge Pao, I thought we were alike since I also wanted to fight against injustice. I'd always read books about reptiles or daydream about being Judge Pao at lunchtime. People always said I was crazy.

After studying college and getting my hard science degree, I opened my reptile shop which doesn't have any employees because I don't like cooperating with people. One day, I bumped into my bully in high school (Josh Zhang). He was with his wife.

'Oh hey, nerd. Ha ha!' Josh said funnily and went on.

I was irritated and started to have flashbacks of him bullying me. Tears started to form in the corner of my eyes. Then, I made the most regrettable decision in my life. I went straight to the store.

I arrived at the store, I went straight to the black mamba poison and ran back home. I stared at the container, didn't know if poisoning Josh was a good idea. I knew there would be consequences if I got caught, but I wanted him to suffer. I found out there was a party tonight and I knew Josh wouldn't miss it for the world. It was located at his friend's house.

I was at the party, it was packed. I stood in the corner of the room because I didn't want anyone to notice me. I noticed Josh and when he put down his drink, I slipped through the crowd and put a few drops of the poison in the glass, and went straight to the bathroom to escape through the window because it would be suspicious to leave in the middle of a party.

The following day, I heard the news that Josh had died, and the thing that baffled me was a few of his other friends were also dead, it seems they also drank the poison. I found out people started to call me the Mamba Killer. And the other thing was his wife had consulted Judge Pao to look into the case. Adrenaline started to flow through my veins. I felt thrilled that my hero was going to investigate my case. To minimize the chance of Judge Pao finding me, I booked a 4 a.m. flight to Hong Kong and closed my shop.

The flight was quite comfortable. When I arrived in Hong Kong, I booked a room in a hotel and applied for a waitress job so I can still make money. It doesn't have a high salary, but it was enough to live on.

The next day, I saw Judge Pao while I was buying some groceries. I quickly ran back to the hotel. It appears that he had figured out I was the killer and figured out where I was. I thought to myself as long as I lay low for a while, they won't find me.

For the last few weeks, I changed hotels frequently and went out only a few times to minimize the possibility of people seeing me, but whatever I do I always notice Judge Pao.

I was in the middle of packing my suitcase to go to another hotel when someone cried out 'Room service.'

'Just a minute,' I replied.

But the lady came into the room. I stood in the middle of the room paralyzed. It was Judge Pao! I couldn't move. 'Put your hands up Anna Ng. You are under arrest for the murder of Josh Zheng and others!'

I put my hands up. I thought about escaping, but I knew it would be a disaster.

Judge Pao cuffed my hands and we flew back to Lijiang. On the flight, I was disappointed that I got caught, but I also couldn't believe I met my hero.

On my trial day, I was on my knees with handcuffs cuffed on my hands, guards were all around me, and Judge Pao was in front of me. I felt he was staring into my soul, it sent chills down my spine. 'WHY DID YOU KILL THIS MAN?' he cried out

I attempted to explain I was always bullied and that I wanted to fight against injustice and defend the weak just like him, but he kept saying I still shouldn't kill people. The anger inside me just kept bubbling more, but I couldn't do anything about it. In the end, I was sentenced to jail for 10 years.

You should never meet your heroes, that was what I learned. I was so excited to meet Judge Pao but in the end, he just gave me a lecture. A lot of people might not agree with me and will say Judge Pao was correct, but those people never experienced my pain, the times when I cried in my room for hours, the times when no one supported me. They never have trauma or emotional scars like I had. Why shouldn't the people who bullied me get punished too? This is my story, the Mamba Killer.

New Tales of Judge Pao

Good Hope Primary School cum Kindergarten (Primary Section), Shen, Skyla Autumn – 11

A maid walked through the hallway of a fancy palace, holding a jug of wine her master had requested. She was a few paces away from the room her master and his guests were in when she heard yells and crashing sounds from the room. Next, there was a terrible scream and then...silence. The maid found the loud noises and sudden silence very odd. She went into the room and gasped. It seemed that a fight had taken place there, as she saw the remains of a porcelain vase scattered everywhere and an upturned table. Her eyes fixated on the body on the floor with a fruit knife in its chest. She screamed and ran all the way to Judge Pao's court. The body belonged to her master – Chen Lin Wei.

★ ★ ★

"Silence!" shouted Judge Pao. He was a serious man with a commanding presence. His tanned skin and moon shaped scar on his forehead made him look even more imposing. Despite his appearance, he was also brilliant at solving cases. "The first case," he said. Chen Lin Wei's three guests were taken to court to be questioned regarding his murder.

"Chen Zhi Wei?" called the clerk.

"Present," replied Chen Zhi Wei.

"Wu Liang?"

"Present."

"Li Da Shan?"

"Present."

"Good. Now, you three are suspected of murdering Chen Lin Wen," said Judge Bao, "but as we don't know who exactly –"

"He did it!" interrupted Wu Liang, pointing a finger at Li Da Shan.

"How dare you!" shrieked Li Da Shan, "Chen Zhi Wei did it!"

"Wu Liang murdered him, not me!" shouted Chen Zhi Wei.

"Silence!" thundered Judge Pao. The trio fell silent. "Clerk, bring in the accuser," said Judge Pao. The clerk brought the maid into the court. "You are Hui Shang Yi?" asked Judge Pao. The maid nodded.

"The maid of Chen Lin Wei?" She nodded again. "Did you see who murdered him?"

"Well, no," admitted Hui Shang Yi, "I didn't witness it, but..."

"You see?" interjected Wu Liang loudly, "you don't –"

"Guards! Take them to prison!" Judge Pao said irritably. The men were shepherded by four guards, jabbering and bickering. "Well, who do you think is likely to have murdered him?" asked Judge Pao with a furled brow.

"Well, Chen Zhi Wei is his brother, Li Da Shan is his best friend and Wu Liang is his student, so...none of them," replied Hui Shang Yi.

"Then bring me to Chen Lin Wei's palace," said the judge.

Fifteen minutes later, they arrived at their destination. The maid led him to the room where the body still laid. Judge Pao crouched next it and started to examine it slowly. He found a handkerchief near the body. He picked it up carefully and saw a distinctive dragon pattern sewn onto it. Judge Pao asked if it belonged to Chen Zhi Wei and the maid said that her master never carried any handkerchiefs with him. "The murderer must have accidentally dropped it," Judge Pao thought to himself. He continued inspecting the room and found a ring on the floor. "Aha!" he said triumphantly, "the murderer must be married." After asking the maid a few more questions, he took the items and went back to the court later in the afternoon to talk to the prisoners who were still arguing after all that time. Upon seeing the judge, they stopped abruptly.

"Well," said Wu Liang, "did you find out who the murderer is?"

"Oh yes," said the judge confidently, "I found evidence at the scene and I know who murdered Chen Lin Wei."

The air was suddenly tense. Judge Pao continued, "If you step forward and admit to your crime, your punishment may be reduced." The three men stood silent and completely still. Judge Pao took a quick glance at their hands because the maid had told him that all three men were married. Unfortunately, all three men were wearing wedding rings, so looking for a missing ring wouldn't give Judge Pao his answer. He walked slowly around them to see who was the most nervous. Li Da Shan looked uncomfortable and Chen Zhi Wei's left eye kept twitching. But Wu Liang looked unnaturally relaxed. Judge Pao focused his gaze on him and Wu Liang, in return, cracked a slight smile and glanced back up at him.

"You seem to be in good spirits Wu Liang," said Judge Pao.

"Of course I am. I know I shall soon be set free because I didn't do it," claimed Wu Liang.

"Well, you do realize that your teacher has been killed don't you? I don't think you should be happy about that!" the judge reprimanded. Wu Liang took a moment and his eyes began to well up with tears.

"Teacher!" he cried as he looked up to the heavens. Judge Pao took out the dragon patterned handkerchief he had picked up at the crime scene.

"Here...wipe your tears," the judge suggested as he handed him the handkerchief. Suddenly, Wu Liang's sobbing stopped and was replaced with a worried look.

"Where did you get this?" Wu Liang asked.

"Oh, during my investigation I also visited all of your homes to ask questions to your wives and your wife was kind enough to give it to me," explained Judge Pao. Of course, this explanation was far from the truth but Judge Pao felt he had to trust his instinct and take a chance.

"Ah yes, my wife is very kind. She knows these handkerchiefs are very special to me," said Wu Liang, while rubbing his thumb over the dragon in admiration, "you won't find this pattern anywhere else."

Upon hearing this, Judge Pao looked intensely at Wu Liang.

"Wu Liang! You will be tried for the murder of Chen Lin Wei!" proclaimed the mighty Judge Pao.

Everyone watching stayed stunned in silence, amazed at what they had just seen. Before they could gather their thoughts, Judge Bao's booming voice filled the court room once again, "Next case!"

New Tales of Judge Pao

HKCCCU Logos Academy, Leung, Chun Hei – 10

Zhang Hao ran through the streets crying, he kneeled on the ground and wailed, “Oh! Where has my imperial vase gone?” Soon, villagers were gathering around him murmuring. One said to his companion, “That must be the rich man in our village, Zhang Hao. How terrible for him to lose such a precious vase, I think it’s that poor man in our village, Hang Zheng because he has no money.” The other villagers raised their hands in agreement, “Let’s make him confess!”

They destroyed everything in Hang Zheng’s house, but they couldn’t find the vase. “Maybe we could go to the new Judge in town, Justice Bao.” suggested a villager.

Later at the court, the two men were facing Justice Bao, who’s skin was very red. “Tell me your story!” He said in a gruff voice. “Of course, it’s Hang Zheng, your honour. Look how poor he is! A man who’s very poor always steals things from the rich! I received this vase from the emperor, of course he would seize this chance to make himself some money!” Justice Bao was silent for a moment, then turned his head to Hang Zheng. Hang Zheng’s story was totally different, he told Justice Bao that the vase from the emperor was his until Zhang Hao stole it from him, he also added that he saw Zhang Hao a couple of times while he was working on his farm. “He must be very jealous” said Hang Zheng. ‘Their stories don’t correspond,’ thought Justice Bao. “Maybe the witness can give me some clues.”

The witness came in, he told Justice Bao that he’s a farmer and worked for Zhang Hao, “Your honour, I have always worked on the farm, one night, while I was planting some crops, I saw a shadow moving through the door, but I ignored it, a few minutes later someone came through the doors and into the darkness. I saw a glimpse of the thief’s shorts, it was full of patches, the sort only poor people would have, so it must be Hang Zheng!” He discreetly nodded to Zhang Hao, but Justice Bao saw it, then he bowed and left the court. “I guess you’ve proved that you’re innocent, but we still don’t have enough proof that Hang Zheng is guilty.” He signaled the guards to lock Hang Zheng away, then ordered Zhang Hao to leave. As Zhang Hao stepped out of court, he laughed. But what he didn’t know was that his plans were going to become a disaster

That night, Justice Bao ordered his guards to find out what kind of connection existed between the witness and Zhang Hao, as he had seen them nodding to each other. First was the leader, Zhan Zhao. Then came Zhang Long, Zhao Hu, Wang Chao and Ma Han.

They went to Zhang Hao’s mansion first, as they peeked over the nearby roof tops, they saw Zhang Hao giving the farmer a bag of gold! “He must be bribing the farmer to be on his side in court!” whispered Wang Chao. After Zhang Hao left, they jumped down and tried to capture the farmer. “Guards!” shouted the farmer, four guards ran out. The five warriors pulled out their swords and started to fight the guards. A guard swiped his sword at Zhan Zhao, but he ducked it and cut off the guard’s head with a clean swipe. Zhang Long dodged the attacks and did a back flip off a wall and landed behind the guard, then he stabbed him brutally. Meanwhile Ma Han, who was a big, burly man, hurled himself at a guard. The guard toppled down when Ma Han put a dagger in his head. While Wang Chao was trying to catch the farmer, Zhao Hu was struggling to defend himself, “Help! I’m cornered!” cried Zhao Hu.

The three warriors dashed towards the guard and brutally stabbed him in the back killing him instantaneously. Just then, Wang Chao walked in, carrying the farmer on his back. “Let’s head back to Justice Bao and tell him everything,” said Zhan Zhao.

The next day, Justice Bao ordered Zhang Hao and Hang Zheng to come to the court. “Gentlemen, we’ve found proof last night that Hang Zheng is not the thief.” Zhang hao appeared shocked that his magnificent plan had failed, but he tried not to express it. On the other hand, Hang Zheng looked happy and relieved. Justice Bao than pointed his finger to Zhang Hao and said, “You are lying to me.” “No, I am not, your highness. I’m an honest and trustworthy man.” He tried not to express his anger. Just then, he realized something was off, where’s the witness? Justice Bao snapped his fingers and Zhan Zhao brought out the farmer; he knew then that his plan had failed. “We know your devious plan; we infiltrated your mansion last night and we found out that you were bribing the witness…… Guards! Bring him to the tiger head guillotine!” said Justice Bao “No! I can explain!” cried Zhang Hao. Hang Zheng snickered at the sight of the evil man finally being exposed.

The guards dragged Zhang Hao down to a cellar, and there sat the tiger head guillotine. The guards forced the man onto the platform, to the right-hand side of his head was a huge blade ready to chop his head off. “Oh please, have mercy!” begged Zhang Hao. “No mercy for you, evil man. First, you stole the vase, then, you made that innocent man Hang Zheng take all the blame. Not only that, but you also bribed the witness to help you win the case, and now you’re asking for mercy?” said Justice Bao. And with that, the blade came down and ‘chop’! “Nooooo!” cried Zhang Hao in pain as his head came off, followed by a pool of blood. The evil man was gone. Hang Zheng thanked Justice Bao for his intelligence and bravery, and he was never disturbed again.

New Tales of Judge Pao

HKCCCU Logos Academy, Ngai, Prisca Joy – 10

Judge Pao, the Chinese Sherlock Holmes, really existed! Below I will tell you a cool and mysterious legend about him.

As always, Judge Pao was walking beside the cliff and thought about the mystery: *One after another, the civilians' children kept going missing*. While he was deep in his thoughts, he heard something calling to him. He decided to see what it was. He walked forward, and there came a sight! In the cave, there was a blood-red-like stone. Pao picked up the stone. For a few seconds, he felt a mysterious feeling in his body expanding over his body, from his heart to his nerves and into his blood vessels. "This stone might have a powerful power. I think it might help me with the mystery!" Pao thought. And he was right.....

On the day of the full moon, when Pao was working on his documents in his house, the stone glimmered with red sparks. Pao took it to his garden and rested it under the moon. The stone shone bright red. Then, a dazzling tunnel appeared in front of Pao. He immediately got sucked in.

Suddenly, Pao saw an odd-looking man with a black mask over his face and body. He thought, with his heart running as fast as a leopard, "*What will he do?*"

Nevertheless, the tunnel transported Pao to another unfamiliar place—the 24th century.

There, he saw strange faces all around him. He looked down at his body: his clothes had changed! He was amazed with the high-tech attire. "*I should do research about this planet,*" thought Pao. He tried to ask someone where to find data, but no one even looked at him. Finally, a robot appeared in front of Pao and answered Pao's question. Pao decided to find the ruler of the Earth, Idris.

After WWII, many people died because of a nuclear bomb. Only people who went under the Earth survived. Idris was one of the people. He was a young baby back then. After all the radiation disappeared, the people underground went back up to the surface and fought. They fought for 10 years, and Idris' army won. Later, Pao was in the palace where Idris lived. Idris was furious when he heard that the guy who met him was Pao. He instantly picked up his laser gun and shot at Pao. "Wait! Why are you so angry?" Pao shouted as he dodged the laser beams from the gun. "I can explain!" Pao continued.

Idris put back his gun, "Go ahead then." After explaining, Idris agreed to cooperate. Idris said, "I understand. After WWII, women cannot give birth to babies. It is very strange! Can you investigate with us?" Pao promised immediately. After a full night's sleep, Pao woke up early in the morning. He saw Idris and greeted him. They were both ready.

Idris called his army to go search for the black masked guy while Pao was searching for security cameras and micro-listeners that could have captured the black masked guy's trail with the newly invented superputer at his house in the 24th century.

When Pao wanted to give up, he heard something from the garden outside. He decided to go out and check it out. He walked past the tree in the garden, and, suddenly, the black masked guy jumped down and took out his little sword. Luckily, Pao experienced this before. He dodged the sword and attacked back at his throat. The black masked man fell to the floor immediately. Idris' soldiers went in front of Pao. "You are so fast!" Pao exclaimed.

"It's our duty to protect our master," said the ten soldiers.

Then, Idris arrived. They were discussing how to capture the kidnapper and the murderer. *Snap. Snap.* Idris snapped his fingers twice. He said, “The house is secured now.” Pao was impressed by the high-tech around him.

“OK! I got it!” Pao said when they high fived.

The next day, Idris took out the invisible goggles and ropes. They both thought that the black masked guy would be on the tree he went on waiting for Pao. They waited all day long. Pao tried to shake the tree to get the man down. Hard work pays off. At last, the black masked man was trapped.

“Ha! Caught you now, you mischievous little guy!” said Idris. When he pulled down the mask of the mysterious guy, he was astonished! Pao got there right after. He was stunned, too! The black masked guy was one of Idris’ soldiers!

After interrogating, they found out that Idris told his soldiers he was angry at Pao because he killed Idris’ ancestor that led to fewer people on Earth. Hence, the soldier wanted to kill Pao and steal some babies to make Idris happy. “So, it’s because of you!” said Pao.

“I never knew I would make someone kill you!” protested Idris.

Although Pao said he forgave Idris, he was still angry.

After a few weeks, the soldier got judged to go to prison for 50 years because he wanted to kill someone and steal babies. “Mission accomplished!” thought Pao. Pao told Idris it was time for him to go back to the Sung Dynasty, but Idris wanted Pao to stay till next year. Pao refused, but he promised to stay back for a month.

At last, it was time to say goodbye.

At the time of the full moon, Pao put the stone in his garden with people saying goodbye to him, including Idris. Idris gave Pao an AI ring, hoping Pao would remember the 24th century whenever Pao looked at it. Pao got sucked in the time tunnel and went back to the Sung Dynasty.

“It’s the first time I felt so comfortable during the Sung Dynasty,” thought Pao. Then, he jumped into his bed. He was too tired after a few months of catching the black-masked guy.

He slept soundly. He snored till the next day.....

New Tales of Judge Pao

HKCCCU Logos Academy, Sage, Elaine Lang-en – 10

As the pale light of a waxing moon sailing across the Hong Kong night sky shone down on her, the crescent moon-shaped birthmark on Judy Law's forehead suddenly began to tingle madly. Sometimes, she wished it wasn't there, and she wished that her classmates wouldn't make fun of her for it so much. Her vision blurred and she lost consciousness...

She awoke in a strange place, it was vast, white and endless. Before her, a translucent body appeared! It said, "Judy, blessings be upon you, dear child."

"Huh? Who are you?" she asked, confused. Then, she noticed a matching birthmark on the spirit's forehead! The spirit chuckled softly, "Why, I'm Judge Pao! You're my descendant. The first descendant to inherit my powers!"

"W-w-where am I? W-what powers? Why —" Judy stammered.

"Hush, I'm sure you have a lot of questions," he interrupted. "When I was your age, I discovered I could talk to the dead. This place between worlds is where the living and dead commune. I decided to help people solve murder mysteries with my powers. But I was poisoned by one of the murderers. At long last, I have a descendant with my powers! Although your surname isn't Pao, being descended from my granddaughter," he continued, smiling affectionately, "your birthmark proves your lineage."

He added, "You can call me Grandpa Pao."

Judy was dumbfounded. It was a lot to take in.

Smiling kindly, he went on. "There is a serial killer at large — and the murderer is none other than a descendant of the man who killed me. Your destiny is to use your powers to avenge me and all his victims. You'll become a magnificent crime-fighter and judge, renowned for your good deeds and sought out by everyone in need! I'll train you to master your powers, and you will be acknowledged as Judge Judy!" Judge Pao exclaimed, his translucent eyes shining with pride.

"Well... that does seem pretty exciting, and it would feel wonderful to have people like me, and it would also feel great to help people, but... I'm not sure about saving all of China from an evil murderer and bringing him to justice! I'm only thirteen!" Judy cried, a little flustered.

"Don't worry, sweetheart," Judge Pao soothed her. "I believe in you. Remember, I too was a mere child when I first began this journey." Judy sighed but nodded gratefully. She was overjoyed to have somebody who not only loved her and cared about her, but also had all the time in the world for her, unlike her loving but worn out single mother. She hugged him, although her arms went right through him. Just then, her birthmark tingled softly, the surrounding whiteness grew blindingly bright, and she found herself back in bed.

Every night after that, under Judge Pao's supportive guidance, Judy would hone her powers and talk to spirits in the white void. She became a master at investigating and solving mysteries, using her powers to question the serial killer's victims. One night, Judge Pao appeared before her. "You are ready," he declared solemnly. Breathing deeply, Judy smiled at her loving 'grandpa'. It was time to bring an evil man to justice.

Using her hard-saved pocket money, Judy bought a train ticket to Shenzhen, the scene of the last murder. Judge Pao had taught Judy to press hard on her birthmark with two fingers, thinking of him, and he would materialize as a hologram only Judy could see and hear. She was relieved to have him with her.

When in bustling Shenzhen, by pressing two fingers to her birthmark, Judy could hear spirits whispering to her and guiding her towards the murderer's location. She spotted a suspicious figure. His jacket hood fell back, revealing his head briefly before he put it up again. A wig and sunglasses disguised his brooding face, but Judy could never miss the monster she had seen through the victims' dead eyes. You were born for this. She reassured herself. Taking a deep breath, she stealthily pursued after him, Judge Pao following. He entered an old building, went to a flat and picked up the lock, pushing the door open. Watching intently, Judy called the police and reported where she had found the serial killer and that someone was in peril.

“Well, well, look who we have here,” he rasped menacingly. A pretty young woman turned around to look at him. Recognizing her ex-boyfriend, she frowned, demanding, “What do you want?” With a grimacing smile, the murderer drew a blade from his belt and advanced towards her. “To kill me?” the woman snorted, “Enjoy prison!” She spat at him. With a soft, harsh sneer, he lunged at her. Judy gasped, shouting “Stop!” just as he was about to plunge his knife into her chest.

The murderer whirled around, finding himself face to face with Judy’s smartphone. She had been recording and live streaming to a police website. He snarled through gritted teeth. Judy was scared. What if the police didn’t come in time? The murderer charged at Judy, knife in hand. Judge Pao instinctively stepped in front of her, protectively but in vain. Just then, several policemen rushed in, tackling the evil man to the ground. Judy and Judge Pao heaved sighs of relief. The police thanked Judy as they took the serial killer away in handcuffs.

Judy’s heart was still racing as she rode the train back home. Judge Pao floated alongside her, nodding his head with pride, confident that his legacy was secure in the hands of Judge Judy. It was long past midnight when she finally arrived home. Her mother was still up waiting frantically for her, having seen Judy on the news. Judy told her everything. “I’m so proud of you!” gushed Judy’s mother, embracing their newfound lineage. They hugged each other tightly, tears of love and joy welling from their eyes. For the first time in her life, Judge Judy felt like the luckiest girl in the world.

The Missing Trophy

HKCCCU Logos Academy, Wong, Chun Hei Andrew – 10

In the southwestern part of China, nestled between mountains, there is a remote village where most people are farmers. Many students in that region do not graduate as they have to quit school to work on the farm. Ming Woo School, however, rises above the prevailing adversity and excels in many things, especially sports.

Two years ago, on a Monday, Ming Woo School's ping-pong team returned from the Southern China Ping-Pong Tournament. Two students had trained so hard, resulting in them winning a shiny, golden trophy for the school. How precious it was! The principal, Mr. Li, decided to put it inside the iron gate at the school's entrance so everyone could bask in its magnificence.

Two weeks later, Ming Woo School held a badminton competition with the nearby arch-rival school, Wing Collegiate, which sent six teams. Wing Collegiate tried their very best to win, but the students at Ming Woo school proved faster, more agile and unstoppable. Afterwards, the losing teams waited around for their bus, got on, and left, feeling rather miserable.

The very next day, Mr. Li was shocked and confused. The shiny, golden trophy was gone! He quickly realized it must have been stolen.

Mr. Li was a principal who didn't want to take any chances. Since it was so important, he asked Judge Pao for help. Judge Pao was a popular local judge who investigated crimes of all kinds, bringing almost all his cases to a quick close. Villagers felt he worked miracles. When Judge Pao came to the school to have a look around, Mr. Li explained the importance of this trophy and what it represented to all the staff and students.

After carefully considering the case of the theft of a trophy at Ming Woo School, Judge Pao decided to do what he always does: interview all possible suspects.

Judge Pao first grilled the two students who had won the trophy at the Southern China Grand Ping-Pong Tournament: William Chau and Mason Yang. He politely asked them exactly what had happened.

William answered, "We went to Guangzhou for the competition and had 12 matches over three days. After winning the trophy, we returned to school and left it with the staff at the front office."

Judge Pao replied, "After school, what did you do? The secretary told me that someone about your height had gone into the school."

Mason said, "Perhaps it's the janitor, Mrs. Wang. She's about my height, I guess, and works mostly after 6pm. Anyway, both of us were out with our parents enjoying a celebratory dinner."

Judge Pao said, "The theft occurred in the evening, I'm sure. So I now understand it wasn't you two. Thanks, boys!" Judge Pao crossed off the students on his list of people who could have stolen the trophy.

After that, Judge Pao wondered about visiting the badminton players from Wing Collegiate. He headed over to Wing Collegiate to speak to the principal. Judge Pao said, "Please explain what your students did after the tournament at Ming Woo School."

The principal said, "Well, two of our teachers waited with them after the badminton tournament. The bus arrived soon, and they all left Ming Woo School around 6:00 pm."

Judge Pao trusted this principal and the two teachers. He still had to probe. He decided to question the two teachers. When they arrived, Judge Pao asked them, "Did you see a trophy?"

One of them, Ms. Wong, replied, "Yes, we saw it and talked about it, saying how shiny it was."

Judge Pao still thought the rival school was very suspicious, but when he asked, "When did you see it?" Ms. Wong replied, "When we were all on the bus!"

Judge Pao crossed off Wing Collegiate on his list of suspects and continued with his investigation.

Judge Pao decided to talk to a likely suspect, Ming Woo School's ping-pong coach, Mr. Yin. He asked, "What happened during the competition?"

The coach replied, "I pushed the two students hard throughout the three days of the tournament. Then, shockingly, they won the championship. There was a prize ceremony, they got the trophy, gave it to me, and I carefully carried it back to the school early the next morning."

Judge Pao asked, "Did you wish to keep the trophy at home?"

The coach answered truthfully, "I don't have any trophies at home. I would really want one, though! However, I just handed it to Mr. Li, the principal."

Judge Pao immediately went to Mr. Li's office and asked if Mr. Yin's story was true. "Oh yes, that's exactly what happened," Mr. Li said, nodding.

As Judge Pao started walking down the corridor, he spotted a blue-and-yellow door. Feeling curious, he walked up to it and slowly pushed the door. To his utter surprise, the shiny gold trophy was on one of the shelves! Feeling both joy and confusion, Judge Pao immediately went to the principal's office.

The principal told Judge Pao that that room was the cleaning supply pantry. He called in Mrs. Wang, the janitor, and Judge Pao asked her why she had the trophy. She answered that while she was polishing the trophy, she had spotted a tiny black mark under the right handle. Then, she went home to find a liquid cleaner but didn't have any. So she went to a local shop, but they had sold out. She would have had to wait for them to get more stock in two days.

Poor Mrs. Wang apologized and said that, although the trophy had a mark on it, she would put it back in its honorable place at the school gate. Mr. Li thanked Judge Pao for his effort. Judge Pao went home, feeling happy to have solved another crime that actually wasn't a crime.

To this day, Ming Woo School continues to win many more trophies. Mr. Li ordered a new, giant closed-in shelf at the school entrance to show off all the trophies and awards. It is securely locked.

The Legend Of Judge Pao

Kiangsu and Chekiang International School Primary Section, Kumar, Avika – 11

Do you know the legend of Judge Pao? Well, if not, then you have to read this. Long long ago in a sunny, spectacular area lived a family of four. They lived in a big bungalow in Harley City. Harley city was a place where there was a vibrant sky, magical people and charming creatures. There were two parents that were court judges of the city and had two children, the little girl Jasmine and a teenage boy named Pao. He was a very sweet boy and the girl was kind and emotional. One day their parents had endless amount of work. So finally on the way home, they got into a luxury car. Although when they got into the car and drove half a mile, they heard a thunderous crash, the next thing you know is that blood was dripping from their body.

When their children heard the news, Jasmine had a hard time and cried a lot, but she was alright. Apparently Pao was furious. He thought this was unfair and his personality was not the same anymore. He turned shrewd, cunning, cruel but most of all stubborn. He often pranked people, chatted in games and tests and sadly bullied others as well sometimes. The people in the city often repeated the same sentence again and again. "I pity you". They felt sorry, Jasmine had to live such a life with a brother who shows no mercy or sympathy. It was a normal day, Pao had just come back from work (which was illegal ticket selling). Jasmine was already tucked in bed and she was in a deep sleep, all cozy and comfy. So Pao went to bed as well. Then he heard a tuneful sound of music.

Pao's curiosity was just rising higher and higher. Then at that moment Pao realised it was coming from the forbidden woods. Pao remembered his parents told him never to go in there. He looked at the woods and was speechless. It was eerie, gloomy and paranormal. As he walked in he got chills up his spine and frostbite in his toes. Pao did not really know why but he felt as if he was being followed by someone. He spotted an old rusty and dusty cottage right in front of the pathway, Pao didn't really want to go in, but he knew he had to because something was fishy and Pao was suspicious. After he side-kicked, the iron fence opened. He opened the creaky door with fright.

Pao saw cob-webs, long corridors, shattered mirrors, rattling chair, mice, peeling paint and also melted candles. Pao thought for some reason, that there was a mystery waiting upstairs for him. He went up and found a spell book, he opened it and saw his parents writing on there. He thought it possibly couldn't be. But it was, he had to go outside for a little bit of fresh air. Suddenly he saw a demon. The demon had devil ears, hypnotising eyes and a large mouth full of black of teeth. The spirit flew over Pao's head. Pao panicked and rushed inside. He held his knees together, got in a corner and shivered. The Pao remembered how his mother used to read bedtime stories about spooky world. Pao remembered this one time where on one of the pages had said that demons hide in plain sight, so you need holy water to get rid of them. So without fear Pao immediately bolted to the sacred garden because holy water the little pond there. But you will not believe who was there. Pao was in shock.

Pao saw Jasmine! He angrily scolded Jasmine. Pao was infuriated. He spotted a magical tropical forrest river. He took a look at his reflection and thought about his miserable self. His reflection was talking to him. He spoke to his reflection and said "Oh, what have I got myself into? On top of that what have I got my sister into?" His reflection spoke back to him. "Don't worry Pao the greatest, on the bright side you still you still have time to fix this. Not knowing that he is unstoppable, Pao and Jasmine were ready for war. Pao and Jasmine sprinted back to the house and Jasmine said "Sorry to startle you", I am the one who was following you and on the way I found out I had powers." Pao said to Jasmine that Jasmine reminded Pao of their parents and Pao had tears of joy. Jasmine and Pao both went in because there was no time to waste. They opened the spell book and didn't have time to read the warning. They gathered all the ingredients for the potion and finally were ready to go out in the battle field. They poured the potion but that was not going away because Jasmine read the warning and said you have to sacrifice another person for that. Pao felt surrounded by a cold mist but without second thought he sacrificed himself. From that day onwards, Jasmine went to the graveyard to thank her brother everyday.

The end.

New Tales of Judge Pao

Kiangsu and Chekiang International School Primary Section, Zhang, Kenneth – 9

A man around 50 years old started coughing frantically at a clinic. That clinic was full of patients and they all having the same symptoms: fever, coughing, loss of taste, and shortness of breath.

“WHat is this disease?” yelled the doctor with some cold sweats sliding down from his forehead.

Meanwhile, Judge Po was havin breakfast in his office. A guard broke in an shouted with fright, “There is an epidemic spreading throughout the country and now the Emperor orders you to investigate as there is a man wearing weird shirt and he is sneaky, his hair is short without bounding. Wwe believe he is related to the epidemic.”

Immediately Judge Po went to investigate. On the street birds were mourning, singing sad songs as if they knew many people are going to die. Judge Po was flabbergasted to find out pungent smell from a glass tube. It was as cold as ice. He took it back to his office and summoned his secretary GongSun Ce who had brown eyes and long black hair.

“GongSun Ce, put this handkerchief over your nose first. I think it is related to the epidemic,” said Judge Pao.

Gongsun Ce examined the tube carefully and discovered a thread of blue hair in it/ “Good observation Gongsun Ce,” praised Judge Pao. “It is rare to have a person with blue hair in ChangAn although there are foreigners. Zhan Zhao, search the suspects with blue hair.”

Zhan Zhao ran into Judge Pao’s office as fast as lightning. He had long dark hair, straight nose, and he was carrying a sword attached to his belt. He got the blue hair from Judge Pao and started looking for the suspect. Zhan Zhao was wandering the street when he saw a hut with a ball of blue fluffy stuff at the back step. He picked it up and it was a wig.

“IG open up!” shouted Zhan Zhao.

“What is 16?” a roboti voice came from inside.

“He doesn’t know IG, that’s Imperial Guard, everyone in Chang An knows it!” Gasped Zhan Zhao.

He kicked the door open and took out his keen blade knife. There was no one in he house. Suddenly, he saw somehting. He went closer and that was a bald head under the bed. He pointed at the bald man with his sword.

“Who are youand are you the one who spread the virus?” asked Zhan Zhao.

The head flew out and it didn’t have a body parts. Zhan Zhao took a step back and the head zoomed toward the roof of the house. Kaboom! It exploded but a small black box came out and hit Zhan Zhao’s head. On the box written three capitalised words – DO NOT OPEN. However, Zhan Zhao did not know English and opened it. There was an music box inside.

“Ha Ha Ha!” No one can find me as I am hiding in Mount song,” a hissing voice coming out of the music box.

Zhan Zhan immediately dashed to Mount Song. Although Mount SOng was 1512m, he flew up to the top using Kung fun as if he was a helicopter. A dilapidated wooden hut near a cliff edge attracted Zhan Zhao’s attention. Zhan Zhao checked the door and it was unlocked. He opened it quietly but heard some hissing sound.

“Snakes!” he thought.

Before he could close the door, a green anaconda which was as long as the Yellow River burst out and charged at him. He waved his sword and cut the anaconda into half. The other snake were stunned and slithered away.

“Oh dear! My lovely anaconda is dead” screamed a man who had a bald head, he was tall but skinny. I am Dr Dumb how dare you! I come from the 24th century.”

“You’re under arrested. Come with me to see Judge Pao” he ordered.

At last Dr Dumb apologised and gave vaccines to Judge Pao.

A New Tale of Judge Pao

Kowloon City Baptist Church Hay Nien Primary School, Poon, Sum Yuet – 11

In the middle of the night, Judge Pao couldn't sleep. He sat on his comfortable chair reading a detective story. As time went by, he was about to doze off until.....

Bang! Bang!

The sound of the door knocking woke Judge Pao. His book was dropped on the floor. Feeling surprised, he opened the door. There stood a young couple outside his home, looking desperate. Judge Pao was shocked, 'It's midnight already, why are you here?' 'We need your help!' the couple answered with an urge in their tone. 'Okay, please come in.' said Judge Pao.

Judge Pao led the couple to the living room where he offered them some tea. The man said, 'My name is Ming and this is my wife, Wing. Our neighbours, Stephen and Natasha, were killed and only their baby survived. Everyone thought they died because they were sick, but I don't think so, because they had been very healthy. They seldom got sick. And the strangest thing was that we saw them yesterday. They went shopping happily. I can't believe that they died in this afternoon.' 'So yesterday was the last time you saw them, right?' asked Judge Pao as he started jotting down some notes. 'Yes,' replied Wing. 'Can you think of anyone who could have hurt them?' asked Judge Pao. 'No, they are nice people, everyone liked to be with them. There's no way anyone would want to hurt them,' answered Wing.

To investigate what happened, Wing and Ming took Judge Pao to Stephen and Natasha's home. They told Judge Pao that the baby was sent to an orphanage after the sudden death of her parents. Judge Pao started to look around the house. Nothing really stood out, but the broken glass pieces caught his attention. He thought, 'Could there be a fight between the couple? When they are fighting, they dropped the glass bottle on the floor. But that's suspicious. How were they killed?' After he finished looking around the house, he told Ming and Wing, 'I will keep investigating this case.' 'Thank you so much! We know that you can bring justice to our deceased friends!' Judge Pao went back to his house, thinking of the case.

After few days, Judge Pao still couldn't figure out what had happened. Luckily, he had the power of travelling to the spiritual world where deceased people were. Therefore, he asked Ming and Wing to give him the family photo of Stephen. He then made use of his magic power to look for Stephen and Natasha's souls.

'Please help us, Judge Pao!' begged Stephen's spirit. 'Please tell me everything about what had happened,' said Judge Pao.

'Thank you so much for willing to help us! My name is Stephen and this is my wife, Natasha. Yesterday afternoon, my neighborhood, Dan and Elisa, came to our house. We had a dinner date. After a few hours when it was about time to eat, I went to the kitchen to get ready while my wife used the washroom. When I went back to the living room, I saw that Dan's hand was near my glass. I found it strange but I didn't think too much. Yet, now I think that Dan must have added some poison to our water as we died after we drink the water! Why do they need to kill us? We were good friends!' cried Stephen in disbelief. 'I felt dizzy after I drank the water, but I could still see and hear. I saw that they put the poison in the cupboard in our living room. After that, I blacked out too.' said Natasha. 'Thank you for your information,' said Judge Pao as he returned to the real world.

Next morning, Judge Pao went to Stephen and Natasha's house and he found the poison. He caught Dan and Elisa as their prints were on the plastic wrap. They admitted that they killed Stephen and Natasha. They said they killed them because Stephen and Natasha had a kid. Dan and Elisa wanted a kid so badly that they decided to kill them, hoping to take their kid under their wings. Judge Pao told them they couldn't kill people because they wanted a kid. They understood that they had done the wrong thing. They were sent to prison in the end.

Ming and Wing heard that Judge Pao had solved the case and brought about justice to their friends. 'We can't thank you enough,' exclaimed Ming. They decided to adopt the kid. Judge Pao gave them his blessings and then went back to his home to continue reading the unfinished detective story book.

New Tales of the Judge Pao

Kowloon City Baptist Church Hay Nien Primary School, Wong, Yi Kwan – 12

One day, a woman who was in desperate need of help went to Kaifeng mansion to report a crime. The officials beat the floor with their rods while shouting ‘Wei...Wu...’. Then, a dignified man came out of the door gravely. His skin was as black as ink. On his forehead, there was a white crescent. His mustache reached all the way to his neck. He was Judge Pao.

Judge Pao sat down and asked the woman to narrate her case. ‘My name is He Nian’. In my village, there’s a rich man named Chen Fu who always pesters me by constantly telling me to be his wife. I courteously refused, however, he forcefully locked me in his house with chains. It was a miracle that I eventually escaped. The first thing I did was to run here for help.’ She said, while trying to hold back tears. ‘He Nian, relax! Go home first. I’ll help you fight for justice.’ Judge Pao replied. He then ordered Zhang Long, one of his guards, to take Chen Fu back for interrogation tomorrow.

The following day, Zhang Long arrived at Chen Fu’s house. When he entered the living room, he stood there stunned and speechless. Chen Fu was dead! His neck had obvious strangle marks and he’s still holding an antique vase. There was a crack on it. Weapons were nowhere to be found.

Zhang Long rushed outside to question the villagers there. An lady claimed that she heard He Nian and Chen Fu argued last night and He Nian indignantly shouted, ‘Back off, or I’ll kill you!’ Then, an obese man recalled, ‘Last night, I saw County Magistrate Wang and Chen Fu quarreling in a restaurant.’

Zhang Long brought both He Nian and County Magistrate Wang back to Kaifeng mansion. Judge Pao interrogated He Nian, ‘Last night, someone overheard you threatening to kill Chen Fu. Are you the murderer?’ ‘I admit I did say that but I swear I didn’t murder him. It was nothing but a threat!’ she cried agitatedly. At that moment, Judge Pao noticed the freshly scabbed wound on He Nian’s hand, and asked her, ‘When did you get that wound?’ ‘I got that when I was pulling Chen Fu.’ She replied.

Then, Judge Pao asked County Magistrate Wang, ‘Yesterday, somebody saw you and Chen Fu having a huge argument at a restaurant. Later on, he was murdered at home. Was this incident related to you?’ ‘No.’ County Magistrate Wang simply replied. Judge Pao found that County Magistrate Wang’s palm was bruised and there was also a wound on his forehead. ‘When did you get these wounds?’ Judge Pao asked. ‘The previous day, I got drunk with Chen Fu and accidentally fell to the floor and hurt myself.’ Wang replied.

Judge Pao thought for a while and said, ‘I have a method to find out who the real murderer is. In the murder scene, there were some blood stains on the antique beside Chen Fu. The blood was obviously from the murderer since no wounds were found at the dead body. I’ll drop each of your blood on this antique. If anyone’s blood can dissolve with the blood stains, then whoever that is, is the murderer. Now, you two can go home first. Tomorrow, I’ll send both of you to the scene of the crime for a blood test.’

Then, Judge Pao whispered something to his bodyguard’s ear.

At midnight, a person in black snuck into Chen Fu’s mansion. He was as sneaky as a black cat. As soon as that person found the vase, he instantaneously took out a wet towel from his pocket and started to wipe it. All of a sudden, the lights turned on. ‘County Magistrate Wang, you’re the murderer!’ said Zhan Zhao vociferously while pinning him down. Later, he was taken to the Kaifeng mansion.

Judge Pao asked County Magistrate Wang, ‘Why did you sneak into Chen Fu’s house at midnight?’ ‘Yesterday, you said that there was an antique vase at Chen Fu’s house. I am extremely fascinated with antique vases so I decided to go see for myself.’ Wang replied.

Judge Pao furiously said, 'You wore black clothes and brought a wet cloth to break into a dead man's house, just for taking a look at the antique vase? Actually, I didn't mention what the antique is. How did you know it's a vase? Your aim was to wipe the blood off the vase, wasn't it? To be honest, the reason I deliberately told you there's blood on the antique is just to lure the culprit to show up. I bet the wound on your forehead was caused by Chen Fu hitting you with the vase during the fight while your palms were bruised when you strangled Chen Fu to death with a rope. I'm sure you're the murderer! Tell me, why did you kill him?'

County Magistrate Wang lowered his head, 'You're right. Chen Fu was killed by me. I met him at the restaurant and requested him to sell his antique vase to me but he refused. I had no choice but to steal it from his house at midnight. However, I was found and a fight broke out. In a panic, I took a rope to strangle his neck but I really didn't want to kill him. He's dead because he's too weak...'

'Execute him immediately.' Judge Pao screamed.

County Magistrate Wang shouted loudly, 'My official position is much higher than yours. You don't have the right to exercise punishment at me!'

'No matter how high your position is. Whoever breaks the law, I will deal with in impartiality! Come on! Take out the Tiger-head guillotine!' Judge Pao bellowed. Finally, County Magistrate Wang was executed.

Due to Judge Pao's extreme honesty and uprightness, he gained the honorific title, Justice Pao. Up to now, he is still honored as the cultural symbol of justice in Chinese society.

The Missing Mystery

Kowloon Rhenish School, Chu, Kai Tik Caylus – 10

It was a sunny day, the sunshine came through the window. Judge Bao woke up and said, “What a great day, today is my holiday! No need to go to work!” “Bang!” Suddenly, there was a sound came from the door. It was the helper of Judge Bao! “Bad news, the enormous emerald is gone!” shouted the helper. Judge Bao was sad because his holiday was gone.

Soon, Judge Bao went to the cave in Guangzhou where the emerald was missing. There were nothing in it. Judge Bao found a little piece of cloth at the entrance of the cave. Then, he knew what was happening and knew who stole the emerald. Judge Bao found some foot print, he followed them and walked out of the cave.

After walked for a few minutes, there was a tower in front of him. He walked inside slowly and looked around. He heard some strange sound that made him scared, he ran out of the cave quickly and called the police.

The thief came out of the tower, he was holding a sword. Judge Bao recognized him, it was Speedy, who was a crazy guy and wanted to have all the emerald in the world.

The police arrived, rushed to Speedy and tried to catch him. Speedy ran so fast that no one can catch him. Clever Judge Bao had an extraordinary plan. He threw a rock that he got it on the floor, threw it to the bottom of the wardrobe, the wardrobe fell down and hit Speedy. Speedy was knocked down by the wardrobe and unable to move.

Finally, Speedy was caught by the policemen and went to the jail.

A Role Model for Modern Day Students

Kowloon Rhenish School, So, Yee Lap Ethan – 9

I am sure you have heard of Bao Zheng, more commonly known as Judge Bao or Bao Qingtian (Bao of the Clear Sky). Although Bao Zheng was from the Northern Song Dynasty over a thousand years ago, his story has been widely adapted in novels, Chinese opera and television series. Although Bao Zheng has often been considered as a legendary detective and symbol of justice, I think it is his moral values and character that should serve as our role model today. As an old saying goes, “Better be a man of character than a man of means”.

Bao Zheng was born into a scholarly family from Hefei, Luzhou in A.D. 999. At the age of 29, Bao passed the highest level of national exams and started his career as a government official (Jinshi). He was initially placed as a county magistrate but he deferred this and went home to take care of his elderly parents. Bao Zheng felt that it was more important to take care of his sick parents first. He took care of his parents for a decade until they both passed away. After that, Bao Zheng returned to the government to serve as a local official. He later went on to serve in a wide variety of functions in the provinces and in the capital. Most of his service was during the reign of the fourth Song emperor, Song Renzong. Bao Zheng was most famous for being the magistrate of the Song capital, Kaifeng. As he developed his career, he demonstrated qualities worthy of being a role model for modern day students.

Firstly, he was impartial and fair. He made reforms to the system and allowed people to make oral complaints and committed to solving cases through investigation. Traditionally a plaintiff had to make a claim in writing and submit it to the court officials. Often wealthy people would bribe the clerks to block or manipulate a case. With Bao Zheng’s reform, written paperwork was not required and anyone including poor people with little education could also lodge a complaint in the court and be heard by the prefect of Kaifeng himself. It was a fairer system for citizens and improved public order at the time. In terms of investigation, rather than torturing suspects to force a confession, he committed to solving cases through thorough investigation. He relied on his wisdom, sharp observation skills and investigation abilities instead.

Secondly, he was fearless and incorruptible. He had the courage of his convictions that criminals, irrespective of their position, connections or status should be punished. Over the course of his career, he fiercely and fearlessly criticised a wide range of officials, leading them to be demoted or dismissed for bribery, corruption and lack of talent. The most famous example of which was the impeachment of Zhang Yaozuo, who was the uncle of the Emperor’s favourite concubine. Due to his status and connections, Zhang was promoted quickly from local minor posts to high office in the government within a few years’ time. However, Bao Zheng observed that Zhang Yaozuo was only a mediocre person of limited ability and advised the Emperor to demote Zhang Yaozuo. While not successful during the first attempt, Bao Zheng did not give up. During his years of service, he had over thirty officials demoted or dismissed for corruption or bribery.

Thirdly, he was upright, disciplined and was a person of integrity. Bao Zheng was once governor of the prefecture Duanzhou, a place famous for production of fine inkstones used for grinding ink for writing. These inkstones were presented to the government as tributes. Unlike his predecessors who took extra inkstones out of self-interest, Bao Zheng did not take any inkstones for himself. Instead he announced the amount of inkstones required as tax payments and only required the manufacturers to submit this amount. Bao Zheng completed his post in Duanzhou without an inkstone in his possession, proving his integrity.

These qualities demonstrated by Bao Zheng are important to us as students as we will one day become the foundation of our society. Just like we are learning many different subjects in school, we should also develop our moral values and character at the same time so we can become better persons when we grow up. If there are more people with good moral values in our society, then our society will become a better and more peaceful place to live. If we grow to become a fair person like Bao Zheng then our

future society will be fairer for citizens no matter rich or poor and people can use their talents to serve the society. There will be fewer arguments between people or even countries. If we grow to become a person of integrity, then fewer people will need to face injustice in society. If we grow to become corrupt persons, then our future society will be corrupt. Everyone will be acting out of self-interest and treat each other badly. There will likely be more crime and cases of injustice just like the times before Bao Zheng's reforms. Who would want to live in such a corrupt world?

Therefore, as much as Bao Zheng is seen as a symbol of justice, I think we should focus on his moral values and character and consider him a role model for modern day students for a better future!

China Legal Giant: Judge Pao

Kowloon Rhenish School, Tan, Ho Lam – 11

About 1000 years ago, every stormy night, the wicked people hid in the dark desperately because they were afraid that their crimes would be revealed and seen through by Bao Gong and executed. Evil people are fearful of Bao Gong, why? And who is Bao Gong? Bao Gong is a famous judge in the Northern Song Dynasty. His original name was Bao Zheng. Legend has it that he is an impartial judge. He hates crimes, corruption and injustice. During the day, he would send out his four famous arresters to visit unannounced to see through crimes and arrest criminals. At night, he transforms into the king of Yama in the supernatural world, goes to the supernatural world to enforce the law, and dispatches ghost messengers with a bull's head and a horse face to take away the souls of the wicked.

He is impartial and selfless, with a face as iron as ink to intimidate courtiers, and a pale moon hanging on his forehead, so he has the title of "Bao Gong". Bao Gong possesses the Shangfang's sword bestowed by the emperor and has the right to "cut first and play later," meaning he could rectify the law on the spot, without Emperor's order. Therefore, no matter the royal family, nobles, government officials, or even common people of ancient China, justice can be done, and it is true that "the prince breaks the law and commits the same crime as the common people".

He worked tirelessly and continuously brought justice to the people and won respect and appreciation of the imperial court and the people of the whole country.

We can read about Bao Guang's talent for solving crimes in books. But how to cultivate such an incorruptible character should start from his background. Let me share with you from a youngster's perspective: Bao Gong was born in a family with three brothers. He is the youngest son in the family. Bao Gong's mother had difficulty in labour and fell into a coma when she gave birth to him. At that time, his second brother and second sister-in-law were the only persons in the room. His second sister-in-law was vicious and didn't want the property of her husband's family to be divided among three people, so she lobbied her husband to throw Baogong in the forest. They lied to Baogong's mother that the baby was not alive when it was born and had to be thrown away. After Baogong's mother woke up, she was very sad when she heard about the death of her baby. Bao Gong's eldest brother loved his mother, so he went to the forest to look for Bao Gong's cadaver. He saw a tiger feeding Bao Gong with its milk so that Bao Gong could survive. Thus, he has been fostered in his elder brother's house until he was three years old before being returned to his mother's care.

Bao Gong's sister-in-law sent him to school. Bao Gong was very smart and talented, and his sister-in-law was very happy. The second sister-in-law, in contrast, was very scared because she was afraid that he would be retaliated against for framing him. So the second sister-in-law did everything possible to kill Bao Gong...

When Bao Gong was nine years old, he began to work as a shepherd boy herding sheep. Once it rained heavily, he led the sheep to hide in a ruined temple. Suddenly a woman entered the temple and asked to take her in. The kind-hearted Bao Gong took her in. The gentleman Bao Gong did not bully the girl, and the girl was grateful. It turned out that the girl was a monster, and she had been secretly protecting Bao Gong ever since. This let Bao Gong could escape from the second sister-in-law's frame.

When Baogong was 16 years old, he decided to take the exam in Beijing and enter the imperial court as an official. He and his attendant encountered bandits on the way and lost their funds and horses.

It happened that someone posted a notice in the market, imploring a capable person to heal a deranged woman and will be paid. In order to raise funds, Bao Gong had no choice but to bite the bullet and apply. Bao Gong observed the lady carefully, and it turned out that she was possessed by a ghost. Coincidentally, this female ghost was the monster that Baogong rescued back then. She promised Bao Gong not to pester the woman again. The woman's illness was cured by Bao Gong. Bao Gong was paid and had the funds to go to the examination venue. Bao Gong passed the examination and won a high official position in the imperial court.

The trials that Bao Gong experienced in his childhood trained him to be a humble person and willing to take on great responsibilities. This background trained Bao Gong to be brave, anti-corruptive and honest and pushed him to become a justice unselfishly. Eventually rendered he to be a famous judge in Chinese history.

Murder Mystery in the Mansion

Kowloon Rhenish School, To, Sum Yuet – 11

News had spread. The master of the Song Mansion was murdered last night, and the rumour was that one of his sons killed him.

It was the break of dawn, the sound of drums beating loudly at the front of the courthouse could already be heard. The person who beat the drums stepped inside and reported the case to Judge Pao.

‘I’ve been working as a maid in the Song Mansion for years... I just cannot believe that one of his sons could’ve murdered Master Song. But nobody else was in the mansion that time. It couldn’t be suicide either since he had planned to make his own will today, seeing that he’d die shortly from his sickness. He had discussed it with the family.’

Judge Pao had been listening carefully the last several minutes, then, rising from his seat, he said, ‘Very well, let’s head over to the mansion now.’

The maid led Judge Pao and Zhan Zhao to the mansion. They went to the primary bedroom – the crime scene – to investigate the death of Song.

In the middle of the bedroom was a wooden table. Song, the victim, was lying on the floor next to the table. On the table were a teapot, a goblet, and a pile of arsenic.

Judge Pao studied the pile of arsenic carefully. Then, looking into the goblet, he realised that there was some red powder – arsenic – left in the goblet and on its rim. Judge Pao showed this to the others.

‘Do you know anyone who buys arsenic in this mansion?’ he asked the maid. She nodded sadly and told Judge Pao that the youngest son, Jian had to take arsenic to cure this sickness he had from a young age.

‘The evidence here points to Jian. Do you think he might’ve done it?’ Zhan Zhao asked Judge Pao, who wasn’t sure himself.

Afterwards, Judge Pao invited the three suspects – Yi, Wen, and Jian – to have a chat in the dining room, to inspect their behaviour. Then, he told them about the arsenic he found in the bedroom.

‘I knew it! Jian was the one who killed Father!’ Wen shouted, pointing at Jian. Yi nodded in agreement. ‘Who else would be able to own arsenic themselves without suspicion?’

Jian looked aghast. ‘I only take arsenic as a medicine to cure my illness! Besides, there isn’t any remaining since last week and I’ve been meaning to buy it yesterday! And why would I even want to kill Father? How would that benefit me? Maybe you’re the murderer, blaming it on me before anyone uncovers the truth!’ he exclaimed. ‘Don’t forget, you were the one quarrelling with Father about borrowing money for gambling on the very same day!’

The two brothers continued arguing while Yi just stood there in the back watching them. His face was unreadable. It showed no anger or fear. Although he wasn’t smiling at all, Judge Pao swore, for one second, he could see a gleam of happiness on his face. But then, nobody else saw that.

‘– Look, if that’s it, why don’t you accuse Yi of murdering him to receive inheritance? We all know what Yi is. He might want to speed things up,’ Wen was saying. Yi widened his eyes in terror as he heard him. That didn’t go unnoticed. ‘Being the eldest son, of course, what else do you think I mean?’

Zhan Zhao leaned in closer and whispered to Judge Pao, ‘Who do you think is the murderer?’

‘Oh, I’m not sure about that. For what we know now, it can be anyone.’ Judge Pao looked at Zhan Zhao and asked, ‘Can you go to the local pharmacy and investigate? See who had bought arsenic to poison Song.’

He nodded and hurried off, leaving everyone else in the room.

Two hours later, Zhan Zhao returned to the dining room, and he had bought an old woman with him. 'I've brought a guest.' Judge Pao noticed Yi turned and dropped the goblet he was holding once he saw her. The woman saw him too and she looked scared. Even the maid looked appalled.

'She bought arsenic two days ago, and the only person besides her who bought it since last week was Jian,' Zhan Zhao informed Judge Pao.

Judge Pao asked Yi and the maid if they know the old woman. A went speechless and looked everywhere but into the eyes of Judge Pao. 'I met you twenty years ago. The night you gave your son to Master Song,' the maid addressed the woman, and turned to Yi.

'Why were you buying arsenic?' Judge Pao asked the woman. He could see Yi shaking his head frantically. He had already given himself away.

The old woman took a deep breath and said softly, 'Yi is my son, but I didn't have the ability to raise him. We were separated after sending him away. Anyways, we keep in contact, and Yi consistently seeks for my help. Last week, he told me to secretly buy arsenic for him, but I never thought he would do this.'

Yi stared at his mother in disbelief. However, he looked calm – even murderous – instead of fearful. 'Of course, I have underestimated your skills, Judge Pao. Very well, if you want the truth, here it is.' He looked angry for a second and continued, 'Song adopted me, which means I am not his blood-related son, that I couldn't receive his inheritance. I must kill him so that nobody will find out the truth, and as the eldest, I will get to inherit all his property. By using arsenic, I can blame it on Jian.'

Before anyone else could move, Zhan Zhao grabbed Yi to prevent him from escaping, and took him to the courthouse.

Judge Pao solved another case, and this, along with all the other ones he had solved before, will be heard by everyone through all generations.

Judge Pao Outsmarts the Murderer

Kowloon Rhenish School, Tse, Man Chun – 11

Two men were riding a carriage to Kaifeng City. Suddenly, their horse stopped. They felt strange so they went down to see. When they went down, there was a noise. It was footsteps. They can hear that the footsteps were getting closer and closer.

In Judge Pai's court, Judge Pao and his subordinates were all in their position to judge the next case. Instead of adults, a child came in. 'What seems to be the problem?' asked Judge Pao. The child answered, 'Lord Pao, today when I was walking back home from the market, I saw two dead bodies lied on the ground. I think they got killed by someone with a knife when they were going to Kaifeng City to find you.' Judge Pao's advisor Mr. Gongsun said, 'This isn't an easy case. We need to go to the crime scene to look for details and clues.'

When they arrived at the crime scene, there was a lot of people gathering around. Judge Pao went up to see if there are any clues. After he examined the two corpses, he gasped in terror. His bodyguard Zhan Zhao asked, 'Lord Pao, what seems to be the problem?' 'Over twenty cut wounds were found on the corpses and these two are the people who I invited to our court for a case of human trafficking. Despite they are not a good person, they have the right to life. The murderer needs to be punished by the justice of law!' cried Judge Pao. 'Well then, we need to start looking for more details and clues to find out who is behind all of this!' said Mr. Gongsun.

After a while, one of Judge Pao's bodyguard Ma Han found something. He shouted, 'Everybody come here, I found some footprints which might lead us to the murderer. We just needed to follow them. Judge Pao ordered everybody to follow the footprints.

The footprints lead to an old and abandoned warehouse. Everybody walked inside. There was spiderwebs everywhere. It was horrible inside. They all thought how could someone live or hide in such a place.

They started to search the place. The warehouse was huge. They need to spend a lot of time to search the whole place.

After a few hours, they still couldn't find a single person. When they all thought it was hopeless, Mr. Gongsun saw a deep line on the ground. They took all the things off it. It was a hidden door. They opened it and saw a ladder. They climbed down it slowly.

Inside was huge. There was a giant goat statue in the middle. Their eyes were all caught on the statue that they didn't notice two eyes were spotting them at the back in the darkness.

Then, the two eyes disappeared into the darkness. There were some words on the wall. It was written by ink – 'I have been baking bread for years and years. I am so angry..... I needed to.....They need to pay the penalty.....' Some words were blurred. 'I think the person who wrote this might be an old baker.' said Mr. Gongsun. 'We need to find him quickly.' said Judge Pao.

According to the track of carriage, Zhan Zhan led Judge Pao and the fellows to trace the murderer. Finally, they reached a cave. Judge Pao shouted, 'Anybody here?' An old man walked out slowly and said in a deep voice, 'What bread would you like, Judge Pao?' Judge Pao asked, 'No, I just want to know have you been to an old warehouse?' After Judge Pao asked, the man started to become nervous and his whole body was sweaty. 'Uh.....No.' the man said nervously.

Suddenly, he took one of his bread knife out and wanted to kill Judge Pao. Luckily, Zhan Zhao stopped him. They started to fight. Zhan Zhao defeated and seized him easily. The man was escorted to Judge Pao's court.

In the court, the man knelt on the ground and faced to Judge Pao. He disclosed his name was – Hao Shang. Judge Pao asked him, ‘Any explanation at this moment?’ Then, Hao Shang began to tell his miserable story “Twenty years ago, I got married with a woman in Jing City. I worked as a baker and got rich. We had a child one day. My life was happy until the war started. That time, I was forty years old. One day, thousands soldiers charged into my village. My wife and son died in the war. After the war, I didn’t want to bake but two men said, ‘Nobody can take your job, you must do it for us!’ I asked, ‘Well then, Can you give me an assistant?’ The two men replied, ‘Sorry, all bakers died in the war.’ Afterward, the two men forced me to do with a sword. If I did not obeyed their order, they will kill me. Few months later, I found that the men sold my bread to the enemy for earning money, so I was extreme angry and got very mad. Then I started to train and built a hideout to get my revenge plan.”

After, Judge Pao heard Hao Shang’s story. He was very touched but also angry. He said, ‘Even your story is touching, you can’t just got revenge and kill anybody. They should be punished by law, not by you! Since you killed the gangsters, you must be sentenced to death. Wang Zhao and Ma Han, take out the Dog Guillotin!’

Wang Zhao and Ma Han took out the Dog Guillotine. Zhang Long and Zhao Hu put Hao Shang’s head under the chopper. At this time, Hao Shang closed his eyes and found his wife and child waving hands to him. Judge Pao threw out the execution sign and the Dog Guillotine shut down with a loud bang. The guards shouted, ‘Wei Wu.....’

The Justice Legend in China

Kowloon Rhenish School, Tse, Sheung Ching – 10

About 1000 years ago, every stormy night, the wicked people hid in the dark desperately because they were afraid that their crimes would be revealed and seen through by Bao Gong and executed. Evil people are fearful of Bao Gong, why? And who is Bao Gong? Bao Gong is a famous judge in the Northern Song Dynasty. His original name was Bao Zheng. Legend has it that he is an impartial judge. He hates crimes, corruption and injustice. During the day, he would send out his four famous arresters to visit unannounced to see through crimes and arrest criminals. At night, he transforms into the king of Yama in the supernatural world, goes to the supernatural world to enforce the law, and dispatches ghost messengers with a bull's head and a horse face to take away the souls of the wicked.

He is impartial and selfless, with a face as iron as ink to intimidate courtiers, and a pale moon hanging on his forehead, so he has the title of "Bao Gong". Bao Gong possesses the Shangfang's sword bestowed by the emperor and has the right to "cut first and play later," meaning he could rectify the law on the spot, without Emperor's order. Therefore, no matter the royal family, nobles, government officials, or even common people of ancient China, justice can be done, and it is true that "the prince breaks the law and commits the same crime as the common people".

He worked tirelessly and continuously brought justice to the people and won respect and appreciation of the imperial court and the people of the whole country.

We can read about Bao Guang's talent for solving crimes in books. But how to cultivate such an incorruptible character should start from his background. Let me share with you from a youngster's perspective: Bao Gong was born in a family with three brothers. He is the youngest son in the family. Bao Gong's mother had difficulty in labour and fell into a coma when she gave birth to him. At that time, his second brother and second sister-in-law were the only persons in the room. His second sister-in-law was vicious and didn't want the property of her husband's family to be divided among three people, so she lobbied her husband to throw Baogong in the forest. They lied to Baogong's mother that the baby was not alive when it was born and had to be thrown away. After Baogong's mother woke up, she was very sad when she heard about the death of her baby. Bao Gong's eldest brother loved his mother, so he went to the forest to look for Bao Gong's cadaver. He saw a tiger feeding Bao Gong with its milk so that Bao Gong could survive. Thus, he has been fostered in his elder brother's house until he was three years old before being returned to his mother's care.

Bao Gong's sister-in-law sent him to school. Bao Gong was very smart and talented, and his sister-in-law was very happy. The second sister-in-law, in contrast, was very scared because she was afraid that he would be retaliated against for framing him. So the second sister-in-law did everything possible to kill Bao Gong...

When Bao Gong was nine years old, he began to work as a shepherd boy herding sheep. Once it rained heavily, he led the sheep to hide in a ruined temple. Suddenly a woman entered the temple and asked to take her in. The kind-hearted Bao Gong took her in. The gentleman Bao Gong did not bully the girl, and the girl was grateful. It turned out that the girl was a monster, and she had been secretly protecting Bao Gong ever since. This let Bao Gong could escape from the second sister-in-law's frame.

When Baogong was 16 years old, he decided to take the exam in Beijing and enter the imperial court as an official. He and his attendant encountered bandits on the way and lost their funds and horses.

It happened that someone posted a notice in the market, imploring a capable person to heal a deranged woman and will be paid. In order to raise funds, Bao Gong had no choice but to bite the bullet and apply. Bao Gong observed the lady carefully, and it turned out that she was possessed by a ghost. Coincidentally, this female ghost was the monster that Baogong rescued back then. She promised Bao Gong not to pester the woman again. The woman's illness was cured by Bao Gong. Bao Gong was paid and had the funds to go to the examination venue. Bao Gong passed the examination and won a high official position in the imperial court.

The trials that Bao Gong experienced in his childhood trained him to be a humble person and willing to take on great responsibilities. This background trained Bao Gong to be brave, anti-corruptive and honest and pushed him to become a justice unselfishly. Eventually rendered he to be a famous judge in Chinese history.

Make a Right Choice

Kowloon Rhenish School, Tse, Tak Hang – 10

Judge Pao was an uncompromising judge. However, Judge Pao was not uncompromising in the very beginning. In his first year of being a judge, something happened changed his whole life.

It was a sunny day, when Judge Pao was eating lunch at home, someone knocked the door. Judge Pao opened the door and found his cousin was breathing like a cow. 'What happened? Why are you looking so worried?' Judge Pao asked. His cousin answered, 'A thief stole lots of money and clothes from my house!' There has already been no thieves in this village for ten years. Judge Pao thought his cousin lost his things so he told his cousin to find the lost items carefully.

Judge Pao found that it was not the case. His relatives also lost their money and clothes too. Even Judge Pao's things were stolen by the thief too! Judge Pao was furious. He decided to start the investigation. He searched for clues in his relatives' houses. He was determined to catch the thief.

Suddenly, he thought that he could ask his uncle to help. Judge Pao's uncle was his teacher and his mentor when he was young. His uncle taught him how to be a righteous man. Judge Pao and his uncle were so intimate, like father and son.

Judge Pao went to visit his uncle. While he was asking his uncle about the case, he suddenly found that all of his relatives' houses had been burgled except his uncle's. He asked his uncle, 'Uncle, do you have any ways to prevent the thief so the thief cannot steal things from your home?' His uncle replied, 'No, I do not have any.' Then his uncle went to make tea for him. Judge Pao started to look around. All of a sudden, he found some of his cousin's clothes in the wardrobe. His uncle looked suspicious. Was he the thief?

After thinking thoroughly, Judge Pao asked, 'Uncle, I found a lot of clues that makes me suspect that you are the thief. You taught me to be a righteous man. Can you help me relieve my doubt?' His uncle confessed that he was the thief. Judge Pao's uncle said sorry to all of his relatives and returned the things he had stolen. Everybody forgave him. Judge Pao learned a lesson – everyone sins and no one is perfect.

New Tales of Judge Pao

Kowloon Rhenish School, Wang, Sze Hang – 11

The famous Judge Pao was on a trip to Hong Kong. He visited a lot of beautiful scenic spots and had a good time in Hong Kong.

He received a stranger's call while he was relaxing in Repulse Bay. The call was from Mr. Lee who was the richest person in Hong Kong. He told Judge Pao that someone stole a diamond ring in his bedroom last night. The diamond ring was given to him by his late mother so it was very meaningful to him. Mr. Lee suspected that one of his servants was the thief because all the gates and windows were locked properly last night. Mr. Lee was very sad that he hoped Judge Pao could help him to find out the thief.

Judge Pao hurried to Mr. Lee's house immediately. It was a three-storey building with a big garden. After greeting Judge Pao, Mr. Lee took him to his bedroom where the diamond ring was stolen.

Mr. Lee's bedroom was big with a magnificent seaview. When Judge Pao entered the bedroom, he saw someone had written something on the wall. Judge Pao could not see the words clearly until he raised his head on tiptoe. To his surprise, someone had written 'you deserve it' in red on the wall. Judge Pao looked around and thought for a while. Then, something on the floor caught his eyes. Judge Pao knelt down and picked up a short golden hair on the floor. He looked at it carefully and put it in a plastic bag. Suddenly, Judge Pao smelt a floral scent in the bedroom. It was fresh and pleasant. Judge Pao sniffed his nose and thought for a while. Afterwards, he asked all the servants to gather in Mr. Lee's bedroom.

Mr. Lee introduced all servants and their job duties one by one to Judge Pao. The servants looked nervous because they did not know what was going to happen. Unexpectedly, Judge Pao pointed at Peter, the servant who worked in the laundry room. 'You are the thief,' Judge Pao said firmly. Peter shook his head and exclaimed loudly that he did not steal anything.

Judge Pao explained, 'First, the thief who wrote the words on the wall is about 1.8m tall because I am 1.7m tall and I cannot see the words until I tiptoed and raised my head. Second, I found a gold short hair on the floor. The hair may come from the thief. Lastly, there is some floral scent in the bedroom. The scent is coming from the washing powder. Peter, you are 1.8m tall and your hair is short and gold. You are working in the laundry room. You are the thief!'

With no choice, Peter admitted that he has stolen the diamond ring in Mr. Lee's bedroom. He wanted to sell it and get a lot of money. A moment later, the police arrived and took Peter to the police station. Mr. Lee thanked Judge Pao for helping him and Judge Pao was pleased that he could help Mr. Lee. After that, he continued his wonderful trip in Hong Kong.

My Hero – Judge Pao

Lung Kong World Federation School Wong Yiu Nam Primary School, Chan, Olivia – 12

What's the first thing that comes to mind when you think of the word "hero"? Perhaps someone that has superpowers? Like the ability to fly, climb walls or even move things with their minds? But do you know that not all people need superpowers to be heroes, for example, doctors, policemen or firemen. But my hero is Judge Pao. Judge Pao was a crusading figure with a passion to fight crime. Some people even said that he was one with justice, no matter how hard or time-consuming it has to solve the crimes he always got the job done. His life story is also very inspiring. In case you have never heard of his story, I'll tell you.

Years ago, Pao was just a little boy, he lived with his parents and his elder brother Andy. Pao and his family lived in a town where everyone was rich. However, Pao's father lost his job a few days ago so they became very poor, Pao and his family had to sell their house and were forced to live in a small hut because they couldn't afford the rent. Owing to their poverty, Pao and Andy often got bullied by the other rich kids. One day Pao and his mother went to the lake to catch some fish, there was usually very few people because all the rich people hated the smell of the lake and didn't want to get their clothes wet. All of a sudden, a boy jumped out from behind a tree. The boy was called Leo who was from the richest family in the town. Leo started to mock Pao's poverty. Pao's mother saw that and she got angry. She started to rebuke Leo for being rude. But Leo felt vexed and was in terrible rage. He grabbed a rock from the ground and threw it at Pao's mother. The rock hit her forehead. Pao's mother fell onto the ground, she was still alive but knocked unconscious.

Pao stood there in a great shock and his tears were pouring out of his eyes. When Leo realized what he did, he ran away. Pao ran back to his house and told his family what happened. They all ran to the lake but by the time they got there, it was too late. Pao's mother had died. Pao's father sued Leo and his family. But the judges and lawyers were very unfair, all they cared about was money but not about justice. Before the trial, Leo's family gave the judge a huge sum of money, so the judge ended the trial. Pao was full of sorrow. Therefore, he vowed that he wanted to be a judge and help the disadvantaged groups in the society. Pao studied hard to become a judge and he never gave up. A few years later, Pao achieved his main goal, he became a judge. He helped many people and because of his persistence of justice, judges and lawyers changed their minds and they all did things fairly.

I am going to tell you a story of Judge Pao. He was in court representing a man called Max. Max's sister Rosey got poisoned by her husband John. So Max sued John. The trial started and John told his story first, he said that Rosey had cancer and she died in her sleep. But Max didn't believe him. He said that for someone whose wife just died John didn't seem to be sad. Furthermore, Max knew Rosey didn't have cancer and John didn't tell the truth. The trial went on for four weeks and in the end John was found not guilty. Everyone thought that it was all over but Max still believed that John was lying and so did Pao. So Pao started to investigate, he wanted to know more so he went to Rosey's grave and dug her coffin up even though he knew it was illegal he did it anyway.

When Pao opened the coffin he was shocked, Rosey's body was still perfectly intact, it hadn't even rot. Pao cut some of Rosey's hair and then he put the cover on the coffin and buried it. When Pao got home he did some tests on Rosey's DNA and he found out that Rosey had been poisoned, the type of poison was from a flower called Death's Tears. Death's Tears can kill people but reserve their body so they don't rot and decompose. But Pao needed more evidence so he broke into John's house to find more evidence, John was out that time. Pao went into the bedroom and found a red glowing liquid in a bottle, he knew it was the poison so he took it. Pao showed all the evidence to the judge and even though it was illegal the judge didn't put him in jail. John admitted that he did indeed poison Rosey because he wanted her money. In the end John was sent to jail and the judge was so impressed that he said if he died, Pao would be the new judge.

Judge Pao's Dilemma

Lung Kong World Federation School Wong Yiu Nam Primary School, Chan, Tsz Yau Soey – 10

In the year 2023, Judge Pao is reborn but he has the exact same memories as he did in his original life. He is still working as a judge. He finds himself bothered by the case that he has been working for 3 years.

Sean killed his wife Mia out of money, the problem is that Sean killed Mia at a dark alleyway at three in the morning and he used his knife to break the security camera, so there won't be any visible evidence for his crime. Mia's mom, Ana, saw that her daughter was killed, so she sued Sean.

Two weeks before the trial, Sean contacted his friend Tom, who is the best lawyer he knew. Meanwhile, Mia's mom, Ana, still hasn't found a good lawyer yet.

At the lawyer's office, Sean told the entire story to Tom. "This evil woman hasn't paid her own rent for 2 years! The rent is always paid by me, even if she had enough money, she would make up some absurd reason to avoid paying it! I am sick and tired of her antics, and it was time for her to pay for her sins. So please, help me win this case!" After hearing the story, Tom said, "Alright. I will try my best."

On the day before the trial, Ana had no choice but to call her best friend Steve to be her attorney. They have met a lot of times before.

On the day of the trial, Ana unfortunately overslept and was racing to the court to hopefully not be too late for the trial. But when she arrived there, the judge wasn't there yet, so she vented out a sigh of relief. What happened was that Pao ate too much the day before and he had to go to the clinic to see the doctor.

When Pao arrived to the court, he was shocked to see Steve there. As it turned out, Steve is Judge Pao's little brother. When the trial began, Pao told Steve to begin his case first. When Tom heard his case, he was exasperated. "This isn't the truth! You! Liar!" Even though Tom is in disbelief, he defended Sean to the best of his abilities.

When the trial ended, Sean was sentenced to 10 years in jail and needed to pay a fine of \$1,000,000. But out of the expected, just 5 hours after the case was closed, Tom decided to sue Sean for giving out fake information on his case! Judge Pao saw this and sighed. "Oh heavens! Another one on this killer? What is he doing here? Has he lost his mind?"

The second trial began. All evidence was against him. Sean's winning rate for this trial was zero. Tom began his case with the sole purpose of making Sean be ashamed of his crimes. When Sean started his case, he told his final entire story.

Mia was a bad person altogether and she had done many evil things that made Sean want to commit suicide, but he chose not to because he did not want to make Ana unhappy. In Sean's words, Mia looked more like a psychopath than a victim. He didn't want to slander Mia even more during the first case, so he decided to just stay on the "Rent Escaping" story. He did the killing, but it was for his own good. He didn't want to go insane and decided to just finish Mia off instead.

After hearing this in the court, Judge Pao had a dilemma. "Should I lessen his crimes, or should I keep it the same? I mean, he killed someone, but it was for his own good! Hmm... Let me think..."

After 10 minutes, Judge Pao slammed the hammer and announced, "The court finds the defendant guilty of perjury and murder of the first degree. The defendant shall be sentenced to 15 years in jail assess no fine."

Two years later, Judge Pao decided to visit Sean. In his visit, Pao told Sean, "Look, I am just a judge. I know your hard story but murder is murder. Two days after your parole, we meet at the cafe of this street, alright?" "Ok," replied Sean.

Two days after Sean's parole, he decided to meet Pao, as he promised. The two had a fun talk and they became best friends.

Judge Pao is still one of the impartial judges in town!

Judge Pao – the Superhero

Lung Kong World Federation School Wong Yiu Nam Primary School, Chan, Yu Hin Vincent – 11

Once upon a time, there was a group of friends who thought that they were Superhero. They called themselves Judge Pao, Spiderman and Batman. No one knew why they named themselves after the characters of some popular movies, people always saw that group of ‘Superheroes’ gathered in the park beside the riverbank almost every day.

One fine afternoon, the group of Superheroes were talking and walking as usual. A little girl was playing on the slide with her brother. Laughter was heard from the children. Everybody could agree that they were having a good time. The group of Superheroes thought the same. ‘Today will be a good fine day,’ said Spiderman.

Suddenly, a tall thin man ran out of the bushes beside the children. He approached the little girl and grabbed her arm. Then some other men appeared. They tried to kidnapped the girl. The Superheroes saw what had happened and rushed to save the girl.

One by one, the Superheroes used their Superpower.....

Batman called his bats to help but they were asleep during the day. Spiderman released his spider web to catch the bad guys but he missed.

What could Judge Pao do???

Judge Pao put his forefinger on his forehead. He touched the moon-shaped scar and a bunch of lightning was released and aimed at the gang of bad guys. All the kidnappers were shocked and fainted and dropped their knees on the ground. Batman and Spiderman ran to the little children. They were all very happy to have saved the girl.

Then the people knew why they called themselves ‘Superheroes’.

When Judge Pao Met Detective Conan

Lung Kong World Federation School Wong Yiu Nam Primary School, Chan, Zhang Katherine – 11

The day began again as usual and Judge Pao started taking on a new case. Today's case is very special and surprising. As always, Judge Pao was unbiased and decided to approach this case with kindness.

Two gang leaders from Japan were involved in this case. Dylan Johnson was murdered one night in a small town. The other leader, Aaron McCarthy, denied killing Dylan Johnson.

On the day of the trial, everything was going well but suddenly, a lad in glasses broke into the court. Just as Judge Pao was about to ask the security to escort him out, the defendant's lawyer said that he was the detective they hired. He was the well-known detective – Detective Conan. Conan said confidently, 'The murderer was not Aaron but the lady in red over there – Mr Johnson's secretary'. Everyone in the court was shocked. Conan added, 'If my logic is correct, this secretary killed Mr Johnson with a vase. What else can you say, Miss Secretary aka Ann Robinson?' Everyone held their breath, waiting for Ann to speak.

Soon, the secretary broke the silence and scoffed, 'You're famous for a reason, Conan. I'll admit that I'm the one who did it.' Judge Pao was truly amazed by Conan's talent in unfolding the truth. All of a sudden, Ann began to sob. From his years of experience, Judge Pao was able to sense that something has yet to be unveiled about this lady. So off he started, 'Ann, are you more than a secretary of Mr Johnson? What's your relationship with Mr Johnson?' Ann could not believe what she just heard and she was in a trance.

'Judge Pao, I really cannot hide anything in front of you. You're right. Mr Johnson is my d... dad!' Everyone in the court was all dumbfounded but soon Ann continued, 'I killed him because I hated him. Many years ago, he divorced my mum and abandoned us just because he had an affair. My mum was so sad that she died when I was nine. I was all alone and all those years I had been begging on the street. I was hungry and nearly died one winter. Luckily, I was saved by a kind beggar. Since then, I vowed that I will kill him one day.' After hearing this, everyone in court sympathised with Ann. She added, 'To make this day real, I had my name changed to hide my real identity. I applied for his secretary and not long I earned his trust.' Judge Pao interrupted, 'So how did you kill Mr Johnson?' Ann replied, 'As Conan said, I killed my dad with the vase. I lurked into his office and smashed his head with the vase. He screamed the second before I smashed him. After I smashed him, he collapsed and died.' Judge Pao criticized, 'However, the coroner already verified that Mr Johnson's death was not due to the pounding on his head, but the deep cut on his neck. In other words, you're not the murderer.'

After Judge Pao's analysis, Ann's face was distorted and she stuttered, 'Then... who... who killed him?' Conan snapped the chance to make a speech, 'He was killed when someone slit him with a vase fragment after you left the scene. That smart person even tried to pin the blame on Aaron as he knew well that Aaron and Dylan did not get along. He got Aaron to touch a fragment and later place it at the scene. One can tell that the size of the cut on Dylan's neck doesn't match the size of the vase fragment presented in the court because the actual one was already taken away by the murderer. I believe that the murderer is among the spectators as he must want to know so badly that whether Ann will be sentenced to death.' Everybody was shocked. They all turned to the spectators and suddenly, a man with a mask was trying to flee. However, Judge Pao's best bodyguard, Guard Zhan was swift enough to stop him and in his pocket, a bloodstained vase fragment was discovered. Ann witnessed all this and screeched, 'Why did you have to do it, George? You're my most beloved one as you've looked over my shoulder for years when I worked for my dad. I should've been the murderer and be sentenced. Why?' George responded sentimentally, 'Because I also hated him! He had been abusing me ever since I started worked for him. He made me work long hours and sulked at me by throwing things at me. I'm poor and uneducated. I know I can't find any jobs elsewhere. However, I have my family to take care of. So, that day when you left the scene, I saw that Mr Johnson was still crawling, trying to reach the phone. So I... I... gave him that critical blow!' Judge Pao concluded, 'Now everything is clear. George, you should not take away the lives of others. You will pay for what you have done. I declare Aaron McCarthy innocent. However, Miss Robinson or I should say

Miss Johnson, do you know that you were wrong?’ Ann bawled, ‘Yes. In fact, why I didn’t kill him was because when I was hitting him, I could remember the kind father he was. I was really afraid but the vase already landed on his head. I was afraid so I ran away.’ Judge Pao heard her explanation and said, ‘I can tell that you also did not kill your father intentionally in the last minute. Although you can be exempt from your death sentence, you should serve twenty years.’ At last, Ann was sentenced to prison to pay the price for her actions. Everyone in the court cheered. They cheered for Detective Conan and Judge Pao for settling a complicated case. From that day onward, Detective Conan and Judge Pao had been the best partners and tackled many more intractable cases.

A New Tale of Judge Pao

Lung Kong World Federation School Wong Yiu Nam Primary School, Kokhar, Rubab Ayesha – 14

One day Judge Pao was planning on calling his friends to spend the night at the beach looking at the bioluminescent algae and inspecting this odd phenomenon. He first called Ivan and then Paul. They had met when they were young, one day while he was playing in the garden, and he fell down the well. He tried to call for help by using his weird looking hat to get some wi-fi, but his iPhone had died. He screamed for help, but nobody came. He was very scared because there was a creepy frog next to him, in the dark, just staring at him. Luckily Ivan and Paul saved him after hearing the noise coming from the well. That's how they became friends. After Judge Pao called his friends, they decided to meet that night at 1 a.m. The best time to watch the nocturnal light show!

Judge Pao got there early, so he waited. When Ivan and Paul came, they talked for a while waiting for the lights to appear but were interrupted when an alien came out of nowhere and took them away. After an hour or so of flying aimlessly in the alien's saucer, the alien lost interest and dropped them down somewhere they had never seen before, and they didn't know how to get back home on their own.

They were all very scared until someone found them. This young man told them his name was Larry Potter and that he was running away from a dark wizard who was chasing after him. Larry was planning to use his magic to bring Judge Pao and his friends back home, but when he tried to use the spell, he realized his wand had broken during his fight with the dark wizard. He had to get it fixed, but they were too far away from the repair shop, so they all had to walk there.

Unexpectedly the dark wizard came out of nowhere and started chasing them. While they were running, he tripped and broke his leg. He was sobbing unconsolably like a little baby. Larry could not care less and kept running along Judge Pao and his friends until they reached the shop.

Once in the shop, they were able to fix his wand easily. Larry took Judge Pao and his friends home. They were all very grateful for Larry's help. In the end, Judge Pao and his friends went back to the beach, but by then it was 6 a.m. already and they had missed the algae, so they decided to go back home. Everybody was delighted with the experience though, except for the dark wizard who had to rest in bed for two months for his broken leg to heal.

The Great Judge, Mr. Pao

Lung Kong World Federation School Wong Yiu Nam Primary School, Kwong, Yu Yui Yannie – 9

The King sent Captain Tom to Lucky Beach with a treasure map, but when the crew returned with the treasure chest, it was empty! Who stole the treasure? It's up to the King to investigate suspicious persons, including: the mate; the cook; the sailor; a worker and Captain Tom.

The King assigned Mr. Pao to investigate the case of the lost treasure. Mr. Pao looked closely at where the treasure would have been, but the sand on the island was wet and squelchy. He thought for a while and believed that the sea had swept the treasure away.

All of a sudden, Mr. Pao jumped up to his feet as he had an idea. Years ago while on his travel to Lucky Beach, he saw a submarine. He decided to get the submarine and found the treasure. Mr. Pao brought a team of detectives to the sinking submarine and started to search inside. They opened the door of submarine with the special key he found inside. Mr. Pao was amazed as he looked through the porthole, he could see only thousands of different colourful seaweed dancing and a range of sea creatures rushing around him. He had no idea of where the treasure could be.

After some time, Mr. Pao saw a shark swimming towards him, he quickly put on his diving essentials and swam out to the sharks. He approached the sharks cautiously but soon realized it was very friendly when it saw him.

The shark gave Mr. Pao a big welcome and opened its mouth. 'You are looking for the treasure?' it asked. Guess what! Just when the shark finished asking the question, something strange slid from the teeth of the shark down to its throat. Mr Pao saw the sparkling treasure and darted like lightening down to the bottom to grab it. Mr. Pao got back the treasure at last.

The shark sympathetically explained that he didn't realize that it was the treasure and swallowed it accidentally. However, Mr. Pao didn't blame the shark but kissed the shark. Then the shark went away.

Mr. Pao got straight back into the submarine and popped up out of the sea. Immediately, he informed the King about the good news. Mr. Pao had just returned to Lucky Beach with a chest full of treasure. The King promised to reward Mr. Pao greatly for finding the treasure! Mr. Pao was promoted to the Chief Judge on the Island.

The King got the treasure and felt fantastic. He held a party for Mr. Pao, the cook; the sailor; a worker and Captain Tom who were not being suspicious anymore. Everybody danced and ate cakes. They all had a good time!

Modern Sherlock – Judge Pao

Lung Kong World Federation School Wong Yiu Nam Primary School, Lam, Chung Yat – 10

Once upon a time, there was a hero called Judge Pao. He is as smart as Sherlock Holmes and he really existed.

One day, a citizen, Mr Wong came to Judge Pao's office. He wanted Judge Pao to help him. "Judge Pao, I need your help! My money has been stolen!" he said. "What? Someone stole your money?" Tony, the helper of Judge Pao said, "You don't need to be afraid. Judge Pao will help you." "Who called me?" Judge Pao asked. Mr Wong told the details to Judge Pao. At that time, Judge Pao has a fantastic idea to help Mr Wong.

The next day, Judge Pao and Tony put a lot of money in Mr Wong's house. "Don't worry, I will know who the thief is tonight." Judge Pao said, "You need to trust him because he is the most famous hero in China." Tony said to Mr Wong.

At that night, the thief came to Mr Wong's house because he wanted to steal the money. When the thief took the money, Judge Pao and Tony caught him. Also, the police arrived. They caught him to the police station. "I know you will take the money," Judge Pao said to the thief. "Thank you, Judge Pao." Mr Wong said.

This is the new tale of Judge Pao.

The Case of the Bank Robbery

Lung Kong World Federation School Wong Yiu Nam Primary School, Leung, Ho Ching Hoson – 10

Pao Zheng was a Chinese politician in China's Song Dynasty. He was also known as Pao Qingtian. In 1029, Pao Qingtian was thirty years old. One day, he saw a strange object that had a lot of buttons so he went to check it. He accidentally touched something. Then he was teleported to somewhere at an unknown time and place.

Pao Qingtian saw a lot of high rise buildings. He went to the building and asked someone in Chinese, 'What is this place? What time is it?' A man answered in Chinese, 'It's 2022 and we're in Hong Kong. And who are you?' Pao Qingtian replied, 'I'm Pao Qingtian. You can call me Pao.'

'Ok, Mr. Pao. Why are you wearing weird clothes?' asked the man.

'Because I was a detective in 1029,' said Pao.

'Oh, you were a detective at that time. What cases do you look into?' the man said.

'Robberies and theft.' replied Pao.

'Can you help us? I'm a detective too. My name is Anson and I need someone to help,' said Anson.

'Ok. Tell me the details,' Pao said.

After telling Pao the details, Pao said, 'Ok. Take me to the bank.' When they arrived at the bank, Pao asked Anson to show him the CCTV footage.

'I see... he dropped a gem. We could use it to identify one of the thieves. And they went to westward. I think they are going to sail away in a week so we need to be fast,' said Pao.

'Where do we start then?' asked Anson.

'We will give the fingerprint to the police. Then we will go to nearby security cameras to see where the thieves went,' Pao replied.

The next day, they discussed the case in the police station continuously.

'Alright. I've got the report. The finger print of that person is identified as a male,' Pao said.

'Ouch!' Anson screamed.

'Are you okay?' Pao asked.

'I'm okay. I tripped over something,' said Anson.

'Did you tripped over this?' Pao asked.

'Yes, I tripped over this. Wait a minute, Is that an ID card, isn't it?' said Anson. 'Yes, this will be useful for catching the thieves, the ID name is Zeng Zuiwei. He is 36 years old from Hong Kong,' said Pao. 'Ok. So we know the identity of one of the thieves... Well, see you tomorrow.' said Pao.

After that, Pao and Anson met again.

'Ok, we got a bad news and a good news,' Pao said.

'Tell me the good news first,' Anson said.

'The good news is we got some suspects. The bad news is our spy heard the thieves talking. They said they will leave at a harbor in Sai Kung tomorrow so we need to act fast,' Pao said.

‘Okay. I will go to interrogate them’ Anson said.

After interrogating them, Anson was anxious. ‘How is it?’ Pao asked.

‘I can’t tell which one is lying?’ he said.

‘What did you asked them?’ asked Pao.

‘I asked all of them whether they have been to there at the time of the robbery. Three of them said that they saw the scene. Two of them said they didn’t go there at that time,’ answered Anson.

‘Umm... I think the two people who emphasized they haven’t been there are lying because I told the police to ask all the people who saw the robbery. The two men must be there,’ Pao said.

‘Then how can we catch the last thief?’ Anosn asked.

‘We will camp that harbour. When he comes, we’ll catch the last thief and the case will be solved.’ said Pao.

The next day, they sat comfortably in the police station.

‘We’ve finally caught those thieves. Thank you so much for helping me solve this case. You’ll be given a reward,’ Anson said.

‘I don’t want anything. I’m just here to help,’ Pao said.

Suddenly someone came in. ‘Who are you?’ Anson asked.

‘I’m a time traveller. I’m here to pick up Pao Qingtian back to year 1029.’ the stranger said.

‘Bye, Mr. Pao. I’m so lucky to meet you,’ Anson said.

‘Bye. I’m looking forwards to seeing you again,’ Pao said.

Finally, Pao Qingtian was sent back to the year 1029 by the time machine.

Judge Pao's sincere friend

Lung Kong World Federation School Wong Yiu Nam Primary School, Mak, Cheuk Lam Keith – 11

Judge Pao was known for his honesty and uprightness. Some believed that he was sent from the God and had the ability to communicate with animals. Here is what the myth goes...

When Judge Pao was a little kid, he liked wandering in the garden and enjoyed the fresh air. One day, just when he was walking along the river bank, he heard a man crying for help. 'Help! Help! A Tiger! A Tiger!' Without any thought, Pao rushed to the forest.

Pao followed the direction of the sound and walked deep into the forest. Then he saw a young man running towards him. What made Pao scared was that a big animal with stripes of yellow and black on its coat was chasing that young man. Pao shouted with his bass-baritoned voice, 'Stoooooop!' Just like a spell was casted on that animal, it stopped right in front of Pao. It was a huge strong tiger. The tiger stared angrily at the young man who hid behind Pao. 'Go away, stay away from us,' said Pao softly to the tiger. The tiger took his stare off from the young man and looked Pao into his eyes. It blew a sigh and left.

It turned out that the young man was a cruel wicked prince. He was trying to drown one of the tiger's cubs when their mother was away looking for food. The tiger came back and wanted to cast the prince away. The prince was so bad that he aimed his gun to the tiger. The tiger was not scared and roared at the prince. The prince was so frightened that he dropped the gun and ran.

Days after the incident, some guards charged into Pao's house and arrested him. 'Why?' asked Pao. 'Our prince's precious gun was missing after seeing you in the forest. You must be the greedy thief!' said the guards.

The guards brought Pao into the jail. Nobody could help him because all the people were afraid of the wicked prince. Pao did not fear because he knew he did not do anything wrong. He wanted to find out the truth. However, no one could help him get out of the jail.

Then came a scary uproar and chaos from the entrance. There were shouts and screams. Pao looked out of the chamber and saw a big familiar figure approaching him. 'The Tiger!' Pao thought. In the mouth of the tiger, there was something weird.....

The tiger stopped right in front of Pao's chamber. It opened its jaw and the weird thing in its mouth dropped onto the ground. 'The prince's gun!' shouted Pao. He grabbed the gun and looked at it. On its handle, a name was engraved. That was the name of the prince. 'Oh, dear tiger. You bring me the prince's gun. He must have lost it in the forest. Thank you. Thank you so much!'

Then the tiger broke the lock of the chamber and brought Pao to the king. Pao showed the gun to the king. They found out that the prince made up a story. He put the blame on Pao when he knew that he had lost his gun in the forest.

The king was angry because the prince told lies. He punished the prince and sent him to jail for three months. The king released Pao from jail and praised the tiger for saving Pao.

Pao was very happy. He had made a sincere friend. He walked with the tiger out of the palace and to the forest. He kissed his good friend and thanked for its help.

My First Encounter with Judge Pao

Lung Kong World Federation School Wong Yiu Nam Primary School, Wong, Dominic Man Fan – 9

My best friend Emma and I went to see the latest movie at the cinema yesterday. By the time the film finished, it was already late at night. Emma waved me goodbye after she got on the bus. I walked alone on the dark street. Under the moonlight, a small beam of light in the grass caught my eye. I walked on the grass, looking for the illuminant. A diamond necklace glittered. At that moment, a wicked thought flashed through my mind. I gazed around, then picked it up swiftly. All of a sudden, the diamond shined with a blinding light. 'My eyes! My eyes hurt!' I yelled. A fit of dizziness came over me and dragged me into a vortex. A thrilling adventure began.

'Wake up, Huang! You always slack off!' a servant shouted and shook me roughly. I opened half of my eyes. 'Huang? Me? Where am I?' I was baffled. The servant cursed me while sweeping away the fallen leaves in the courtyard. 'Go to clean Master Yang's study room now. Don't skive off!' he ordered. I took the rag from the table, confusedly and resignedly.

After a hard day of work, the sky was getting dark. I was resting on the bench when suddenly I heard a scream from the house. 'The luminous pearl bestowed by the emperor is missing! There is only the bowl used for placing the pearl left.' Master Yang screamed in a panic. He gathered everyone in the main hall and asked, 'Who stole my pearl?' No one dared to talk. A long silence was broken at last by a shaky little voice. The servant who woke me up said, 'Master Yang, only Huang entered your room today.' All the servants concurred with what he said. Master Yang thumped the table angrily. He ordered the servants to catch me and send me to jail. 'I didn't do it! I'm innocent! Please believe me!' I cried in a tearful voice and kept struggling.

'Wei... Wu...' the guards in the courtroom were calling in a low, drawn-out voice while repeatedly knocking the heavy wooden rods on the ground. 'Bring the plaintiff, defendant, and the witness to court.' a black-faced judge with a crescent moon on his forehead read out. I stammered, 'Judge... Pao?' Then, we told him everything that had happened.

After hearing everyone's testimony, Judge Pao asked the guards to present the exhibit in court. He asked Master Yang, 'The emperor bestowed the luminous pearl on you, together with this bowl. Is that right?' Master Yang nodded. Judge Pao continued, 'I think you must have forgotten something. The bowl is a magical artifact. It can keep the pearl shiny and protect it from being stolen. If someone tries to steal the pearl, his eyes will turn green in the dark after touching the bowl.' After that, Judge Pao ordered the guard to blow out all the candles. Everyone on the court took turns touching the bowl. However, nothing happened. Judge Pao ordered the guard to light the candles and then glanced at everyone's hands. Suddenly, he pointed at a servant and scolded, 'You're the one who stole the pearl!' The guards arrested him immediately.

'Not me! I know nothing about this.' the arrested servant played innocent and cried. Judge Pao berated, 'Your hands are the evidence. There is no way you can deny it.' The servant took a look at his hands and the others. Everyone has dirty hands except him. 'I painted some ink on the bowl beforehand. Whoever touches the bowl will be stained. You were afraid to touch the bowl because of the guilty conscience of stealing the treasure.' Judge Pao explicated. The servant could not give any reasonable excuse and hung his head in shame. 'Now you are sentenced to 50-stroke canings and two years of imprisonment,' Judge Pao pronounced. When the rod hit the servant on his butt, he screamed in agony. The sharp cry of distress made me scared, and I fainted.

'Hey, kid! Are you okay?' the police woke me up and asked. I opened half of my eyes and spoke in a weak voice, 'Ye... s...', then showed him the diamond necklace, 'Someone has lost this.'

Bao Qingtian

Lung Kong World Federation School Wong Yiu Nam Primary School, Yang, Ka Fan – 11

In the Song Dynasty, there was an officer named 'Bao Qingtian'. He was known by his impartiality, kindness and fearlessness.

One day, a man was taken to the Yamen because he stole money from a shop. Bao sent him into the prison. A few days later, the man started to think about escaping from the prison. Very soon, he met another prisoner who had the same thought and suggested uniting with other prisoners to escape. Consequently, they teamed up with other prisoners secretly and decided to call themselves as 'Prison Uprising'.

At one night, everything was ready. Prison Uprising caused a riot and escaped from the prison. The king and Bao were very angry. The king wanted to send soldiers to capture them. Bao, however, disagreed. 'I don't think it is a good idea to do that. We can send a scout first,' he said. A scout was then sent to Prison Uprising's base. After the scout was back, he told the king and Bao that Prison Uprising wanted to kill them. Bao suggested immediately, 'Let's ambush them when they attack!' The king thought for a while and then he agreed. 'When will they attack?' asked the king. 'Two days later.' Replied the scout.

On the day of the attack, the king had arranged a large number of soldiers hiding at the back of the castle to capture Prison Uprising. 'It is the Prison Uprising!' shouted the scout. The hidden soldiers popped out and ambushed them. In the end, all members of Prison Uprising at the castle were captured and sent to Yamen. Bao sent them back to prison.

'Uhhh, finally I can go home now!' Bao said. On his way home, he found a kid who lost his money. 'I was sleeping on the ground. Then after I wake up, I found that I lost my wallet,' said the kid. He said he earned the money by selling wheat. 'The thief is hateful!' thought Bao. Suddenly, he saw a person behaving strangely. Once the person noticed that Bao was looking at him, he ran off quickly. Bao chased him immediately. Eventually, Bao caught him and returned the money to the kid.

Bao was back to his home, but he found out his home was a mess. After a few seconds, he realized that his house was getting robbed by someone. While looking for things missing, he found a mysterious sign, which looked like a sun, on the wall behind the bookshelf. Through looking at other stealing cases, he also found the same sign. 'So, it should be the same person,' thought Bao. Then he ran a deeper investigation on the cases.

Soon, Bao managed to find out who did the robbing and stealing though to his surprise that the offender was a woman. Bao ambushed and arrested the woman quickly. He brought her to Yamen for trial. She then was sent to prison, and Bao got his things back.

One day, Bao got another case which was about a man being murdered. Bao needed to do some research on who murdered the man. After some investigations, Bao found out who murdered the man and brought the murderer to Yamen and executed him.

The next day, Bao was walking on the street with two bodyguards. They were talking about the rest of the Prison Uprising members. Suddenly, they saw a man in a jacket which had a picture of a skeleton head. It was obviously the uniform of Prison Uprising. 'Speak of the devil!' said the bodyguards excitedly. They quickly captured the man and brought him for trial. The man did not say anything at first, but after knowing the consequences, he finally told Bao everything about Prison Uprising including its new secret bases. Then Bao deployed thousands of soldiers to capture the rest of the Prison Uprising members. Lastly, they all got sent into prison.

Soon, natural disasters appeared. People were starved to death by flood. An officer did not want people to suffer like that. So he opened a shed which stored tons of rice inside to help the people. However, it was illegal to do so because the rice was reserved only for wars. So later, he got sent to Yamen. He explained the reason and even said he was fearless of execution if he could save people from death. Once Bao heard that, he acquitted the man without hesitation.

Bao Qingtian is an impartial, kind and fearless person. Therefore, his stories have been spreading among various places and people. His name shall be remembered for eternity.

Judge Pao and the Stolen Bronze Coins

Mui Wo School, Esmejarda Salonga, Nathan Saen – 10

It was a hot, sunny day in Bian, a small Chinese city long time ago. Mr Sum and his wife, Mrs Sum were going to sell their goods and pay their taxes at the local market. Mr Sum was not happy. Every year they had to pay a lot of money to the Emperor Renzong. They had to save hard all year. Their money was on a string. It was seven bronze coins with a hole inside. Mr Sum and Mrs Sum were not wealthy. They worked hard on their farm every day and sold crops and rice to earn two bronze coins a month.

That day, Mr and Mrs Sum sold their crops and were queueing up to pay the taxes to the Emperor's official sitting on the mat in the middle of the market. He was surrounded by soldiers looking grimly at the people gathering around. Suddenly, a man called Mr Kim, who was very rich, came up and stroke a conversation. 'Hi Mr and Mrs Sum. What a lovely day! How are you today? He gently came closer to Mr Sum and gave him a big hug. Mr Sum got stiff. He was never close to that neighbour. Why is he suddenly giving him hugs?

He felt a warm fat hand on his poor linen robe, just for a second but it was too quick to tell what was going on. Mr Kim left quickly. Mr Sum looked at his wife and felt his pocket. Their bronze coins were gone! He ran after his neighbour and shouted. 'Give me back my money!' Mr Kim stopped, looked back and said, 'No, I did not do it!' but Mr Sum knew that he stole the money.

So, Mr and Mrs Sum went to the Bian's court to tell the judge everything. Mr Sum said, 'I was standing patiently, waiting for my turn to pay the tax but suddenly my pocket was empty and my bronze coins were gone!

I had to save the money for the whole year by growing vegetables to get these seven bronze coins for my taxes. 'What am I going to do now?'

Judge Pao asked, 'Did anyone come near you that day?' 'Yes! There was my neighbour, Mr Kim who gave me a hug,' said, Mr Sum.

Then, Mr Gongsun, Judge Pao's helper asked the soldiers to find Mr Kim. They went to Mr Kim's house and they looked everywhere but they could not find him nor the gold coins. So, Judge Pao asked more questions. 'Mr Sum, how did you know Mr Kim stole your bronze coins and how can you prove that?' Mr Sum said, 'When Mr Kim came up to us, I felt he touched my pocket and I saw him hiding a wooden thong under his sleeve.

The soldiers knew that Mr Kim is the one who stole from Mr Sum. Judge Pao and the soldiers rushed to the Bian River where Mr Kim was seen a while ago. They saw Mr Kim standing near the water but not the bronze coins. 'You have landed yourself in deep trouble! The soldiers will surely catch you. You have nowhere to run!' You better confess right now before things get out of hand!' Judge Pao said.

Mr Kim was alarmed. He dug out the coins from the sand and handed them to the soldiers. Judge Pao looked at him fiercely. He frowned his forehead with a crescent birth mark and ordered the soldiers to take him away. Theft was a serious, punishable crime.

Finally, Mr Kim had to go to jail for seven years. Judge Pao solved the case and Mr Sum and his family recovered their coins. They went to pay them again to the Emperor's official at the palace but lived happily ever after.

The Adventure

Mui Wo School, Leung, Lap Kwok Tom – 10

When Judge Bao was a kid, he was raised by his mom and dad. He lived in a small village. He had a sister who adopted him. He had a birthmark.

Many years later, Judge Bao was writing a letter to General Su. He went outside and saw some animals running away and small cracks on the ground. Some strange lights were also appearing on the ground.

The villagers were curious what made these cracks and the same light hovering. Then, Judge Bao saw this and told everybody it was an earthquake.

Then, suddenly a huge earthquake happened and the soldier, Me Zhen witnessed the earthquake and rang the huge bell.

While Judge Bao was running, he witnessed a crime and came to help. The other soldiers helped Judge Bao and after the crime all the villagers hid in a cave. Only five houses were destroyed and they would build the houses back soon.

Judge Bao went to the court. He and his two helpers solved the crime. The villagers were happy and there would be no more crime. The villagers rebuilt their houses and it took many materials to make their houses back.

They brought back the animals and covered the huge hole in the ground. The villagers and Judge Bao planted trees because some were broken or destroyed by the earthquake. Judge Bao and his helpers thanked Judge Bao for his help and then Judge Bao went back to his house and sent the letter to General Su.

The Stolen Money

Mui Wo School, Tierney, Daniel Michael – 10

One sunny day in Biana small city in old China, villagers were gathering at the market to pay their taxes. There were a lot of soldiers standing around a richly dressed man. The two women in long dresses were waving their big fans around the important Mr Lo, the tax collector.

After a few hours all the taxes were taken and the tax collector Lo, the soldiers and two servant women went to the tavern to have some dinner after a long, tiring day. The tax collector Lo, put the big bulky bag with bronze coins securely under his table. They ordered their food. “Hey good man, what do you have to eat today? We are very hungry.” shouted Mr Lo to the owner of the tavern.

Food on big wooden plates arrived soon and all of them started eating happily. But in the tavern that day, was also an evil family, the Kims. They were famous for the crimes but still not caught or punished by law.

The food was heavy and the day was hot. All the soldiers and the tax collector Mr Lo fell asleep resting their faces next to the empty plates and cups. The Kims waited for the right moment and quickly stole the money from under the table.

After a while, the tax collector and the soldiers woke up. Mr Lo felt the empty space under his table. They all panicked and ran around the tavern screaming and threatening the poor owner who knew nothing of the theft.

They calmed down and called two villagers, Tai and Wong to help. The villagers told them to go to Judge Pao, the best detective ever who lived nearby.

Poor tax collector followed the villagers to Judge Pao’s office. Mr Lo dropped to his knees and begged the Judge, ‘You are the only one who can get the tax money back before my head rolls down the stairs of the Emperor’s Razhong palace. I am doomed!’

Judge Pao rubbed his long beard and thought for a while. Then, he called two of his smart helpers because he was a bit old and not so fast any more.

The next day the two helpers investigated the scene. After five hours, they reported back and Judge Pao who figured out, it must have been the Kim family. He thought of a clever plan to apprehend them if they try to exchange the money for something not so heavy like bronze coins.

The next day, two helpers went undercover as riders and headed to the biggest counting house in Bian. Other soldiers hid in the bushes waiting for the Kims to bring money to deposit it. When the Kims finally arrived at the counting house, the helpers of Judge Pao caught them red-handed. After a short trial, Judge Pao sent them to the worst prison in the district. Mr Lo recovered the tax money and took it to the Emperor’s officials the next day. All the soldiers lost their job for not guarding the money properly and they learnt the lesson not to eat so much for dinner.

New Tales of Judge Pao

Po Leung Kuk Camões Tan Siu Lin Primary School, Chan, Yat Hin Harold – 11

Judge Pao was one of the most historical figures in ancient China. His fairness, integrity and tales of his clever yet effective schemes to trap and expose evildoers for their have spread far and wide. His line of descent relates directly with an influential family in Hong Kong, known for the patriarch Sir Pao Yue-Kong.

One day, Sir Y.K. Pao was admiring the relicts of Judge Pao, when he noticed a worn, delicately bound diary. Curious as to what a diary was doing among the ancient relicts of Judge Pao, he opened the diary and was amazed at what it contained. Inside was a detailed diary of all the cases that Judge Pao had received in the Northern Song Dynasty! Sir Y.K. Pao was astonished at the tidiness of the diary. He flipped through to a random page and found a strange case that Judge Pao had received in his late forties.

10 June 1046

I received an extremely strange case today. A man was crying in front of the court in the morning. I led him into the court and asked him why. In between sobs, he uttered out that his brother had stolen his business. "I am Cheung Hai. I am the owner of a small business. When I went to work today, nobody admitted to recognize me, not even the workers who've worked a decade with me! My brother was grinning devilishly at me from a balcony. I knew he had bribed all my workers! The store was the only thing I had left after my father died. He left the store to me instead of my elder brother, so he got jealous and the store is now his!" I was determined to help him, so I investigated the store and its "owner", but I couldn't find any evidence to prove that the wronged man owned the store. As I was leaving, the store owner cast a triumphant gaze at the man. Cheung Hai stared at the floor, looking defeated. Maybe he might have given up, but I will not, for the truth will out!

12 June 1046

Today, something extraordinary happened. I've been investigating for 2 days, and have found no evidence whatsoever to suggest that the store owner had taken the store away from Cheung Hai, or that Cheung Hai had previously been the owner of the store. I was about to give up, when I saw someone who looked exactly like me walking down the street. I had a feeling this mysterious person would help me in solving this case. I rushed after him and he noticed me. He greeted me warmly and said, "I've been expecting you, other me." I was very confused by his statement. What did he mean by "other me"? He noticed my confused look and explained why he looked like me. "I am you, but from a different universe. I travelled here with the help of the gods and immortals in my world, but I can only stay for a while longer. I am here to help you solve your case. In your world, you may have not solved the case of the stolen business yet, but in my world, that case has long been solved." I listened to his advice carefully. "You can make the fake store owner confess by tricking him into thinking that someone betrayed him. He only trusts himself." The other me cleared his throat. After he had finished, he said, "I have to return to my world now, or I will have to wait a long time before the window of opportunity comes again for me to successfully return to my universe. I wish you the best of luck in solving Cheung Hai's case!" A ray of light pierced the thick layer of clouds and shone on him, enveloping him in a golden light. When the blinding light vanished, he had vanished too. This has been the most extraordinary encounter I've ever made.

13 June 1046

I have devised a plan to trick the store owner into confessing. I will tell my aides to bring him to the court, then my aides will take him to the court prison after the hearing has been adjourned with the workers he bribed. When he tells his workers not to spill his secrets, I will order an aide to secretly listen to his treachery, and I will expose his misdeeds and finally help Cheung Hai regain his business! I will execute this plan tomorrow. I hope this works as well as I expected, though I am quite confident that other me's advice will help bring the store owner's wrongdoings into light.

14 June 1046

The plan worked perfectly! The store owner admitted to his misdeeds after I exposed him for stealing the store from his brother, and the workers admitted their bribery one by one after seeing the store owner confess. I sentenced him to return five hundred pieces of silver and the store back to Cheung Hai. Cheung Hai gave me 10 pieces of silver for helping him, but I refused them. After all, justice should be given to all equally, without receiving anything in return, no matter how poor or rich, how popular or hated!

Sir Y.K. Pao was impressed by his ancestor Judge Pao's honesty and integrity, and he had deepened his knowledge on his respected ancestor with the diary of the cases he received, but he had two questions that could never be answered. How did the "other" Judge Pao know that this world's Judge Pao needed help solving Cheung Hai's case at the exact time that Judge Pao was stuck? And how was this diary so miraculously preserved to keep all the contents intact? The answers to those questions will be forever lost in the mysteries of the past of ancient China and the legends of Judge Pao, the Chinese judge who we all know and respect, unless the "other" Judge Pao can time travel...

Judge Pao and Yu Ming

Po Leung Kuk Choi Kai Yau School, Chan, Cheryl Cheuk Yee – 10

Yu Ming sat on her bed, reading a book about the legendary detective, Judge Pao. As she continued reading about Judge Pao solving the case of, “The Palace Traitor”, she felt her eyes start to droop and the next thing she knew, all she saw was darkness.

When Yu Ming opened her eyes, she saw that she was in a Chinese village that had many beautiful buildings like the ones she had seen in the colourful illustrations of her Judge Pao books. Was she just dreaming or was this real? Still woozy, Yu Ming slowly got up and looked at the sky, to realize that the sun was already setting. Seeing a temple in the distance, Yu Ming stumbled towards the temple and immediately sat on the bench. She tried not to sleep, but she was too tired, so she dozed off to sleep again. After a while, she heard loud shouts from outside the temple.

“What kind of clothes are those? She looks like a weirdo!” teased a boy. Then a few more kids entered the room and cornered her.

“Give us all your money or I will---,” one of the kids threatened.

“Or you will what?” She heard a male voice yell in Chinese. All of the kids turned and fled. Yu Ming saw three guards standing behind her.

“Kid, it’s time to go home,” one of the guards said. But Yu Ming told them that she had no home to go to, and the guards took pity on her and decided to take her to their master. The three guards led her out of the temple and brought her to another ancient building. This was bigger and had furniture, unlike the temple. And sitting on the couch was a man with skin as dark as coal, and a crescent moon on his forehead. Judge Pao!

“So, why is this girl here? Why did you bring her to me?” Judge Pao said finally to the guards.

“We found her in the Temple of Bixia Yuanjun. She was getting bullied by some older kids in the village. She had no home to return to, so we brought her to you,” one of the guards explained. After the guard’s explanation, Judge Pao began to ask Yu Ming

“My poor girl. How about you stay here for the night?” Judge Pao asked. Yu Ming had nowhere to go so she agreed.

Very soon, everyone left the room and Yu Ming followed a maid to a room. When they arrived, Yu Ming saw that the room had a lot of beautiful furniture, but she knew she did not belong here. She settled uncomfortably onto the bed and tried to sleep. After what seemed like an hour, Yu Ming still couldn’t sleep. She thought that she did not belong here, so she packed her items and left. When she reached the gardens, she heard footsteps approaching.

“Oh, it’s you again, little girl. Why are you here?” Judge Pao asked.

“I felt like I did not belong here so I am leaving.” Yu Ming answered. Judge Pao responded with a laugh.

“Well, but you currently have no place to stay, so I think this is your temporary home.” Judge Pao said.

“Alright.” Yu Ming replied. Over the next few weeks, Yu Ming stayed with Judge Pao and learnt how to be a detective. However, one day, Judge Pao came to Yu Ming with a serious face.

“Yu Ming, China has received a threat. Liao has declared war on us. Song and the emperor have discovered a traitor in the palace and I was called to investigate. Please promise me that you will not follow me to the royal palace.” Judge Pao said sternly. But Yu Ming begged and begged, and eventually, Judge Pao reluctantly agreed. The following day, Judge Pao was ready to leave for the palace.

“Now, Yu Ming, I am going to go to the emperor’s throne room. Will you please help me interview a few palace workers first. Write them down in this bamboo scroll and show me their answers later”.

Hours passed as Yu Ming stayed cooped up in a room to interview servants. She jotted down notes as the servants spoke. However, two maids attracted her attention the most, Chan Juan, the princess’s maid and Dong Mei, the queen’s chambermaid. She decided to question them again.

“I was very shocked when the princess told me about China’s threat. My father is in the army and he told me about Liao. I tried to avoid thinking about them, but the topic was always brought up by the princess, as this was her the biggest threat her family had received in years! I tried to cheer the princess up;

however, it just seemed so difficult.” Chan Juan said. Yu Ming continued asking her a few questions and she seemed to answer them logically. Then, Yu Ming called for the queen’s chambermaid.

“These last few days, the queen has been quite sick, and I had to take care of her majesty, so I haven’t had any free time,” Dong Mei simply said.

After the interview, Yu Ming immediately headed off to find Judge Pao. When Judge Pao read the notes, he confirmed that Dong Mei was suspicious.

“The queen is not sick, in fact, I believe she is currently very healthy. I just saw her five minutes ago!”

After that, Judge Pao and Yu Ming explained everything to the Emperor and Dong Mei was arrested for betraying the country.

That night was a great night, Yu Ming had helped Judge Pao solve a case and was rewarded a lot of gold, but all Yu Ming wanted was to go home. The very next day, when she woke up, she found that she was back at home. And when she looked at the open book, she found that she was in the book. Was this a dream or was it real? Yu Ming did not know, but she knew that she wanted to stay in her home sweet home.

The Chinese Dragon

Po Leung Kuk Choi Kai Yau School, Cheng, Sammy Sum Yu – 9

It was long ago when it happened. Something terrifying happened. It was so blood-chilling that everyone who saw it would scream at the top of their lungs, even from a thousand miles away. Thick white smoke covered the land. It hit the back of everybody's throats, which caused them to cough as if they were in a fire.

Then something emerged in the distance. It was humongous...terrifying...spine-chilling... It was a dragon!

And not just any dragon. It could breathe fire out of its mouth and could kill you instantly. It had such a long tail it could whip you into the sea and you would drown slowly. Whatever power it had, it was sure to be tremendous. So, no one ever dared to come near the dragon. Except for a courageous person who stood overall, born to be fearless...That was Judge Pao. That was the person who had done many virtuous deeds. He was tired and fed up with the stress and just couldn't stand it! But he heard that no person could destroy it. That just made him more determined than ever; therefore, he decided to defeat the dragon forever. But the obstacles made it almost impossible. Thus, Judge Pao needed a very delicate plan and a clever escape to beat the dragon. He darted around the room quickly, finding all the materials he needed. "Hmm... where is my axe? It must be somewhere...Here it is! Now my map... Where did I put it?" So, it went on. After a few minutes, he had all the materials he needed and was ready for the adventure. He stepped out the door and breathed in and out. He was finally beginning his quest.

As he suspected, the journey was immensely difficult. His first obstacle was a river filled with crocodiles. Their teeth were soaked with blood; it was menacing. But the intelligent Judge Pao knew the solution. He speedily snatched the sleeping potion he made and uncorked the bottle. He grinned as he watched the crocodiles stop rapidly moving around, their eyelids drooping, and then slept soundly. "Snore...Snore..." Judge Pao swiftly jumped into the river and stealthily swam across it. His next obstacle was more intimidating than the first. Guess what it was? It was an unidentified creature. He seriously did not know what it was – a lion + tiger + snake? For once, Judge Pao seemed to hesitate. It had all the venom and power inside its body, which made it extremely deadly. Besides, Judge Pao had used up all his sleeping potion with the first obstacle. Hence, he had to surreptitiously hide in a large bush and rummage through his bag to find the right thing to overpower the monster. "Or I can pass it without hurting it! But a lion + tiger + snake is incredibly incomprehensible though... I should write it on a piece of paper." While he was fumbling through his bag, the creature, with its excellent sense of smell, sniffed the air. Afterwards, he began trudging towards the grassy bush. Judge Pao realized it was not much later when the bloodcurdling monster found him. Drips of sweat ran down his brow. "Where is that book? Quick, it is coming closer!" Finally, he managed to get a hold of the book he was looking for. He frantically turned the pages as the monster came nearer...and nearer...and nearer... Suddenly, Judge Pao lit a torch and raised it, yelling, "Have a look at that!" and threw the torch as far as he could. The creature gave a howl of anguish and pain and ran away as fast as it could. That is because he learnt from the book that tigers were awfully frightened of fire and torches. He was still afraid that the horrid monster would come back, so he cautiously crept to the third obstacle. The third obstacle was more challenging than the second, and the fourth obstacle was more problematic than the third... At last, he reached the dragon's cave. By then, Judge Pao was fatigued and worn out bypassing all the obstacles. In fact, he had been wounded by the perilous creatures he had to face. So, he trudged to a soft grassy spot in a cave and went to sleep.

Judge Pao was woken up by the sound of snorting. He blinked and opened his eyes. To his horror, a ginormous dragon was standing right in front of him! He froze. The only thing he could do was gaze up and stare at the dragon as if he was hypnotized. The dragon stared back at him with golden, piercing eyes. Quickly Judge Pao came back to his senses and he slowly reached for his bag, but it was too far away from him. He didn't dare to make a sound. For the first time, he was stuck. He thought, "Anytime I will be eaten by a sinister dragon!" Fortunately, the dragon simply trotted away. Judge Pao narrowed his eyes while staring after the dragon. "Suspicious..." He prudently stood up and walked to the exit. However, he ended up going round and round until he got dizzy! He didn't take long to realize it was arduous to exit this cave... he was trapped! He slumped against a wall of the cave and sighed. Judge

Pao just knew there had to be a way to open it. The problem was, how? He needed to use detective skills to find a way. All of a sudden, he knew the answer. His mind lit up. "Why don't I smash a hole out of the cave? I should have thought of that before!" He reached for his bag and sifted through it upside down. "There we go! Found the axe!" he grinned as he smashed a hole. Finally, he could take a breath of fresh air! Next, he clambered through the hole with his bag and dashed through the obstacles. The obstacles didn't seem to matter anymore. With his detective notebook, he could prove to the army that the dragon could be defeated. After he arrived at the village, he strolled to the army and gave them the notes. The next thing he knew, the army was going out to defeat the dragon and they succeeded! At last, the village could escape from the fear and they were happier than they'd ever been.

New Tales of Judge Pao

Po Leung Kuk Choi Kai Yau School, Ching, Li Yau Eugene – 9

A long, long time ago, before there was Batman, before there was Sherlock Holmes, there lived a new governor in the city of Hefei, named Bao Zheng. He was fair and selfless. He would always think of a way to solve problems in society. On the other hand, there was another governor in the city of Beijing, named Wong. He was ruthless, greedy and he never showed fairness to anyone, even an innocent old man in the village.

One day, Bao Zheng received a message from another city. It was from a Beijing citizen. He read, “Your honor, please help us! Our governor Wong is increasing our taxes every day rapidly! The city is in a crisis! Will you please help us?” Bao Zheng said, “This is unbelievable! I must stop this!”

The next week, Bao Zheng finally thought of a brilliant idea to stop Wong. He would ask Wong out with an excuse of wanting to have some afternoon tea while they talked about the city. But instead, he took him to court. There waiting was the citizen from Beijing who sent the message, and other witnesses. Bao Zheng asked, “Do you confess you’ve been increasing taxes rapidly unreasonably?” Wong answered, “I was just increasing them a little when time passed by.” Bao Zheng said, “Do you think I won’t know what happened just because of the incident happening in another city? Witness, come here and say it to everyone!” Then, one of the witnesses came in front of the court and said, “Your honor, ever since last week, Wong has sent horses to inform us that the taxes were increased every morning. In the afternoon, soldiers would come and collect the taxes. If we couldn’t pay, we were taken to prison.” After that, the witness walked back to his seat. Then, Bao Zheng shouted, “Even though you are one of the governors, you must have a punishment! This unreasonable action is over the limits! I shall sentence you to jail for two years!” Wong said in despair, “But... it wasn’t such a bad thing to do...” Then, Bao Zheng shouted, “Soldiers! Take him to prison! Everyone, you may leave. I declare this case closed.”

A few days later, when Bao Zheng was patrolling the city, he heard a crying noise coming from an old cottage. He was curious why there was crying, so he knocked on the door. A few moments later, the door opened. When the woman saw Bao Zheng, she immediately knelt. “Bao Zheng, your honor, please, you must help me! My precious child has been kidnapped!” Bao Zheng said, comforting her, “It’s okay, I promise I will find your child. Can you tell me who your son is?” The woman answered, “His name is Shaun.” Bao Zheng said, “Can I investigate this area? Of course, the woman allowed him to investigate.

He walked around the area, then soon found footprints leading to another city. He asked, “Is there someone that hates Shaun or especially does bad things to him?” The woman said, “There’s this market owner that always shouts at him because Shaun always messes up his sales. I guess Shaun can’t help it, he’s just a kid!” Bao Zheng quickly wrote this down in his notebook. Then he followed the footprints in the backyard and realized it was going nearer and nearer the Silk Road, a place where marketers used to travel! He said, “Young lady, tomorrow, at 3 o’clock in the afternoon, meet me at the Public Court. By the way, do you know the addresses of these two people?” She answered, “The marketer’s home is in the street near the Silk Road, in the house where there is a sign saying, “Baker’s Choice”. Bao Zheng said, “Then I’ll be going to these two places to find the kidnapper.” “Thank you,” said the woman.

Then Bao Zheng followed the footprints to the Silk Road and found the house of the marketer. Then he knocked on the door and a woman answered. She asked, “Hello, your honor, what can I do for you?” Bao Zheng said, “May I know where your husband is right now?” She replied, “Oh, he’s still in his stall working. If you want to find him, you can stay here and wait for him as I make a cup of tea for you.” Finally, the marketer came home. Once he came home and saw Bao Zheng, he bowed down and said, “Your honor, to what pleasure do I owe you this visit?” Bao Zheng said, “I want to have a talk privately with you.” “Are you interested in my sales? By the way, come here to talk, your honor.” Bao Zheng said, “Do you know anything about a schoolboy named Shaun? He was kidnapped this morning and I heard rumors about how you were a witness.” The marketer said, “Oh, he’s always disturbing my sales and the kidnapper I saw wore a black hoodie, was tall and had long brownish hair. She must be a woman. She wore high heels and that’s all I could see; she ran too fast!” Bao Zheng said, “Oh then it’s nothing. Tomorrow at 3 o’clock, meet me at the court. “Why do you want me to go to court? I didn’t commit any crimes!” said the marketer.

Ignoring the marketer, he went to the palace. The next day, he said, in court, “You must have kidnapped the kid Shaun. I made up the rumors I told you to trick you into lying. By the way, a woman with high heels couldn’t run so fast!” Witness, tell him what you and I saw. The mother walked out and said, “In the backyard there were footprints leading to your house.” Bao Zheng said, “I declare this case closed and sentence you to jail for 5 years.”

With Bao Zheng around, the city was always safe and prepared for incidents. And even after he died, he was known as a great hero.

Judge Pao and the Treasure

Po Leung Kuk Choi Kai Yau School, Hei, Charlotte Chen Ka – 9

No one else in the crowd had scanned the area for possible threats and suspects like he did. No one else had taken note of an absence of clues like he had. No one else in the crowd knew how to find out the truth. He was Pao Qing Tia and there wasn't a mystery he couldn't solve. And the murder of Jin Lihua and the missing coronation seal was no different.

Judge Pao was lounging in his armchair in the sitting-room in his dressing gown, reading the DiBao and sipping his morning cup of tea, as per usual, when he came upon a rather curious article. It was a day after Emperor Zhenzong had passed and the whole Song Dynasty was still in shock. The article read, 'Trusted servant and guardian of the Royal Seal found dead in room'. The Royal Jade Seal, to be used at Renzhong's coronation, was missing. A reward of 1,000,000 pieces of gold Yuanbao if found. "Hmm." "A bit odd, that this was to happen exactly the day before the coronation." Pao sat up from the armchair, "Since I do have a bit of spare time, I suppose it can't hurt to help out." He sent a post message to his assistant. "Zhen Zhao, we've got a case on our hands."

"Judge Pao, thank you for coming with us to investigate this case. We'd be happy to answer any questions you have." The police led Pao to the crime scene. "Jin Lihua was killed in this room, with the door locked and windows closed from the inside." Pao stood on the threshold, examining the scene. "When exactly, did this happen?" "We don't know as the door was locked. However, we discovered this at around eleven o'clock in the morning." "If it was locked, how did you know?" "We received a report at the police station by one of the court officials. I assume you're familiar with him — Li Qiang? He told us someone died inside the treasury." Pao nodded without saying anything. Li Qiang was a "bent" court official known for supposedly planting fake evidence in crime scenes, but never getting punished during trials. Of course, there was no real evidence whatsoever to support this, but just multiple coincidences were enough for people to conspire about where his loyalty lay. "Clues show that Jin Lihua was bludgeoned to death, but there's no weapon." Zhen Zhao explained. Scattered on the floor was a comb engraved with jade, a blue rubber band and muddy footprints leading to a wall.

"Who'd you think did it?" Zhen Zhao asked. "Don't you find it peculiar that Li Qiang somehow automatically knew the seal was missing and Jin Lihua was murdered even though the room was completely locked so well that the police had to break open the door just to get in? And what about the blue rubber band next to the body? I saw one on Li Qiang's wrist the other day. "It is suspicious, indeed. But he's innocent until proven guilty. There's no direct evidence that points to him. Besides, it is unjust to accuse someone of committing a crime because you don't like them."

Rustle. A paper flyer blew in front of him, advertising waterproof paper, except that apart from the title, the paper was blank. Must be a trick, Pao thought. He grabbed a candle and held the piece of a paper above it, letting the flickering flames reveal a possible secret message. Faint letters spelled out, 'Meet me in the library at 1am'.

Judge Pao could feel that whoever the people here were, they knew that he was there. The room was as silent as a grave and both Pao and Zhen Zhao were too afraid to make any kind of sound, in hopes of remaining undiscovered while trying to "spy" on the suspicious-looking note writer. "Do you have it?" A disembodied, gravelly voice asked. "Yes. I even have a few others." The voice reminded him of Li Qiang — honeyed yet nasal.

"Good. We have a buyer." "Who, may I ask?" "None of your business," they snapped.

Zhen Zhao sneezed and both of them instinctively drew in their breath. It's over now. They had been discovered by the plotters. Thump. One step. Two steps. Three, four and five... Li Qiang's footsteps echoed around loudly in the library. Pao Qing Tian could feel someone's breath on his neck.

Li Qiang gritted his teeth. "You'll never find the seal."

"I don't think so," Judge Pao whispered, leaning forward.

They both raised their guards as Pao and Li Qiang executed an overhand cut. Pao Qing Tian parried with lightning speed. Pao once more parried Li Qiang's swing from the opposing side. They continued until Pao began to recall his training from when he was little and realised he wasn't already dead. He started thinking and acting, as opposed to just responding. Li Qiang carried on making overhand cuts. The next time this happened, Pao raised his hands up high and aimed for Li Qiang's head. Despite missing his target by a few centimetres, Pao succeeded in lightly poking Li Qiang's forehead with his sword.

"I yield." Li Qiang muttered. "Good. Now confess. Where did you put the seal?" Zhen Zhao asked. "We never stole it in the first place. It's still in the room. We just pretended we did to cause a distraction." Pao sheathed his sword. "Alright then."

It had been a few weeks since they had spied on Li Qiang and his fellow plotter and Judge Pao was still trying to unravel the mystery of the seal. Still in the room... blue rubber band and muddy wall footprints... that's it! They created a secret trapdoor, then hid the seal inside with footprints as clues to discover!

5 days later, in the high court.

Judge Pao banged his gavel. "Li Qiang, I hereby sentence you to punishment by beating and 11 years in prison for past cases of fraud, robbery, murder and high treason."

At last, justice was served.

Pao Saves Meow

Po Leung Kuk Choi Kai Yau School, Kirby, Lok Ga Tessa – 9

Chapter 1 – Sunshine and Rainbows

One sunny day, Judge Pao was, as usual, in an excellent mood. He walked in his rainbow garden with his guards wearing handsome uniforms. One of them was carrying a burdensome sword and the other carrying a massive bow. The garden was so marvellous that people from all over the world would come to admire it with their own eyes. Judge Pao enjoyed nothing more than tending to the flowers and pacing the grounds whenever he had a mystery case. There were cherry red roses with thorns as sharp as bee stingers, dahlias as orange as a sun setting, grass lawns as green as stunning emeralds, morning glory flowers as blue as the extensive ocean, violets as purple as the grapes from the vineyards, and lilies as white as a pair of wings from an angel. In the middle of the garden stood a magnificent Bauhinia.

Chapter 2 – The Case Begins

While Judge Pao was enjoying the tree's scent, a young man suddenly appeared out of nowhere, blocking his way. The guards tried to pull him away, but the young man would not budge. He stood there as steady as a sculpture. Judge Pao didn't get angry, instead he calmly asked, "Greetings! Are you alright?" The young man politely bowed to him, then gasped in disbelief, "Judge Pao! Is it really you? I've heard all about you. You are China's hero! How lucky I am to be able to find you! I am Felix and I fear you are my last hope."

"Yes, it is me," proudly replied Judge Pao. "I would be pleased to assist."

Felix sobbed, "It's been a horrible day. My cat is missing! Can you help me find him please? His name is Ginger and he is my best friend. I cannot stand the thought of losing him."

"Of course I will help," reassured Judge Pao. "First you must tell me four things."

"One, what does Ginger look like?

Two, where did you last see Ginger?

Three, has Ginger been acting differently recently?

Four, does Ginger have any distinguishing marks or features?"

The questions made Felix sad as he thought about his feline friend. Over time he calmed down and answered the questions one-by-one. "Ginger is a magnificent ginger-coloured cat with white lines over his body. I last saw Ginger last night while snuggling with him in my bed. I have not noticed Ginger acting differently; he was just like his usual self. Ginger has very special eyes, his left eye is blue and his right eye is green," said Felix.

Judge Pao took precise notes. After several awkward moments of silence, Judge Pao said just one thing, "We must inspect your house so more clues could be found."

Chapter 3 – Scene of the Crime

They quickly arrived at Felix's house which was right around the corner. His guards searched the house for clues. Maybe the strength of the sword guard or keen eye of the archer would discover some clues. Unfortunately, there were no signs of struggle and nothing was out of place. Ginger's bowl was full of food and his cat-bed was tidy. Judge Pao turned around, "Guards, split up and ask the neighbours if they saw anything unusual or could tell us anything about this mystery."

About an hour later, the guards returned. One said, "No-one has noticed anything suspicious."

"We went to every house, but no luck," the other added.

"My loyal guards have been unsuccessful. But while they were away, I inspected your house personally. I have found *two* pairs of cat paw prints," Judge Pao said.

"How is that possible? I only have one cat!" Felix said with amazement.

"I need time to think in my garden," Judge Pao thought to himself.

Chapter 4 – The case is up in the air

Judge Pao spent the rest of the day in his garden trying to figure out what had happened to Felix's cat. "Why were there two sets of cat paw prints if he had only one cat? If there were two cats, how did the other cat come into his house?" Judge Pao asked himself.

While sitting under his bauhinia tree thinking, he heard a Covid-19-like cough of a cat coming from the branches. There was Ginger, trapped high in the tree. Judge Pao brought him down with care and checked

him over. The cat's blue right eye and green left eye looked appreciatively while purring in his lap. Judge Pao had solved the case. He put the cat securely in a bag and confidently walked to Felix's house. Judge Pao handed Felix the bag, "What if the cat wasn't stolen? I found this cat, who I am pretty sure has COVID-19. Maybe he was taken by an animal guard to Penny's Bay for quarantine by mistake?" "But that's impossible! My cat isn't sick at all. Besides, he is here with me now in this bag," said Felix as he started opening the bag.

Chapter 5 – The cat is out of the bag

Ginger leapt out. Felix noticed immediately and said, "The colours of his eyes aren't correct. The left-eye is green and the right-eye is blue. This sick cat is nearly identical, but he isn't Ginger."

"That is correct!" said Judge Pao. "I have already called Penny's Bay. Ginger is in quarantine by mistake. Ginger must have offered this cat food which is why there were two sets of footprints"

They rushed to Penny's Bay to get Ginger back and let the sick cat recover with good care.

"Thank you so much! I don't know how I would have found my cat without your help! Is there anything I can do to help you as a favour? Just call me if you need any help. I'd be happy to come to you anytime!" said Felix thankfully.

Judge Pao smiled, "No help is needed. It is everyone's duty to help the community, but please tell Ginger he could come to my place anytime he likes. He is always welcome in my beautifu

Judge Pao Investigates

Po Leung Kuk Choi Kai Yau School, Lee, Charlotte – 10

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The Loss of Bao Bao

Po Leung Kuk Choi Kai Yau School, Soong, Katie – 10

The Loss of Bao Bao

It was a flaming hot Summer day, and Judge Pao wiped his sweaty forehead with the back of his hand, his body boiling. Judge Pao was busy reading a thick Chinese novel, and didn't notice his servant, Qianfan, walking into his study. Qianfan bowed deeply to Judge Pao and said in a low serious voice,

"Judge Pao, there is a young depressed girl outside, pleading for a chance to meet you. May I let the poor girl in?"

Judge Pao curled his finger thoughtfully around his long silvery white beard, then said in a pensive tone, "Let her in."

Qianfan bowed respectfully to his master again before disappearing out of the heavy wooden doors. In less than a minute, Qianfan returned with a sobbing girl behind him.

"Come in, come in." Judge Pao said in a welcoming voice to the young girl, "Sit down, and have a cup of cool jasmine tea."

The young girl collapsed onto her seat and buried her hands into her face.

"Is there a problem, young one?" Judge Pao asked softly, placing a warm hand on the girl's shoulder.

The girl looked up at Judge Pao, with tears streaming down her face, "Oh Judge Pao! You've got to help me! Something terrible happened at home when Mama and Papa were out!"

"Of course, of course. But first, tell me your name." Judge Pao replied in a soothing voice.

"My name is Qiao Min. I have a pet panda that I adore. I love her very much, and I named her Bao Bao. It means 'treasure', because she is a treasure to me."

"She must have been very important to you." Judge Pao said, his voice calm. "But what's the thing that made you so sorrowful?"

"Last night, I bid Bao Bao goodnight before going to bed. I woke up later than usual today, and was just about to eat breakfast when I noticed that Bao Bao wasn't in her usual cosy place." Qiao Min paused, sneaking a glance at Judge Pao's reaction. But Judge Pao's face was unreadable, and he simply waved his hand for her to continue.

"I searched all over the house, but I couldn't find anyone except for a few tufts of her black and white fur lying on the doorstep. Bao Bao never went near the door, because she was afraid it might open suddenly. Someone must have stolen her! But who?"

Judge Pao twiddled with his beard, deep in thought. Then he said in a serious voice, "We do not have enough evidence to prove that it was indeed a crime. However, I will conduct an investigation and see if I can do anything for you." Standing up, Judge Pao gestured for Qiao Min to go back home.

"I will inform you soon. But for now, you'd better get home before your parents worry."

Qiao Min's face brightened slightly and she said gratefully, "Oh, thank you Judge Pao! Thank you!"

Over the next few days, Judge Pao investigated Qiao Min's house and discovered an old rotted key on the table beside the front door. It was far too large for the key hole of Qiao Min's house, but her address was clearly carved into the metal. Next, he saw the tufts of panda fur on the doorstep, just as Qiao Min had mentioned. He also saw that the keyhole of the front door was dripping icy cold water and some ice shards lay on the floor. A knowing smile crept onto Judge Pao's face and as he left the house, a light bulb sparked brightly in his head. On his way down the little cobblestone path leading to the house, he saw blotches of scarlet blood and a few scraps of panda flesh. He nodded knowingly and left.

When he returned to the palace, Judge Pao commanded his servant, “Qianfan! Where are you? I need you to bring Qiao Min here!”

“Yes, yes, Sir!” Qianfan’s call sounded immediately, followed by the slam of the front door.

In less than ten minutes, Qianfan burst into Judge Pao’s study, with a bewildered Qiao Min just behind him.

When Judge Pao was sure that Qianfan had left, he exclaimed in a delighted voice, “Qiao Min! Guess what? I figured out who the criminal is! Bao Bao was indeed stolen!”

Qiao Min gasped in delight and asked, “Where is my treasure? Where is she? Where is the criminal?”

Judge Pao clapped his hands twice and the door to his study opened, revealing three strong men, who were guarded by six guards.

“Come in!” Judge Pao demanded and the three men were pushed into the study by the guards.

“Suchang, Haoyu, Halupik. Explain yourselves!” Judge Pao ordered in a thundering voice.

“What—what do you mean?” Haoyu stammered. “We d—didn’t do anything wrong!”

Judge Pao snickered and said, “Then who was it who stole the poor little panda? Who snuck into Qiao Min’s house at midnight and accidentally left the key they tried to use to sneak into the house on the table? Who hid the panda’s smell? Who accidentally tore the panda’s muzzle fur in their haste and left it on the doorstep? Who wanted to kill the panda and have panda meat for dinner?”

Halupik kept his ground and asked in a firm voice, “But how can anyone make a copy of a key? We are not metalsmiths!”

“Exactly! But why can’t they use water and ice to make a copy of the key?” Judge Pao replied.

Suchang joined in with Halupik, “Even so, how can anyone hide a panda’s smell? Pandas have a stinky, waxy scent mark!”

“Are you really that clueless?” Judge Pao challenged. “Why don’t you use baking soda and activated charcoal? They make a very strong smell when covering other smells!”

Haoyu had had enough and he tumbled to the ground, lying unconscious on the floor. But no one paid attention to him, for Qiao Min shrieked, “How dare you! No one EVER eats panda meat!”

Knowing they had lost, Suchang and Halupik finally confessed that it was them and Haoyu who stole Bao Bao the panda, but they only did it because Halupik’s Mother felt sick a few days ago. The only way to cure her strange illness was to give her panda meat. Halupik and Suchang apologised to Qiao Min over and over again, but after such a horrible crime, they were dragged to the dungeons, along with the still unconscious Haoyu.

After the three left, Qianfan came into the study with a cage in his arms and released the little panda.

“Bao Bao!” Qiao Min cried out in delight. The two hugged each other tightly. While Bao Bao was chasing her own tail, Qiao Min looked at Judge Pao, her face shining with happiness. She looked so ethereal, and, without needing to say any words, she threw her arms around Judge Pao.

Judge Pao Solves the Case

Po Leung Kuk Choi Kai Yau School, Yuen, Angus Chu Chi – 10

“What are you guilty of? You are disloyal by pretending to be the top scholar and deceiving the emperor in vain; you are vile to murder your best friend and an innocent woodcutter. As a husband, it is unrighteous to leave your wife alone and your son without a father. Simply put, an unfaithful, unfilial person like you will not be accepted by the Song Dynasty!” As Judge Pao finished the statement, he summoned the guards to take the criminal back to jail. Judge Pao stood up and as soon as he set foot on the street, a black whirlpool suddenly emerged beneath him, latching him into a cold, eternal void in a split second.

He started to spin and free-fall for several minutes; dust was billowing all over his head and there was a thunderous boom. “Judge Pao, please wake up!” A woman with big dark eyes and silky blonde hair slapped Judge Pao right in his face. Awakened by the sudden pain, Judge Pao jumped up and asked, “Hey, who dares to slap me? By the way, where am I?” Immediately, the woman told him where he was and introduced herself as Anne, a police officer in Hong Kong and explained the case she wanted Judge Pao to solve. “On 14th of March, 2021, a naked man was found murdered and placed toe-to-head in a well. His face was already severely disfigured and could not be identified. After an investigation, the cops found that a person named McLane, who had a huge debt, had disappeared around that year. However, after matching the two, they found out that the victim wasn’t McLane. Afterwards, they found a car that was abandoned at the outskirts of the country.” Judge Pao was interested and said, “Madam, I would gladly accept this case.”

Judge Pao thought for a while and answered, “Um... Maybe we could go to the car and see whether there are any clues left.” However, Anne’s words poured cold water on his idea right away, “The Police searched the car numerous times but nothing was found.” When she saw how down in the dumps Pao was she sighed, “All right, maybe we could try again.” Just as Anne thought, the search was in vain. Then she requested Judge Pao to leave, but he kept searching and did not give up. Almost an hour later, they were both sweating profusely. All of a sudden, Judge Pao cried, “I have found a concealed container beneath the trunk! Also, there is a dried leaf with a drop of liquid on it. It might be blood.”

Anne was thrilled by this good news, “We could use the Gel electrophoresis method to detect DNA content!” Judge Pao asked awkwardly, “What’s that?” At that moment, Anne recalled that Judge Pao was an ancient person. How could he possibly understand this technology? “Nothing.”

The DNA result matched the victim perfectly. They also found fingerprints on a piece of leaf, which meant this tricky case could be broken. They were as joyful as a lark. Anne then praised Judge Pao as a persistent person. Anne said admirably, “Judge Pao, it’s my pleasure to have you solving this case with me, and since the case is now finished, it is time for you to return to the Song dynasty.” Judge Pao scratched his head embarrassingly and responded, “Without the help of modern technology, I couldn’t have found new evidence as well.”

Smiling, Anne gave Judge Pao a goodbye hug and two pounds of gold as a reward, but Judge Pao rejected the reward, “Helping people to solve cases is my life mission. I do not take any remuneration for that.”

Meanwhile, the vacuum cleaner started sucking Judge Pao into it and he soon disappeared. Although the time travelling journey’s period was fairly short, Judge Pao thought of a myriad of things to do once he went back to the Song dynasty, “Maybe I could recommend his majesty set up free schools in order to enhance the level of education of our citizens. Education can gradually build up the human’s knowledge and strengthen their skills to analyze, then every person would have the ability to solve their own problems.

Apart from this, I would also donate a part of my salary to develop scientific research since I realized technology is extremely important after this time journey; the criminal couldn’t be caught so quickly if there wasn’t a huge database of DNA which was kept on a big square thing called a computer.

While Judge Pao was pondering over things he could do when he arrived back in the Song dynasty, Anne thought of something else, “I brought Judge Pao here because I reckoned he could help me with the case; however, I did not do anything when he was working hard under the sun. When he was searching the car over and over, all I did was grumble about how hot it was under the scorching sun. Is it because I am too sloppy to even do anything?”

“Besides that, when I rewarded him for his helpful deed, he rejected my gift without a second thought. No wonder people commended him as the most clean-handed government official of that dynasty. From now on, I shall be more incentivized to work and be more cautious. Also, I should carry on Pao’s spirit to be humbler. If everyone on earth does so, the world will become better.”

New Tales of Judge Pao

Po Leung Kuk Hong Kong Taoist Association Yuen Yuen Primary School, Cheung, Yin Ling Tiffany
– 11

Bang, bang, bang! The drum rolled, signaling that court was about to begin.

“Let us start,” Judge Pao announced. “How do you want me to help you?” Judge Pao asked a sobbing middle-aged woman with a teenage boy next to her.

The middle-aged woman and her son bent down on their knees. “I am Mrs. Zhao and this is my son. It was his birthday yesterday and my husband promised to buy him a present. We have already waited for 3 hours, but he still hasn’t come back from the store. We thought that he came back home already and we hadn’t noticed, so we decided to go to his bedroom and check. Surprisingly, all we saw was a pair of bloody sandals and some white bubbly fluid! There was no sign of my husband. With his sudden disappearance, we guessed someone might have murdered him! Your honor, please solve this case for us and execute whoever murdered him!” Mrs. Zhao sobbed.

“Do you have your husband’s deceased body or the weapon that was used to murder him?” Judge Pao asked.

“No, your honor! We couldn’t find any evidence for his death!” The teenage boy answered.

“This is totally ridiculous! How could you ask me to solve your case without bringing me evidence? Leave now! You’re wasting my time!” Judge Pao stormed, as he banged his gavel.

“Your honor, this isn’t a made-up case, please trust me! The almighty honest and upright official, please help!” Mrs. Zhao pleaded.

Judge Pao furrowed his eyebrows as he thought. “Very well. I will go to your home and investigate.”

Mrs. Zhao’s family lived in a majestic manor. Everything was spotless there. Judge Pao looked around the place. Mrs. Zhao led Judge Pao to Mr. Zhao’s room.

“This bubbly fluid looks like a snake’s saliva. Does anyone in your family have a snake as a pet?” Judge Pao questioned.

“Yes! My elder brother does! He has a pet snake, but I don’t know where he keeps it.” The teenage boy answered.

Judge Pao suspected that the snake might have eaten Mr. Zhao.

They walked around the manor, inspecting every room until everyone was frustrated. This was the kind of feeling you get when you can’t find something important.

“Wait, I think I know where he keeps the snake! I see him carry it downstairs into the basement every day! I think that’s where it’s kept!” The teenage boy suddenly said.

Judge Pao nodded and followed Mrs. Zhao to the basement.

“There’s the snake. Look at its abdomen, it’s so big. It most likely swallowed Mr. Zhao,” Judge Pao investigated the snake’s belly. “I will kill it and cut its abdomen open. Do you mind if I take it away to do so?” Judge Pao asked.

Mrs. Zhao nodded. Judge Pao would return to the manor in 5 days with the result of his judgement.

Five days later, Judge Pao went back to the manor.

“Your brother must’ve sent the snake to eat your father, the snake wouldn’t have broken out of the cage by itself, and it’s also not strong enough to break the cage’s bars.” Judge Pao was confident about his guess.

“My brother killed father? Why would he kill father?” The teenager broke down in tears, and so did his mother.

“Judge, we have to catch his brother. As his mother, I can’t tolerate murder! We must have him face justice for the sake of our family.” Mrs. Zhao pleaded.

“I am planning to do so. But first, we have to confirm that it was your eldest son who sent the snake to eat Mr. Zhao. Today is the seventh day anniversary of Mr. Zhao’s death. Legend says that the ghost of the deceased person will come back and haunt the murderer. I will pretend to be the ghost of Mr. Zhao and ‘haunt’ him tonight until he explains the reason he killed Mr. Zhao.” Judge Pao shared his ideas.

Mrs. Zhao and her son nodded in agreement.

A few hours later, midnight struck and Judge Pao covered his body with his white blanket made of silk, forming a ghostly figure.

“Son, why did you send a snake to kill me? What did I do to you? Why did you have to kill me?” Judge Pao mimicked a ghost’s breathy and creepy voice.

“Dad! I didn’t do it on purpose! You knew I took most of mom’s money and spent it on a life–time supply of drugs. I was afraid that you’d tell her and I’d be in trouble, so I had no choice but to kill you. I’m sorry!” The eldest son’s body and voice was shaking with fear, afraid that his dad’s ghost would haunt him forever.

“The truth is revealed! You really killed your father! You will be executed as a result of your crimes” Judge Pao took off his silk blanket and threw it across the room.

“J–Judge Pao? What are you doing here? Don’t kill me, please!” The eldest son was astonished, he even stuttered when he spoke.

Judge Pao ignored him as his guards grabbed the murderer and brought him to the court.

“Here’s the evidence of the snake swallowing Mr. Zhao.” Judge Pao quickly showed them his remains.

“It’s the jade bracelet dad never takes off! It’s dad!” The younger brother stood up and pointed to the bracelet.

“U–uh.. Fine, I surrender!”

“Guards! Bring the murderer to the dragon–head knife and put his head on there, I’ll execute him by myself.” Judge Pao commanded in a fierce tone.

In a blink of an eye, the murderer’s head was chopped off. The case was solved.

“Case closed! Everyone can leave now!” Judge Pao announced.

Judge Pao is such an intelligent man. His clever and unpredictable ideas have solved many difficult cases. To this day, many people still appreciate and respect him for his dedication to justice. As a result, his tales are passed from generation to generation.

Judge Pao and the Inheritance Case

Po Leung Kuk Hong Kong Taoist Association Yuen Yuen Primary School,

Chu, Long Yin Matthew – 11

It was a dark, windy night. The lights emitting from houses on the streets dimmed as the candles were blown out as everyone went to sleep, except for one. In the large house of the rich and respected Kim family, everyone was asleep as always, except for a strange man who rushed through the house and entered a dark bedroom. A man, his older brother Jun Kim, was snoring soundly. He chuckled and whispered, "Hi, older brother, the old man's gone, but his money isn't." His voice was cold and sly like a snake's hiss. "It may have belonged to you... at first, but not anymore!" With that said, he raised his dagger and brought it down hard. There was an ear-piercing scream, followed by eternal silence. The strange man snickered and slowly melted into the shadows, "Don't you worry, older brother. This will all be worth it, for me."

"Please Judge Pao, I am innocent!" cried an old woman as she was being held by two powerful guards. She was in the court, the prime suspect of the murder of the Kim family, and the judge was none other than the powerful, intelligent Judge Pao. He was wearing his special governor hat and black cloak. Along with that strict face of his, it was sure to make any lawbreaker stammer out the truth. Judge Pao boomed like a lion, which made the frightened old lady jump, "If it wasn't you then who would it be? You had a dagger lying next to you in your bedroom! It won't be his younger brother." The old woman fought back, "But I was found unconscious in my room, plus just like what you said, my son Un Kim would never kill his older brother Jun Kim. I also wouldn't murder my own son!" The old lady, Men Kim, was right, and this made Judge Pao very puzzled. "I will get to the bottom of this peculiar case. Meanwhile, you will spend your time imprisoned so that we can keep an eye on you." Reluctantly, Men Kim nodded her head.

Just then, a neatly dressed young man entered the court. He greeted Judge Pao, "Morning, your greatness. I am Un Kim, the youngest son, and I am here to give evidence that...that my dreadful mother murdered my dear, poor brother." Everyone gasped loudly, but Judge Pao remained unmoved, though a glint of light flashed across his eyes, as if he figured out something, something big. Un Kim sighed and continued, "My father, Lee Kim sadly passed away a few days ago. But he didn't die from old age, I saw scars on his body, so I figured it must be murder. He left a large amount of wealth to my brother as his inheritance, and I suspect that my evil mother wanted it all, so committed murder." Men Kim was shocked to hear her son accusing her like that. She completely broke down and shouted, "No, it's not me!" This made Judge Pao very irritated, "Silence! I will solve this case."

Later, Un Kim left the court with a large grin on his face, "I can't believe this actually worked. They all fell for it! Now it's time for me to get that money." He rushed back home and went into his father's room. He nipped around until he opened a small drawer, revealing a tiny sack of money. He grinned in delight when all of a sudden, there was a large "Bang", as voices poured into the building. Un Kim recognized the voices as Judge Pao, his mother and some of the guards. He panicked and dropped the sack, creating a large noise. He dashed out of the room but tripped over a carpet and stumbled right into a guard, who immediately grabbed him by the arms so tight, Un Kim winced at the pain. Before he knew it, he was dragged to the court, screaming and struggling to escape.

Un Kim was thrown to the cold hard floor and Judge Pao shouted at him like an assault rifle, "Madam Men Kim answered our questions and I was also already suspicious of you. Being the son, you should be protecting your mother, not accusing her in any way. Plus, you seemed like you wanted the money really badly, but why?" He waited for Un Kim to answer but he refused to talk, so Judge Pao continued, "You aren't her real son, are you, you were found on the street, and they were all kind enough to care for you."

Hearing this, Un Kin burst out like a mad man, “So what? They chose to take care of me, but I never liked that family. I don’t care if they helped me and saved my life. I killed that filthy old mangy man and his terrible son so that the money will be inherited by me, but...but you and my good for nothing fake mother ruined everything!” Judge Pao stood up and calmly stated, “No, you ruined things for yourself. You had a family and money, but greed got to you. You should have appreciated what you had. I hereby sentence you to life in prison for committing murder twice. Take him away, guards!” Un Kim screamed and kicked as the guards dragged him to his new home, the one that he truly deserved.

Men Kim went forward to Judge Pao and bowed, “Thank you so much for solving this case. I never knew my own child.... would be a murderer. I guess.... I didn’t teach him well.” With that, she left. Judge Pao sighed and muttered, “From this case, we know how the thoughts and logic of a human can be easily influenced by the biggest devil of all: greed. It will cause us to see things blindly, and do anything to get what we desire, no matter what it takes, even if it means sacrificing our loved ones.”

Was It Blackmail? A Judge Pao Tale

Po Leung Kuk Hong Kong Taoist Association Yuen Yuen Primary School, Kalle, Ayusha – 11

“Morning sir. I brought your favorite tea,” greeted an assistant who seemed too skittish to talk to the man he had just addressed. The man’s shadow was a tall one, rather mighty. Gold shined through the glass in the hall where a judge’s throne stood. It wasn’t just any ordinary throne, instead, it was silver-plated with the signs of the moon. The shadow gently but firmly held the cup of tea. Finally, he sat down on his throne.

This man was no other than the all-mighty Judge Pao. Recognized for his work in bringing justice and stability against the corruption that was happening at the time, no one dared to attempt to challenge him. “Tell me, is there a new case that I might need to look into?” he said, as he looked at the assistant with a cold poker face. The cases he worked on always involved corruption and disagreement. “Yes, sir, um, do you know about the rich politician who lives by the lake in our neighboring town? Well, he sadly passed away last week. He doesn’t live with his wife, but he has 7 sons that are over the age of 20,” answered the assistant.

“What’s the catch?” asked Judge Pao in a second. “Only one of them can own the property, as it is stated by the head of this town,” answered the assistant.

In the next couple of weeks, more board meetings and hearings were held for the case. But unlike most of these cases, the judge of that town decided in two and a half weeks that the eldest son should have a right to the property. “That is everything I don’t stand for. The eldest son already has a big property and is already married. While the youngest son is still betting with old farmers on who grows the best corn. The neighboring town’s motto is ‘providing justice and light in the dark!’ How can anyone be sure of this corruption or blackmail?” exclaimed Pao one snowy day in winter. He was frustrated by the erroneous decision made by the judge in the neighboring town. “Get ready with the horses. We are going to Jin Huan Town. No exceptions!” he exclaimed as he left his living hall. When going to the neighboring town, people would need to be careful since most sinister cross-state illegal traders went around sneaking and spying while carrying potentially harmful weapons. Also, the weather conditions varied in different mountainous areas. As their horses finally reached the metal gates of the entrance, Judge Pao and his assistant got off their horses. Following the very detailed instructions given by the guards, they were finally let in.

The following morning, they were invited to see the 7 sons inside their extraordinarily big property. “Eh, greetings. You must be the judge for Her Pey town. Let me introduce these 7 men. These 7 men are Li Xi, Li Kuai, Li Zong, Li Fang, Zhou Yu, Zhou Chang, and Zhou Xiang. The oldest is Zhou Yu and the youngest is Li Fang. Any questions?” asked the presenter. “I am quite straightforward, so listen. I know you, Zhou Yu, were involved in corruption to get the property of your late father’s land. You blackmailed Judge Hai and threatened to destroy his career if he didn’t help you.” Pao exclaimed when suddenly the older brother took out a pocket knife and held it near Pao’s neck. His younger siblings were shocked as they looked at their older brother in disgust. “Listen old man. Do you think you can just walk in here and accuse me of blackmail and corruption? I am way more valuable than you. I have the power to kick you out of this town and even sue you for barging into **my** property.” Zhou Yu shouted as the knife almost reached Pao’s neck. Unable to do anything, Pao thought for a second. Is this really how he wanted to die? Suddenly, because some villagers heard all of the commotion, they knocked on the door. Zhou Yu put his knife back into his pocket and climbed out of the window. He jumped on a wooden pipe and climbed his way down to the garden. After a few seconds, they couldn’t see him.

Roughly about 3 days later, Judge Pao sent a spy to talk to Zhou Yu and be friends. Once Zhou Yu revealed his secret about how he blackmailed and bribed Judge Hai, the spy kidnapped him and sent Zhou Yu to Judge Hai. Zhou Yu was finally imprisoned for blackmail, corruption, and illegal methods used during the trial period. At last, the people of Jin Huan appointed Judge Pao as their judge if anything illegal happened around that tiny town. Judge Pao never really felt afraid before, but that day in Jin Huan town, he felt mixed feelings of anger, frustration, and being scared. However, he would not let that stop him from continuing to act in a way that would be loyal to justice and the law.

The Tales of Judge Pao

Po Leung Kuk Hong Kong Taoist Association Yuen Yuen Primary School,

Kiang, Cheuk Yau Natalie – 11

Judge Pao is a great man known worldwide for his amazing case solving skills and his fair and clean personality. But did you know this little funny detail about him? Well, get comfy in your seat and I'll tell you all about it.

So, have you ever wondered, why is Judge Pao so black and has a moon on his forehead? Well, I've heard a rumor about it. It so happened when he was very young, he still wasn't qualified to be a judge back then. Some say he was just a normal policeman trying to catch thieves. But the thieves were smart and sneaky, they often just disappeared with not many traces left behind for the policemen to search. Judge Pao eventually got tired of the thieves getting away with crimes, so he decided it would be best to catch the thieves at night.

He first painted himself black so he could hide and camouflage into the dark easier. So, the thieves wouldn't see him in their dark surroundings. Imagine if you were a thief and you were just climbing a ladder to your victory and saw a foggy pair of eyes staring at you, that would give the thief the chills and probably cause the thief to fall off the ladder.

Now for the moon, it is a very interesting fact indeed, people in the old days were superstitious and scared of the moon! No, it's not because it's bad luck, it's because the people before were very respectful to the moon, as if it was a god or a ghost. So, they wouldn't dare speak dirty lies in front of a moon. So that is why the thieves when caught are most likely to confess themselves since lying in front of a moon was a very fearful or bad thing to do.

So, there you have it, the funny explanation about the moon and the dark skin, do you have any thoughts yourselves?

The Mystery of Why Villagers Began Disappearing From Town

Po Leung Kuk Hong Kong Taoist Association Yuen Yuen Primary School, Kung, Sum Yan Grace – 9

Judge Pao was a crusading figure with a passion for being fair and kind to poor people. He lived more than 1,000 years ago and Judge Pao was smarter than any other detectives that lived. One day, he was asked to solve a mystery of why villagers were missing from the town. Judge Pao was shocked because he had never seen this before!

When Judge Pao arrived at the crime scene, he found that most of the villagers were gone! Judge Pao thought, 'This is impossible! Let me find where the villagers have gone!' After half an hour, he found that all of them went to an old castle and were kidnapped! Judge Pao interviewed three suspects, who were Lee An, Wang Shu, and Shu Lee.

Lee An shrugged his shoulders and told Judge Pao, 'I was in the lounge making a cup of tea. Suddenly, I heard a scream.'

Wang Shu explained, 'I was in the study preparing for my mathematics exam. This has nothing to do with me!'

Shu Lee said, 'There was a fire in the castle. I was in the living room fixing the problem.'

Judge Pao thought for a while and told the three suspects, 'There is a clock in a dark room next door. It can detect if you are lying or not. You need to touch it. If you are lying, the clock will sound; if not, you will be innocent. Start now!'

After all the suspects touched the clock, Judge Pao turned on the light and said, 'Show me your hands!' One of the suspect's hands, Shu Lee, was not stained in ink, however, the others' hands were. Judge Pao quickly arrested the kidnapper, Shu Lee.

Actually, Judge Pao asked the painter to paint the clock with ink because he knew that the kidnapper was too scared to touch the clock and he thought nobody would see him because the clock was in the darkness. Shu Lee finally confessed that he did it and owned up immediately.

Murder for Money – A Tale of Judge Pao

Po Leung Kuk Hong Kong Taoist Association Yuen Yuen Primary School, Lam, Yat Yi Chloe – 11

One dark morning, Judge Pao was in a huge room, looking at some important scrolls. Suddenly, some soldiers burst into the room. “Judge Pao,” they said, “this man claims that his father died in an accident, but he has no proof.” Judge Pao put the scrolls down, and on his forehead revealed a moon symbol. A man walked in the huge room. The man looked really filthy. His hair was messy, and his clothes looked like there was dirt all over it. He said to Judge Pao respectfully, “My name is Lianjun, and what they said just now is true, Judge. My father died of a terrible, tragic accident. His will states that all of his money will go to me.” One of the soldiers said, “He reported this to us. But when we asked to go there and inspect the scene, this man insisted that we shouldn’t, and couldn’t give us a reason.” Judge Pao looked at Lianjun and raised an eyebrow. He eyed Lianjun suspiciously, before standing up and swaying his long, black-green gown, and said in a deep voice, “How can we actually know if your father died of an accident if you have no evidence at all?” Lianjun looked around nervously, but could not provide an answer. “We will go to court to talk about this tomorrow.” Judge Pao said. Lianjun opened his mouth to say something, but before he could, the soldiers took him to leave. Lianjun looked really annoyed and frustrated. This made Judge Pao grow very suspicious of Lianjun...

The following day, Judge Pao and Lianjun and some soldiers were in the court. The court was really large, and could fit many people, yet silent, because there was nobody else there. Judge Pao asked Lianjun, “So, you witnessed your father’s death, and you found his will which states that you will receive all his money, correct?” Lianjun nodded without even thinking. “Yes, that’s exactly it, he died in an accident. Now can we please just end this trial?” Lianjun said impatiently. Judge Pao frowned. “I’m afraid not yet,” Judge Pao said. “You have to prove your father actually died in an accident.” Lianjun was suddenly enraged and shouted loudly, “So you are suspecting me now?!” Judge Pao shook his head. “I just want to confirm the facts. We will take a look at your house the next afternoon.” Lianjun tried to argue back, but Judge Pao wouldn’t listen to a word he was saying. Judge Pao was certain that it wasn’t an “accident”...

The next afternoon, it was raining heavily as Judge Pao and the soldiers arrived at Lianjun’s house. His house looked grand and big, with fabulous decorations around it. Judge Pao noticed that Lianjun looked a bit nervous. This just made Judge Pao grow even more suspicious of Lianjun. As they were about to enter the house, Lianjun suddenly asked, “Is this really necessary?” Judge Pao didn’t answer and they just stepped into Lianjun’s house. When they got in, there was a huge living room. The soldiers searched around but didn’t seem to find anything suspicious. “We’re going to check the bedrooms next.” Said Judge Pao. As they walked to the bedrooms, Judge Pao saw there was a white towel, but it was now a pale red colour, like it had been previously used to clean something really red. Judge Pao swiped the towel before they reached the bedrooms.

When they entered the first bedroom, Judge Pao noticed that nothing was out of place. The room was tidy, and neat. Judge Pao searched around the room, but nothing there was suspicious. That’s when he saw a red handprint on the side of the bed. Judge Pao knew that wasn’t any accident. He looked at Lianjun, who was as pale as a vampire. Judge Pao told Lianjun to compare his hand to the handprint. He refused, but the guards made him do it. After comparing, they found out that the handprint and Lianjun’s hand were the same size. “We’ll go to the second bedroom to check if there is anything else.” Judge Pao said.

They walked to the second bedroom, and saw that this bedroom was really messy. There were toppled over shelves, paper all over the place, and the bed sheets were on the floor. Judge Pao took the bed sheet away, but there was nothing under it. Judge Pao didn’t find anything else. But when he flipped over the bed sheet, he saw that it had a huge blood stain on it.

Judge Pao knew what had happened now. He turned to Lianjun, and said, “You killed him in his sleep. I took this wet blood–stained towel from the kitchen table earlier.” He threw the towel on the floor. “There’s also a bloody handprint in the other bedroom. Guards, search for a murder weapon.” The guards left the bedroom to look for any weapon.

After a while, the guards returned with a knife that was stained with blood. “It was in a drawer,” one of the guards said. “It was locked, but I broke it.” Judge Pao was enraged. “This is no accident!” He yelled. “This is murder! You are going to prison for this. Guards, take him away!”

At last, Lianjun was sentenced to 15 years in prison for murder. Judge Pao has solved yet another case about corruption. Judge Pao was always a smart and fair judge, and never will allow corruption to happen.

A Judge Pao Story

Po Leung Kuk Hong Kong Taoist Association Yuen Yuen Primary School, Lee, Rhodice – 9

Once upon a time, there was a famous judge named Judge Pao. He was not a corrupt official, but a judge that was fair. He was very honest and he never lied. He hated people who lied and people who are selfish and greedy. He was also a detective.

One day, two women came to the court, holding a 1-month old baby in both of their hands, arguing. They both kneeled down in front of Judge Pao. Judge Pao asked both of them, “What seems to be the problem?” They both answered quickly, “She stole my child! Please help me get my precious baby back!”

Judge Pao looked at the two worried women and asked them calmly, “Who is the real mother? And who is lying?”

They both answered again, pointing fingers at each other, “I am! I am! She is the baby snatcher!” By this time, Judge Pao was getting furious, his face turned bright red. He knew one of them was lying, but no one admitted. He then thought of a wise idea. He told the two women to sit on the ground. Curious, one of the women asked why. Judge Pao answered, “You will know later. Tell me your names. I want to know you more.”

The woman that answered first was Mary, her face was pale and she looked incredibly worried. Mary said, “Please give me my baby! She must be safe and sound! Don’t trust that wretched woman!”

The second woman was a bit strange. She was sweating a lot and it took her some time to think of her own name. Finally, she said, “A.....Ag.....Agatha! Give me my baby! She is lying!”

Once Agatha said her name, Judge Pao, although he was a bit suspicious, still ordered the two women to put the child on the ground. Mary and Agatha were surprised by this order, but they still had to follow the rules. They put the baby on the ground and waited for Judge Pao to give another order.

Judge Pao then said, “Agatha, you state that this 1-month old baby is yours, correct? Mary, you also state that this baby is yours, right?” Agatha and Mary both answered, “Yes!”

After they answered, he ordered them to compete with each other. He said, “The rules are simple. You have to make the baby smile with her teeth, but you can’t touch her. Who wins this challenge can have this baby.”

Agatha and Mary were so focused that they didn’t answer yes and they didn’t notice a 1-month old baby doesn’t have teeth. Agatha stared at the baby fiercely, which was certainly not the best idea in Judge Pao’s mind, but an incredibly surprising thing happened, the baby smiled at her with her teeth. Mary looked at the baby. She was devastated and she kept on weeping. Judge Pao was amused. He thought for a few minutes and concluded that Mary was the mother. Agatha was outraged, and in a gruff and loud voice, she said, “I won fair and square! That is my child! I mean...”

In a minute, Agatha changed her voice back to a sweet and soft tone. “I am the real mother. Shouldn’t I be treated with respect? Please give me back my child, your honour.”

Judge Pao glared at Agatha, he looked at her closely. He finally knew what made the baby smile with her teeth. He announced that Agatha used dark magic, she may be a witch or an ogre. Agatha suddenly laughed like a maniac, her voice changed to the gruff and loud voice again. She shouted, “Hahaha! Do you remember me? You locked my sister in the horrible dungeon!” Judge Pao was not that surprised, he had a lot of enemies because of his past cases. He asked her, “Gwen?” Gwen said, “Yes! I am Gwen the ogre! I am going to avenge my sister!” Judge Pao said, “Your sister killed and ate many innocent villagers from the Chuan Hong village for years! She deserves to be in the dungeon. Now, if you didn’t commit this crime, trying to frame a poor mother, you can be free, but unfortunately you did do it, so you have to go to an even more terrible dungeon with your sister. Gwen looked at Judge Pao, she didn’t know that her sister ate the villagers from Chuan Hong village and her sister even lied to her and said that was out hunting for wild boars to feast on, Gwen was heartbroken. She said” You are lying! Is it true? She didn’t tell me..... why didn’t she tell me? Why?” Judge Pao looked at Agatha, while she was asking why her

sister didn't tell her, she changed her form into an ugly, giant, ogre. Judge Pao felt a bit of sympathy for her, but the law is the law. Judge Pao put Gwen and her sister in the same cage, when Gwen met her sister, she stared at her ferociously and faced her back at her. Afterwards, he sent fifty strong men to carry the incredibly heavy cage to a dungeon so horrible that even the most powerful dragons are scared of it. As for Mary, Judge Pao asked her a question before she can go. "Why did Gwen target your baby in the first place?" Mary answered, "Well, she came into the village I live in, in a human form. I think she overheard me talking to my mother about my newborn baby. Then, she changed her form into a beautiful lady, she came into my home and blessed my child. After, she ran away with my baby in her hands,

I chased after her to get back my baby, and she ran into the court. You know the rest of the story." After answering Judge Pao's question, she was free to go. Judge Pao on the other hand was waiting for another mysterious case for him to solve on his chair.

Adventures in the Game Remix: The Tale of Judge Pao

Po Leung Kuk Hong Kong Taoist Association Yuen Yuen Primary School, Ng, Chesley – 10

After some time, the team was getting some artifacts for their inventory. Ben went to the planet of Judge Pao with the sound of the hyper-meme-drive blasting. He got ready for his mission to experience the life of Judge Pao. The second he touched the door, everything went black.

The next thing Ben knew, he was in the old Song dynasty, getting tickled by his "mother". Time flew like an arrow, and he was already grown up! His first case was about a slaughtered ox but the culprit was tricky and kept using some tricks to try to keep Judge Pao off the trail. But luck was on Judge Pao's side since the defendant told Judge Pao that he visited him a few days ago to tell him that the ox's tongue was cut. Finally, the culprit was "caught"(he was in the court, so there was no need for sending guards to capture the culprit)

Years passed and many famous cases such as the case of the two nails, in which he was investigating a case about a guy who died. After some research and help, he found out the dead guy had a nail inside his skull. The culprit (the dead guy's wife) confessed to adultery and mariticide. Or the case of the Black Basin, the main protagonist was the Black Basin, his 'owner' and the merchant's ghost, it happened because a greedy guy wanted a merchant's goods and treasure. To protect himself from being caught by justice, he created a Black Basin. Days later, someone to whom the greedy guy owned a debt took his basin and saw the merchant's ghost and he reported it to Judge Pao. With the help of the merchant's ghost, they eventually caught the greedy guy.

Or the Civet Cat Exchanged for Crown Prince: Bao Zheng met a woman claiming to be the mother of the reigning emperor. Dozens of years prior, she had been an important person of the emperor, before falling out of favor for supposedly giving birth to a bloody cat. But, to the truth, a jealous guy switched the baby to a skinny cat seconds after the birth. He then ordered that the baby shall be killed. But the "killer" helped the baby by giving him to a prince. The "killer" was tortured to death later because the antagonist suspected that the baby was alive. Due to the passage of time, gathering evidence was a challenge for Judge Pao. But later, Judge Pao admonished the emperor and ordered that he be beaten. After some time, Judge Pao beat the emperor's coat instead.

A few more years passed, and after the famous Judge Pao was dead, everything went dark, and then Ben realized that Judge Pao was looking in front of him! While a zephyr was blowing and leaves fell, Judge Pao held out his hand and said, "Congratulations! You finished the life of me, Judge Pao. Here is your prize." He held out his hand and a weird thing came out!" It's a genius, here to help you with any problems you need, even your assessments." Judge Pao smirked at Ben. Suddenly, a few more people teleported here and took out a crystal. Ben cursed: "Oh not again..." Judge Pao: "But you need to know who is holding the real crystal..." Luckily, Ben took out a magnifying glass and searched for one that had not bubbled. He repeated that until he found the real crystal! Judge Pao was amazed. Ben said, "I knew that a real crystal doesn't have any bubbles, so I checked for some bubbles in each of the crystals. Not to be outdone, Judge Pao said, "A real crystal forms slowly, so most of the air is forced out when you extract it from a source. Yes, you chose the correct crystal! This one is yours..." The (real) crystal floated down to Ben's hand as he gripped it.

The Missing Detective

Po Leung Kuk Hong Kong Taoist Association Yuen Yuen Primary School, Yung, Tsz Wing Michelle
– 10

The sun smiled, and the Earth beamed. Judge Pao was sitting in his elegant office drinking a cup of tea. He thought, “The weather is so peaceful, there should be no crimes to solve for a while.” He was extremely wrong. A mysterious and evil crime was waiting for him to solve!

Judge Pao woke up from his sleep and yawned. Suddenly, black smoke circled him, and he screamed. Eerie cries were now blossoming, bringing him to the unknown. Followed by a loud thud, he landed on the hard ground. He thought, “Where am I?” All of a sudden, three men rushed over to him. Unable to recover from his shock, he just gaped. The three men were urgent, “Judge Pao, you are in 2000 London. You need to help solve a case. Our famous detective, Sherlock Holmes, has disappeared!”

Judge Pao was stunned. “Who are you?”

The burliest of the three men said, “I am Gordan Gorilla, the smartest of the pack,” the other two men frowned. The second man said, “I am Watson, nice to meet you.” Finally, the third man introduced himself as Carlson Fox. Judge Pao said, “Enough, what happened?”

Watson described the whole case to Judge Pao, “Sherlock Holmes didn’t come to work for about ten days. We phoned him and went to his house, but there was no response. We even called the police, but they can’t track him. We need your help. This is a mysterious case, there are no clues at all. We guarantee it’s done by some professional kidnappers.”

Judge Pao nodded his head and stroked his beard. “Interesting case,” he murmured.

Chapter 2

Watson, Gorilla, Carlson Fox and Judge Pao arrived at Sherlock Holmes’s office. Judge Pao noticed, as Watson said, there were no clues at all. Judge Pao asked, “Does Sherlock Holmes have any enemies?”

Gorilla thought for a while, “Yes, many. Scientist M, Liam, Emma, Amelia, Jack, and even the mayor of London, Eulises, is his enemy!”

“Why does he have so many enemies?” asked Judge Pao.

“Maybe he’s too smart,” answered Carlson Fox.

Judge Pao’s eyes lit up, “You three will go to the mayor of London. For now, I imagine he is the greatest suspect. Also, pay close attention to his actions. Then, come back and tell me what you have seen.”

Chapter 3

Gorilla, Carlson Fox and Watson arrived at the mayor’s house. They realized the mayor looked rather nervous. After Gorilla began talking about Sherlock Holmes, the mayor yelled at them to get out of his house.

After the guards chased them out, Watson looked flabbergasted. He said, “The mayor is usually very cheerful and kind, what is wrong with him?” Carlson Fox rushed back to Judge Pao, and the others followed hastily.

After listening to Watson, Judge Pao nodded, “Then it must be Eulises who kidnapped Sherlock Holmes. It’s harder now, to get people to trust us.”

Chapter 4

The next day, Carlson Fox dressed himself up as a guard and sneaked into the mayor's house, determined to rescue his friend, Sherlock Holmes. He sneaked into the dungeon, and a shocking scene approached his eyes: Sherlock Holmes sat on the cold hard ground, with hay surrounding him. He gasped and Sherlock Holmes whispered, "Behind you!"

To Carlson Fox's horror, two guards stood before him. The guards bellowed, "You're not on duty here today little one! Get out of the dungeon!" Carlson Fox breathed a sigh of relief, took one last look at Sherlock Holmes, and rushed out of the gate.

Upon hearing Carlson Fox's words, Judge Pao jumped, "We'll bring the king of the United Kingdom to the dungeon!"

Chapter 5

Judge Pao and the others managed to call King Alexander from his palace to inspect the dungeon. As mayor Eulises saw him, his face turned white. King Alexander demanded, "Now, where is the dungeon?"

The palace guards took Judge Pao and the king to the dungeon. When King Alexander saw Sherlock Holmes, he went red with fury, "Who kidnapped him, may I ask?" An awkward silence descended over the crowd.

Chapter 6

At the High Court, Eulises explained he kidnapped Sherlock Holmes since his people think Sherlock Holmes is better than him. The judges sentenced him to 10 years of imprisonment. Sherlock Holmes and the others thanked Judge Pao for his bravery and intelligence, and at once black smoke circled him and brought him back to his office. Judge Pao is one of the most famous detectives in history, we should learn from him for his helpful heart, courage, and intelligence.

New Tales of Judge Pao

Po On Commercial Association Wan Ho Kan Primary School, Bicknell, Alexander Peter – 10

Judge Pao woke up one early morning, he got a call that some officers were coming to have dinner with him. He got prepared, they come here, discussed the matter, Judge Pao disagreed. The officers left looking disappointed.

The next day, there was a robbery from the bank. Judge Pao went to investigate, suddenly a portal appeared and sucked him into a different dimension. After he got there, he got shot from a mysterious creature. When he woke up again, he was in a dark forest, He explored the place and found an abandoned village. He entered a house in the village. When he touched the doorknob, he heard a voice. He opened the door and saw a wisp of smoke appear. It told him that there was a monster in the place. It was trying to take over the world. It was behind all the crimes that happened in the world. It infected other people's mind and controlled them.

The smoke also said, 'there is a potion to beat it. When you splash the first potion, you will summon the monster, the second potion may or may not turn the monster back into human. Then you must kill him.' And then the wisp of smoke disappeared. Once Judge Pao got out he also found a massive manor, he looked through the crooked window and saw a half-human, half-monster creature. He wondered if he was in some sort of nightmare. He saw a dead person holding a note saying, 'be quite.' Judge Pao was frightened. He nearly made a mental note to shout for help, but he didn't doer to make any sound, because he knew it would obviously alert the monster, so he stayed quiet.

Suddenly, the monster from the window disappeared. Judge Pao looked down and he saw he had stepped on a pressure plate. Assuming that the monster would kill him, he turned around and ran away. Judge Pao looked back and saw the monster was chasing him. He looked front and saw a portal. He jumped through it and escaped from the place. When he woke up again, he was in his car. His phone rang and the police asked where he was and told him that they found the bad guy. However, he might be under control by something. Judge Pao drove his car all the way to the bank. The bad guy told him that he did not do it, and if Judge Pao did not believe him, he would have nothing else to say. After listening to what the bad guy said, Judge Pao decided that the bad guy did not have to go to jail because he heard that someone else was behind it all.

Two Years Later...

After lot of potion-making experience, Judge Pao managed to make the potion to kill the monster. Judge Pao believed that the monster would be strong, so he prepared a lot of items such as: guns, swords, shields, extra bullet and bow with some arrows. When Judge Pao threw the first potion, suddenly everything went black. All Judge Pao could see was a few feet in front of him. He heard the sound of the monster. Then he saw it. He looks closer and saw the monster was actually blind, so it could only hear and sense human. Judge Pao threw the second potion, However, the monster did not become human again. The monster only regained his vision. Then Judge Pao could see properly again. He took his spare potion and splashed it at the monster. The monster gave a groan and turned back into human. Judge Pao straight away arrested the man and shot him with the gun. When Judge Pao killed the man, suddenly the clouds departed, the sky shone light blue and a rainbow appeared in the sky. The sun shone very bright too.

Everyone celebrated that the monster had been defeated!

New Tales of Judge Pao

Po On Commercial Association Wan Ho Kan Primary School, Huang, Pui Lok – 10

Peppa is greedy and lazy student. His teacher always blames him and disappointed at him. The academic result of Peppa is the worst in the class. His mother throws a tantrum at him and his father ignores him. However, Peppa think he has no fault and no need to change himself.

One evening, Peppa dreamt of an old man with his face red and had long beard. He was shocked and was unable to say a word. The man shocks his head and told him 'Such a naughty boy. Let me teach you a lesson. 'You are ridiculous! Peppa screamed. The next day, when Peppa walked across the street, a brand-new toy car in red color with gold linings caught his eyes. He opened his wallet immediately but saw no money inside. A feeling of despair rushed into his heart. Suddenly, a malicious thought appeared in his mind. He ran back home and tried to open. the drawer in his dad's bedroom. At this moment, he felt an electric shock. The time froze. The weird man emerged again. 'Who are you again?' Peppa said. 'Judge Pao, this is people usually call me. I am here to warn you that stealing money is a crime. Your parents will be disappointed,' the red face man said, no way, the car is really captivating. 'I must own it.' Peppa said. 'You will receive your penalties. Hope you won't regret' Judge Pao said and he faded, 'What A strange man!' Peppa confused.

The failure to steal money sadden Peppa. Subsequently, he found another way to get the car. He ran back to the toy shop and started at the car suspiciously. Just then, he took the car from the cabinet in a blink of an eye and ran as fast as he could.

However, the police arrived in the time and caught Peppa red handed. He saw his parent standing nearby and was looking at him unbelievably. A feeling of regret raised. The man with a mysterious look appeared again 'Judge Pao!' Peppa shouted with tears running down his cheeks. 'I finally realize what I have done is wrong. Can you please give me a chance? I won't commit crimes anymore and let my parents be disappointed in me again.' 'Time reverse. ' Judge Pao said,

The scenery blurred suddenly. When Peppa opened his eyes, he was back his home with his hand touching his dad's drawer. The voice of Judge Pao echoed 'Not everyone has his second chance. To do or not to do it is your choice. Hope you can remember your promise. Peppa felt astonished and searched for details about Judge Pao. Discovering a series of justice incidents Judge Pao has done in the past, he swore to be an honest person.

New Tales of Judge Pao

Po On Commercial Association Wan Ho Kan Primary School, Kwong, Cho Hei – 11

One summer afternoon, when Judge Pao was resting as usual on a wooden chair at his office, he had a strange dream. In his dream, he wondered why there was a snowfall in summer. Suddenly, he found a small hare with red fur covering its head runny toward him. 'Our honorable Judge Pao, I have grievances of being misjudged by the magistrate. I beg your help!' it cried in a mournful voice. However, before Judge Pao asked the Hare what was happening, it disappeared without uttering a word. He woke up immediately, he pondered on his weird dream. He was confused but he put this bizarre dream in the back of his mind.

One day, when Judge Pao was taking a walk in his garden, he saw a wounded Hare lying cold on the hard ground, it has real fur covering its head! The same as the hare in his dream! So he bent down and wrapped the Hare in a piece of cloth carefully and took it back to his sitting room to heal it. After feeding the hare some water and carrot soup, it felt better and was ready to talk. The Hare said, 'Mr. Judge Pao, thank goodness you eventually found me! I travelled for and wide to find you! I've heard that you always bring justice to the innocent so I come and beg you to help!' Judge Pao comforted the Hare and said, 'Don't worry! I will do whatever I can help you. So tell me what happened first,' The Hare sighed deeply, 'It was a long story. My family and I lived in the woods near a forest. We picked wild plants and wash them in the river to eat every day. However, recently, our peaceful life has been ruined by a mysterious force! The air become hard to breathe and the meadow has litter all over it. To our dismay, the water from the river has turned inky! Trees mysteriously disappeared as well as the grass also vanished. The animal magistrate determined to find out what was happening. He sends out animals to search for this mysterious force! I was sent out in the investigation as well. I went into the forest and saw a red button on the tree trunk. I was curious and touched it. However, it suddenly exploded and a lot of tree began to fall down. I was shocked and terrified upon my discovery, but of the investigation accused me of destroying the forest and I was locked up for persecution. I was even tortured to be admitted the guilt. Luckily, I escaped from the cell and come to find you to help! After Judge Pao heard about Hares story, he nodded and replied, 'I promise to help you to find out the fact! But first, we need to do some investigations. Take me to the forest.'

When they arrived at the scene, Judge Pao found some people chopping down the trees to build houses. Then he understood why the animals didn't have enough habitats to live. And then they went to the river, they discovered a lot of dead fish, the river was seriously polluted. They saw not only smoke coming out the chimney, but also dirty water going to the river through pipes connected with factories. Judge Pao said, 'It was humans who damaged the nature. We have to prevent such situation from further deteriorating. We need to stop them as possible now.'

Judge Pao invited the local residents to have a meeting. In the meeting, he said loudly in front of them, 'we need to save our earth! Do you know you are destroying the living world. It is our responsibility to protect our environment through the publicity of reduce, recycle, reuse and recover.'

After that, Judge Pao who accompanied with the Hare, went back to the animal world. He said to the animal magistrate, 'you have misjudged the case. The real cause of the ultimate destruction of the forest was not the guilt committed by the Hare, but by the humane pollution, so the Hare was innocent.' The animal magistrate said. 'Judge Pao, thank you for helping me to find out the truth!' Judge Pao then suggested planting more trees and reducing food waste. 'Pouring dirty and toxic water into the river as not allowed and schools should teach kid importance of protecting the environment.' Judge Pao added. Since then, the beautiful forest began to recover with every animal that has put its effort to keep the nature of their world a better place to live.

New Tales of Judge Pao

Po On Commercial Association Wan Ho Kan Primary School, Li, Ze Kai – 10

One day, Judge Pao was just drinking some tea, and then a soldier ran inside the palace. He screamed 'Judge Pao! There's a crime made in the bank!' Judge Pao said, 'who did it?' It was a man, but he said that he was just walking around and the other guy is the criminal! What should we do!? The soldier asked, 'Hmmmm.....' said Judge Pao. Bring the two men to me."

After a while, the soldier walked inside the palace, but this time, he was walking with two men. 'Tell me, said Judge Pao, 'What's your name?' 'My name is Shao Wang.' The first man said, 'then what's yours?' Judge Pao pointed to the other man. 'it's Shao Kua.' He said. 'That's impossible!' screamed the soldier. 'There couldn't be TWO Shaos!' He screamed. 'Stay relaxed!' said Judge Pao. 'So, Shao Kua, what did you do when the crime happened? 'I was just walking to the shops to buy some meat!' He screamed. 'I didn't do anything as well! screamed Shao Kua. 'Okay, I know who's the criminal! Said Judge Pao shouted. 'M....m me?' Shao Kua said. 'It was easy to see that you're a liar!' Judge Pao shouted. 'Um.... But you got the wrong man!' He shouted. 'Oh. Really?' said Judge Pao. 'You didn't have an explanation!' He said 'Ok fine!' Shao Kua said. 'I admit that you're..... a hard one!' Shao Kua shouted. And then, he ran out of the palace! Judge Pao only can watch it.

Who knows what will happen in the next day.

New Tales of Judge Pao

Po On Commercial Association Wan Ho Kan Primary School, Yu, Peiming – 10

In a very normal and happy city. There is a detective office. And Inside the detective of five lived two men. They are Judge Pao and Gongsun Ce.

‘Wow! This cup of tea smells so good!’ said Gongsun Ce. ‘Ha ha! Of course it’s good. It’s very expensive.’ Suddenly, someone knocked the door Gongsun Ce opened the door and then he was shocked because he saw a woman who wear in all purple. Please come in and have a sit.’ said Judge Pao. The women sat down and said, ‘I’m a bit sick so my throat is not very good. I’m sorry that I can’t speak well.’ ‘Its fine,’ said Judge Pao. ‘Why did you come here?’ said the both men. ‘Oh! right! I’ve almost forgot why did I come here. My name is Rose but everyone usually call me purple woman. I came here because I want you to help me solve this riddle. In our family everyone should plant sweet potato and everyone all love sweet potato because forefather loved it. This riddle is from our forefather and it said that there is a treasure if we can solve all riddles. I really want to know what is the treasure.

Could you please help me?’ Said the purple women. ‘Sure, could you show me the riddle?’ Said Judge Pao. Later, Judge Pao said “The answer is dig into the middle of the farm. ‘Oh thank you so much,’ said the purple women. But when the purple women just about the leave. Judge Pao said, ‘a woman has to find the treasure seems to hard we will go with you.’ Rose said, ‘No need! Thank you! I can do it.’ Judge Pao said, ‘Leave it to me. I’ll find the treasure.’ ‘Ok, fine,’ said the purple woman.

When they arrive at the farm. ‘Wow! This farm is so beautiful, said Gongsun Ce. ‘I agree.’ said Judge Pao. ‘Let’s go to the middle of the farm and dig out the treasure,’ said Judge Pao. After they are middle of the farm. Gongsun Ce said, ‘Let me dig out the treasure!’ But when Gongsun Ce was almost done, the purple women pushed him away and said, ‘Let me dig!’ And then she broke the sweet potato root and start to dig. ‘Umm? The treasure is not here? This is just a paper.’ said the purple women ‘No, this should be a map. This red mark should be the place with the treasure,’ said Judge Pao. After Judge Pao finished what he wants to say, Gongsun Ce said, ‘the purple woman is already there. So the two men also want to where the red mark is.

‘Treasure I’m coming!’ said the purple woman and then she opened the door. ‘Where is the treasure? There is nothing inside!’ said the purple women ‘Hey! look here! there is a riddle, ’ said Gongsun Ce. ‘Use our favorite to open the door. What does this mean?’ said Gongsun Ce. ‘The answer should be sweet potato because this should be purple woman’s favorite food,’ said Judge Pao. Suddenly, a secret door opened up. ‘Wow so much treasure!’ said the purple woman. ‘Thank you for helping me. Now that the treasure is found you two may leave. Oh! Thanks to my hard-working day by day for planting sweet potato.’ I finally get some repay!’ said the purple woman, but Judge Pao said, ‘before I go, there is one more problem. You are not the real purple woman! You said that you work day by day so you must not be this white. Also, you said you love sweet potato but that sweet potato cake Gongsun Ce give you, you didn’t eat it all. At last, you love planting sweet potato but when you

we’re digging the middle part of the farm you cut the all the sweet potatoes roots off. So, you must not be Rose!’ Gongsun Ce called the police. Soon the police came and took the fake purple woman. ‘Judge Pao, you are so smart!’ said Gongsun Ce. ‘Ha ha! Let’s go home.’ said Judge Pao.

The Mystery

Pui Ching Primary School, Chan, Yat Ching Jocelyn – 12

Isabella Wilson woke up at night, hearing some footsteps from the corridor. She got out of bed, put on her slippers, and opened the door, seeing a photo that she'd never known was there before. She was terrified, so she tiptoed to her parents' room. Her mother was in the corridor and was about to knock on Isabella's door.

She asked, "Mom, what's happening?"

"I don't know," said Mom.

Since her dad needed to go to Hong Kong for work, he was not at home but will be back tomorrow.

They went downstairs and tried to find where the sound was coming from. Eight hours went by; it felt like forever. They sat there all night but still saw no sign of anything. So, they ended up sleeping in the next morning. Isabella's dad came home in shock, seeing them laying on the floor.

He said, "Isabella, my dear, pack your bags. You need to go to school."

Isabella and her mom explained that they heard footsteps coming from the corridor. So they spent the whole night looking for it, but they found no hope.

Dad said, "Oh! That's why."

Isabella's mother stayed home from work to discover the mystery, while Isabella quickly packed her bags and went to school.

When Isabella was walking to school, she felt that someone was following her. But she looked a few times, and no one was there. This was rather strange, but her family is quite famous and rich after all. And whoever was behind this did a really good job hiding their faces. Isabella ignored the situation and quickly continued walking to school.

At school, everything was normal except that most of her teachers were on leave, which was another mystery.

When the school bell rang, it was time for lunch. The worst school lunch lady, Aunt Betty, who was never absent for ten years in a row, was on sick leave today. How strange. Isabella and her friends talked about Betty throughout the whole day.

Time went by really fast; class was over, so Isabella rushed home.

"What's going on?" Isabella asked, "Why are you crying?"

Her mother replied, "When I was in the toilet, somebody came and took your dad. I came out, looked out the window, and saw your dad and some random guys getting in a car."

Isabella calmed her mother and said, "I went to school today, and some of my teachers who were rarely absent from work were on leave today. I wonder if they have something to do with it as well. Did you see anyone?"

Her mother said, "I saw a man wearing a suit in the car."

Isabella replied, "You see, half of my teachers were on leave today and had their reasons. The other half just kind of seemed like they disappeared on purpose. Those teachers really might be the ones who took dad."

Her mother said, "That makes sense. We better call the police."

They called the police, and the police came in a matter of minutes.

Isabella said, "Some men came and took my dad."

One of the police officers asked, "Is there any way we can track them down?"

Her mother said, "He did carry his phone with him. Maybe we can use my phone to track down his location."

She opened her 'Find Me' app and tracked down Isabella's dad's location. They found out that he was at Black Boy Street, number 2, in the Rainbow Building. So, they took off in the police car and headed there.

Meanwhile, on Dad's side, it was his father, Judge Pao, who took him.

Judge Pao said, "Hey John, can we talk about something serious right now?"

Dad said, "Sure, dad, why not?"

Judge Pao took a deep breath and said, "After you got married to a British woman, I got so mad because you broke the family tradition. I kicked you out. So, you left China to live with your wife in England. Your mother passed away very soon after. I didn't have a job, so I was late on rent and other bills. I even became homeless afterward. So, I decided to come here to start a new life with you. Can you forgive me?"

Isabella's father said, "You know, I've been thinking about you a lot lately, but I'm not sure."

Judge Pao said, "Please, please, please just forgive me."

Her father sighed and said, "Oh well, since you are here, we can give it a try."

Judge Pao hugged his son and exclaimed, "Thank you, thank you, son; you don't know how much this means to me."

Just at that moment, Isabella, her mom, and the policemen came.

The policemen screamed, "Freeze! Put your hands up!"

Dad said confusedly, "Wait, wait, wait, can someone explain why the cops are here?"

Isabella said, "Dad, that guy just kidnapped you."

Dad said, "That is my dad, your grandfather, Judge Pao."

Isabella said, "Oh, you never told me about him."

Dad said, "Yeah, because it is a long story that kids might not understand. But for now, let's get out of here."

They were all shocked and were taken home in the police car. When Isabella, her mom, dad, and Judge Pao were back at the house, Isabella took out the photo that she saw last night of her dad and Judge Pao. She remembered that she had seen him before in the photo. The photo was taken in the middle of the Great Wall of China in Beijing, when her dad still lived in China as a kid.

Judge Pao said, "Yeah, the good old days."

Isabella said, "Grandfather Judge Pao, why don't you come and live with us? Is it okay, Dad?"

Dad said, "Of course, if the judge is fine with it."

The judge smiled, and they all hugged for a wonderful reunion. It turns out half the teachers at school weren't doing anything wrong; they really were sick.

The Endless Case

Pui Ching Primary School, Cheng, Hoi Hei Hallie – 11

"How did this happen, Mr. Wilson?" asked Detective Charlotte.

"It was a breezy night, my daughter, Diana Wilson, went outside with her friends. But after one hour, my daughter still wasn't home, I am worried sick. She still hasn't returned yet," cried Mr. Wilson.

Detective Charlotte pondered for a few minutes, "Diana Wilson? This name sounds familiar, hmm," she asked, "When was the last time you saw her?"

"It was eight o'clock. After dinner, Diana said that she wanted to go out with her friends to a party," replied Mr. Wilson. Detective Charlotte thought this was suspicious, so she told Mr. Wilson she had to think for a bit and left the house quietly.

While Detective Charlotte was on her way home, she felt someone was following behind her. She ran as quick as lightning back to her home. When she locked the door, the door opened by itself then closed again!

Detective Charlotte was shocked so she sat down on her couch to cool down. Suddenly, she was getting controlled by someone. Detective Charlotte wanted to go to the bathroom, instead she went to the kitchen. But when she wanted to go to the kitchen, she went to the bathroom. After that, she went back to the living room.

"This is ridiculous, why am I being controlled?" thought Detective Charlotte.

Mr. Wilson called again, "About my daughter Diana... I've called her friends, some said that Diana didn't go to the party but some said that Diana was murdered by a girl called Ellie, I don't know who I should believe..."

"Do Diana's friends have any evidence to prove that Ellie murdered Diana then?" asked Detective Charlotte. After the call, Charlotte went back to Mr. Wilson's place.

Mr. Wilson replied, "Well, yes, one of Diana's friends, Coco, sent me a recording of Ellie murdering Diana."

Mr. Wilson played the recording...

["No! This is not funny. Don't kill me please! I still want to see my family and friends and die at old age. Please, don't kill me!" Diana's voice pleaded.]

["No! This is my only chance! How dumb! No one told you to come to the party and fall into my trap. Hahaha!" Ellie's voice said, "This is a lesson for you, my very 'best friend'. This is time for you to die!" Ellie then broke into an evil laugh.]

["Ahh!" Then, there were sounds of a blood knife going into flesh.]

The recording ended.

"Um, that seems edited. Those are my thoughts on this recording. I think Coco needs more evidence to prove that Ellie did it. If I don't have any more evidence to prove Ellie did it, the murderer or kidnapper could be one of Diana's friends!" said Detective Charlotte.

Detective Charlotte thought, "Well, maybe it is Ellie or it could be Coco. We need more evidence to prove that Ellie murdered Diana or kidnapped her." She thought for about two minutes.

"Hello? Detective Charlotte?" asked Mr. Wilson. Detective Charlotte came back to her senses.

"Sorry for taking so long," Mr. Wilson wasn't expecting that Charlotte would take this long.

He thought, "She is Judge Pao's great great granddaughter. She couldn't be wrong! Should I find another detective? Detective Charlotte is the kindest and reliable. Everyone asks her to solve their cases. Detective Charlotte always solves the case."

While Mr. Wilson went to the washroom, Detective Charlotte checked his phone and saw an unknown message.

Mr. Wilson's phone was ringing, one new notification, 3 messages from Coco...

*"Hey Bestie, the plan is working!" *

*"Liliana? Are you there? *

*"When you're free, reply to my message!" *

Detective Charlotte was shocked. She couldn't imagine what she witnessed. Spotting an empty lavender room, she considered, "This must be Diana's room." She went inside and found a book on a desk: Diana's diary.

She opened it and read the latest entry. It read, "2022.3.18 is my last day at school before the holiday. I received presents from everyone, but not her. I met her 3 years ago, we became best friends. I thought Liliana was my best friend but she wasn't. I also figured out that she has magic powers. She told me she's going to get my family and friends. I went bananas but she didn't stop. I just hope she doesn't hurt me, my family and my best friends, but there's no hope for me. I am the popular one. After school, I am going to their party... I will not disappoint anybody."

Charlotte froze after reading Diana's diary. The truth was out. Who knew Liliana was the evil one?

"Ding ding ding"

New message notification to Mr. Wilson's phone

Another message from Coco again.

*"Bestie, let's meet at 1 o'clock, 18 Wu Kai Sha road. Is that ok for you?" *

"Ok, I'll be there soon. Don't worry," Charlotte thought, "Well, let me meet her and see her reaction or just to get some more evidence. It could be useful either way."

Charlotte went to 18 Wu Kai Sha Road. Liliana and Diana were tied on a rope. Coco stood in front of Charlotte. She thought it would be Lilianna. Was Coco the one faking it all along?

Coco boasted with laughter, "How funny, Detective Charlotte. I thought you'd be smarter than them. How dumb of you to fall into my trap. Hahaha, a famous detective and I caught you all the same. So funny!"

Coco tied Charlotte up with a rope. Charlotte tried to untie them and herself, but it didn't even work. Diana and Liliana were crying, their tears making an ocean. Charlotte was like swimming in a deep sea. No one could help her.

A mysterious shadow walked by, Liliana, Diana and Charlotte were petrified. It was Ellie!

"Are you guys okay? I'm here to help. Let's go! I heard that Diana's dad was worried about Diana that she got taken away," Ellie untied them then sent them back to their homes.

Detective Charlotte thought, "I have figured everything out! The one who was following and controlling me was Coco. She was practicing her magic powers when she was little. Ellie is innocent! The recording Coco took of Ellie and Diana was just the two of them playing around at the party!"

After Diana's dad heard this from Charlotte, he wasn't worried anymore. Diana was asked to stay at home and not to go to school.

At last, Diana and Liliana became real best friends and Coco was involved in a court case for kidnapping her classmates.

"It is not my fault..." Coco explained...

Zane and Rose Pao and the Adventure of the Volcano Fungii

Pui Ching Primary School, Cheung, Pak Yau – 12

The kids nowadays love detective stories like Detective Pikachu, Batman and Sherlock Holmes. But a thousand years ago, before all these famous detectives was the original detective, Judge Pao. People knew Judge Pao as the great Judge who brings justice to the ones that wronged others, and help the innocent prove their innocence in the daytime, but not many people knew about the great judge at night. The great Judge Pao was the immortal Yama of hell.

The Yama mainly works for the Infernal Bureaucracy department, they sort out all the affairs of the afterlife. Whenever devils escape from hell, he puts them back at their place. When selfish creatures on Earth perish, he guides them towards the elevator to hell. The Yama was rumored to be the first ever being to pass away, so the great gods bestowed him as the God of Death.

One day, a devil slipped out of hell and escaped to the mortal realm, the devil was the infamous Lucifer. Lucifer brought chaos and destruction along with his every step, the plants wither to the touch of him. Lucifer attacked one city and another until he got the attention of the great Yama. The Yama and Lucifer fought against each other for decades on end. They fought and fought on an ancient volcano. They disappeared after a century of fighting, some say the Yama won, some say Lucifer won. But no one knows the truth...until now.

Now in the present, Judge Pao's descendants, Zane Pao and Rose Pao lived in Hong Kong. They were international celebrities. Zane is a multi-billionaire who has been experimenting with space travel. Rose, on the other hand, was a great doctor who could heal anyone with herbs. She knows every solution to every sickness like the back of her hand, past, present or future.

But other than that, they also fought aliens from other universes. They regularly win awards for fighting and protecting their home planet every Saturday morning. Zane has teleportation and telekinesis powers, and Rose has healing and defensive powers. They usually fight small troops of aliens that could sometimes shapeshift or control the weather. They rarely get gigantic armies of destructive, powerful aliens to fight.

Last week, an ancient volcano erupted for the first time in a thousand years. Zane and Rose went to investigate the volcano eruption when the almighty Lucifer stood at the center of the volcano.

"Puny humans, I have come for your demise!"

The fight of Lucifer and Judge Pao has ended. Chaos and destruction will be brought upon the living world. Just as Lucifer has risen, enormous armies of element controlling aliens, mind controlling aliens and otherworldly gods have come in the aid of Lucifer.

"Well, this is a heavy cross to bear." yelled Zane while teleporting all over the place dodging laser beams the aliens have been shooting at him.

"We mustn't give up yet, this world depends on us! Legend says a seed was planted by our ancestor, Judge Pao in this very volcano. It is said that the seed will bloom in the hands of a true, pure hearted hero. The seed possesses great power, we must find that seed!" yelled Rose.

The pair set off to find the seed, with a deep breath, they dove into the pool of lava, crushed the layers of magma and into the bottom of the volcano. At the bottom, was a village of small sentient fungi. The village's architecture was lovely, it had rounded roofs, with many plants for decorations. The fungi could talk and walk just like humans, but they seem to be freaking out instead of being calm like they are in the stories. The fungi were all over the place! Some were gathering crops, and some were digging into the ground.

"Woah there! What's the rush?" Rose yelled.

"The magma is collapsing!" yelled a fungus from behind. The fungus was the village leader, Fugii.

“Relax! I’ll help you summon a shield that’ll hold on for millions of years, if not forever! You’ll have plenty of time to fix it then.” Rose drew a circle surrounding the village and chanted a spell. BAM! A blue fire lit up and a shield began forming pixel by pixel. The Fungi thanked them for helping them, but one question was on their mind.

“Why are you here? We haven’t had visitors for years?”

Zane explained that they were here to search for the ancient seed. Fugii stepped up and formed something from its staff. With a few seconds, a seed was formed.

“I believe you are looking for this. Please take this as our gratitude for helping us.” Rose held the seed in her palms, the seed began blooming beautifully in her arms. A beacon of light shot out of the rose and through the layers of magma and lava. Back at the surface, the light shined so brightly it was practically a second sun. It blinded many of the aliens attacking earth’s creatures, the aliens turned their attention to the beacon. Lucifer tried to destroy the beacon, but he was burnt instead.

“Impossible!” yelled Lucifer in pain. But it was possible. The small hole that was burnt into the body of the Devil started to evaporate his body until it was nothing but a giant pile of ashes for the wind to clean up. The aliens watched in fear, they quickly left the earth. Zane and Rose were finally back at the surface, but the destruction was done. Many cities were destroyed and innocent lives lost, they have won, but in the cost of everything. Rose healed the hurt citizens, but healing won’t resurrect the dead. Zane tried piecing the broken buildings with his power, but it was nothing but failure.

As they thought the world hated them, the citizens of Hong Kong chanted “Thank you for saving us!” to the two heroes.

Judge Pao would have been proud.

Detective Juliet – Lost Necklace

Pui Ching Primary School, Leung, Hailey Myra – 11

One day, I was eating my toast while walking to school early. Madison Brown, my best friend, sniffed and whimpered, “Juliet! It’s... gone!” I turned back and saw Madison was crying.

I swallowed my last bite of toast and asked, “Huh? What’s gone?”

“M—my necklace that I wore yesterday! The one I told you that’s my birthday present from my grandma,” Madison cried with a desperate frown, “I searched my whole school bag. I found out it was gone last night.” Madison shook my body which made me dizzy.

“I felt this is a mission waiting for me,” I grinned and murmured.

“Juliet, can you help me? I still remember you’re the famous Judge Pao’s great great great granddaughter,” Madison said.

“I will try my best!” I said, and gave a confident smile even though I had no idea where to start with, “Trust me, Madison.”

Madison looked at me with tearing eyes, “Juliet...”

I playfully hit her shoulder, “Let’s go to school.”

Madison and I swiftly ran to our school. Our school was a large building with neatly cleaned windows. There was a small fountain at the left-hand side. Our garden planted lots of roses and sunflowers which gave our school a floral scent, making the school environment look so classy. There were birds chirping on the sakura trees. We loved sitting under the tree to read and panic...

We talked in our classroom before class began. Suddenly, we heard Lucy say loudly in a group, “Oh! It’s so beautiful. Can I try your necklace?” Ava nodded and handed the necklace to Lucy.

Without a doubt, Madison dashed at Ava and Lucy, cried on top of her lungs, “That necklace is mine! How dare you wear it without my permission!” I looked at the necklace, it was a silver necklace with yellow jewelry. It wasn’t the red golden necklace that Madison wore. I quickly ran to them and apologized. Ava stared at Madison and walked away.

“Let’s go,” I said, before things got too embarrassing. I held her hand and quickly ran outside the classroom.

“What were you doing?” I asked her angrily.

“I thought that was my necklace,” said Madison innocently.

I sighed and said, “Let’s walk around to see who has the necklace.”

Madison and I walked around in the garden and saw Rosy, who was a British, artsy girl, and Bella, who had short hair with a pair of black thick glasses. We were classmates. They were sitting on the bench under the sakura trees. They looked sad. We both walked to them and asked curiously, “What’s wrong?”

Rosy sniffed and sighed, “I lost my bracelet and Bella lost her earrings.”

I was surprised and said, “Madison also lost her necklace.”

Bella and Rosy mumbled, “Who took our jewelry?”

Madison shrugged and thought for a while, “I suspect it’s Helen. She asked me to show her my necklace.”

Bella and Rosy looked at each other and told us that they showed their jewelry to Helen too.

Before we walked back to the classroom, I asked Madison what happened yesterday when she saw Helen. Madison told me that she was writing in her handbook. Helen asked for her necklace. She refused at first but Helen said she never owned any necklaces, so I took off my necklace and put it on her neck. She tried it and returned it. Only Helen asked to see my necklace, and she knew that I put it in my pencil case.

I ran back to Rosy and Bella. They told me they showed Helen on different days too. I went back to the classroom and observed Helen. Helen was talking to her friends Hannah and Judy. Helen sometimes stared at classmates' outfits and bags.

We had PE class today, everyone packed their school bags. Helen pretended to pack her school bag but she was trying to be the slowest. She was waiting for other classmates to leave the classroom. I packed my school bag and hid behind the door. I saw her open Penny's school bag and took out a pencil from Penny's pencil case. I thought that Helen would steal but she just looked at it and put it back. I thought it was her best opportunity to steal it but she didn't.

After she left, I wanted to go to the playground but I saw an incident. I wasn't sure what happened. After PE class, Penny found that her pen was gone. She cried and asked Helen if she saw her pen. Helen looked worried but she denied it. Rosy, Bella, and Madison looked at each other. They suspected Helen, so they searched her drawer and school bag. They couldn't find the pen.

Before PE class, I saw Helen's best friends Hannah and Judy open Penny's pencil case. They smirked and took Penny's pen. They put it into Helen's school bag. I wasn't sure why they did that to Helen. Did Helen ask them to do it? But Helen could do it herself. Hannah and Judy took the pen, but why did the pen vanish?

I walked into the toilet and I heard Hannah and Judy talking. "Huh? Just now I put the pen into Helen's school bag, but it's gone!" Hannah said.

Judy asked, "Did you take the pen?"

Hannah said, "Eh... No! I didn't. We did it a couple of times, even though I like the pen, but I didn't."

I was very mad. I ran to Hannah and she saw me. She was surprised. "How long have you been here?" She asked me.

I told her everything I had known and Hannah and Judy were very embarrassed.

"I will tell the teacher if you don't return the things you guys have stolen," I warned.

The next day, they made some anonymous "Sorry" cards for everyone and gave their things back.

Everyone said to me, "Thank you, our detective, Juliet!"

The Bank Robbery

Pui Ching Primary School, Tsui, Sum Yuet Athena – 12

Detective Pao Ye-An is at the bank with his sidekick and best friend, Wu En-De. A dollar bill, a crowbar, and a labeled hammer were left behind; a mistake professional thieves never make.

Matching the label, Ye-An found a tool store selling the exact hammer and crowbar. Wu En-De asked the receptionist for last week's camera footage. He watched a brown-haired, green-eyed man ramble into the store. The man bought the crowbar and hammer the same day of the bank robbery. The name of the guy was Zhou Ba-Nu, who the receptionist said had a deep voice. Zhou Ba-Nu was about five feet, ten inches tall. The police records showed that Zhou Ba-Nu lives in Wan Chai, so Ye-An and his partner sped over there, ready to meet their suspect.

Instead of a 20-year-old guy, they were greeted by a 50-year-old woman, who told the officers that she just moved in a few hours ago. Without a hello, Pao Ye-An barged into the lady's apartment only to find hundreds of boxes, a rusty metal chair, and a few spruce cabinets. Ye-An looked around suspiciously for evidence. Did that old lady hide the thief? Unfortunately, he found nothing but more boxes. Ye-An left after apologizing to the lady.

The next day, Ye-An went to the beach to see the sunrise and was surprised to see Wu En-De there. En-De had an idea: what if the old lady was the thief instead? Ye-An was shocked at the thought of a 50-year-old lady being a thief.

Wu En-De continued, "What if the lady wasn't settling in but instead was leaving the place?"

Pao Ye-An was amazed at the thought and decided to check on the lady; the house was now empty, proving En-De's theory right! Unfortunately, the police had already closed the case, so the two detectives had to investigate it by themselves.

Pao Ye-An and Wu En-De went back to the police station to find information on the lady. It seems that they were onto something. After four days of searching, Wu En-De found out the old lady's name was Li An-Ni. Pao Ye-An also found a little bit of information on Zhou Ba-Nu, their prime suspect.

En-De said, "Li An-Ni now lives in Causeway Bay in a building called Mei-Wei Apartment. An-Ni has a daughter named Li Ai-Ma and two sons. One was named Li Ha-Li, who sadly died in a car crash a year ago, and the other's name reads "Anonymous."

Pao Ye-An replied, "Li An-Ni and Zhou Ba-Nu are related. Their DNA has a 50% match."

The two detectives drove to the Causeway Bay address, where Li An-Ni and Matt Lei, a famous award-winning movie star, greeted them at the door. Being big fans of Matt Lei, Pao Ye-An, and Wu En-De screamed. Li An-Ni questioned who the two detectives were, so Pao Ye-An and Wu En-De pretended to be electricians. They claimed that they were fixing a power outage (which there actually was), so An-Ni let them in without any doubt.

It turns out that the entire thing was a complete misunderstanding. Matt Lei was Li An-Ni's anonymous son; his real name was Li Ma-Te. Li An-Ni never lied from the start. Li An-Ni was really moving into the house but saw a bunch of rats later that day, so she moved back to her original apartment, which she luckily didn't sell yet. Li Ai-Ma and Matt Lei were at their mother's home since their mother Li An-Ni was sick the past week. Matt Lei was a celebrity and didn't want anyone to know his family background since his family wanted to have a private life, so he was anonymous on the police webpage. It's also why Matt Li changed his celebrity last name to "Lei".

An-Ni's family was nice, altruistic, and kind, and they offered to help. When Pao Ye-An told Li An-Ni about Zhou Ba-Nu, Li An-Ni was surprised about it and told them about Ha-Li, her other son.

An-Ni said, "Matt has been a celebrity for a few years now. One day, Ha-Li and Matt Lei were walking down the street. Some fans recognized Matt and asked for his autograph. However, Ha-Li didn't want Matt's fans chasing after him so he changed his name to Zhou Ba-Nu. Li Ha-Li (or Zhou Ba-Nu) must've actually been the person who robbed the bank because he always wanted the world to know who he was and not be in Matt's shadow forever."

Matt's face went red as a tomato. He was embarrassed. An-Ni said that Li Ha-Li gave her the apartment as a farewell gift since he was going to live in the USA. Li An-Ni showed Detective Ye-An and Detective En-De a letter that Li Ha-Li sent to her a few days ago.

The letter:

Dear Mum,

I now live a happy life; I have all the money I wanted, and I recently returned to Hong Kong, where I now reside in Tsuen Wan. You can visit me on Gan Wan Street in the Chi Ren Building on the fifth floor in Room B. I hope you are doing well!

Sincerely,

Ha-Li

The following day, the detectives went to the Chi Ren Building and arrested Li Ha-Li (or Zhou Ba-Nu) for the robbery. The Chief Executive gave a medal to Ye-An and En-De to praise them for their courage and bravery. If Judge Pao saw this, he would be proud of his grandson.

Three Stray Dogs

Pui Ching Primary School, Yan, Po Sing Matthew – 11

Harry Pao was sitting on his chair, reading the newspaper. “Warren, it’s already been a month and there is no business. My brain cells will rust if there is no—”

Suddenly, a rapid sound upstairs cut off Harry. Someone knocked on the door loudly with their fist.

“A—ha! He must have something urgent. And there is finally business!” Harry opened the door. The man rushed in and held a cupboard. The man wore normal clothes, but he was sweating and panting nervously.

“Sorry Mr. Harry. Please forgive my recklessness! You know, I’m the unfortunate pet shop keeper Bryan Robinson!”

“Calm down, Mr. Robinson. You sound like you’ve met me before, but I didn’t meet you before, did I? Please sit down. Tell me about the case.”

“Well, it started one week ago...” Robinson narrated.

A stranger gave me three dogs. He looked like a merchant and he wore a suit. He had a leather briefcase, with a Chanel logo on it. He said he’d seen those stray dogs on the street. I received the dogs and I took good care of them.

This morning, I was going to my shop as usual, but I noticed the dogs that the stranger gave me were dead! Their stomachs were all cut open! I was in grief so I decided to find you at once after I locked the shop door,” he continued.

“These are the things I know. I’ve heard you help many innocent people reverse their verdict. It is said that you are a descendant of the Judge Pao. Everyone called you the Real Sherlock Holmes. Please help me to avenge the dogs. Also, a citizen gave me a photo of the man who gave me the dogs.”

“Alright, Mr. Robinson. Tomorrow I will go to your pet shop. I will see if there is any evidence of the dogs.”

After Robinson left, Harry took the photo to the police station. He asked the officer to find if there is a suspect that matches the description. The officer gave him information about a criminal called David Moran. Harry posted an advert on the newspaper pronto to find David Moran.

The next day, Robinson found Harry.

“Hello Mr. Harry, please follow me to my pet shop. Have you found any evidence in the photo?”

“I’ve found a criminal that looks like the man in the photo. He’s called David Moran. I’ve posted an advert to find him. Let’s wait for a few more days to see if someone has found him.”

Soon, Harry was at the pet shop. He found that the wounds on the dogs’ bodies were very consistent. Moreover, not only their wounds, their stomachs were also cut. The cuts were very tidy, which looks like it was made by an expert. Only experts can cut such a tidy incision. Harry loves these cases. He likes to train his intelligence by solving difficult cases.

“He took something out of their stomachs, but what was it?” Harry thought.

A few days later, a citizen claimed he found a person that looked like David Moran. He gave Harry the man’s address: Room C, 25/F, Tower 3, Skyscraper 75, 168, Fairfield Way, Florida, America.

That day at midnight, Harry eavesdropped two black shadows having a conversation in the alley:

“These are the diamonds you want.” The tall shadow said.

“Oh gosh, that’s a lot!” The short shadow said.

“Shh! Be quiet. There might be police listening to us.” The tall black shadow looked around to ensure there was nothing except cardboard boxes left from the market.

“Oh, don’t be scared. It’s now 11 o’clock and no one will see us. This is the reward.” It took out a suitcase.

The tall shadow received it and meanwhile, one of the cardboard boxes popped up and Harry jumped out from the box. The two shadows were afraid and turned and ran. But when they turned around, Warren was blocking their way. They got the mail from the police and it said the place and the time which the smugglers would trade. They ambushed and waited for the smugglers to appear. When they were taken to the interrogation room, everything came to light...

At the interrogation room, I asked...

“Mr. Moran, you are the one who killed the dogs and you took the diamonds out of their stomach, right?”

Moran nodded his head speechlessly.

“You sold the diamonds to this diamond merchant, right?”

Moran nodded his head again.

“You forced them to eat the diamonds, right?”

Moran was too shocked to nod his head. He stares at Harry proudly.

“Tell me who this diamond merchant is.”

“He...He is my friend from secondary school. He is Ronald Wilkins.”

At last, Ronald and David were sentenced to prison for 10 years.

Robinson was relieved that Harry found true justice for the dogs. And Harry Pao, the world-famous detective, has just solved another case.

Judge Pao Junior Saves the Day

Pui Ching Primary School, Yip, Shing Yan Brendan – 12

“Ring!” I woke up at 5 a.m. The ringing sound was coming from my computer. I opened it to see who emailed me at such an early hour. It was a case the police asked me to investigate. Although I was drowsy, I still went to the police station.

There was a murder in a mansion. A rich old man, Alfred, was found dead at 4:45 a.m. by his son, Jack, when he was looking for tissues. He phoned the police after finding his father dead on the floor covered in blood and bruises.

The police officer showed me four suspects. There was the old man’s son Jack, Daniel the butler, Alfred’s two friends, Tom the engineer and Bob the cook. I studied the four men’s faces. They were all called into the police station for interrogation.

The first suspect to be questioned was Jack.

I asked, “I am Judge Pao Junior. When was the last time you went inside your father’s room?”

“4:45 a.m.” said Jack.

“Was the room messy when you went in?” I asked.

“Yes. The jewellery, clothes, money... all the things were scattered on the floor.” said Jack.

Then, I interviewed the second suspect – Daniel the butler.

“Hello! What were you doing inside your master’s room when you discovered his death?”

“I was ironing his clothes. When I looked left, I was shocked to see him lying on the floor and he didn’t breathe. I rushed out of the room and reported it to Jack. Jack sprinted into the room immediately.”

After that, I started the interrogation with Tom.

I asked, “When was the last time you were at Alfred’s house?”

“Three men and I went there last night to have a birthday party,” said Tom the engineer.

“Did anything special happen?” I asked.

“No... Just last week Alfred promised to give one of his friends Sam his salary but he forgot. That man behaved rudely and suspiciously at the party.”

“Thanks! Do you know where the man lives and goes often?”

“He lives in Sunshine Centre in Causeway Town. He works in Alfred Enterprises in West Point.”

Tom seemed to be innocent. He gave me a lot of clues.

Then, I met Bob.

He refused to say anything except shouting that he hadn’t killed Alfred.

“I am innocent! I am innocent!”

Then, I checked the fingerprints of the 4 suspects and Sam and Bob’s fingerprints were present at the crime scene.

Without hesitation, I left the police station and went to Sunshine Centre. The caretaker said Sam lived in Flat B on the 23rd floor. I rushed to the lift and went to see Sam.

“Knock! Knock! Knock!” I knocked on the floor a couple of times but no one answered. Suddenly, I heard some footsteps behind me. As I was curious, I turned back and saw a man in black. It was Sam.

“Do you know Alfred?” I asked again.

“Yes! He is so cruel!” Sam shouted angrily.

“Did you take revenge on him?” I asked.

“No,” Sam said suspiciously and rubbed his nose. Sam also smiled but he quickly stopped himself.

Then, I walked to the ground floor and told the caretaker about the incident and phoned the police.

In less than 10 minutes, I accompanied the police to the 22nd floor and broke down the door. We handcuffed Sam and brought him back to the police station for me to perform the interrogation.

I asked, “Did you see Alfred last night?”

“No!” Sam replied strongly. He was shivering and looked bothered.

I showed him the money and jewellery found at the crime scene. At first, he was surprised. Then, he laughed out loud, “Who did this?”

“You.” I replied.

Sam began sweating profusely. He hit the table and threw tantrums.

“Everything you are doing is telling us that you are lying. Are you hiding the truth?”

Sam’s face turned beetroot red. He nodded a little.

“Tell us the truth!” I shouted at him.

Sam broke down and explained everything to us.

“Actually, Bob and I weren't employed in Alfred’s company last week. He promised us a job and changed his mind all of a sudden. I hated him so much. I acted normal during the birthday party. I climbed into the air-conditioner chutes when no one noticed. When everybody left, Bob and I got into Alfred’s room. We peeked and found he was fast asleep. I took my revenge. I opened his drawers and found a key to the safe. I unlocked it and took all the valuable items out. Alfred then tried to attack me, so I kicked him on the head and Bob took out my fist and punched him to the ground. I didn’t want to kill him, right, but I used too much energy and... URGH!” said Sam.

“We have what we want. You are now under arrest. You have the right to remain silent and refuse to answer questions. Anything you say may be used against the Court of Law. You have the right to consult and have an attorney present during questioning now or in the future.” I said.

Then, they took Sam to a room and locked him up. They went to Bob’s house and arrested him.

After three weeks, the court found them guilty and sentenced him to 10 years in prison and charged him a penalty of \$3,000,000. I was very happy to solve the case and save the day. I felt sorry for Alfred. Also, I wish Sam and Bob would turn over a new leaf after being imprisoned. Maybe they will come out better and start a new life.

The New Tale of Pao

S.K.H. Ma On Shan Holy Spirit Primary School, Kao, Hoi Yin – 11

Once upon a time, there was a small village called “Sorrow City”. It used to be called “Happy Town”, but the village got its new name when its judge, Judge Lee, retired, and the new judge, judge Pao, moved in.

Judge Pao was a dishonest judge who loved money more than anything. When he was in court, he supported the side which enticed him with money. He then became very rich but was hated by his people.

One day, the Chinese Emperor found out about Judge Pao’s immoral act when a letter of complaint reached him. “So that’s why he tries to avoid me so much!” he thought. To find out more about Judge Pao, he called the judge over for a meeting.

“Why are you corrupt?” the Emperor boomed as soon as he saw Judge Pao. “What?” the rude judge answered back. “Like yesterday when a theft happened, you let the criminal go because he agreed to give you some of the money! It was all in this letter!” the Emperor roared while waving a piece of parchment. Judge Pao’s face went pale, and he muttered under his breath, “I thought I have stopped these letters from coming through!” But still his brain turned, and he explained slowly yet confidently, “Ah, yes, the money somehow got blown by a gust of wind, and it landed in the man’s pocket.” The Emperor knew he was lying, but he had also met this kind of crook before, so he knew it was useless to argue. He just told Judge Pao, “be a good judge, or you’ll be visited by three spirits tonight.”

That cold and starry night, Judge Pao had a strange dream. In his dream, he met an angel called “The Angel of Judge Day Past”. The angel took Judge Pao to the past. Pao could see that he was very unpopular in his class. He did not have any friends as he was very selfish and often stole from his classmates. Finally, the angel took him back home, where he woke up. Unable to learn anything from this meaningful dream, Judge Pao thought, “The past is the past. Why should I care about it?” He went back to sleep.

Unexpectedly, Judge Pao had a second dream. He met a gigantic man called “The Giant of Judge Day Present”. He took Judge Pao to see what people were doing behind his back. There were many poor people packing their bags which were coated with stickers like “To Pleasant Valley” and “Sunshine City is best!” The giant said with a great sigh, “They are leaving because they don’t like this place. They don’t like you. You’d better look at what you’ve done wrong.” With that he galloped away, and Judge Pao found himself sitting on his bed. Although the judge felt sorry for the people, he confronted himself, “It’s just a dream. It might not be real.”

After the two dreams, Judge Pao was not surprised when the third dream started. A scary and frightening demon appeared in front of him. He pointed at his name tag. “The Demon of Judge day Future,” Judge Pao read. The demon nodded, and they flew out of the window. They arrived at a temple which seemed to be hosting an event. On closer inspection, there was a funeral. However, there didn’t seem to be anyone except the Taoist priest. Judge Pao was annoyed, “Why are we at a funeral?” The demon signed for Judge Pao to look at the tombstone. “Judge Pao,” it read. “Was I the dead man?” Judge Pao asked. The demon nodded and flew away, leaving Judge Pao crying and kneeling for the rest of the dream.

The next morning, Judge Pao woke up and chowed over his dreams. He dashed to the Emperor, confessing his sins. “I must apologize to the people. I would be honest and just,” he promised the Emperor. Since then, Judge Pao did his best to uphold justice in the village. The villagers eventually forgave him, and Happy Town got its cheerful name back.

The New Tale of Pao

S.K.H. Ma On Shan Holy Spirit Primary School, Lai, Ching Tung Anis – 11

A long time ago, there was a poor young villager in my country named Pao. He was clever and protective. One day, Pao saw a little boy who was getting bullied by some other children. Pao bravely stepped in and chased the other boys away. The little boy was called Lei, who kept thanking Pao gratefully. Pao smiled and left.

Years passed, Pao became a junior official. Although he did not have power, he still did good to the citizens. One day, when Pao was strolling around the palace, a brilliant light shone to Pao and when he slowly opened his eyes, he saw a beautiful fairy spoke softly, 'Pao, I saw you did good to citizens every day and now, as the reward for your kindness, I shall give you this,' in her hand was a rectangle machine with a 'speaker' and a 'record' button on it. The fairy told Pao that that machine could remember what people said. Pao thanked her cheerfully and with another flash of light, the fairy disappeared.

In the palace, there was a prime minister called Chan. He was respected by the emperor and a lot of other officials, but Pao was not a fan of his. Why? Because Pao thought he was up to something terrible to everybody. Every day, his suspicion grew and began his search.

He noticed that Chan gave the emperor the things he desired and fulfilled every command the emperor made. And he discovered that the emperor agreed with every decision he made. The emperor listened to everything that Chan.

people who did not obey him would be killed. From then on, the ones who made minor mistakes died. and Pao was shocked when he saw that the people who made up stories about Chan was killed in the forest without anybody knowing. Every day, he followed the wicked Chan and see how he killed people covertly.

Pao went into the forest and checked the dead bodies. He was hurt and sorry because he thought he did not protect them well. However, what Pao did not know was that Chan was eyeing him all the time with spite. Pao knew that he must tell the emperor about this. He was just controlling the emperor to do brutal things to the innocent citizens without the emperor realising.

He listened to conversations that included him and always looked at him. One day, he saw Chan talking to two guards quietly. 'Find him!' Chan exclaimed with anger. 'He shall receive the consequences. and let him sit at the table in the forest, the poisoned tea is ready.' Chan smirked with evil in his eyes and suddenly saw Pao listening and slowly walked in Pao's direction. His sniggering face turned in an expression of fear and anger.

Chan had to act soon or Pao would expose him! He thought of a cruel plan that just might work... Pao was running when he bumped into a handsome-looking official. 'My greatest apologies, sir.' Pao said politely and he saw that the official was Lei! The boy he saved years ago! 'Sir? You're the one who saved me once upon a time?' said Lei, shocked. They chatted for a while and then Lei's face turned sad but then he smiled, 'Do not fear, sir.' and left.

A day later, Pao was ordered by the emperor to go to his place. The emperor looked grim and furious. Chan lied about Pao. He told the emperor how he harmed the villagers without anyone knowing so he needed execution. Pao had no choice but to agree with this situation for he was only no important role in the palace.

'You!' Chan pointed at Lei. 'Go and collect all the things that Pao owns, NOW!'

Few moments later, Lei led Pao into the dark and dirty prison but they were both smiling.

When everybody left the prison, Chan slowly strolled to the prison and said, 'poor Pao, poor Pao, got into trouble just to expose my sins, but if I end your lifeline before you do that, it will be your regret!' Chan said menacingly. He left without saying another word. Bao was not devastated at all because he knew his actions were correct.

Chan told the emperor that he was using a crueler and new way to execute people. The emperor was interested and followed Chan. Just as they reached the execution area, the royal bell tolled, Lei led Pao out and Pao stood before the machine. 'NOW!' bellowed the vicious Chan. There were voices of weeping and groaning. Then a voice that sounded like Chan said the plans of what he was up to, how he had killed people with no reason, how he tried to control the emperor and how he tried to get Pao killed. Everybody looked very shocked, there were murmurs everywhere. The emperor looked at Chan and smiles, 'Good, now you can be the tester of this brilliant execution machine.'

Chan stuttered but the guards took him to the execution area and yelled, 'You will regret this, Pao!' and he was no more.

Everybody cheered because Bao was fine, and the emperor felt ashamed of trusting a wicked person like Chan but Pao was fine with it because he knew that he had been controlled. The recording machine that Pao owned disappeared and Pao smiled gently at the sky, thank you, he thought.

Actually, Pao recorded the killing sounds in the forest and every bad thing that he said. Also he already knew that he would be captured when Pao saw him, so he asked Lei to pass him the recording machine when he was being led to the execution area, Lei recorded what Chan said to Pao in the prison as well.

The emperor gave Pao the job as the royal detective for he was good at solving crimes, the emperor trusted him and my country grew strong and stable. All because of our brave hero, Pao.

The New Tale of Pao

S.K.H. Ma On Shan Holy Spirit Primary School, Lee, Hei Tung – 12

Mrs. Wu was cleaning the house. She was cleaning the bedroom when she found a box. Mrs. Wu opened the box. It was filled with letters. Mrs. Wu opened the letters and read them. Those were all love letters between her husband and her friend. She broke down on the floor. Suddenly, she stopped crying and realized crying is not going to help. She wanted revenge.

Mrs. Wu plotted her revenge plan. She set off for the pharmacy. What is better than taking advantage of her job? Nobody would suspect anything. She opens the door. She creeps in. She goes to pick out herbs for the poison she wants to use to kill. She picks some berries and some snake eyes which can be deadly when used together. She grinds them into powder. Finally, she brews the poison and puts it in a vial and walks out of the pharmacy, when she sees her old friend Miss Ching.

‘Hey Ziyang! What are you doing at the pharmacy so late?’ said Miss Ching.

‘Hello there Jibing. I was just checking on the herbs,’ stuttered Mrs. Wu when struggling to hide the poison.

‘Um, okay?’ Ms. Ching replied, confused.

When she went home; she went into the kitchen and brew red bean soup. After brewing the red bean soup, she added the poison.

She walked to her friend’s house which is right next to hers. She knocked on the door and Ms. Kwan opened the door.

‘Hello Ziyang!’ said Ms. Kwan. The audacity to smile so happily just made Mrs. Wu hate her ‘friend’.

‘Do you try some soup?’ asked Mrs. Wu.

‘Sure!’ replied Ms. Kwan.

They began drinking the red bean soup. After a few minutes, Ms. Kwan felt dizzy, she said, “I don’t feel well. I should go,” Ms. Kwan had a headache and was ready to leave. However, Mrs. Wu wasn’t going to let her. She pushed Ms. Kwan and grinned,

“Where do you think you’re going?” said Mrs. Wu

‘How could you?’ cried Ms. Kwan as she realized what was happening.

Mrs. Wu cackled, “Xiang, you’re not as foolish as I thought you were.”

Suddenly, Ms. Kwan felt pain in her stomach. Mrs. Wu exclaimed, “That’s what you get!”

Mrs. Wu sighed. This is the worst part – cleaning up the body. The front door opened. It was Mr. Wu. He stood there in shock meanwhile Mrs. Wu thought about how to explain to husband, but she couldn’t. Mr. Wu was shocked. He didn’t want to be killed as well so he ran to Judge Pao’s office.

He immediately reported the case to Judge Pao. He explained, ‘I got off work and was getting home to see my wife. I opened the front door; I saw her dragging a body.’

Judge Pao nodded and said towards a guard, ‘Bring the woman here.’

The guard nodded and Mr. Wu led him to his house. Mrs. Wu was there.

The guard dragged Mrs. Wu.

When they arrived at the office, Judge Pao questioned Mrs. Wu, "When was the last time you saw Kwan Xiang?" asked Judge Pao.

"About a week ago," lied Mrs. Wu.

"NO!" interrupted Mr. Wu.

"I saw it... She's lying to you!"

Mrs. Wu knew her acting isn't enough for Judge Pao to believe.

"Please Judge! He's framing me!" cried Mrs. Wu.

Judge Pao put Mrs. Wu in prison. Mr. Wu went home sadly. The only two people in this world that would ever care about him are gone. He was such a fool. Just the thought of his own wife having her head chopped off by the guillotine was torture. It just felt wrong.

Meanwhile, Mrs. Wu wasn't suffering. Why? Well, her life has lost its purpose. Mrs. Wu life was terrible. However, it all stopped mattering when she met Mr Wu and Xiang. Now that her husband betrayed her and her best friend is dead, she's done. Mrs. Wu still wanted that last shred of dignity, so she didn't turn herself in, they were going to find evidence.

Judge Pao couldn't find evidence because they couldn't find anything in the house. He had a hard time solving this. Suddenly, the door flung open, and Ms. Ching ran in.

"Sorry to bother you but I heard that you're solving a case involving Mrs. Wu, correct?" asked Ms. Ching.

"Yes. I'm trying to solve this case right now so if you're not going to provide useful information, please leave." Replied Judge Pao.

"This might help you. The day Xiang was killed, I saw Ziyang leaving the pharmacy with a vial of liquid." Stated Ms. Ching.

Judge Pao nodded, "anything else?"

Ms. Ching replied, "I went back to the pharmacy and saw some honey dates and some snake eyes were missing..."

Judge Pao asked, "do you have the vial with you?"

Ms. Ching didn't have it with her...

The door flung open; it was Mr. Wu. Although he thinks that turning in his wife was a horrible thing to do, but he knew he's going to have to finish what he started, so he gives Judge Pao the vial of poison he found. Judge Pao passed the vial to Ms. Ching to inspect.

"Yes! Judge, this is made with the honey dates and snake eyes that were missing since there's only one pharmacy in this town!" exclaimed Ms. Ching.

"Okay. Court will be tomorrow." Said Judge Pao.

The next day, the guards dragged Mrs. Wu from her cell. The court was silent, you could hear a pin drop. The guards put Mrs. Wu on the guillotine. It all happened so quickly; Mrs. Wu's head was already on the floor.

Mr. Wu saw it all happen and his heart ached, he feels horrible.

When court ended, everyone was rooting, he did an amazing job solving the case. However, Mr. Wu was nowhere to be found.

He was home, which is now somewhere he's frightened to go back to. This will all be over committing suicide. He set himself free.

The New Tale of Pao

S.K.H. Ma On Shan Holy Spirit Primary School, Ng, Tsz Yau Jocelyn – 11

Once upon a time, Judge Pao was reading some case, but then he saw a strange rumour in a file which was about a mystery man who had prophetic abilities predicted that Song Dynasty would perish. If you wanted to find out that why Song Dynasty would perish, and how to avoid Song Dynasty from perishing, you need to use “holy water” to wash your face.

Pao knew that so he went to a temple (the place which is Pao’s subordinate told Pao the mystery man will show up), he saw some guards and checked with them whether they have used the “ holy water” to wash your

face, But Pao thought the “ holy water” was strange so he smelt that, he good at pharmacy so he found the secret in the “ holy water”. The “holy water” was mixture of marihuana, opium and water, marihuana and opium was psychotropic drugs, they would make people hallucinate, Pao thought that it was dangerous to stay there so he left.

The next day, Pao was thinking about this strange case, suddenly a man who was wearing a black robe came and shot an arrow to Pao, Pao

collapsed on the ground. Three days later, he woke up. He knew there was someone who wanted to kill him. He thought the man who assassinate him was related to or ordered by the mystery man so he assigned a good at kung-fu subordinate to disguise as to a old man to blend into the crowd. a few hours later, Pao’s subordinate returned. He told Pao about what he saw and heard:

The mystery man said Pao would soon bring very bad luck to the Song Dynasty so he assigned the people that had listened to him to kill Pao but his subordinate couldn’t killed Pao successfully so the mystery man was angry.

He ordered all of his subordinate(the people that have listened to him in there)to killed him in three days.

After Pao knew that, he assigned some subordinates who were good at kung-fu to catch the mystery man. A few hour’s later, his subordinates

caught the mystery man, and they brought them to the court.

Pao asked” Why did you want to kill me? ”the mystery man laughed” I think you know that why I want to killed you, Pao Qing Tian .” After his conversation, he took off his face mask. Pao saw his face, he was surprised! Why he was surprised?

It was because the mystery man was Zhuang Qing. He was a judge too. Three years ago, Zhuang and Pao were competitors, they wanted to do the judge of Kai Feng(a place in Song Dynasty), but Pao saw Zhuang graft the people in Kai Feng to support him to be a judge so Pao told the senior government officials in Kai Feng so Pao did the judge. “ So you was jealous of me becoming the judge of Kai Feng so you made a lie about Song Dynasty perishing and used the mixture of the marihuana, opium and water to make the “ holy water” to confuse the people telling them how I will bring bad luck to the Song Dynasty and they would be your subordinates and killed me, so that you can be the new judge of Kai Feng, right? ” Then Pao’s subordinate put Zhuang in the prison. This mystery case has ended. From this case we can know that Pao isn’t only fair and just, but also very smart.

Judge Pao and the Final Case

Shanghai Singapore International School, Chin, Jiayue – 10

The messenger bolted into the emperor's throne room, frantically kneeled on the steps, and reported quickly, trying to catch his breath, "There have been... murders... your majesty. Hundreds... of them... all over... the palace."

Suddenly, he doubled over and collapsed on the floor, revealing a puddle of blood splattered on his clothes and an arrow embedded in his back. Silence descended. Everyone stared at one other. The messenger lay dead. Emperor Renzong's eyes widened, and his face turned pale in fear; despite his attempts to control his emotions, they leaked out like water in a fishing net. Just then, a tiny brown package dropped in his lap. Carefully, the Emperor unfolded it, and on it were the words: 'We're watching you.'

Meanwhile, Judge Pao was sitting in a hand-woven bamboo chair, relaxing quite cheerfully under the sun. He was in the countryside on vacation, silently watching the sunset over the majestic mountains. Judge Pao had his feet on a table, and he was humming a tune lethargically. Calmly and serenely, his eyes were fixed in a daydreaming stare, and his muscles were completely relaxed in tranquillity. Suddenly, there was a soft shudder in the ground, and the skittering sound of horses' hooves echoed on the concrete road. Judge Pao barely even glanced up when a chariot pulled up beside the straw house.

"What now?" he sighed, "I've barely even begun to enjoy myself, and yet the emperor has another problem."

"This is an especially important case, Judge. There have been murders in the palace, and lots of the soldiers have been kidnapped. It seems that only the Emperor and the Crown Prince are unharmed so far," explained the driver, hopping down from the chariot. "I am in constant danger myself, so I have made it my top priority to bring you to the Imperial Palace."

"Fine. Take me there but be quick. The room rates are not cheap around here," he agreed with a slight smile. Judge Pao was secretly glad to have another case to work on, for he thought it was a bit unnatural to have all the work pressure taken away from him.

When they arrived at the Imperial Palace, Judge Pao studied it with a squinted eye. The vast perimeter of the palace was as imposing as ever, the walls carefully lined with massive stones and sturdy wooden boards painted bright crimson. The only difference was that the atmosphere in the palace grounds was much more intense; if you stepped inside, the first thing you might feel is a vibrance of tension and apprehensiveness. Strong and pungent, the rotten stench of fear radiated down every corridor in the palace, sparking terror in every single soul.

Bang! Judge Pao turned around instantly, only to watch helplessly as the chariot driver crumpled to the floor, his knife clattering against the limestones on the ground. On a normal day, that sound wouldn't have been more than a squeaky mouse, but today, the sound ricocheted and echoed everywhere, bouncing off every single wall, growing louder and louder like an explosion.

Over the next few days, Judge Pao and his assistant, Dr Wasabi, got to work at once, trying to find clues and attending more and more funerals. He had to solve this case soon before anyone else died.

"Look here! Look what I found!" hollered Dr Wasabi one day. His long, bony finger was pointing to a trail of footprints.

Judge Pao's eyes widened in delight, and a smile twisted across his face, "Good work, partner! This might be the clue we've been looking for."

The footprints were large and white, and the shoe was clearly worn away. It led to a charred, smoking body. Judge Pao pinched up a bit of the greyish-white substance and licked it. A memory flashed back in his mind, a case that involved... "Limestone powder!" he realized suddenly.

Judge Pao pointed to the front yard. "No one is allowed to go out to the front yard anymore, right? If I predict correctly, the penalty would probably be the dungeons. The only place that is lined with limestone within the palace grounds are the front yard. Therefore, we can infer that the culprit is most likely someone from the outside."

As if suddenly realizing something, Judge Pao dug into what's left of the dead man's cloth pockets and held up a withering box of matches.

"This is a soldier, dead from China's own protection, the fire beacon. The murderer has placed him here as a distraction for..." his eyes widened, and he flared his nostrils breathlessly. "For... an attack." Something stabbed a guard in the back.

Hooks flew onto the windowsill. Huns were everywhere in a flash. Shrieks and screams filled the air. Ropes were flung around the emperor, tightening around his waist and his neck. Emperor Renzong struggled for breath as a beefy Hun hauled him up the grand marble steps, now covered in blood. Dr Wasabi leapt up and slipped off his robe, revealing his massive biceps and slammed two Hun's heads together.

Suddenly, there was a rumble in the ground, and someone, or something, was slamming into the front door. Then, a miracle happened. The front door was knocked down, and in rushed, not the enemy, but all the kidnapped soldiers. The general started to shout out orders like they were on a battlefield instead of the emperor's palace.

A few moments later, the palace was smoking and bloody, but thankfully the emperor, Judge Pao, Dr Wasabi and the general were still alive. After revealing he was actually in the wrestling bloodline, Dr Wasabi didn't bother to put his robe on, and went to work punching the remaining Huns in the nose.

"Thank you again, Judge, though I have to say, my trusty General has to take most of the credit this time!" the emperor managed a faint smile, then passed out. Judge Pao sighed. They had made it through again!

The Travel Thru Time

Shanghai Singapore International School, Kao, Ga King – 9

It was a quiet night of the Song Dynasty, and something was wrong in Xu Qing Yun's room. As he got ahold of the lamp in his room, he flashed it around, but found nothing.

"Who is there?" he asked in a squeaky voice. But no one answered.

Years later, the rumors about a nameless black figure that teleports were spreading like wildfire. No one knew who it was or what they wanted. The police were busy trying to find the figure, but after days, months, and years of researching and tracking, no one found a single clue. That is, until a person reported the sudden disappearance of a man in the middle of the night.

The man is known as Judge Pao, a famous detective of his time.

"How interesting. This is very different from home," Judge Pao said. "I wonder, just where am I?"

"You are in the year 1888," said a mysterious voice.

"My apologies—but I can't seem to understand what you mean. The year 1888?" Judge Pao asked, confused.

"Yes. The year 1888, from the moment time was recorded?"

"I can't quite grasp what you mean. I'm sorry." The other man sighed in exasperation, choosing not to continue on with his seemingly useless explanation.

"May I ask for your name, kind sir?"

"Me? Sherlock Holmes. And you?"

"I'm usually addressed as Judge Pao."

Then, after a brief introduction from Sherlock, Judge Pao was brought to his apartment, where Sherlock Holmes had left notes about the notorious murderer, Jack the Ripper, astray.

It was pure luck that the two detectives had met. One was the Song Dynasty's best detective, and the other was the only consulting detective of the 1880s. Jack the Ripper had one gigantic problem on his hands.

"Say," Sherlock smiled, "Judge Pao, would you be interested in hearing the tale of Jack the Ripper?"

"It's quite the ominous name, Mister Holmes," Judge Pao answered, "I don't see why not."

Sherlock explained every single detail he had managed to uncover in his investigations on the infamous murderer, watching his new friend's every expression.

"What's your opinion?" asked Sherlock.

"We must wait for Jack the Ripper to strike again, then lead him into the trap we set," commented Judge Pao.

Sherlock nodded. He found the man a very wise one. Together, they found clues about where Jack the Ripper might strike. They found out where he would strike and used a map in Sherlock's head to plan their trap.

Days later, police cars rushed down the streets with sirens screaming.

"Finally, Jack the Ripper has been caught by Sherlock Holmes and Judge Pao!" said the reporter, James Bobert. "What great news!"

"Ok, Judge Pao. We ought to see what I can do to help you go home."

On their way back, Judge Pao saw a flyer that read: "Trip to Song Dynasty." As he tried to take a closer look at it, he was pushed, and he disappeared into the wall.

"Judge Pao, where are you?" Sherlock asked, confused. "We're supposed to go back to my apartment. Judge?"

For an uncomfortable moment that Judge Pao thought lasted seasons, everybody was standing still. Still enough to hear a pin drop. There was a person lying on grey floorboards, with a red liquid pooling on the ground.

A person stepped forward and took the man's pulse. He sighed and declared him dead.

"Wait, what happened?" Asked Judge Pao. "What are those holes?" He pointed to the window. "Is that the same as the one in his head?"

"I think it's a sniper," sniffed a little boy in a blue suit.

"It's the fifth death this week. What are the police doing?"

"What? Sniper? Where is this?" Judge Pao asked urgently.

"This is Tokyo, sir. Who are you? What odd clothing you have." The boy looked Judge Pao up and down curiously. "A dark-skinned man with a moon-shaped print on his forehead...are you dressing as Judge Pao?" Conan exclaimed excitedly.

"No, I *am* Judge Pao!" Judge Pao said impatiently. "I must get home!"

"Hm. I don't think you're lying...I'll help you if you help me," Conan said, pointing at the body.

"Another case?!" cried Judge Pao. The next day, Judge Pao sat across Conan in a café.

"Although we haven't captured the killer, I am grateful for your help. I will help you. My friend Doraemon, has a magic door, and will help you." Before Judge Pao knew it, he was on an airplane.

"Is this a metal bird?" he asked.

"No, it's an airplane."

The next thing he knew, he was on the ground again, and Conan was leading him to Doraemon's house.

"Hey, Conan! You brought a visitor?"

"This is Judge Pao."

"Judge Pao?"

"Yes, *that* Judge Pao. He can time travel, for some reason. He also went to the UK and caught Jack the Ripper."

"Wow."

"I'd like to go home now." Judge Pao interrupted.

"Of course." The door was in the basement, glowing with magic.

"Think of home, Judge." Doraemon instructed.

Judge Pao reached out to touch the door, then turned towards Conan. "It was nice meeting you here, and Sherlock in the UK. I never knew there were people like me this far in the future. I hope I'll see you again."

The light grew brighter, and Conan's goodbye faded. Judge Pao opened his eyes and saw home.

"I'm back!" he cried, startling the people around him.

Time passed, as the Judge got home. He never stopped thinking about Conan and his case. Perhaps he had the time to help now. After all, he had all the time in the world.

Hundreds of years later, in Tokyo, Edogawa Conan yelped as he found the piece of paper addressed to him from his friend from a long, long time ago.

"Thank you, Judge Pao. Thank you, my friend."

The Peculiar Case

Shanghai Singapore International School, Krishna, Rohan – 9

In China there was a crime-fighting sensation named Judge Pao also known as China's Sherlock Holmes. He solved many cases during his lifetime including murder, robbery and much more. It is believed that he fought for justice during daytime, but at night, he became the supernatural judge, fixing problems with afterlife. He had many titles, but the most frequent and the closest one is Bao Zheng. He was born in a poor place but did well at education and people started respecting him.

Well, since Judge Pao wanted to be independent, he did not allow anyone that had special or not special powers like him inside his private office in Shanghai. Pao thought that he had supreme investigation powers. "What do I need more, no need of helpers if I have this power," Judge Pao snickered. This case was a challenge for him, in the city of Hong Kong. There was an unknown person doing murder, pickpocketing, spying, starting a fire on purpose. He saw it through CCTV footage and wondered, *If he was in CCTV footage then how come no one could catch him?*

He travelled to Hong Kong by cart in five days, and he met his friend from his childhood named Bao Yi. The only thing he said to Judge Pao was, "Hong Kong is unsafe." Soon after he talked to Bao Yi, he was lost. He saw an enormous fire across the stream, full of deadly crocodiles.

"I guess I have to jump over the logs and make it to the other side... alive," Pao mumbled.

He jumped over the logs and slipped! Is this end of him?

Whoosh! Bao Yi appeared and grabbed his hand fiercely, just before he fell into the float of crocodiles. "Thanks for saving me, young warrior," Pao said in a serious voice. Bao Yi fled as quick as a cheetah in no time, without saying a word. Pao crossed the logs more carefully and made it to Hong Kong... alive.

"Hong Kong! I cannot wait to see my son in law!"

"But I also have to solve the case," Pao said.

"Cart, please," he called out. A strange cart stopped in front of Pao eventually.

"So, you are Bao Zheng," a clumsy voice called.

"Just call me Pao but show yourself first." A young man stepped outside the white car, he had brown hair, dark eyes, and humongous ears.

"Hi father."

"It is me, Peter, Peter Woo," he spoke.

"Hi, son," Pao said.

"I am cool, as usual. I see you are here about Chen Xi Bu Huang's crime," Peter said.

"Who is Bao Yi, and what crime are you talking about?" Pao replied.

"Come to my house. I'll explain everything about the case you are here for," Peter said.

"Welcome father," Peter said, "This is my conference room. You will find the latest explanations about this case. According to the text, Bao Yi is a member of the 董氏 Gang." Peter said.

"Sorry to interrupt, Peter," Pao said, "but in my previous adventure, I figured out their gang's hideout because my friend Bao Yi works for them and gives their info to me,"

"Perfect!" Peter screamed. Pao said. "Continue."

Peter said, "Their plan is to take down humanity and create a new world. That is it from me." They went to their hideout through a path with danger and nuclear waste, but luckily, Pao and Peter could cross over it. They made it to their hideout under a deep cave, but nothing could stop the great Judge Pao!

"Well, well, well!" their commander said, "What have we got here?" Their commander was known for their disrespect to people that wanted to stop them from doing what they want. "Very well then, you found our base, but will you and your friend make it out alive, Mr. Bao? What are you waiting for soldiers? Attack!" screamed the commander. Judge Pao used his laser eyes to knock over the soldiers while Peter was fighting the commander with a bow and arrow that he had brought along just for something like this (to weaken them). They kept on fighting until they were on the brink of death, and Pao and Peter won!

"You are going to jail for a long time. 董氏 and her soldiers called backup to take the gang away from crime and back to justice. 'I want all of these people to stay in jail for a very long time, especially you commander,'" said Pao.

After the two warriors came back home, they received a letter from the emperor. It said to Peter and Bao Zheng, both of you have shown me your bravery and I would like to promote you to not be a detective but a senior detective with Peter being your junior, Bao Zheng. Heroic effort both of you!

"Thanks," said Pao.

"No need of thanks," Peter replied.

"Hey Pao, what about your friend in the 董氏 gang?" asked Peter.

"He got released, don't worry," replied Pao.

The Attempted Assassination of Bao Zheng

Shanghai Singapore International School, Qian, Ethaniel – 11

2045, Massachusetts, Boston

BOOM! BAM! K-BOOM! All kinds of explosions merged at once as the ultimate invention of Edward Truman was completed.

“Finally! Finally! Finally! It works!” After twenty years of hard work, my Time Machine is finally finished!” said Professor Truman Edward, “I can finally get revenge on Bao Zheng!”

Truman Edward is an immigrant that immigrated from China to the United States. More than 1,000 years ago, one of his ancestors, Chen Shi Mei kept much wealth for his descendants. He got that wealth from his wife, which he later abandoned, and was executed by the famous, intelligent detective, Bao Zheng. Anger and hate rose upon his heart, as the only goal for his life before he died was for Truman to assassinate Judge Bao.

“Let me come with you.” said his friend Jonathan, “I can come with you and help.”

“I don’t need your help. I will do this alone. It’s my only goal to accomplish in my life,” said Truman. He took a pistol, and when he was about to step into the twirling blue hole, a voice called out.

“STOP! I MUST COME WITH YOU!” said Jonathan, “YOU NEED MY HELP!” the annoying loud voice of Jonathan irritated Truman. Frustration built up, and his fist struck into his face, gravity pulled him onto the ground. When he woke up, he was tied to a chair. “It’s for your own good,” said Truman as he traveled through time with his pistol. *SWOOSH!*

Kaifeng, China, Song Dynasty, 1042

It was the year 1042 before, but it is now. instead of people wearing casual Nike shirts and holding a phone in their hands, people wear HanFu (a kind of traditional Chinese clothing). Truman is the only western wearing a Nike shirt on the stone bridge, with a full mag bullet pistol in his left pocket. People were, confused very confused, it seems like Truman was a spy from a western nation that the guards even come, and it wasn’t good, “You look suspicious,” said one of the guards in Chinese with a long spear and a shield, Truman is confused, he does understand a bit Chinese but not what the guard is saying. BAM! BAM! He was annoyed by how much time he spent on the guard, so he shot the two guards. Gasping and screaming emerged as he disappeared into the crowd. News spread and now everyone is hunting down Truman.

As worried as he was, he was not alone. As he was walking around, THUD! “Whoa!” said Truman, he was not in a good mood already, and so when he almost punched the guy who ran into him, he recognized the face. Well, kind of. “Sorry, I didn’t mean to—” as the guy was apologizing, “What is your name?”

“I am sorry—”

“WHAT IS YOUR NAME!” Truman shouted so loud, louder than ever, so loud that even birds on the tree, feeding their children halfway through flew away.

“I, I, I, am Chen Shi Mei.”

“Finally! I found you!”

The mood of Truman took a 180-degree turn. “I had been looking for you the whole time!” Before Chen Shi Mei could say anything, Truman continued, “I am here to make a deal with you. I am a Taoist, and I know what will happen to you in the future—.”

“What? You’re a Taoist?” Chen Shi Mei interrupted him.

“I want you to do what I say, so your future won’t end so badly. You will get executed in your future, to avoid that, you will need to marry the princess and bury as much gold as you can in the backyard.”

“Ok,” replied Chen Shi, “but how will the princess marry me?” he asked, acting more confused. “You will be taking a national—” just before Truman could finish his words, the guards caught up, “Hey, you!” one of the guards said while chasing him.

Kaifeng, China, Song Dynasty, 1047

As Chen Shi Mei finally finished the last National examination, he confidently walked out of the test center. Days later, he got back to the test center to check out his marks. He had been on cloud nine to find out that he was the number one scholar! The emperor had appreciated him and had decided to offer him her daughter to marry him. He accepted the offer and abandoned his wife. His wife, Lady Qin, later found out that Chen Shi Mei intended to kill his two kids. After Lady Qin had found out this horrible news, she brought the case all the way up to Judge Bao. That’s what Truman had been planning all along.

DONG! DONG! DONG! As the sound of the hammer slammed onto the table, at the defendants’ side Truman was there defending Chen Shi Mei, and Lady Qin was the prosecutor.

“So, why did you accuse Chen Shi Mei?” asked Judge Bao.

“He abandoned me, and he intended to kill my children!” said Lady Qin in a loud, angry voice, at the same time sobbing, tears flooded her shirt.

“Nonsense!” Chen Shi Mei said angrily, “You have no evidence of me intending to slaughter your family! Why would I do that?!”

As the argument continued, Truman loaded his weapon. The last bullet was what he needed. As he stood up with all his might, aiming the gun right at Judge Pao across the table, BANG! OUCH! The gun shot missed, but Truman sprained his ankle because of the force he took on his left foot. The guards suddenly rushed in!

“Hey you! Don’t move!” said one of the guards, “You look familiar!” Just as Truman dashed off and tried to escape, he bumped into another guard.

As Chen Shi Mei’s case carried on, we all know what happened. Truman did not change history and get his wealth. Instead, he put himself into the trap he set himself.

Judge Bao: In the Game

Shanghai Singapore International School, Srivastava, Aadi Jambholkar – 11

Chapter 1: Getting sucked into the game

I am Judge Bao. I am a Judge in China. One day I was strolling in my garden, thinking about the case I had just gotten. It was about the murder of the emperor. Some days ago, the emperor was found with an arrow in the heart. I thought maybe it could be an ex-soldier, a soldier now, or a rich person who paid someone to kill the emperor. It could have been his younger brother since he would have wanted the throne and is one of the best soldiers in the army. While I was wondering who could have killed the emperor, I felt this feeling of getting sucked into something. I started feeling nauseous and then I fainted. What felt like hours later, I woke up in a place where everything was made out of blocks.

Chapter 2: Asking for help

I was in the middle of a place that looked like a town. When I saw someone, I screamed. Their nose was long, and their hands were stuck next to each other. The person also screamed. Someone then came to me and took me to their house. We were both surprised at each other's facial expressions, but we still talked. The person told me that their name was Zhu Han. He was a villager, and this was Xuan Hua village. He told me they were scared of me because I had no nose! I later learned that players (which is what he calls me) don't have noses. So I stayed at his house for a while and tried to find a way to get out of this world that he calls... Minecraft.

Chapter 3: A new problem

I went to the library after checking his house for books about teleporting or warping out of this world. On my way to the library, I saw many villagers looking at me, surprised. While I was in the library researching, I heard a scream from outside. I quickly rushed out to see what had happened. I discovered someone had stolen the imperial emerald, the prize possession of this town. The emerald was from the leader of Suk Hu village, which is one of the biggest towns in this world. The emerald was a gift for peace and friendship, and if they ever lost the emerald, their alliance would break. Since I am a detective and a judge, I went to the mayor and said, "I, Bao Zheng, will find this gem and return it back to this town." The mayor wasn't sure if he could trust an outsider who didn't look like his people and had just arrived mysteriously. Zhu Han stepped and said, "Mayor, I can vouch for Bao. He is a honest man, and from what I have heard, he is the best detective in his world." That being said, the mayor allowed me to take the case.

Chapter 4: Questioning the suspects

I first started gathering suspects. I asked the guards who were the closest people to the emerald. He said the mayor, Sho Setsuo, Tamari and the night guards. I first met Sho Setsuo. He lived at the edge of town. I asked him a few questions, such as where you were last night and when did you reach the town. The answers seemed honest, so I talked to the next suspect, Tamari. Tamari was a rich villager who could buy almost anything. I asked him the same questions. While I was asking the questions, I caught a glint of something green in his fish tank. Next, I went to the guards who said they saw nothing. The guards were Timothy, Danny, Su Shun and Huang Wan Wei. It was too dark to see anything. Next, I talked to the mayor. He was aghast I was asking him questions, but I knew it wasn't him. The next day, all the villagers met in the center of the town.

Chapter 5: Answering the issue of the stolen emerald

I had to announce who it was. I cleared my throat and said, "The robbers are Tamari and Timothy." Everyone was shocked. How could Tamari steal the emerald? He was one of the richest people in town. I explained to the crowd that I saw the emerald in his fish tank, and Timothy the guard had a letter in his pocket from Tamari thanking him for helping him steal the emerald. Tamari shouted "Bao, I will give you 10,000 gold if you let me not go to jail!" Everybody would have said yes, but I said, "No, I am incorruptible now, and I will be incorruptible in the future also." Everyone in town cheered for me and thanked me, then a person who looked like a scientist said, "Bao, I have a way to get you back home."

Chapter 6: Getting back home

I wanted to get home as fast as possible, but the town was holding a feast for me. We ate, talked, and watched performances. At the end of the feast, the mayor said, “Bao Zheng, to remember Minecraft, take this one-of-a-kind diamond. It is a gift from the Xuan Hua village. Remember, you will always be welcome here.” He then called his villager architects and told them to make a statue out of gold for me. I thanked the mayor and went to the scientist who said, “I have created this machine using the teleportation powers of the ender pearl and the power of redstone contraptions, powder, and redstone torches. I hope you come back to this world, Bao Zheng.” I thanked him and went into the machine. It started to whirr, and moments later, I was back in my world, lying down in my garden. It all felt like a dream, but when I felt my pocket, the diamond the mayor had given me was there. I knew it was real. I had gone into another world called Minecraft.

Justice for The White Warrior

St. Francis of Assisi's English Primary School, Lee, Hei Yuen Bryan – 10

“Order! Order in the court! Court is now in session. Judge Pao presiding.”

It had been twenty years since the infamous robberies had happened at different diamond shops. The stone known as The White Warrior was gone. Stolen, never to be seen again. Detectives had been working around the clock for the whole time to find suspects, until they stumbled upon a name. Although there was no concrete proof, we all knew it was him. It just had to be. No one else would dare to take such a magnificent stone.

He's known as the 'King Of The Thieves And Luck'. He was named that because he had an illustrious career of robbing without a shred of mercy. But, every time he was close to being netted, something just always had to happen to allow him to slip away. No ordinary district judge could put him in jail.

The King had no shame when he robbed. No one was too powerful nor destitute to be his next victim. Burglarising Chairman Tao's mansion and stealing his priceless collection of jade? Check. Mugging lonely poor Widow Ko while she slept pitifully on the street? Why not? It became so that people were ready to give him another name—'Bo the Shameless'.

Bo was to be brought before the courts. Again. But this time people had hope. There was only one man whose reputation exceeded Bo's even more. His wisdom knew no bounds; his integrity feared none; and his bravery shook the evil ones to the core. Even the Gods of Fortune would cower in fear and abandon the wicked at the mere whisper of his name. He was their last and only hope.

Judge Pao.

The day of the court was very crowded. Almost everyone in the town had come to witness what looked like the long-awaited downfall of this villainous thief.

“Well,” said Judge Pao in a thunderous roar. “Please stand and state your name for the Court.”

“Your Honour,” the defendant rose meekly and began awkwardly. “My name is Bo. Please, don't trust the police or detectives. I'm innocent!”

“Innocent? Well, we'll believe that when pigs fly! The evidence is all there!” the audience scoffed incredulously. “The nerve on him!”

“Are you sure that is how you want to plead?” Judge Pao asked, ignoring the commotion in the crowd. “Let me remind you that a witness caught a glimpse of you and gave the police a sketch. The man who stole the The White Warrior, resembles you. A man of your exact height and length of hair. He even caught a glimpse of the scar on your left cheek.”

We had him. Surely there was not anything left to be said. It was time to call in the jailers.

“I'm hardly the only one of that height, with that length of hair... and a scar on the cheek,” Bo retorted. A gulp in between his words revealed a slight uncharacteristic hesitation, as if he himself knew how ridiculous that sounded even as he spoke.

“But there's more,” Judge Pao continued blandly, completely unaffected by Bo's flagrant denial. “You seem to live quite well and yet your work record says you are the manager of a clothes washing company that has almost no income.”

“What can I say, my parents left me a lot of money,” Bo shrugged with a smirk.

We all knew he had no parents.

“Also, on several occasions, you had sent your employees to rob the banks so you could have an alibi.”

“I suppose I could have,” Bo smugly, “But I didn’t, or will ever rob anyone of anything! I’m a good citizen and a man of peace and virtue.”

The crowd breathed a collective sigh of disdain.

At this moment, the whole courtroom was getting annoyed at the cheekiness Bo was displaying. Judge Pao had no intention of keeping this charade up. But he also knew he had a problem. He did not have any hard proof that it was indeed him. He wanted Bo to confess based solely on evidence the police had obtained. But he knew that it simply was not enough.

And Bo knew that too.

Suddenly, a police sergeant flung open the doors and said, “Judge Pao, we found it! We found The White Warrior. It was found in a drainage pipe by a beggar on the other side of the town. It seems that Bo might be innocent after all.”

The crowd brewed in their anger silently. Bo had gotten off again! Even Judge Pao could not get him. It was over. Again.

Or was it?

“Well, let’s see if the White Warrior is real or not,” Judge Pao said. He then addressed the audience, “Is anyone here a diamond expert?”

“I am,” said a woman at the front of the crowd. “I’m Madam Fu and I come from a long line of diamond traders in South-east Asia. Let me check it.” After a while, she put down her loupe, with an expression of excitement mixed with disappointment, “Yes, this is indeed The White Warrior.”

The crowd gasped. How could it be? Did he steal it and throw it away when he thought he was going to be arrested? Even if he did, he had stolen it! It just had to be him. He couldn’t walk away free again.

“Guards!” Judge Pao finally banged his gavel and said, “Set this man free.”

★★★

Bo knew what had happened. He was very angry.

My stupid workers at the cleaning store must have dug it up from the ground and threw it into the drainage pipe to try to save me. Fools! I was going to go home free without their help. The police had nothing on me! I was going to sell it for 2,000 teals! Now I have nothing! This is the last time I bring them to dig a hole in the ground with me. From now on, I will do everything myself!

Bo left the courthouse without a sound, still incredibly angry that he had lost possession of the greatest steal in his career. He was determined to dig up the box. It still had value. He could put a fake rock in there and sell it.

He went to that spot and dug. After a few minutes, he was holding the box in his hand.

He opened it up.

But what he saw horrified him.

The White Warrior was staring back at him.

His mind spun and he felt faint.

Just then, a large shadow suddenly towered over him. Bo closed his eyes, as he knew what was coming.

They had followed him to the spot.

“It’s over, Bo,” Judge Pao said.

And next to him stood Chairman Tao, dressed strangely in a police uniform, and Widow Kam, made up in a glamorous dress.

In Justice or Injustice

St. Francis of Assisi's English Primary School, Ma, Hoi Wan Natalie – 11

“Pao! You’ve been found guilty!” the judge yelled.

“Not so innocent anymore, Pao!” Ju Zhen snickered.

Chi smirked as Pao was being dragged to the dungeons.

One week ago ...

“Pao! Pao! It’s an emergency!” Shen Chi, Pao’s secretary, banged on the door.

“Chi? It’s 5 a.m. in the morning. What’s wrong?” Pao replied.

“Pao! You’re being sent to the court!” Chi panicked.

“Why? There must be something off,” Pao said, confused.

“I don’t know! It must be a doppelgänger! Anyway, it’s bad to be late for a court case. Hurry up and get dressed, Pao!” Chi, who was more ready to leave, rushed.

“Alright, Chi. Please excuse me as I put on my judge’s zhanjiao futou hat and dust off any waste on the crescent moon on my forehead ...” Pao said politely.

“Be done in a jiffy, Pao. We’re going to be late,” Chi said in a serious tone. She left the room to leave Pao some privacy.

Pao, as usual, was ready in no time.

“Hey Pao! Glad to see you ready. Let’s go,” Chi said. She was slightly happy since they wouldn’t be as late.

“Alright, Chi,” Pao replied and walked with Chi to their horse-drawn carriage.

“Destination ... The court of the Royal Palace, please?” Chi asked the horseback rider.

The man signaled with his hand, responding to Chi.

They arrived at the court. Palms sweaty, glancing everywhere. Chi escorted Pao to the seats.

“Today ... Our case will be between Ju Zhen and Pao Zheng,” the judge said.

Ju Zhen – infamous for his terrible deeds. Yes, he’s known as a criminal by everyone, yet judges could never arrest him due to his sly ways.

This was going to be easy, the jury thought.

“Everyone! Ladies and gentlemen of this court – It is time for you all to know the dirty, disgusting secrets of Judge Pao!” Ju Zhen cried. Unexpectedly, everyone thought he was crying wolf – as that is something he does often.

“Yes, you may be thinking – Oh! Zhen is crying wolf again! But no. Pao’s dirty secrets must be told to the world immediately!” Zhen spoke again. By now, the jury just wanted him to keep his mouth shut and Chi, who was just feeling much more relaxed for a second, was frozen in astonishment when she heard Zhen’s accusation on her most respected Judge Pao.

Pao still stayed silent.

“Yes, now on with my case! Last week, I saw Bao Zheng – the saint! Committing sins! You wouldn’t believe it, I didn’t believe it either! He was vandalizing the king’s property! Devious acts!” Zhen yelled dramatically.

The jury rolled their eyes and Pao was still silent.

“Here! I even have witnesses of my own,” Zhen said confidently.

“Yes ... As I may ... I couldn’t believe it myself! Seeing Judge Pao – called a saint by many – committing crimes! I was in shock!” Yang Cho, an extremely influential man, cried.

“Wait, that was Pao?” one of the jury, who also witnessed the scene, asked.

The members of the jury were starting to believe Zhen and Cho, yet some were still suspicious about them.

“No. I am simply baffled from all this nonsense,” Pao sighed.

The judge didn’t have to do much. Zhen and Pao, well, mostly Zhen just took the spotlight.

“Sounds like an excuse, dearest Pao! Oh, what a shame, getting caught by me!” Zhen laughed.

“You have not caught me. In fact, there is nothing to catch about me,” Pao said, while keeping a disbelieving face.

“Oh well, Pao ... Be prepared to face embarrassment once the court finds you guilty,” Zhen said as he was putting on a mischievous face.

“Of course, Zhen. Wait until the court finds you lying,” Pao rebutted. He placed both hands on his lap and waited for what Zhen had to say.

“Sure, Pao. Sure,” Zhen rolled his eyes.

Chi didn’t speak once. She was too nervous and scared thinking about the whole case itself. Pao didn’t speak as much as he would normally. Chi was afraid that she would misspeak and cause Pao and herself to lose the case.

Chi waited patiently for the case to end.

“Alright ... Assuming that both sides are done ... bickering, we will now give the jury some time to formulate their decision – whether Pao or Zhen is guilty,” the judge spoke.

It was undeniably a hard decision – Yes, Zhen was a criminal, a sly one, yet he and Cho had created an extremely believable story. On the other hand, Pao was known for his justice–fighting nature. A man so determined to fight crime and injustice wouldn’t commit a crime himself, right?

The jury couldn’t decide. Maybe Pao did vandalize the king’s living space. Maybe he did. But what if Zhen did? The bickering was happening in everyone’s head for quite a while, until someone could shut them up.

“Has the jury made their decision?” the judge asked. He was slightly impatient for their answer since he just wanted the case to be over with.

“Yes,” one of the members of the jury said. All of the jurors were asked by the judge’s assistant one by one for their answers.

“With an extremely close number of votes, Pao and Zhen ...”

“... Pao, you are guilty.”

The whole court was silent as Pao was taken away with no resistance. Everyone was shocked, even Zhen was shocked at how well his story worked.

That night, Chi lowered her head and sobbed quietly in her shared hotel with Pao.

Present time ...

“Great job on the acting there,” Zhen clapped, drinking his large bottle of rice wine.

“No problem, Zhen. Anything to get rid of Pao,” Chi chuckled.

“Thank goodness you managed to get Yang Cho. Otherwise, we would’ve been screwed!” Zhen laughed as he laid back on his chair, grabbing another bottle of rice wine.

“With the help of some cold, hard cash,” Chi paused, holding up a few one-thousand-dollar bills between her fingers, “anything’s possible, Zhen.”

As she placed the one-thousand-dollar bills back in her purse, Zhen and Chi raised their bottles of rice wine and took a large sip to celebrate their success with getting rid of Pao, not being able to hide their smirk.

The Tale of Judge Pao and the Blood on the Paper

The International School of Macao, Chai, Nina – 9

One rainy day in Hong Kong, Judge Pao was sitting on his sofa drinking coffee when suddenly he got a phone call from the local police station. There was a murderer in the city and he had been after the man, Lang Dang .

Lang Dang, who lived on Shangtang street, was the richest person in the city. He made his fortune by doing business in the local community. He had been hunted once or twice by the murderer but never killed.

Judge Pao had been having a very hard time in the local police station because there were a lot of criminals on the loose but none as important as the criminal after Lang Dang.

The criminal was never found because he was very smart and left no evidence. Judge Pao was about to get himself another coffee when the chief called him on the phone. The chief told him that Lang Dang had been murdered!!!!!!

Lang Dang had been lying on the ground dead in the middle of the road. It was late afternoon and the rain had stopped.

“His blood was all over the road,” explained the chief.

“It had been a hard day already,” sighed Judge Pao, “why make it harder?”

Lang Dang had been stabbed in the back by a knife and soon after, passed away.

Though Judge Pao never handled things like that, he was determined to find out the truth.

He grabbed his jacket and hat and set foot to Shangtang street. As the cold wind blew around his face, he thought about the murder and the blood all over the street.

In the hand of the dead man was a scroll. The whole neighborhood had the same scroll. As he examined the body, he found paper cuts on Lang Dang’s legs and hands. All the neighbors were suspects.

Suddenly someone screamed! There had been a bullet hole through the window of a light blue house! Judge Pao ran over to examine the window as a woman ran out to report what happened. The bullet hit the woman and she struggled to talk, but she managed to say that she was Lang Dang’s sister. As the Judge helped the woman to the hospital, he thought about the Dang family in danger.

Then he went back to the Shangtang street but this time, with backup in case of an emergency. He took notice of the scrolls now. The people from the street always brought their scrolls wherever they went, but now nobody did that. Since it was night time, he didn't need to go to sort the afterlife like before.

“This is the worst day ever,” thought the Judge as he walked home.

At home, he scribbled the suspicious evidence in a black leather notebook and fell asleep.

The next morning he found that the notebook had disappeared. He looked everywhere in the house and discovered a broken window.

He went back to Shangtang street to do more investigation. He decided to find another notebook to write in and hid it. Finally he got to interview the suspects. Some were terrified while others were angry, but the most suspicious one was a man named Ting. Ting had dark hair black eyes and was very skinny. He was calm when he was in the interrogation room and did not say anything.

They knew that Ting worked as a chef and cooked for the local restaurant Kufu. On weekends, he also worked as a teacher of Kung Fu. He had to register his weapons in the police station.

The Judge felt that he needed to examine the scrolls, but had to wait because some of the neighbors were gone for the holidays. As he finished the investigation, he went home for a nice little nap. He had just closed his eyes when the chief knocked on his door.

“What do you expect?” asked the Judge as the chief came into his room. “There is a man living here and it will not be messy,” he said.

“What so ever,” said the chief, “Ting has so many weapons that the law forbids. He has to give them to us or we take them away, ok?”

“I understand,” said the Judge.

Judge Pao paced back and forth thinking about the case but he couldn't clear his mind or maybe he was just tired. He made another cup of coffee and when he took a sip, an idea hit him. He didn't need the people on holiday to come back, he just needed the scrolls and to check for blood and other clues. He put on his hat and set foot to Shangtang street and he went door to door asking for the scrolls.

He lay the scrolls in the sunshine and of course some flies gathered around one of the scrolls he took the scrolls but there were no names on them so he decided to ask door to door if they wanted the scroll with flies but he killed the flies.

When he came to Ting's house, Ting took the scroll to his nose and when he smelled the rot he said, “No, that is not my scroll.”

Ting was the only one to sniff it. He was also the only one to say no. So the Judge knew that Ting was responsible for the murder.

The next day Ting was in court. Judge Pao had all the witnesses that Ting was responsible for the murder. Though Ting had a lawyer, the lawyer was no help at all. The lawyer just sat there listening to the witnesses. Judge Pao though had experience at court so he was calm and ready for presenting the witness. After court, Ting was handcuffed and taken to jail. Judge Pao got his first bloody case solved and was ready for the next.

Judge Pao and the Late Night Murderer

The International School of Macao, Kai, Naomi – 10

Chapter 1 Murder

“AHHHHH! HELP!”

A ear piercing scream near the palace traveled across the night in the City of Kai Feng alarming many citizens. The emperor, Renzong, sent his guards to see what was happening. When the guards came back, they reported the crime scene. Emperor RenZong was curious about the crime, so he decided to take a look for himself. He got himself dressed and went out to see what was going on, only to find a corpse with a red stain on the chest sprawled lifelessly on the ground. If it was just one of the village people, he wouldn't care too much. But this wasn't any corpse. It was one of his prime ministers.

Chapter 2 Judge Pao

After the night's incident, Emperor RenZong sent a letter to Judge Pao, explaining the details of last night's incident. Pao and his sidekick, Zhan Zhao, immediately got in Pao's carriage and journeyed to Kai Feng.

Chapter 3 Arrival

When Pao and Zhao had finally arrived at the emperor's palace, one of the emperor's ministers filled them in on what happened while Pao was traveling. It seemed that more people had been murdered: Hu Tao, the minister, and a family from the village.

The night before the death happened, the emperor had guards stationed outside of the palace gates. The Murderer knew there were guards outside, so he knocked them unconscious. But the minister said the guards caught a glimpse of the Murderer.

Pao and Zhao looked at each other. This could mean only one thing: interrogation

Chapter 4 Interrogation

Judge Pao immediately put the case into action. Emperor RenZong sent the four guards, who were guarding the palace when the murder happened, to Pao. “Before I was unconscious, I got a glimpse of the Murderer. He had a small, black goatee and short black hair. He looked like he was in his 50s,” one guard said.

“I saw a part of the Murderer. He was wearing dark blue silk clothing, with golden patterns along the bottom, with a golden waistband,” another guard said.

“I didn't see much, but I'm sure he had a dark brown cloak,” one guard said.

“When I woke up, I saw that he wore dark brown shoes like the village people,” the last guard said.

As the guards talked, Pao drew a picture of what the guards described. It looked like one of the ministers.

Chapter 5 Patterns of Murder

“No, no, no. This is all wrong.” Emperor RenZong said after Pao showed him the drawing. “He also got murdered 2 days ago.”

Pao raised an eyebrow suspiciously, “I think we just got our first lead.”

“What is it?” Zhan asked curiously.

You see, there's a pattern,” Pao said. “The last murder was 2 days ago, the family massacre was 6 days ago, and the first one was 10 days ago. The murders happen every 4 days, so that means the Murderer will strike again in 2 days.”

As Pao and Zhan walked back to the carriage, Zhan said and had an excited look on his face, “actually, I have a plan.”

Chapter 6

Capture

Two nights later, Pao and Zhan snuck out, wearing their darkest clothing. The moon shone coldly in the dark eerie night, as the darkness crept on. They tucked and hid in the bushes whenever they heard a noise.

“Okay, we’re here,” Zhan whispered. They were in front of the palace. It stood there magnificently.

They snuck to the back, then they hid in the bushes and waited. After a few hours, Pao and Zhan finally saw a black shape. The figure had a black mask over his face. When it reached them, Zhan sprung out from the bush and attacked the figure, wrenching his hands behind his back. The figure screamed in agony, and let go of the murder weapon. Then, the guards came running over to Pao and Zhan.

“What is going on!?” The general demanded.

“I'm afraid that this person is behind all of this murder,” Pao said flatly. “Take him to the dungeon so we can identify him.”

The general did as Pao said. Pao and Zhan followed them. Zhan took off the figure’s mask. Underneath the mask was the emperor in madness.

Chapter 7

Confession

There was a long moment of silence.

“Fine! It was me.” Emperor RenZong said at last. “You know why? The first murder, I got someone to kill him. I gave him some fancy clothes so I could put the blame on one of the ministers. You know why I sent him to kill the minister? It’s because that one day, he was wandering around the palace when he found my deepest darkest secret. I couldn’t let him stay with my secret, so he got murdered. The family knew I got the father to kill the minister, so I had to kill them myself. The last one, Hu Ta, was driving me crazy one night, so to shut him up, I had to kill him too.” The emperor’s eyes shone with pleasure, obviously pleased with himself.

“Wow, I had no idea,” the general said. “Take him away, boys.”

“But before you do,” Pao said to the general, “What's the secret?”

“It's a secret! I can't tell!” The emperor said.

“All right then, we can do this the easy way or the hard way.”

A tense moment came and went.

“My mother gave birth to a daughter but she wanted a son like me to become emperor so she switched out the daughter with me, the average village baby.”

“Well, we've heard enough. Take him away.” The general instructed The guards.

“You can't do that! I'm the emperooooor!”

“Sure you are,” Zhan said sarcastically.

“I suppose I owe you both thanks,” the general said with a smile.

“I guess that this case is over.” Pao said. He then found himself wishing that this had never happened.

Detective Pao

The International School of Macao, Li, Ava – 10

Detective Pao was oftentimes considered the best detective in all of a small town named Birdwing. No matter how complicated or difficult a case was, Pao could always utilize his clues and surroundings to help solve the case. Because of this, he gained a steady reputation and his name was well known throughout Birdwing. Many good things come to an end, though, and Pao's reputation was one such thing.

One gloomy and dreary day, Pao was sitting in his messy office, waiting for the next case to arrive at his door. The sky outside Pao's small office window was as pale as snow, with few people roaming the streets. Suddenly, a woman with a flowery dress and long, black hair burst through the office door.

"Detective Pao. We need your help." said the woman with a calm voice. Pao looked up from his desk and stared at the woman for what seemed like hours. Finally, he spoke.

"Greetings. Tell me your name and the details about the case."

Without hesitation, the woman with icy-blue eyes replied.

"My name is Barbara P. Wellerman. Yesterday, around 8 P.M. or so, I saw a man getting kidnapped by the Roswell station."

Seems easy enough, thought Pao, *but we'll see*.

"Tell me more about the victim." Pao said. The woman took a deep breath, then spoke.

"The man was very tall, with what seemed like blonde hair. He wore a solid dark-red or maroon t-shirt and cargo shorts."

Pao nodded, trying to hide the feeling that somehow crept onto him. It was a reminder of faint, distant memories that caused great devastation, sorrow, and the disappearance of Pao's father. The detective shook his head, saying "Very well, ma'am."

Detective Pao did not know it at the time, but the feeling of uneasiness that told Pao he was biting off more than he could chew would cause the failure of solving the mystery. Because of the memory of the disappearance of his father, Detective Pao was tempted to find more about his father than actually solving the case. Once this news was announced to the public, they were shocked. What was even worse, Pao did not show any sorrow or remorse. Instead, he showed a strange and almost irrational feeling of uneasiness. From that day on, Detective Pao's reputation plunged, leaving him to feel the frustration of the memories haunting him.

Two lonely years later, Detective Pao sat gloomily in his office, waiting for the next unlikely case to show up. The only cases Detective Pao did those days were small and insignificant. Suddenly, a short and rather plump man slammed open the door. Pao recognized him as Daniel Barret, curator of the Birdwing Museum of Fine Art.

"Hello, Mr. Barret. How may I—"

"DETECTIVE PAO!" roared Mr. Barret. "We need your—"

"Calm down, Mr. Barret. How may I be of assistance to you?"

Mr. Barret inhaled deeply, blowing a gust of wind at Detective Pao.

“I woke up at seven o’ clock in the morning, strolled by the museum, only to find out one of the museum’s greatest pieces of artwork, *The Bouquet*, was gone.” By the time Mr. Barret reached his last words, his voice was on the verge of crying. “Don’t worry, Mr. Barret. I will find the painting,” said Detective Pao. Mr. Barret nodded, motioning for the detective to come with him.

The Birdwing Museum of Art was very big and very grand, with the colors being mainly white and a very bright shade of gold. Once Mr. Barret and Detective Pao entered the building, they navigated the museum for a few awkward minutes until they found the “Still Life” gallery. Everywhere were pictures of inanimate, everyday objects. Detective Pao saw a big space directly at the end of the gallery, with shattered glass sprawled on the floor. It was almost as if the gallery could not be complete, could not be a worthwhile gallery to see without the missing painting filling the space.

“I suppose the crime happened here, Mr. Barret.” said Pao.

“Indeed!” replied Mr. Barrett.

“Did you see any people here when the crime took place?” said Pao.

Mr. Barret nodded. He described to Pao three people who were seen when the crime took place.

Wilhelma Aron, a redheaded, tall woman.

Joshua Wilson, a bald man who worked as a janitor for the museum.

Lastly, Karin Lessen, a brunette woman who worked alongside Joshua Wilson. Detective Pao wrote the details down, thanking Mr. Barret.

Detective Pao was exiting the museum when a certain gallery caught his eye. He entered the small gallery, and saw an article written on the wall that described the life of Justice Pao. After reading the article, Detective Pao wondered if him and Justice Pao could possibly be related when he heard a crash. The detective ran to the sound of the crash, and chased the person he saw running. Seconds turned into minutes, and the detective wondered if he could ever catch the culprit. It was beginning to seem hopeless when the culprit suddenly stopped in front of a speeding car and Detective Pao caught them, to the amazement of the witnesses around the streets. Pao ripped off the culprit’s mask, and it revealed a woman with pitch black hair and blue eyes.

“Finally.” whispered Detective Pao, to himself. “After two years, finally.”

The woman was convicted after a week, pleading guilty to theft and serving a year in prison. It was later revealed that she believed Detective Pao to be very efficient at solving cases, which sparked fear instead of admiration. Because she used to be Pao’s mother’s best friend, she knew that the man in her case would spark horrid memories. She used this to commit crimes, knowing that almost nobody could solve them. But after she was convicted, Pao couldn’t care less. He was happy to do a good thing and earn back his reputation. After all, good things pay off.

Real Mom vs Fake Mom: A Story about Judge Pao

The International School of Macao, Sun, Sunny – 10

“Hey kids, today we’re going to travel to the year of 999–1062!” Said Carly.

Carly and her friend Kylie are going to use the time turner to travel to 999–1062 and collect information from a famous judge from China, who is called Judge Pao(包公 Bao Gong). “Let our journey begin!” Whoosh...

“Woah! It does look like we’re somewhere near the 999–1062!” Said Carly.

That was true and were in the year of famous judge Pao! Carly and Kylie are walking on a busy street.

Suddenly, there was some big loud voices coming out of somewhere!

“Hey the baby is mine!”

“No, it isn’t! Mine!”

“Mine!”

“No! Not yours!”

“He is my baby!”

“What was that for?!” Kylie asked as she walked towards the background of where the noise came from. “Oh, my God! Carly, come and have a look!”

There lay the baby crying on the floor as two mothers fought between about the baby. “Stop it! It isn’t even yours!”

“Yes, he is my baby!”

“Not at all! He is my baby!”

The two mothers looked very similar, and they all said they were the mom of the baby. The baby is too small, he could not walk, could not speak, and could not find out who is his mom. People looked around them, but nobody could find out a way.

“Quick, Kylie! Call the cops!” Carly shouted. Then there came a voice talking to them.

“There are no cops here.” Whispered a little boy.

“WHAT!!! But how do you catch bad guy? There must be a fake mom here!” Kylie said.

“If the baby was taken by the fake mom, the baby would be in danger.” Carly said.

“I have an idea! Did you hear about judge Pao? He is a very smart judge. He must know how to find out the real mom!” The little boy said.

“Great! Let’s go to find out the judge Pao!” Said Carly. “

“Ok.” Answered the boy.

So the people took the baby and the two mothers, followed Carly, Kylie, And the little boy and of they went heading for judge Pao.

“What are you guys here for?” Asked judge Pao surprised.

Then the boy spoke up. “There were two moms down near your palace fighting about a baby. I can tell the moms are almost out of control already! They all said they are the mother of the baby.”

“Oh ok. Take me to them.” Answered judge Pao firmly.

Then the little boy took judge Pao to the moms and there they were still fighting. The judge Pao decided to help take lead of this. He quickly brainstormed the best idea of finding out which one is the real mom. Finally, he had an idea! He took a paper and write down a few questions on the paper. He believes that a real mom knows everything exactly about his baby. So he just asked the mom a few private information questions to see which is real.

First, he asked, “do you moms know which size of shirt does the baby wear?”

“8!” Said the first.

“6!” Said the other.

Then the judge Pao measured, “the second mom had the correct answer. “ He said.

Next question, judge Pao asked, “what is the baby’s shoe size?”

“16!” Said the first one.

“10!” Said the second one.

Then the judge Pao measured, “the second mom had the correct answer. “ He said again.

Next question, judge Pao asked, “what is the baby’s weight?”

“6Kg!” Said the first one.

“7.53!” Said the second one.

“The second mom is correct again.” The judge Pao measured and said again.

Next question, judge Pao asked, “what does the baby hate to eat?”

“Pickles!” Said the first.

“ Sour oranges!” Said the second mom.

The judge Pao gets the food and let the baby try, he found “The second mom is correct again.

Next question, Next question...The questions and conversations went on and on. People around are all think they could make a conclusion that the second mom is the real mother. Bu the judge Pao asked a lot of questions until he definitely sure who is the correct mom.

Finally, the judge Pao put the first mother, the fake mother into the jail, and let the second mother bring his baby back home. But judge pao didn’t just leave, he actually spent a few months spying mother look after the baby just to make sure she is not pretending. After a few months of spying, judge pao spent time not too close to the baby’s house but he still kept an eye on them until he makes sure the baby finds out his real mom.

“Wow!” Said Carly amazed. “I guess that is why judge pao is so famous! I can’t believe judge pao just figure out which is which by his smart brain!”

“He did not make a conclusion when asking one or two questions, he asked a lot of questions until he could definitely make sure who is the real mother. He is so rigorous!” Said Kylie. But judge pao still not go did not go away, he spent months spying on the mom just to make sure it was the real mom! Then he sprinted back to his own palace to do some work but he was still keeping eye on them! “Woah! Judge pao is a perfect judge of all! “Shall we make something for judge pao?” Asked the little boy. “Oh Sorry! But we were not from here, so we can’t stay longer. But we will still remember you. Let’s go back now! I will tell children about the judge Pao!” Carly said. Then they flew back to the 2022.

The Case Of The Poisoned Food

The International School of Macao, Tsao, Yoyo – 11

Long ago, on a hot and boring summer day, there was a kidnap in the town where the famous judge Bao lived...

Judge Bao was resting in his court while studying a scroll that apparently was only understandable to himself and himself only. Suddenly, a man charged through the heavy doors of the court as if they were only feather-light, his face as red as an apple. The man came charging through the doors and knelt right before judge Bao's feet, that's when judge Bao had a chance to take a close and precise look at the man.

"Please, judge Bao, please, help me!!!" Sobbed the man as he tugged at Bao's pants.

Bao didn't know what to do, so he helped the man up to his feet(which was rather painful for Bao, since the man didn't seem to be in the mood to stand up)and asked what was wrong.

"My...my name is...is A...Adam and I n...need your help! PLEASE," begged Adam, "there is a...a man who is kid...kidnapping kids and...and KILLING THEM!!!"

This was huge, especially because someone dared to make a move in the town where the legendary judge Bao watched and protected.

A kidnap AND a murder? This is a case for me to solve! Thought Bao. Bao asked Adam where all this was happening and Adam replied in an abandoned cabin in the woods. Judge Bao told his men to pack and prepare a carriage for the trip to the forest.

At the forest...

Judge Bao and Adam, followed by a group of soldiers carrying bags of food and resources they need in case they encounter something unexpected. On the way to the cabin, Bao asks Adam: "How do you know there were kidnappings and murders?"

Adam doesn't reply, he stares at the forest ground, then sadly replies: "Because, because, I used to work for the man that killed the kidnapped people."

Judge Bao is surprised by this reply, Adam didn't seem like a man who would meet the standards of a kidnapper/murderer. Instead, he peeks at Adam through the corner of his eye, Adam's face was covered in tears, and Bao could sense the thick blanket of disappointment covering Adam and weighing him down with every step towards the cabin, so being the nice man people recognize him for, judge Bao decided to wait until after the murderer was captured to decide Adma's fate. For now, though, he had to focus on the current case.

They arrived at the old, beat-up cabin several minutes later. Bao and Adam let the soldiers in first, because they were totally not scared of the dark and creepy hallway that has spider webs hanging from every corner of the cabin. At the end of the hallway, there was a door, the door opened a crack, and through the crack Bao could see a slight flame that was coming from a candle.

Even though nobody could see what was happening in the room, Bao, Adam, and the soldiers could all hear the maniacal laugh coming from the room. The voice was high-pitched and was apparently talking to another person.

"Well, son, before you are 2 pieces of bread, one of them contains poison, while the other doesn't, and I'll make you a deal, alright? The piece that you choose, I'll eat the other along with you, okay?"

No answer. Bao and his team listened closely to the one-voiced conversation, the soldiers had no idea how the maniac had survived so many times with so many pieces of bread that kids chose and was lucky enough to survive all of them. The only ones who knew the answer to the question were Bao and Adam.

"Here, kid," said the manic, "have a glass of water in case you choke."

Right at that moment, Bao signaled to his soldiers to bust through the door and capture the maniac, the door was kicked down by the general of the army, who was also the one who put the maniac against the wall, the child who had been kidnapped sat dumbfounded by the sudden change of events and stared as judge Bao came through the door with a scared man right behind him.

“Sir,” started judge Bao, “you are arrested for kidnap and murder of innocent children!”

Judge Bao explained to his men that the maniac had lied to all of the children, none of the pieces of bread contained any poison, so that would explain how the maniac survived every time, but where was the poison contained? Well, the poison was actually inside the glass of water that the man had given the children, and when the kids drank the water, they were actually consuming poison!

After the man had been arrested, Adam had finally realized that his true passion was solving crimes, judge Bao and Adam instantly became close friends and worked together to solve crimes. Together, they saved hundreds of lives with their wits and teamwork.

New Tales of Judge Pao

The International School of Macao, Yan, Cherry – 10

One sunny day, Judge Pao was relaxing on his couch watching TV, then there was a knock on his door. “Who are you?”, asked Judge Pao. “Oh I’m the postman, come to get your letter.” “OK, just put it on the front steps of my house, please.” Then Judge Pao went out, he opened the letter and read the words in it.

Invitation

My dear friend Pao.

Hope this letter finds you well. You are invited to attend my wedding ceremony.

Time: December 17th (Saturday), 1:30–2:30p.m.

Location: Church of Cherry Blossom Hotel, Macau

Wish you have a great time!

Mrs.Katie and Mr.Jackson

On the day of the wedding ceremony, Judge Pao did enjoy it up until a stealing happened. The wedding began, “Applause to Mrs. Katie and her husband, Mr. Jackson.” Everyone in the church clapped for them. The church was big. There were seats, on which there were flowers. There were rose petals, lily petals and blossoms stuck to the seats. There were rainbow windows around the church. “It’s time to exchange rings!”, announced the host. Just as the bride and bridegroom were trying to reach for their rings, Katie (the bride) suddenly let out a loud scream.

“AAAAAAHHHHHHH!” she cried.

“What’s wrong?” Jackson asked.

People gathered around them.

“I...I...I don’t know where my ring is!” Katie said, trembling. And that got Judge Pao’s attention. He thought, “Oh my! This turned out to be a mystery!” Judge Pao is a friend of the bridegroom. Now his mode is not relaxing, instead, his nerves became intense. He pushed to the front, then took out notebook and asked, “When was the last time you saw your ring?” Judge Pao questioned.

“It was at 10:00 when I gave it to my assistant to keep it safe. His name is Jack.” she replied. Judge Pao kept asking,

“Did he give it back to you?”

“Yes, I guess. He said he put it in the purse, but when I tried to reach for it just now, it was gone!” Katie said. There were a lot of people in the crowd, but Judge Pao noticed someone sneaking away. He chased after him, yelling, “Wait...Don’t go!” But that just made the mysterious man run even faster. He had a lot of balloons as if he was a balloon man.

When he finally caught up with him, the mysterious man stopped, “What do you want?” he growled. “May I ask you a few questions?” Judge Pao said .

He started to ask, "What were you doing at 10:00 this morning?" He asked this because he ran away and acted mysteriously. So he might be the one who stole it, at least he might have something to do with it. The mysterious man was wearing a black hoodie with the hood covering his face. Judge Pao knew he was a man because his voice was very deep and harsh. Everything he wore was black.

"Uh...I was mopping the floor." he said.

"Very well. Do you remember where you put the mop?" asked Judge Pao.

"Yes, in the bathroom. I mopped in the bathroom and got tired so I stopped mopping and came here." he replied, sounding sure.

"I see you have a lot of balloons, so can I have one?"

"I'm afraid not. These are only for little kids around 3–5 years old." he answered.

"OK, you can go now." Judge Pao said, writing something in his notebook. He was going to where Katie was and tell her what he just found out. When he turned a corner, he heard whispers in a quiet room.

"Boss, here is the ring you asked me to steal. So can I get my payment now?" Judge Pao recognised that voice. It was Jack's!

"I pranked a man by saying I was mopping the floor! How dumb is he! I was so nervous that he'd know it's me cause I heard Katie told him about me, I also had a lot of balloons to change my voice. I'm so clever!" He sounded so proud of himself that he even forgot it was actually his boss's idea. Judge Pao looked around the room, in a corner were there a lot of balloons tied to the chair. It looked just like the mysterious man's! They wanted to steal the ring because they could sell it for a very high price.

"Do you think I'm trustworthy? No way. I won't give you money. Besides, that idea of stealing the ring was mine, not yours!", said the other man. Judge Pao also knew that voice, because he once saw him on TV. He was the head of criminals, Josh! Judge Pao whispered,

"Oh my God! So they are the ones who stole the ring." But it was too loud, so Jack and Josh heard him. He ran as fast as he could and told Katie everything that had happened. While he was running, he was wondering why they were here, because they were supposed to be in the jail. The police were sending them to jail the last time he saw them on TV. How could they be here? Did they escape from the jail? Katie and Judge Pao immediately called the police. Just exactly as he thought, they did escape jail! Because once they got captured, one of the police (Jason) walked over and told her, "Did you know they are actually criminals who escaped from jail? You will be awarded 10,000 dollars!" The police had to find the ring first because Jack and Josh hid the ring somewhere secretly in the church. After the ring was found, everyone left. Now Katie and Judge Pao both knew that not everyone was trustworthy! Only seeing is believing.

Judge Pao

W F Joseph Lee Primary School, Leung, Chung Hang – 10

“Judge Pao! Judge Pao!”, I was greeted with booming voices in my head, then I slowly opened my eyes. I immediately realized a strange woman standing right in front of me, and she was calling me “Judge Pao”. I stared at the woman with confusion, then I was able to see a blurred reflection of myself from a golden pillar beside her, and I was totally shocked. Oh god, I looked like a forty-year-old man in ancient Chinese cloths! Then I heard another voice of a man dressed in fully black standing behind me. The man said, “Judge Pao, please help as this is your responsibility to help people they have needs”. I could not explain but I know the man named Ming who was my subordinate to support my duty. Surprisingly, I was not able to refuse the request from Ming, then I spoke to the woman with a deep tune, “how may I help you?”.

Ming told me the woman named Lawren who was a hawker selling vegetable in the market. I was feeling as if I was possessed by a horrific demon as I was not the one speaking. Meanwhile, Lawren was explaining to me what had happened, “there was an explosion yesterday evening and it blew up the place where my husband and I lived. My husband was found seriously injured after the explosion. Would you please help to find out what was going on? I will” Before Lawren could go on, my body already spoke, “don’t worry Lawren I will help you!” While I was still processing what was the situation, suddenly, my body moved on his own and followed Lawren out of the room, and that was the breaking point of my feelings from confusing to horrified, the cities, the luxury, everything was as if I was in ancient China, and I am the famous “Judge Pao”, I was in China's Song Dynasty which was over a thousand years ago, and my subordinate, Ming was following me. It was unbelievable.

After a while, we reached to the scene of the crime where the house was blown to smithereens, it was as if a meteorite landed on it everything was gone, the flowers nearby were as black as coal! We went to see her husband who was badly injured, his right arm has fractured bones which was extremely painful for him.

We talked to the husband, his name is Rei, Ming asked Rei about what happened. Rei replied with weak voice, he was walking home yesterday evening after buying groceries and he saw a man putting fire to something close to his house. He immediately shouted and chased the man, but then a sound wave and a heat wave came rushing by, the next thing he felt was scorching heat and immense pain on his left hand. Luckily, somebody nearby immediately came to see what was happening and offered help to Rei, he was then rescued and placed on a bed. Then Ming led me going to the scene of the crime where the house was completely destroyed, we didn’t find any useful cue except a golden ring with a large green jade on it, which was extremely valuable.

This time, out of my expectation, I questioned the suspects arrested by Ming, those suspects arrived the scene almost immediately right after the explosion, they were Rei’s neighbours, Joshua, Emily and Cookie, and another suspect was Thomas. Actually, Thomas was not Rei’s neighbour, he was a rich business man living close to the market where Lawren was working at. I was doubt why Thomas had been there in a late evening. Ming stood behind me and I asked the suspects, “Did you guys take a bath yesterday?” All of them replied no as they were busy for taking care of Rei as he was found serious injured. Then I started to examine the clothes of the suspects wore and when I was about to question them again when my finger pointed at Thomas and said, “Catch him, he set off the bomb!” And I was thinking what did I miss?

Thomas was yelling, “You have no proof that I am an arsonist, let go of me!” He even tried to struggle out of Ming holding him but then my body boomed, “Oh so you think I would accuse someone as an arsonist without proof? Here is proof. First of all, your shirt has black dust sticking on it, which could only be the dust from the explosion. Second, a ring was found at the scene which was belong to you, I realized your thumb without your ring which you used to show off.” Ming was very smart, he immediately put Thomas thumb through the ring, which was perfectly fit. Everyone was so shocked their mouth fell and the landlord explained why he blew up their house. Thomas discovered that Rei and Lawren’s house was right underneath a pile of treasure. So, Thomas tried to convince them to sell the house or leave but they didn’t listen so he blew up their house to scare them. But Thomas didn’t mean to blown up Rei and cause the injury. That was when my body said, “You filthy criminal, you deserved being sentenced death because of blowing someone’s house up and attempted murder.

Afterwards, Thomas was executed in front of my eyes and I felt dizzy and I collapsed, I woke up on my bed, realizing that everything was just a dream.

New Tales of the Judge Pao

W F Joseph Lee Primary School, Leung, Song – 10

In the Northern Song Dynasty (960–1122) there lived a government official who was honest and righteous to the utmost degree. His name was Bao Zheng and everyone called him Bao Gong (Lord Bao). He was the man with a long beard and a thick eye brown. He also has a mole that shape like the moon. When Bao Gong was in his late forties he was appointed Magistrate of Tian Chang country in An Hui province. During his term, he not only upheld the laws in a justice and strict way, he was also very good at solving many legal cases. Because of that, many evil people were punished and many innocent people in wrongfully mindset were changed from the justice. Unfortunately, Bao Zheng died inside his office at the age of sixty three. He was buried in Anhui Hefei province. His grave was 1200 meters square in area.

We had seen a lot of movies about Bao Zheng. They seemed farfetched and unreal. In real life, Bao Zheng trialed some case that is worth to reflect. Let me share some of them with you.

One time there was a woman who came into Bao Zheng's house and said, "Bao Zheng, Please help me! Last year, My husband and I went to Beijing to have an exam with our son in order to get a better job and have money to pay for the bills for our house. But my husband and son were killed by a man called uncle Guo after the exam. He is now trying to kill me. Please help me...please!" After hearing what the woman said, Bao Zheng was pitiful for that woman. So he let her stay in his house and told the guard keep everyone out. The next day, Bao Zheng went to uncle Guo's house and found that he has moved to another place. However, he found two dead bodies in the well and knew that the two bodies are the husband and son of that woman. Then Bao Zheng asked the people if they knew where Uncle Guo went. They said, "He went to a place called Guangzhou and he said he would never come back." Few days later, Bao Zheng packed his stuff and went on a trip to Guangzhou. He also brought his bodyguards and the woman. After few weeks of trip, they finally got to Uncle Guo's house. When they arrived, there was a man in a white shirt and he had a long beard. He looked very old. Then Bao Zheng asked the woman, "Is that Uncle Guo?" And the woman said, "Yes! That's him!" Then Bao Zheng asked his bodyguards to catch him. When they caught uncle Guo they asked him to go to Bao Zheng's court and arrested him as a murder case. When they arrived the court, Bao Zheng said, "You need to be honest about what you say next!" Then Bao asked, "Are you the killer?" Then uncle Guo said, "Of course not!" Then Bao said, "But we found two dead bodies in your old house." Then Guo said, "Really! But I didn't kill anyone! That means someone killed somebody there!" After that, Bao said, "But a woman said you killed her husband and her child. How can you proof that you didn't kill those people." Then Guo started to be scared and said, "No... I didn't, I don't know that woman." "But we found your fingerprints on the dead body. You can't said that you didn't kill them, right?" Guo said, "Sorry Bao Zheng, I know I was wrong. Please don't kill me!" Bao said "You are now a killer so we must use the death penalty. But because your terrible killing way, we will use the most painful death penalty. But we will send you to the jail first." Guo said, "no please no no..."

The next day, Guo's brother came. He said, "Can I bail Guo please?" Then Bao said, "No, because it was a big case and we have already issued the death penalty. And he will die tomorrow. You may come tomorrow so that you can see him for the last time." Guo's brother cried, "No! No! I can't let my brother died. No!"

The next day the death penalty began. Before that, Uncle Guo's brother said, "Brother, I hope you can have a great life in the heaven and we will miss you forever. I came here because I want to see you for the last time. I love to be your brother and I hope that I can still be your brother or your family member in our next life. I love you brother." Uncle Guo was so touched and cried, "I love you too brother!" Then the executioner cut off uncle Guo's head. That next day, the town was very peaceful and there were no murder cases anymore. Everyone in that town was very grateful to Bao Zheng and he became a hero.

Bao Zheng was a sympathetic person. In the above case, you can see Bao Zheng was brave person. He offended a lot of noble people. In the history, Bao Zheng was being poisoned by the king. Bao Zheng didn't have a noble life, but his honesty and integrity was respect by the posterity. Although he died so long ago, the kindness of his heart and spirit never wiped out. In the present, people visit his grave as a respect for Bao Zheng. Hope you guys learnt to be a justice people after reading this article.

A New Tales of the Judge Pao

W F Joseph Lee Primary School, Leung, Sze Yu – 10

Once, there was a clever Judge named Pao Zheng. He was very famous in his country, and almost everyone knew him. There are many stories of him passed from generation to generation. Now, the people in the 21st century will find him too, using their new invention, the time machine to bring him back.

Cindy lives in Hong Kong. Her family members had all passed away before she was one. She lives with a family that have adopted her since she was five. Cindy and her adoptive parents have visited their old home over a thousand times, asked everyone related to them and walked all over Hong Kong. One day, She found a map which was hidden by her family members ages ago in the jungle next to her old home, though it seems to be a treasure map, but it may also disclose the secret of her family. It was a satisfying news even to know a little of them. When she saw the time machine the first time, she floated an idea. She contacted Professor Peter, the inventor of the time machine. She made a deal with him: to share the treasure together if the time machine can help to find the treasure and secret of her family. Professor Peter agreed. Without a moment to lose, she went to the past and found Judge Pao, a Chinese Judge who is famous for fighting crime and solving difficult cases. In order to find the secret of her family, she asked him to lend her a hand. Although Judge Pao was very busy, he was delighted to help a girl from the future. He accepted the offer without thinking twice.

Cindy and Judge Pao began their journey in the past, hoping the map will give them details about her family. They traveled day and night. Finally, they arrived to an ancient village in Hong Kong. In the village, No one ever had a decent life there. After Judge Pao understood what was happening, he explained to Cindy that the villagers were quarreling day and night about who was the thief that stole the treasure from the armed escort five years ago. Judge Pao questioned the armed escort for the details of the theft. The leader of the armed escort said that they left some valuable goods and sent a guard to get them back. The guard thought it was a long way down to the destination so he had a long, deep sleep on a wooden board.

However, in the next morning, the goods disappeared. Judge Pao told the guard that he thought the wooden board stole the goods and decided to question it. As a famous judge, everyone knew him and began laughing at him. Judge Pao frowned and said with a grumpy voice to the crowd, "Give me one hour and you will know who the thief is!" The villagers stood around the wooden board and Judge Pao started asking questions like if the board is a part of a gang or if he was working alone. Judge Pao seemed to hear the answers of the wooden board because he repeated the answer by himself. One of the villagers looked scared as he sweated and kept shivering. Then, he ran away! Judge Pao ignored him. However, he was actually sending a guard to follow him to his house secretly. The guard broke into the house and captured him, the goods were found in his home where is in today's Tin Shui Wai! They also disclosed that the treasure was from a special place they would like to go, that was the destination of the map! The leader of the armed escort, to their surprise, he was her forefather!

Judge Pao and the girl finally reached the treasure. Inside the treasure box was an amulet, which was the same as the one that Cindy was wearing, her forefather was shocked. Cindy said excitedly, "I am your descendant!" Not believing what they found, they burst into tears and hugged together. Her forefather showed her a family tree list of names and told Cindy, "You might find more relatives and this treasure box in your time. Don't give up, you are not alone!". Cindy thanked Judge Pao, said goodbye to everyone and went back to the present time.

After struggles, Cindy finally reached the treasure. She was very pleased with the result. She dug up the treasure box and it had tons of gold in it that could let her live the rest of her life comfortably. A smile slowly spread across her face. It was even brighter than the sun. She was grateful for Judge Pao and Professor Peter's help. She shared some gold with Professor Peter to support his future research, and donated some of it to refurbish Judge Pao's temple.

Back in the past, Judge Pao was also grateful for Cindy. He didn't regret that he went on this journey. Because of her, he learnt about how important family is. Also, he realized that "No pain, no gain" in the journey.

I Want to Kill Everyone

Yew Chung International School of Chongqing, Kim, John – 11

The dirty hospital, which was a gigantic graveyard stared terribly. The hospital, which was as big as Everest Mountain, keeps following its patients. The tallest hospital, which was a volcano with lava erupting, kicks its patients. Inside the hospital was skeletons were as smelly as Mr. Twit singing to me anxiously. The hospital's room was as dark as midnight. In the hospital, it would feel someone was looking for you, but you couldn't tell if it was ghost or monster.

Pao wanted to explore the inside of humongous hospital. Pao broke the window with a heavy axe. Then, he jumped into the hospital, Pao found many discussing skeletons and two smelly peoples. Suddenly, water was falling so Pao was very nervous.

Pao saw a man in living room, who was wearing baby T-shirt. Chuseoungmin was a very handsome man because he was very tall, has short hair and was strong. He was founding food quickly because he was very hungry.

Lalala was wearing blue, dirty shirt. He was a super ugly boy because he has pointy nose, small eyes. He was smoking nervously in front of table. Also, he was founding food poorly with Chuseoungmin.

In addition, bidem was wearing black shirt, very ugly face, unkind and red colorful hair. He was drinking cola because he was thirsty. Pao asked "Chuseoungmin, Lalala and you were friend or family?" Bidem shouted "No! No! No" Pao was afraid, and his hair was standed. Then, Chuseoungmin replied to Pao's question "yes, we were friend Pao asked again "why Bidem shouted?" Chuseoungmin said "because of he was very hungry, and he is not that kind, sorry Pao."

Pao said "Hey, Lalala?" Lalala replied "ye...yes...?" Pao said, "why are you very surprised?" Lalala said "Nothing!"

Suddenly, Lalala disappeared and Chuseoungmin, Pao and Bidem were founding Lalala Chuseoungmin went to the small room, Pao went to living room and Bidem went to toilet found the Lalala. Later, Bidem shouted in the toilets...! Pao and Chuseoungmin run quickly to the toilet, and they were so late someone already gone. And Bidem told them it's la....la.... l.... Chuseoungmin and Pao knew who murderer is.

Then Pao called the police, and Lalala heard who was calling police, so Lalala hold the sharp knife and run to the room and lock the door directly. Three policemen came, Lalala was excited. Lalala jumped to one policeman and hit him very strongly, Lalala pocked other one policeman with sharp knife and last policeman shoots him an electric gun. One hours later, Lalala woke up and he was in hospital policeman was looking Lalala scarily. Lalala afraid, Lalala saw his knife next to him, so he took the knife and throw to policeman and policeman caught the knife. Lalala was shocked. Policeman also shocked. Because Lalala killed more than ten people so policeman caught him and putted into the police car.

Policeman was afraid because Lalala was delighted with big smiled and singing. Policemen asked, "why are you amused?" Lalala replied "because I can escaped the jail ha-ha." Policeman thought he was crazy. They arrived the police office. Policeman putted Lalala into the jail and police decided he should be stayed here for 6years. But Lalala kept smiled to policeman. At the night, Lalala dug the wall with useful spoon. 2years later, he finished dug the wall, so he planned he escaped the jail 2pm at night.

At night, he made his face and body with paper and putted into the mini bed because policeman thought he was sleeping no. He jumped into the white wall and escaped the jail successfully. Policeman notice Lalala was escaped the jail, so he was founding Lalala, but policemen were late because Lalala already gone to China. Lalala wrote letter to policeman. "I'm in Japan trust me." Policeman thought that was lie but they need to found Lalala, so they just went to Japan but they can't found Lalala in Japan anywhere. Lalala wrote letter to policeman again "you were stupid police ha-ha!" policeman very annoyed.

Lalala killed people in China also, so China policeman caught him and putted into the jail for 7years. And Lalala was 52years old. In 2017 4/27, Lalala was dead in the jail poorly...

The Frightening Stage

Yew Chung International School of Chongqing, Mayes, Ariella – 11

The immense, eerie abandoned theatre, which no one dared to enter, makes everyone scream in horror and fear. The theatre was a nightmare; it would always scream in horror. Even looking at it would make a brave knight scream like a little girl and cry for his mummy.

Inside you would see savage rats nibbling on the seats and smearing them with a horrible stench. The odor was terrible; the theatre felt alive. The place is a haunted house; the wind whistled inside.

Arriving at the eerie theatre, searching for shelter due to the foggy weather and terrible rain, Poppy went off wondering, seeking for a room to camp for the night, but she felt a sense of unease...

A cold chill went down her spine when she saw something: two strange figures talking about their business in whispers...

The first figure was a lady wearing gold jewellery, a white frilly dress and amber earrings, Holly suddenly noticed a woman in the corner of her eye. Holly was looking annoyingly at her. Meanwhile, the woman looked guilty and nervous...

On the other hand, Alexandra, Holly's sister, was raging at the woman, her face was as scarlet as blood. Holly quickly rushed to her to soothe her, but Alexandra was still sniggering at her. (Some believe Alexandra is mad at the woman because she is jealous of her many great accomplishments.)

Now going to another room, a tall man appeared looking as pale as a ghost. He was called Mr. Brown, he had a grey cloak, brown hat and auburn hair, he was searching for something, possibly linked to his suddenly bankrupted business or maybe something else... something secret...

Soon, Poppy heard a horrible scream, followed by a thud. Curiously, she decided to follow that sound. Within a minute she reached the stage but there was nothing! She carried on the search and...

There Emma was. Dead. In a pool of her own blood...

Then she noticed something that frightened her, carved on the victim's arm, it stated- "REVENGE!" Soon, later, she saw auburn hair, an earring and some fancy shoes- all three possessions of the three people she just met.

Later, the three suspects came, screaming, looking at the dead body...

Poppy rounded up all the suspects in the theatre room and started to interrogate them. But Holly and Alexandra crossed their arms and stated- "Who are you? Please leave now!"

She replied, "I am detective Poppy and I'm going to find out who killed Emma!"

"This is a waste of time, Leave, now!" Mr. Brown yelled impatiently.

"There is a dead body in the room and one of you killed her. I will find the perpetrator!" announced Poppy. "So, Alexandra it seems that this dagger was in your handbag, do you have an alibi?" she continued.

"Yes, I was in a different room. I was about to leave in fact." Alexandra informed Poppy confidently

.

Holly started to sweat and was looking paranoid, before Mr. Brown got to state his alibi, Holly couldn't take it anymore and impatiently blurted out, "I did it. I killed Emma."

“Why?” enquired Poppy

Holly confessed, “She betrayed me, I felt like she didn’t deserve life anymore. I wanted revenge and I got it. The ultimate revenge!!!”

With Alexandra still shocked, Holly walked with Poppy to the police car. But suddenly, Holly escaped and stole a car and within a minute she was nowhere to be found. “Now who’s next was the next frightening thought that came into Poppy’s head. Now she *knew* that the city wasn’t safe.

The End...or is it?

Pao and the Doomed Theatre

Yew Chung International School of Chongqing, Peng, Sunny – 10

The eerie theatre, which is surrounded by a piece of desert that only scorpions live in, laughs menacingly as people enter. Despite the rats gnawing at the theatre, it still stands. The clouds watched in horror as people enter and rained as much as they can to stop them and to break the theatre, but it only made the people go in faster.

Arriving at the eerie theatre, pao went to the ticket booth and bought two adult tickets. Entering the grounds of the theatre, a strange door with a man's face smiling carved on it greets pao and his friend.

As soon as he entered, he regretted coming to the theatre. The sight gave him shivers on his spine. He sat down and waited silently for the movie to start.

In the middle of the movie, the movie screen suddenly went black, everyone panicked and ran around. The room was in complete chaos. Pao fell on the floor and got kicked. He rolled to a stop when he hit something as cold as ice. as he tried to feel what it is, the lights came on. The sight made him jump. There was his friend, lying on the ground, with blood dribbling out of his nose and mouth, dead!

Soon, everyone moved out the room and the police came. Pao used his detective certificate to enter the murder scene. "I must find the perpetrator!", pao thought. He started searching for clues. After a few minutes of searching around, he finally found the first clue—there was a knife that seemed to be the weapon stuck onto the bottom of the chair. "There must be more clues.", thought pao. He started searching again. This time, he found a piece of white cloth in the hand of the body. It seemed to be ripped off when fighting with the culprit. The knife had a man named mark's fingerprint on it, and there he was, wearing a black jacket and talking on the phone, silently waiting for the detective to call on him. And there was the second suspect, wearing a white cloak. He was called paul.

"do you have an alibi?", asked pao

"The knife on the chair was the one I lost a few days before, I did not kill him, there isn't a scratch on the body!", answered mark.

"I did not kill him too; my cloak did not have any part ripped off.", said paul "I was only drinking my cola when the murder happened."

Pao checked the body and paul's clothes, the suspects' said the truth, but paul reminded pao of something. Cola! He went back to the body and took the cola that was spilled a few steps away to the police station. It was poisoned! He asked the servers at the theatre and knew that the boss poured the cola by himself.

"why did you kill him?" pao asked

"if I gave back all the money I borrowed , I need to give up my business"answered the boss.

The boss was taken to jail, where he would spend the rest of his life. Pao was happy, he solved another crime!

Ice, Water, Poison

Yew Chung International School of Chongqing, Sia, Vincent – 10

The king's castle, which was as cold as the North pole, stood silently in the middle of the moat. Terrifyingly, the castle stood in the middle of a gloomy dimension full of thunder and rain. The palace, where the wind howled, was a nightmare that everyone feared. Terrifyingly, the sky, which was full of gray clouds, was as dark as the Mariana Trench. Menacingly, the trees swung their arms as they greet its horrified guests.

Sherlock Pao was there, looking around curiously. Until he finally found the dining room, where the midnight feast awaits him.

Earlier that day, detective Pao found a letter in his mailbox. With curiosity, he opened the letter. It said:

Dear Pao,

Hello pao, I am the king! Lately you have solved many different murder mystery problems. I will be very happy if you can attend my midnight feast. You can tell me about some ideas for detective arrangements.

From The king

Pao arrived at the king's palace 11:30PM. He then found the king in the dining room with his midnight feast.

"Hello king!", stated Pao humbly. He then glanced around looking at his surroundings. Where he found two people: One woman with red hair and a man with a chef's hat.

Mr. Han (the chef) had a frown on his face. He was tired and did not want to cook on midnight. He played with his golden necklace as he stared at the king frustratedly.

Ms. White glared at Han with jealousy, she then stared at her own dress with unease. She was looking at the sky as though waiting for something.

"As always White, I want a cup of ice-cold lemonade!", stated the king with laughter.

"What do you want Pao?", asked White.

"I would have some coffee please!", answered Pao.

"Are you sure you don't want ice cold lemonade?", asked White.

White had a weird look on her face, but Pao didn't really care. "I don't really like cold drinks; I would rather have coffee thank you."

Pao and the king had a little chat in front of the table. There were lots of different smells of delicious food thanks to Han's expertise at cooking.

"I will go to the bathroom!", stated Pao with a satisfied look on his face.

"Ok!", stated the king "Go left and then go down the corridor a then turn right."

Pao came out of the bathroom whistling. He glanced around and suddenly found a figure. Pao chased it but lost it around the corridor. He only found a long dress and a tiara. This must be the queen thought Pao as he walked back to the dining room...

The dining room was quiet, a little too quiet. He then glanced into the room where he found a bloody body in the middle of the room. Pao quickly ran towards it and felt for its pulse, but the pulse stopped. The king was dead. Dead...

As a detective Pao knew what he needs to do first, he starts scanning the room for clues. He scanned the room, there was nothing special. He scanned the dead body, but there was nothing.

"This murder mystery is not like anyone before!", thought Pao, "There was no clues, no cuts, no nothing. Wait, no cuts, that must mean the king was poisoned!"

"Who would have a chance a chance to poison the king?" thought Pao, "Maybe the chef, Han, or maybe the one who serves drinks, White!"

"Oh, and maybe also the queen, she has a good relationship with the king. The king would not be so careful around her."

He quickly found White and Han, who was in the kitchen. He then searched around for the queen. He finally found the queen in a room. She was shaking with fear, her face was as pale as white paper. "Ghost!", she shouted "I saw a ghost!"

Pao quickly calmed the queen down and asked each of the suspects where they were when the king died.

"The king died?", shouted the queen full of disbelief.

Pao first looked questioned, and then he finally remembered he hadn't mentioned anything about the king's death yet. "Yes, the king died." Whispered Pao who was gloomy.

"It must be the ghost!", shouted the queen with horror "The ghost murdered the king, it even tried to chase me and murder me.

"Sorry, I was the one who chased you. I wanted to see who you were." Stated Pao humbly "Allow me to introduce myself, I am detective inspector Pao, and I will find who really murdered the king.!", shouted Pao with triumph.

"Where were all of you when the king died?", asked Pao.

"I was with Han the whole time in the kitchen after I served the drinks.", whispered White. Han nodded to confirm what White said.

"I was washing my cloths before I saw you!", stated the queen as she showed Pao the way to the to the cloths.

Pao noticed the queen was dripping water from her dress. That almost confirmed what the queen stated as it was raining outside. He then checked the cloths; it was wet too. It is normal to bring your cloths back for drying if there is rain outside thought Pao.

Pao arrived at the kitchen and checked everything, but there was no poison. When he investigated the trash bin and started digging into it, he finally found the poison.

"It must be Han or White!", shouted Pao confidently.

Pao used his experience and checked the fridge. He checked all the food: tomatoes, spinach, chicken, pork, and apples. He did not find anything. Pao told everyone about his discovery and looked at White seriously.

"Are you the murderer?", asked Pao.

"No!" stated White with confidence.

“You are the only suspect!”, shouted Pao.

“You need evidence to show that I am the murderer!”, shouted White.

Pao checked the water tank confidently, but to his surprise he did not find anything. He checked it over and repeatedly but there was no poison.

Pao thought for a moment, “The king drank lemonade so the poison must be in the lemonade!” He then checked the jug of lemonade, but to his surprise there was no poison either. Pao was perplexed.

“Where are your clues?”, questioned White menacingly.

Pao panicked; he looked around trying to find hope but there was nothing to help him.

He thought and thought and thought, he finally thought of something, ice. He quickly checked the jar of ice, there was poison!

Pao asked White, “Did you put the poison?”

“How could that be possible, you already checked the water and the lemonade!”, shouted White.

Pao showed White the glass of ice, “But I haven’t checked the ice!”

“You are very smart and knows lots of different techniques.”, Pao continued, “First you know the kings’ habits, he likes ice cold lemonade. Then you poison the ice. You even tried to poison me because I was a detective, luckily, I like coffee. After that you just need to wait for the ice to slowly melt, that’s why the king did not die immediately!”

White sighed, “I guess the plan did not work!”

White suddenly became furious, “It was the king’s fault, he was the one who gave the Hans lots of money but not me. I served him for many years, am I not loyal enough?”

White took out a knife and puts it on the queen’s neck as she slowly walks away into the deep dark forest.

Pao and the Mystery School

Yew Chung International School of Chongqing, Tin, Elsa – 10

Above, hearing clouds screaming eerie like ghosts, doors are waving to your timid heart. Looking down, you see silent and loneliness in your eyes and feeling a shiver from the blowing winds. Grasses like to die, though night mare shall begin in five.

The student that comes close goes crazy, like monkeys. This time you shall see the difference by now. The school is a toyshop because time before students are too naughty and teachers are exhausted to them. Hence, teachers changed them to that couldn't come back.

In this cold, rainy day, Pao was lost and found himself near a school he runs to the school quickly to get away from the rain. Pao looks closer and found this school has no one there, Pao found out the door has a ajar so he followed his heart and went in. He saw a red string leading him to go in. Thinking with curious, suddenly Pao saw two strange figures, who smiled with evilness.

The first figure that catches Pao's eye was a wearing a formal T-shirt and a black skirt though the shoes she wears is bad and old. This is Charlotte, smiling with evilness and horror, she flipped her brown hair proudly, jewelries from head to toe. In the office, she is finding the students' information. However, there was no students walking, laughing and learning.

The figure next to Charlotte is Niki. Wearing a long dress with red pattern and had a pony tail. She's Charlotte helper for which student will come next to...They were talking in a secret place.

"I apologize for coming in your school, I just want to come here to get away from the rain," said Pao looking sorry.

"No Problem! My dear" Charlotte smiling strangely.

When Pao arrived in the school, there was a smell of blood. Pao slowly walked through the corridor; Charlotte told Pao to come out. Pao ran into the room and saw so many dolls...

"I insist you to tell me why there are so many dolls," shouted curiously Pao.

Suddenly, a big blur of smoke comes out inside...A WITCH CAME OUT!!!

This witch lives in the school's room. Hinata is a witch; she has attractive eyes, short grey hair and magical hands. On her head she worn a purple, pointy hat; no one knows what she is making.

"There are so many dolls because I love to collect them, this is my hobby hobby," answered Hinata. Charlotte and Niki heard a noise, so they came here to see. the situation. Pao asked Charlotte to follow him to an empty room.

"Charlotte, do you know where Hinata gone these days?"
" Yes! In these days Hinata always gets a kid to the doll hand every time she comes out by herself. I want to ask her, and she shouted at me "None of your business!" Charlotte answers.

"Thanks for answering! "Smiled Pao.

Pas asked Niki to come.
" Niki, do you think Hinata has any strange doing in these days?"

“I am not sure about this, because I am charlottes helper so, I always follows her. But once when I went upstairs to get the paper—which is for test—I found Rosie’s test and Rosie – in person – disappeared,”

“How do you know Rosie disappeared, but not others?” said Pao curiously "I love Rosie and when she come to School their parent told us to look after her so I know,”

"Thanks!" Pas jolly said.

Pao told Hinata to come.

"Hi" Sanitised evilly

“Show why you are getting a student in the doll house and comes out by yourself, and why so many students disappeared, like Rosie?”

“They are just...absent,” Pao thought about the doll house.

Near the body, there was a shot grey hair which looks like Hinata’s, but there was a footprint which is made by blood looks like Niki’s though Niki said she always follows Charlotte and charlotte never goes to this room. Only Hinata will.

So, The Murderer Is HINATA!!

"I will put you in jail!!"shouted Pao.
Suddenly a Police car sound came, WEE! WU! WEE! WU!

" Please put Hinata to jail, these are the evidence to show Hinata is the murderer!" Pao insists to the police.

"Ok!" the police smiled evilly and left.

Grief, Ice and Poison

Yew Chung International School of Chongqing, Wang, Celine – 10

It was a moonless night, water dark as pitch black ink crashed at cliff rocks. Wind howled, shadows danced, owls hooted, there was a constant chittering sound that followed... the salty scent of the ocean bounced in the air. Despite the ripples and crashes at the surface, the environment underneath was another dimension. 8000 meters under the surface, lay an underwater train, in a glass tunnel. The ocean was a black hole, with a strong current pushing hardly at the glass panels, which were extremely old. Cracks formed, and the tunnel could collapse at any moment, it was a place where sharks roamed, and aliens meandered.

Lightning Flashed and swept across the sky, thunder boomed, and rain fell, creating ripples across the dark ocean, which had water like flowing midnight.

It wasn't a great night for a dive, but Violet knew she had to go, for a new species of glowing shrimp had been tracked. Violet's Calico cat, Marshmallo, circled around Violet and hopped onto her as if not letting her go. As Violet prepared to enter the ocean, an ultramarine-colored submarine emerged from the water and bobbed closer to shore, and soon, a scientist hopped out, holding a clear glass bucket with the shrimp in it.

"Ah! You are – Violet Penta de Rosa?"

"I – I um... Yes?"

"I am Dr. Ceavil Kent, head scientist of the underwater train tunnel."

After a few minutes of explaining, Dr. Kent invited Violet to help at the underwater train tunnel. It had remained untouched for over a decade now, and who knows what secrets lay inside...

Violet immediately agreed and, after an hour, she found herself in a glass tunnel. At the center, sat a train on a rail. Marshmallo hopped around as if saying: 'spectacular train Mr. Doctor!' Dr. Kent then ran around a corner, shouting:

"I'll get the others, wait here!"

At that instant, the floor beneath Violet's feet cracked, and she fell. Marshmallo immediately jumped in to help, and she too fell into the dark and stinky cabin. Canisters of seawater filled with glowing creatures, dead and alive, were the light. Violet felt her way to Marshmallo, whose eyes glowed with wisdom, she was the only one who could see in the dim light. She led Violet to a door, and Violet yanked it open. In the distance, a young man's figure came closer, and closer, and closer! On the floor, a little bottle filled with strange liquid rolled to Violet's feet, but as she picked it up, a mean and harsh voice shouted: "That's mine, don't you dare touch my belongings!" The voice belonged to the man Violet saw in the distance, he was wearing a dark blue suit with a missing button. He sashayed arrogantly towards Violet. He grabbed the bottle out of Violet's hand and glared at her, sniggering as he passed.

Out of the shadows, a teenage boy a little younger than the first hopped out and smiled at Violet, he seemed much nicer than the first, but yelped and rolled his eyes when the man pinched his ear. The man pulled him by the collar and dragged him away. He coughed constantly and yelled when Marshmallo leaped out from behind a chair, frolicking energetically. She meowed angrily when she saw the man though and shoved herself away.

Walking around the undersea underground tunnel, Violet spotted a scientist coming towards her, the scientist led Violet to the others, saying none, and working in complete silence.

"Where's Dr. Kent?" Violet inquired curiously.

"Don't ask me, I don't know!" the scientist snickered impatiently

What if the scientists planned this? Violet thought, she eyed the scientists, looking for a fraud.

"Time to test!" a scientist coughed

Suddenly, a purple figure pranced in... “He was Poisoned!” she shouted. She looked almost identical to Violet, wearing a tight purple suit and a furry belt.

“I’m from Korea, this is Violet?” she asked

“Yes, I guess?” the rude scientist grumbled, he seemed annoyed that the girl stopped their test.

“My twin sister! We Finally meet!” this was when Violet’s memories came back to her, this was her unknown sister that her mother always talked about.

“You are——” Violet pulled herself together, back into real life.

“My name is Lavender, you are Violet, we’re sisters. Our mother named us after purple colors because it is a lucky color in our oldest tradition. We should now solve the mystery, find the murderer. We must interview Calvin and Kelton. You probably saw them while coming out from the cabin.”

“So, we’re going to route 8?” Violet asked.

“Bingo!” Lavender was very positive about the dark situation; she didn’t look like she would give up.

As Lavender led Violet back into the cabin where she fell, the two girls climbed out one by one. They headed quietly to route 8, which was when a trapdoor suddenly opened, and a dark figure escaped. Lavender opened the trapdoor and saw the most terrifying sight. There was Dr. Kent. Dead. Stained with Blood. Beside the body, sat a blue cloth, covering its missing ring finger...

Marshmallo Meowed loudly and dryly to show her terror, she handed a little bottle full of corrosive liquid to Violet. It was the same liquid as in the little bottle that had been grabbed by Calvin...

Lavender and Violet glanced at Calvin and Kelton, Calvin looked nervous, sweating with guilt, as for Kelton, a tiny smile lay on his face!

“I am Detective Violet, this is my twin sister Lavender. We will find out who killed Dr. Kent.” Violet stated firmly.

“Leave me.” Calvin replied coldly and dryly, “the button is none of my business.”

“How would you know if you didn’t put it there? I haven’t even mentioned anything yet!” Lavender replied slyly. Kenton stood up and ran over to Marshmallo, patting her carefully. Though his eyes showed his fear, he looked up at Lavender and concluded,

“Calvin killed him...” Calvin looked like he was ready to explode. Fists tight. He roared at Kenton, who hid behind Violet.

“When will you ever have a mind without betrayal!” After a moment though, he had seemed to calm down,

“Kent never trusted me, he even trusted you girls more than me, I wanted revenge, I destroyed his new train’s engine, to stop him from making business.” For a second, the arrogant Calvin seemed humble, but his arrogance retook him as he clenched his teeth and shrieked,

“You don’t get to control me; you do not get to take me to jail. Kent deserved this. So, he died because he was wrong, and I was right.” He growled loudly, and threw a glass bottle at Violet, but Lavender was able to dodge it and she ran after Calvin. The wild goose chase began, and Calvin escaped by hopping into a secret tunnel he dug by hand. He had escaped!

On the floor, a little note, in barely legible handwriting: ‘Ha! Better Luck Next Time!!!’

The End... Or is it?

The Theatre of Murders

Yew Chung International School of Chongqing, Xu, Cindy – 11

The gloomy windy theatre which is a nightmare for those who dare to enter. Is surrounded by the sea, standing still and resolute. Above, clouds were eerie as a ghost, scanning across and wondering around the theatre. Observing and searching for the horror that lays inside. Tall trees danced creepily, and wind whistled as the background music. On the vast night sky, the blood moon hanged on the night sky and stared at the theatre menacingly.

Entering the grounds of properties, a dusty, ancient wooden door greets you horrify with a creaky noise. Within the vast interior, the grey walls contain the scream and cries of the terrified people who dare to enter with out noticing. Ghosts were hunting around and spying on people.

Arriving at the dusty, dark theater, anxiously finding a shelter, Luna stomped and whipped off the rain drop off her cloth. Then knocked on the wooden door, finding the door ajar, she looks around the cinema's corridor. Then she stepped into the theater, she walked carefully on to the wet, reddish carpet and wondered around the rooms. Ancient pictures were hung around the corridor. Candles were flickering, suddenly she heard alight sound of footsteps coming towards her. Without thinking, Luna ran into the massive rooms. Finding two figures in black doing some reprehensible movement.

Wearing a black, cool T-shirt with shiny accessories, Wally sat in the meeting room, waiting for someone. The door opened, Karla, appear to be her best friend in colleague. Entering the room of cold atmosphere.

Meanwhile, with the mysterious brown hair, Wally's best friend Karla, sit adjacent to her, with an anxious worried stare. She spied on Max with the corner of her eyes. Eventually, her gaze is full of revenge. Luna questioned herself, "Why are they so angry?"

"I apologize for intruding your property," Luna stated, "I was lost and needed to get out of the storm," she exclaimed, "Please go to the bathroom and clean up, when you are dried, wait by the front room until the storm cleared, then you may leave."

Luna did what is told and clean up in the bathroom. On the way to change, Luna met a young woman wondering in a huge room. A woman named Mori wares a red fur coat with a white flat hat with colorful, glimmering feathers sticking out. Her blue eyes shine in the room of darkness She wandered in the massive room. Then, "Bang--- Ah---Luna suddenly heard a sound from the meeting room.

Sparked by curiosity, Luna rushed into the meeting room, and bang on the wooden door. Within a few second, she had reached into the meeting room. A wave of horror washed over Luna. Where is the man? Did he disappear? Desperately, Luna searched. Nothing... That was the time when she looked closer at the floor. Luna was gasped in terror when she saw Max lying dead in his own pool of blood. Colorful, glimmering feathers were stuck in his blood.

Luna rushed towards Max, trying to feel a pulse but she was too late, he was DEAD!

Then, Luna turned towards the two ladies, glancing at them with astonishment. "How do it happen?"

"You are required to LEAVE NOW! This is none of your business!"

Luna was not planning to leave now. She was determined To find the culprit. Who killed Max Louis. With the suspects sitting at the meeting room looking frantically to each other, the detective turned attention to Max. Luna scanned the body, she discovers a weird smell, it was coming from the oily liquid in the wine glass. Luina knew it was the lipstick in Karla & Wally's handbag. It was toxic, Max has been poisoned, but by who...

At this point, Mori enters, complaining,” Sense the rain cleared, would you guys return my husband back?”

“Oh, well I think he is satisfied with your own business, please give us one more hour. Thanks.”

“Oh, fine...but only one more hour!” Mori stomped away with anger.

While they are complaining, Luna tried the “lipstick” on the dusty wooden table.

After this, Luna turns to the two suspects,” Allow me to introduce myself, I am detective Luna, I want to find out who killed Max.”

“These matters nothing to you, leave now and forget what you saw, “Karla said nervously

“No, I won’t, there is a dead man in the corner, one of you killed him. I am going to find out, “Luna expressed with certainty.

Suddenly, she smelled something familiar, it was the toxic lipstick. She follows the scent to a lady’s handbag. She opened it and saw a lipstick, which looks like the oily liquid that killed Max.

“Don’t touch my belonging! “Karla yelled

“So, Karla, it seems that you killed Max” Luna asked

“I, I don’t know how it get there. “Karla answered nervously

“Well, actually we worked as partner to kill him...” Wally murmured

“But why did you guys kill him? “Luna asked

“He took or fame away, He made a rumor, and we are poor at the end! He took all our savings! AH——“Karla shouted, “I want my revenge, and I’ve got it, the ultimate revenge.”

Finally, Luna found out the murderer, and call the police to take them away, they were sent to judge and been punished to be in jail for the rest of their life. However, they escaped the jail on their 3rd week. Is Luna going to find them? Are they murdering again...

The Yacht of Murders

Yew Chung International School of Chongqing, Xu, Harry – 11

The blood moon rises, a cold chill goes down your spine, it will leave you with madness and craziness... During the eerie nights, the yacht keeps going. There are rumors: some say it's haunted, some say a lost soul is driving to it to his very home. On the dreadful ocean, rotten wooden planks fall off, waves crashing against the intimidating yacht. The colossal yacht, which echoed in horror, had paintings haunted by madness and screaming in pain. Here, where ghosts celebrate, has fresh red blood dripping down the wooden walls. In the ancient yacht, which is like an abandoned cave, there was a cold whistle of wind...

Having arrived at the place where the dreadful, rotten yacht is, despite it from being rotten, it was full of treasure. But there was a steel net preventing Pao from getting to the yacht which said, "RESTRICTED AREA." Without thinking what might happen to him, he climbed over the ancient, rusty net. After climbing over the steel net, Pao instantly saw some jewelry on the floor and a human shaped shadow on the second floor of the immense yacht. With curiosity, Pao decided to go into the yacht, where he saw two people talking about the treasure, Pao listened carefully, and then found out that the treasure was in the... Suddenly, a loud scream came from the yacht.

The first-person Pao saw was a person wearing a dirty ripped shirt, a strong man indeed with a slight brown colored hair. His name was George Strongman. He is currently sitting on the wet and creaky floor, looking about viciously. His eyes only have wealth and millions of dollars' worth of gold, he looks he would do anything for wealth.

The second person was a nice-looking man, who has jewelry all around his body, pockets full of luxury car keys and credit cards. His name was James and he was Drinking his 1982 red wine pleasantly and sound fully.

There was a man walking back and forward crazily in the toilet, Pao trying to ask what is wrong, Jasper immediately shoved Pao away and replied, "None of your business stranger." With rage Pao stomped away to the other suspects.

Seeing James trying to brag to Pao, Pao stated, "Well hello, I see that you have got lovely luxury jewelries."

"Yes indeed!" Replied James proudly.

"Do you want a car key, or perhaps a credit card?" Asked James thoughtfully.

"I am good thanks." Stated Pao awkwardly.

Pao walked to the middle of the room and announced, "I am part of the "Cops are The Best" company." Pao looked curiously at Jasper who is still walking back and forward.

Jasper wore a weird rabbit mask while looking at the man in the ripped shirt walking upstairs. Jasper thinking frustratedly about his sick parents lying down on the hospital bed. (Jasper going incognito).

Suddenly, with a shatter of the porcelain plate, Pao heard a loud heartbreaking scream.

"Everybody find a place to hide, I will deal with this mess." Stated Pao determinedly.

With curiosity, Pao's hands trembling with fright, he held his trusty flashlight and tiptoed to the haunted room...

Tiptoeing carefully up the stairs, not wanting to make any sound, Pao heard drops of dirty water. After a short moment, Pao found the porcelain plate which shattered into pieces onto the sturdy ancient wood. somehow the murderer was gone! Following the trail of the fresh red blood. With Pao's leg shaking rapidly, he finally found the body of Joey. laying down on the floor with horror, his pale face his red eyes even his arms and legs were detached from his own body. what has he been through? Beside him, finding some dirty t-shirt piece, strands of brown hair, \$100 bills, and an ear from the weird rabbit mask...

Immediately putting his ear on his chest, looking for a pulse, but he was already dead, already dead on his own pool of blood.

Pao standing up, determined to find the murderer, sits on a sofa, and starts thinking of the things he saw at the crime scene. dirty T-shirt piece, looking at George, it must be his, strands of brown hair, George, or Jasper? they both had brown hair. \$100 bills belong to James. lastly a part of the weird rabbit mask, jasper. Pao starts interviewing George, who is obviously panicking, starts saying, "it wasn't me it wasn't me!"

"Whoa, calm down I did not say you are the murderer." Stated Pao calmly.

"Does this ripped T-shirt belong to you?" asked Pao nicely.

"Yes..." Uttered George nervously.

"Does this strand of brown hair belong to you?" Inquired Pao politely.

"No." Answered George wickedly.

"Thank You, that's all I am asking for." Replied Pao pleasantly.

Pao went to James and asked, "Do this jewelry and hundred-dollar bills belong to you?"

"Oh yes sir, but I have no more pockets for them, so you can keep them sir." Stated James kindly.

"Well thank you!" Replied Pao happily.

Immediately, going to Jasper, asking. "Are these strands of brown hair, and part of the weird rabbit mask yours?" Questioned Pao suspiciously.

"Yes! Now go away!" Barked Jasper.

"Well okay." Mumbled Pao anxiously.

Going to the middle of the room, "Everybody, tell me where you were at when the crime occurred!" Announced Pao nastily.

"I was right here on the bench." Stated James confidently.

"In the bathroom." Replied Jasper angrily.

"In the toilet too! Right Jasper?" Answered George nervously.

"Liar! You were not in the toilet!" Cried Jasper annoyed.

"Fine! I was the murderer!" Announced George impatiently.

"Ok you are coming with me; I am a member of the "Cops are The Best."

Hearing that he will go to jail, George immediately ran as fast as he could away from Pao, until Pao could not see him. Pao with shock, immediately tried to catch up but he couldn't, George was a pro athlete before. After a short moment, George's heart disease suddenly awoke, and George fell to the ground and mumbled, "It is the end." OR IS IT?

School Midnight Frighten

Yew Chung International School of Chongqing, Zeng, Bella – 10

The black scary, horrible, scary, stand lonely in the night. The crow flying on the sky. The cloud was shouting, the wind was escaping from the school; the whole school is a prison!

In the school, it is as dark as under the water; you can't see anything. In the classroom, the worms and bugs are everywhere!

On a sunny day Pao and her brother Bao were having a picnic. Suddenly "HONG!" there is a mountain torrent! Pao & Bao went on the car and drive away, but the mountain torrents is much quicker than them! So, they jumped into pond, then they swim to the shore. But Bao disappeared! Pao finds him for a long time. Then she saw a dark, scary school . . .

Pao goes into the school, and she see her friend Karla, Pao smiled at she and ask Karla "Hi Karla why are you here?"

Karla replied, "I am the teacher of this school."

Pao says goodbye to Karla than she keep finding Bao. After a long time, it is at 8pm pao finally find Bao and another little boy. Pao said nervously "Have you hurt? How do you get here? And who is he?" Pao point at the little boy who stand beside Bao.

Bao said slowly "When we jump into the water, I lost with you and Keqin find me he takes me to here." than Bao point at the little boy.

"Okay but we need to go home know!" Pao keeps said.

"No, it is too dangerous to go home know!" Keqin said "come I know a place." then Pao and Bao follow Keqin. They walk for a long time, finally they come to a old house. Keqin said "Here have a bed and some food you can live for one night" Than Bao and Pao thanks Keqin, and they go into the old house and sleep. . .

The next day morning Pao heard a loud voice shouted "Wake up! WAKE UP!" when pao wake up she saw Keqin look at she anxiously. Pao said slowly "What happen?"

Keqin said quickly "Bao disappeared!"

Pao quickly dresses up and go to find Bao, when she goes to the library she can't move, The red blood flowing down from the table. All the book on the table turn red by the blood. Pao screamed because she sees her brother's died body on the table! Pao run out and called the police in the school come. When pao go back to the library she saw Karla's died body had been put on the table too! Pao screamed again and close her eyes. . .

But Pao come back immediately and she go into the library than she saw a yellow hair on the dyed body, Pao said quietly "It seems like this hair is the murder's hair" she went out the library and said loudly "Everybody here is a yellow hair it is the hair of murder, so I need to check the person that have the red hair!" than she finds out 7 people who have the yellow hair they are an old lady, a strong man, a little girl, a little boy, a lady, Keqin and a police officer. Pao keeps said "the police is come at afternoon, so it is not him, and who are you children?" Pao asks

The children said, “We are the student at this school, and she are our mom, and she are our grandmother also he is our dad.” the two-child point at the old woman the strong man & the lady.

“So, is you Keqin right?” Pao said

“I... I... I... yes, I killed them! But it is because Karla always uses our money and because of that I don’t have money to eat, and not enough money to live! Also, at first, I don’t want to killed Bao, but he sees me kill the people, so I need to kill him.” Keqin said angrily.

At last Pao called the police and the police take Keqin to he jill. When his dad sees Keqin he cries and go away. Pao sighed than she go home, Pao said to herself “I will mess you Boo, and I will live for you too.”

The End

Pao and the Scary Ghost Yacht

Yew Chung International School of Chongqing, Zhu, David – 10

The scary, ghost yacht, which contains blood like fire, seeps from the walls, swimming in the thunder rain. In the surrounding water, waves crashed on the gigantic New titanic, spiderwebs have taken over the ship claiming it as their own. And the cloud is crying poisonous rain through the New Titanic, and the blood moon was as red as blood, the blood moon rises...

In the nasty, rotten and haunted yacht, that Pao has entered, he found blood like fire surrounding him, he involuntarily shook. Pao also has found bones laying on the table and floor, like they were sleeping for forever. So, now he became more and more excited and scared.

Pao saw Zebula, who was wearing a brown sport T shirt, looking very handsome, and had a robot arm that was extremely strong; it can break up super hard things like gold. The robot arm covered his arm that so, he could carry 1000Kg rock, also he was finding a gigantic golden book.

Meanwhile, Pao saw Frank, who was resting and sitting on the sofa joyfully, with a robot mask, that when he wears it than he can run super-fast. He looks very scary, when someone saw his eye than that person will get very scared and die. His finding a very good 1982 Leffe.

One hour later, Pao saw a vampire lying on the floor almost dead and said, “the murderer is...”and dead! The vampire’s mouth has a little bit of blood, it seems the murderer was very good at killing people the murderer is also kills many peoples.

Pao moves in another room and saw Zebula and Frank was saying something secret, so he goes to there and ask, “what are you two doing?”

“I don’t trust you so, you don’t need to know any things “they reply

He didn’t continue asking and goes out, but suddenly, he saw a gigantic blood pool with a word” Dead!” His face was through of scaredness and also curiously “OK!” ... than he saw a dead body of poisonous Pao’s face was white and he want to leave here as fast as he can. The air was full of blood smell like monster was coming here now. Pao thinks “why will I come here?” He suddenly forgot all the things he but suddenly, he remembered again, this place is through of magical.

Again, he thought of something “OH! I can follow their footprint now, doesn’t I super smart and intelligent!?”

He went upstairs and saw a clue, footprint! Pao knew that was Zebula’s footprint, because he told Pao his shoes size and, he told Pao that his shoes is also very smelly. He follows the footprint and saw the murderer was...Zebula!!!

Pao knew that all the clues was Zebula writed, for example he uses another person’s blood to write “dead” So, he asks Zebula many questions, for example “where are you in the yacht and in that time?” Pao also introduces himself.

Last,Pao called the FBI to get him, but he still want to run but, the FBI is to many so, they catch Zebula and let him go to the jail forever.