

3rd May 2013

Issue 8/1213

Primary English Newsletter (PEN)

At a Glance

As you might already know, the media heat is really on with the promotion of **The Story of Us**, this year's Pui Kiu College Performance by the Grade 5 students.

Tickets have been snapped up like hot cakes; and we are treated to lunchtime singing of the theme song.

The sets and props are being prepared, the students have been fitted for the costumes, the decoration team is hard at work and there is a general feeling of anticipation in the air with all those involved in the show. This includes the students, teachers and our invaluable parent volunteers!

The next time you read PEN, the show would have been over and we will have loads of photos to share with you.

See you at **The Story of Us!**

Time: 7.30pm **Date:** 31st May

Venue: the school hall

Welcome to the second last issue of PEN for this academic school year. I am once again amazed at how quickly time has flown!

As always, students and teachers have been busy with a myriad of activities that have to do with English language learning and a celebration of students' achievements. This is portrayed most clearly through the two English Weeks which we just had. One week saw a variety of English-enhancement activities and the second week saw the G1 and G2 students singing, dancing, acting and rapping their hearts out on stage in the small hall. Read more about the English Weeks busy-ness in the EPA section of this PEN issue!

While the Grade 1's are learning all about how to ask questions using Question Words, the Grade 2's are making sure they lead healthy and happy lifestyles by getting enough rest, eating a balanced diet and exercising. In this issue, you can read about what all the grade levels have been up to: from creating monsters to removing organs from dead bodies.

In this issue's Teacher Feature, we have our Deputy Principal Ms. Chan, share with us her favourite musical, which is based on a classic novel.

I hope you enjoy reading PEN!

Have a lovely weekend!

Ms. Jennifer Lopez

Primary English Panel

Grade 1

Our Grade 1 students have been learning to use “question words” to ask questions and find answers from their friends. How many “question words” do you know?

Question Words

How? Who? Where? Why? Which? What? When?

What

‘What’ is used when asking for information about something

When

‘When’ is used when asking for time

Where

‘Where’ is used when asking for place

Who

‘Who’ is used when asking for identity of a person

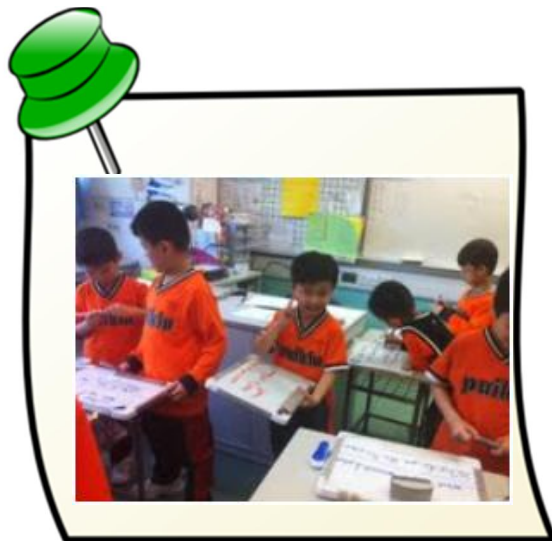
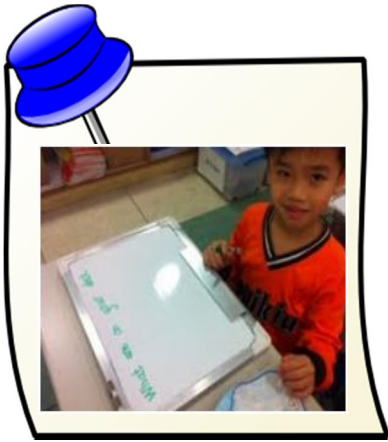
Which

‘Which’ is used to ask about choice

Why

‘Why’ is used when asking for reasons

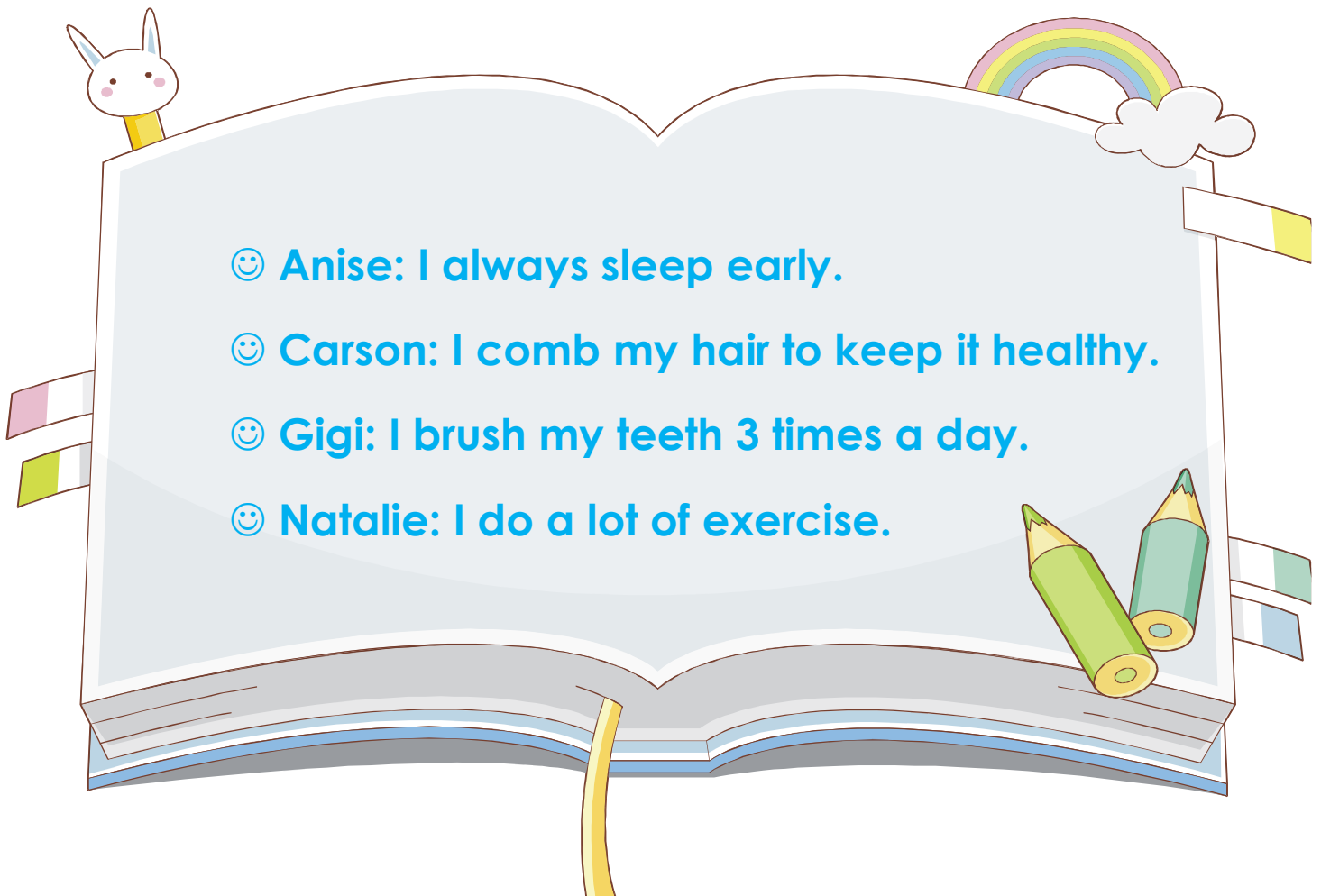
Let's look at some of their brilliant work!



Grade 2

We have just finished the first part of Module 3. We can now tell the names and functions of different parts of the body. The second half of the module is to learn how to be a healthy person. For example, we will design meal plans based on the food pyramid and learn why exercise is important to health.

So we are very glad that most of our students are very healthy and smart. And they shared methods they use to keep themselves healthy. Let's look at these wonderful examples!





Are you healthy?

1) Do you play sports?

2) Do you get up and move around after watching TV for some time?

3) Do you have breakfast every day?

4) Do you drink lots of water every day?

5) Do you have plenty of rest?

6) Do you keep your body clean?

7) Do you always smile?

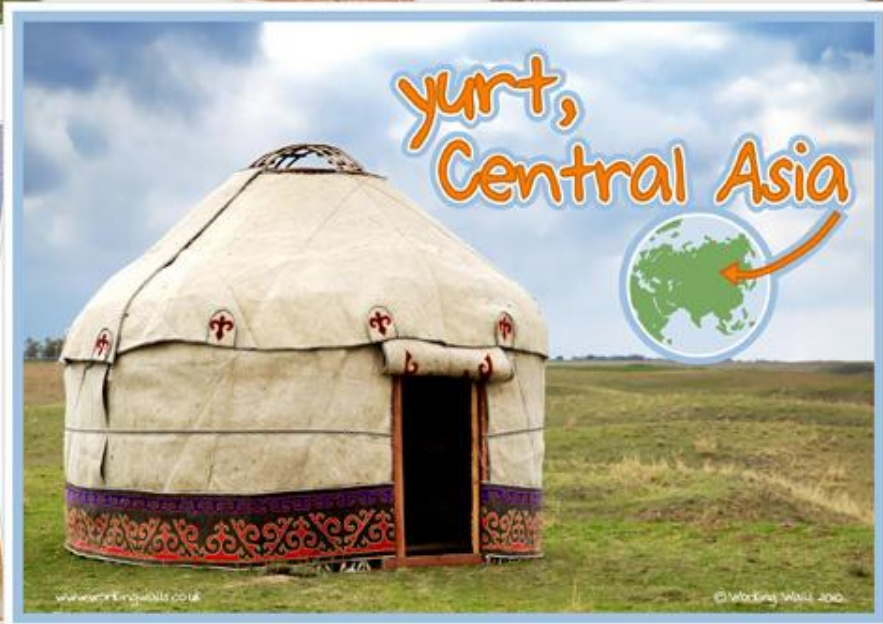
** If you have more than 6 "yes", congratulations!*

Grade 3

Homes around the World

The Grade three children have been learning about different kinds of houses and homes in the world. Most of us live in apartment buildings or houses. They are usually made of concrete or bricks. But not all homes in the world are like this! How many different kinds of homes can you think of? Let's look at some of them!

Most of the apartment buildings or houses that we live in are usually made of concrete or bricks. Look at the different types of homes shown in the pictures below. What other building materials can you see?



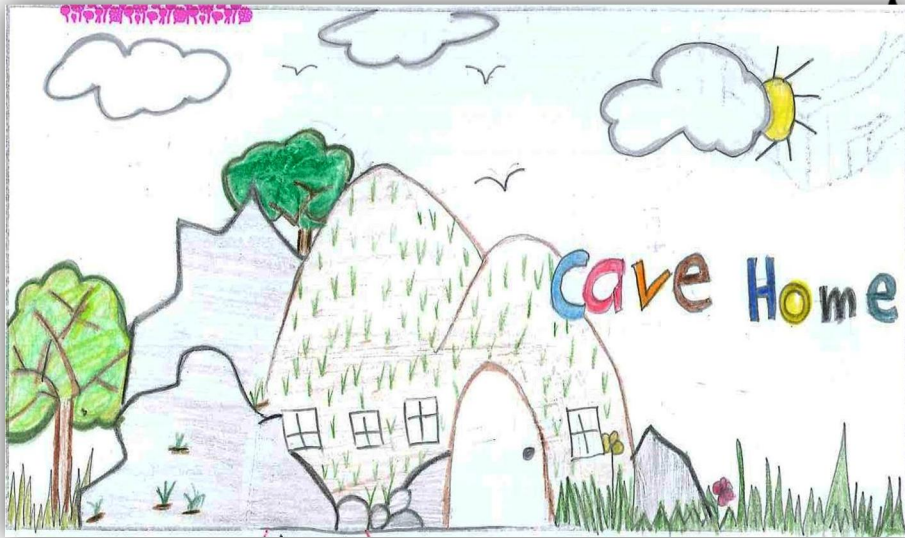
Some people build their homes using wood, while others use clay and straw. People in the Arctic use snow blocks to build their igloos, while others use animal skins to build their tents or yurts!

What type of house do you want to live in? Let's look at some of the dream homes that the Grade three children shared with their friends earlier in the module!



This is a wooden stilted house. It's made of wood. Outside the house is full of beautiful flowers. I will build this house beside the hill because there is fresh air which is good for our health. Many farm animals can live under the house. I can enjoy the sunshing anytime if I live in this house.

--- Belle Li (3P)



I will build a cave house because it is natural and economical. Cave homes are warm in winter and cool in summer. I will use cheap building material such as wooden beams, recycled or existing building materials to save the cost. --- Rex Or (3P)

Grade 4

We are excited (but a little scared, to be frank) to announce that we have started Module 3 “Mystery and Madness”. In this module, the children are going to explore and learn about mysteries, ghosts, legends, and the supernatural.

As an introduction, the children read mysteries and stories about monsters. They also created their own monsters and wrote descriptions about the appearance of their monsters. Then, they read the description to their friends and asked their partners to draw the monster accordingly. At last, they compared the two monsters to see if they look similar.

It's a fun activity and the students enjoyed it very much! Taking a look at the work below, you will find that the two monsters really alike! It shows that the children were able to describe their monsters in detail using the appropriate adjectives! Two thumbs up boys and girls!

I am a monster with hair like a lightning bolt (even the colour too!). I have red glowing eyes and vampire teeth. I carry an axe behind my back. I have scars on my face. I am thin. I am not chubby. I wear a purple dress.



Rainbow Siu

Partner's Drawing:



Rebecca Chau

My monster has a square head. He has a triangle nose with stripes on it. He has big eyeballs. He has a pair of antennae on top of the head. His ears are big for hearing things clearly. He has a pair of wings at the sides of his body. He has two hands and there are ten fingers on each hand. His body is round. On the body, there is a picture of him, and there is a belly button too. His legs look like the frog's ones but there are three toes only on each foot.



Kelly Yau

Partner's Drawing:



Cherry Yeung

Partner's Drawing:



Rosie Chen

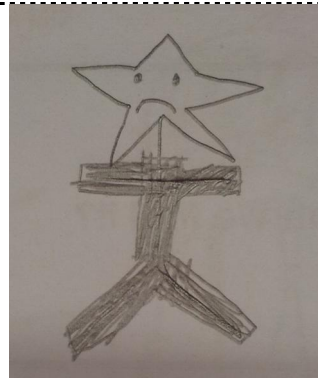
I am cute and lovely. I have a little tooth which sticks out at the front. One part of my hair covers my right eye. I look like a snowman but I wear clothes in rainbow colour. My face is fluffy.



Claudia

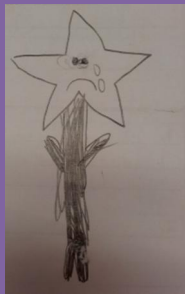


My monster has a star head and little eyes. He has a sad face. He has a skinny body. He wears black clothes.



Charlie Chan

Partner's Drawing:



Nicole Chan



Grade 5 - The Middle Ages

What is history?

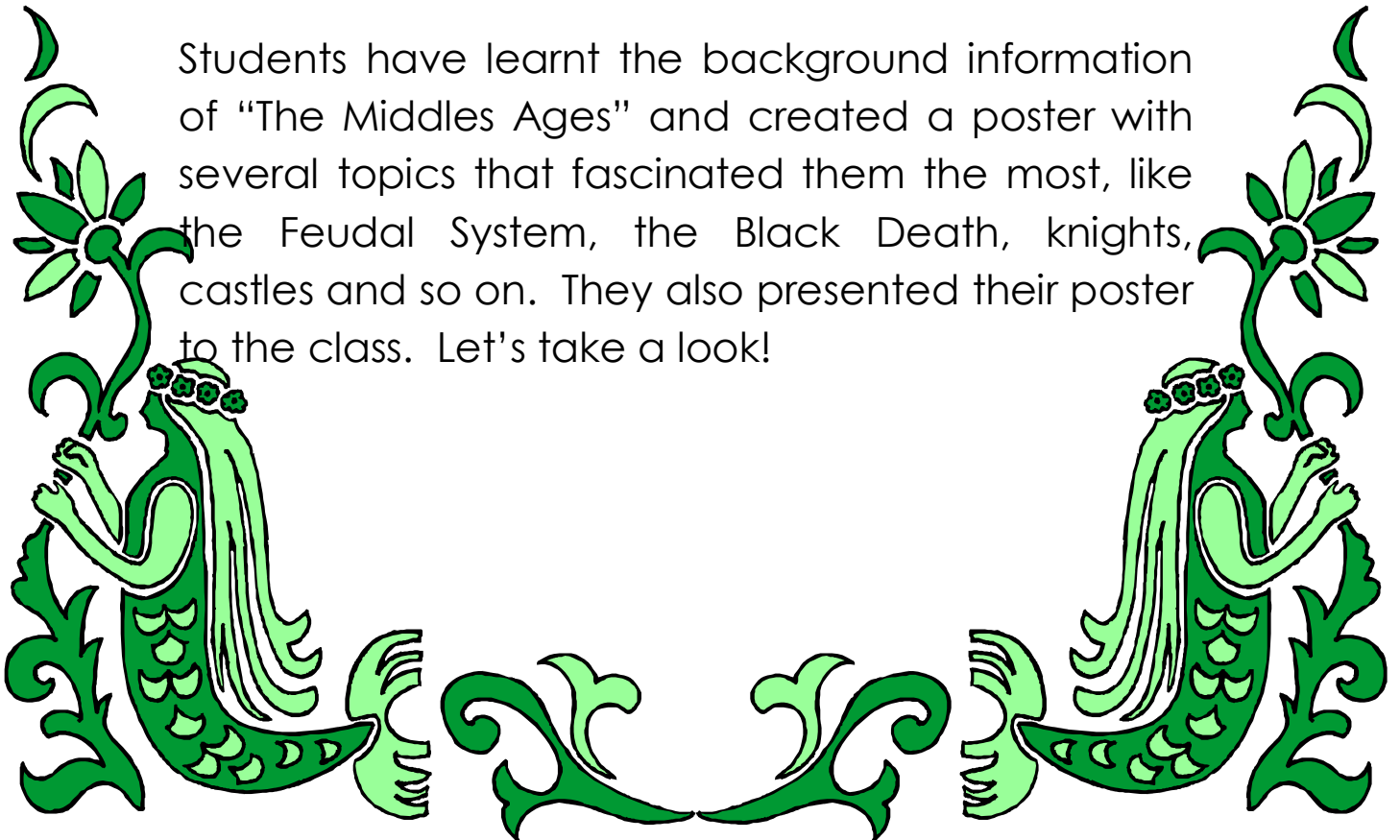


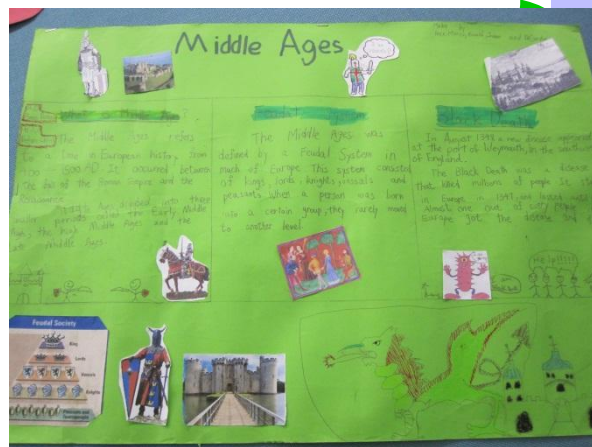
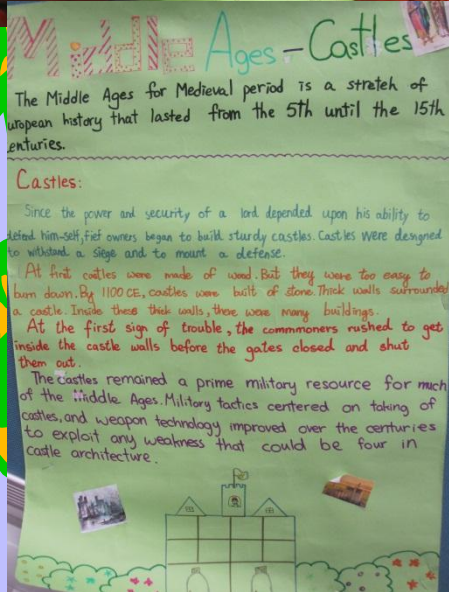
Why do we learn history?

How does history relate to our lives?

Our Grade five students should be able to answer your questions as they are currently learning the history strand of the curriculum, "**The Middle Ages**".

Students have learnt the background information of "The Middle Ages" and created a poster with several topics that fascinated them the most, like the Feudal System, the Black Death, knights, castles and so on. They also presented their poster to the class. Let's take a look!

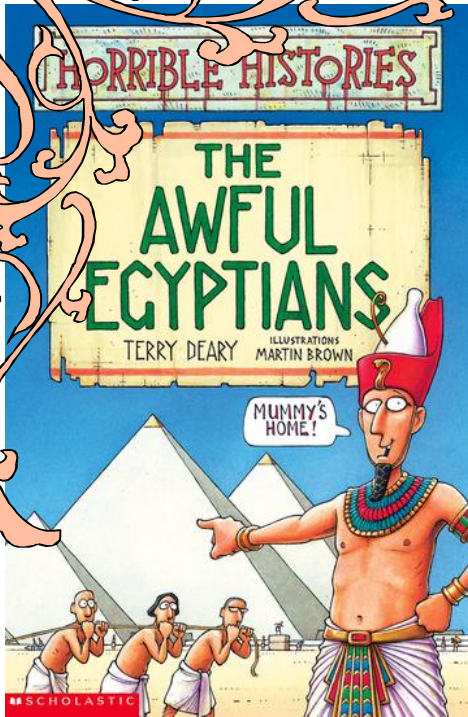




The Feudal System is the first main topic covered in this module and students will be learning about it in detail. As a preparation, they worked in groups to do research about people's duties and their lives in medieval society. They are going to role-play the character of different groups of people in the Feudal System. We can't wait! ☺



Grade 6

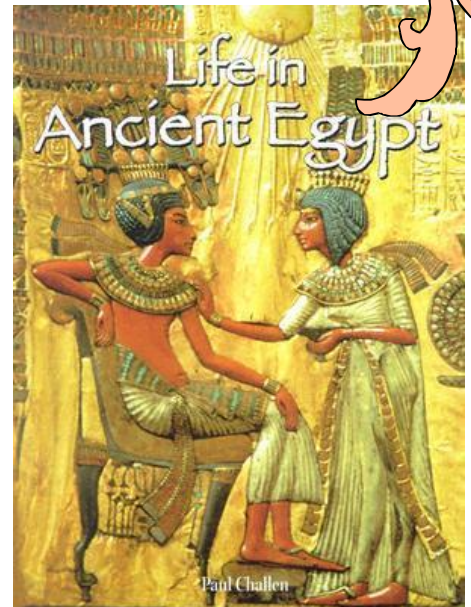


The Grade 6 students are done with Module 2. ~~The Wonders of~~ **Science** module ended literally with a blast when the students went to watch **Dr. Bunhead's Blast Off** at the Hong Kong Academy of Performing Arts on 10th April.

We are also finished with the book **The Egypt Game**. Many students found this book challenging and I must agree with them!

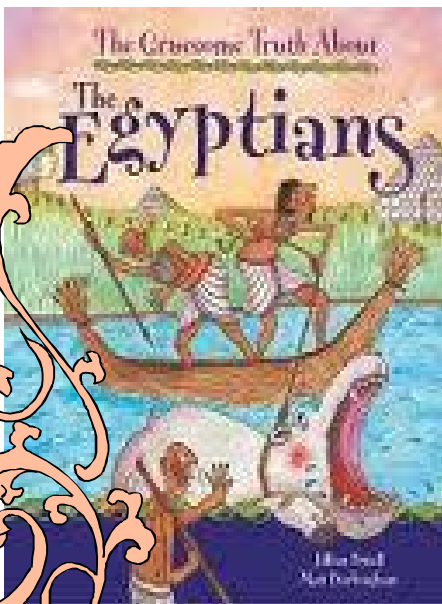
The Egypt Game links nicely with our third and final module for the year – **Ancient Egypt**. Students will find that with the constant repetition of information and theme-based vocabulary related to

ancient Egypt, they will retain newly-learnt vocabulary and information better. We further support this learning cycle by also getting students to write about the mummification process in their Writing Journal; and they are doing Egyptian skits in English Performing Arts classes.



As always, the module has a variety of activities which aim towards developing students' listening, reading, writing and speaking skills. Look out for listening activities such as *Hieroglyphs and Hairstyles* and about *Pyramids and Pharaohs*. Our reading activities will answer questions on why ancient Egypt developed to become such a successful civilisation; and did the pharaohs have their toilets put in their pyramids once they were mummified!

Last but not least, take a look at a typical dialogue you might find Grade 6 students having when learning about Ancient Egypt.



Student A: So, how did they mummify the dead?

Student B: First, they washed the body with palm oil. Then an embalmer used a sharp knife to cut into the body and remove the insides, but NOT the heart.

Student A: Why didn't they remove the heart?

Student B: Because a person needed it to gain entry into the afterlife.

Student A: Ah...and after the insides were removed?

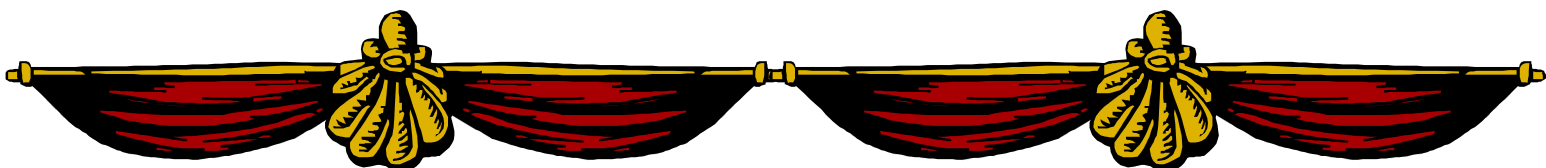
Student B: Then the brain was pulled through the nose using a wire with a hook on the end. The body was put in a bath of natron to dry it out.

Student A: How long did it take to mummify a body?

Student B: Between 40-70 days.

Student A: Woah! That's a long time! What happened next?

Student B: Next, we'd better read our readers so we can find out!



EPA

The English Weeks

The exciting English Weeks for the second term were held in mid-April. Our students experienced a week full of English activities as well as a full week of performances available at the small hall. Students could experience language learning from different activities and environments.



During the "English Activity Week"(15-19/4), there were a number of fun activities happening around the campus at different recesses: **Teacher Spies, Riddles, Tongue Twisters, Scrambled Words, Singing Competition and Cartoons showing in the small hall.** You would casually find students speaking English out loud during all recesses; Teacher Spies would then give these students a point card. Each day, students are meant to collect as many point cards as possible, and the class score would be displayed outside the staff room each day.

Students are patiently waiting for the teacher to come and test them on their tongue twisting skills for the picture on the right.



This year, students were invited to sing a song with a group of 4 in each class. They needed to practise the song on their own and think of their own actions. You would be surprised at how talented our students were during the singing competition. There were lots of interesting thoughts and effort put into their performances. Well done everyone!!



After the exciting week of English activities, it was our younger ones' turn for their performances. Our G1 and G2 students have been working very hard on their performances and hope to give our audience a memorable time. Hope you all enjoyed your English Weeks!!



Writers' Corner

TIME TRAVELING

by Julian Kwok (6B)

On January 1st, 2013, a new team of secret agents called "*Time Travelers*" moved into their base, their base is under the Great Wall of China.

The leader of this secret organization is Orbis Mark, second in command of Orbis is Matsusho Leung. On January 14th, 2013, Orbis ordered a time machine so they could travel back in time to redo the failed missions. One of it involved saving the Chinese prime minister. When Orbis and his team of Highly trained specialists went into the time machine, just as they were about to travel in the time machine, the operator Mark Stanely, former commander and scientist of Area 28, accidentally sneezed, while Orbis was giving the command of the precise time period they were going to travel. So instead of hearing March 14th, 2012, Mark heard March 14th, 2012 BC! As Mark flipped the switch which teleports them in time, Orbis noticed that the computer was set to March 14th, 2012 BC.

When they had finished teleporting, they found themselves in the process of building the Great Wall of China.

Orbis asked "Mark what time did I tell you to teleport us to?"

Mark replied with suspicion "March 14th, 2012 BC. Isn't that the time you want me to teleport us to?"

Orbis yelled "NO! I told you to teleport us to March 14th, 2012!"

Mark answered with a bit of regret "Sorry I was sneezing at the time you said that."

As Orbis finished his long period of cursing, Matsusho crackled into Orbis's headset: "Orbis, this is Matsusho speaking. We tracked your signal and we found out that you're in the time period of the construction of the Great Wall! What on earth are you doing at that time period!"

"Actually, Mark teleported us to this time period, because he heard the wrong codes," replied Orbis.

After they finished the conversation, one of the workers of the Great Wall of China noticed the time machine. He immediately told the general about the time machine. About a second after the worker told the general, a huge armada of fierce warriors ran to attack the time machine. Orbis immediately told Mark to insert January 22nd, 2013. As soon as Mark typed the time period into the computer, Orbis pulled the lever and they all were teleported back to January 22nd, 2013.

After this happened, Orbis now ordered Mark to wear headphones when he is going to type in the time period.

On April 8th, 2013 when Mark was typing the code for the time period of the failed mission which involved stopping a missile from hitting a cargo ship. He accidentally turned off his headphones. So, when Orbis told Mark to type in April 4th, 2013, he typed in April 14th, 2113 because the head phones also blocks sound. And when he flipped the lever, Orbis found out that the code was typed wrongly.

As soon as they teleported to the time period, Orbis yelled at Mark "Why did you type the wrong code!"

"Sorry, I think I might have turned off my headphones," replied Mark.

So after Mark typed in the correct codes, they were teleported to April 4th, 2013. Then they found out that the time machine was out of power, but they also found that they were trapped inside the Great Wall! So Orbis ordered his crew to dig under the great wall and come out on the other side.

After they got out of the Great Wall of China, they called Matsusho to teleport them and the time machine back to the base. Then they recharged the time machine so they could retry this task. After they completed the task they found out that the world had changed a lot. Because they found out that the Cargo ship carried a missile, the rebels launched the missile and blew up part of the White house; which caused another world war to start.

After all this had happened, they stopped using the time machine. On July 4th, 2013, Orbis ordered that the time machine must be banned from the market and the military. Lots of people asked Orbis "Sir, why do you order the banning of the time machine?" "Well, the reason I am banning it from the market is because if someone has a time machine and he is a bad guy, then he can use the time machine to go back in time to important time periods and stop the important events, which would cause a paradox!"

After the banning of the time machine lots of people tried to create a time machine themselves. But then one day, a guy named Daran, used his homemade time machine and traveled back in time and killed Orbis before the banning of time machines. After Orbis's death, lots of people bought time machines for their own personal use! So lots of people were rich and famous and some were even presidents!

Mark and Matsusho were extremely furious. After Orbis's death, Mark became the leader of this organization. Mark ordered some of his highly trained specialists to go back to September 16th, 2014 and stop Daran from building his time machine.

After they teleported to the time period, Mark ordered some snipers to go to a roof to shoot people in case of emergency, then he and some soldiers broke in the house and broke his time machine. Then they teleported back to November 1st, 2014.

After they finished that, everything went back to normal. As time passed, people forgot about time machines. But one day when the president of the United nations came to the base and found out about time machine, he asked Orbis

"Orbis what on earth is this?" "Well that is a time machine my good sir." answered Orbis.

A Time WHAT!" shrieked the president "That's a time machine," answered Orbis calmly. "How on earth did you get a Time machine?" yelled the president loudly.

"Well, I got this time machine from Laminar research, so our team can travel back in time and redo failed missions," replied Orbis.

The president asked "Can I go and try it?"

"Sure!" answered Orbis.

Orbis told Mark to insert the time period when the president of the United Nations was elected, which was October 22nd, 2001. After Mark typed the code, Orbis and the president were teleported to October 22nd, 2001 to see the election. After they saw the election, they told Mark to teleport them back to December 17th, 2025. After the president went off in the time machine he asked Orbis, "Have you ever gone to a wrong time period?"

"Yes, and after you go to a wrong time period and start a little event or move a single rock it can change everything dramatically in the future. Which is called a paradox, so time travel is very dangerous!" answered Orbis.



The Rites of Spring

by Peanut Wong (6B)

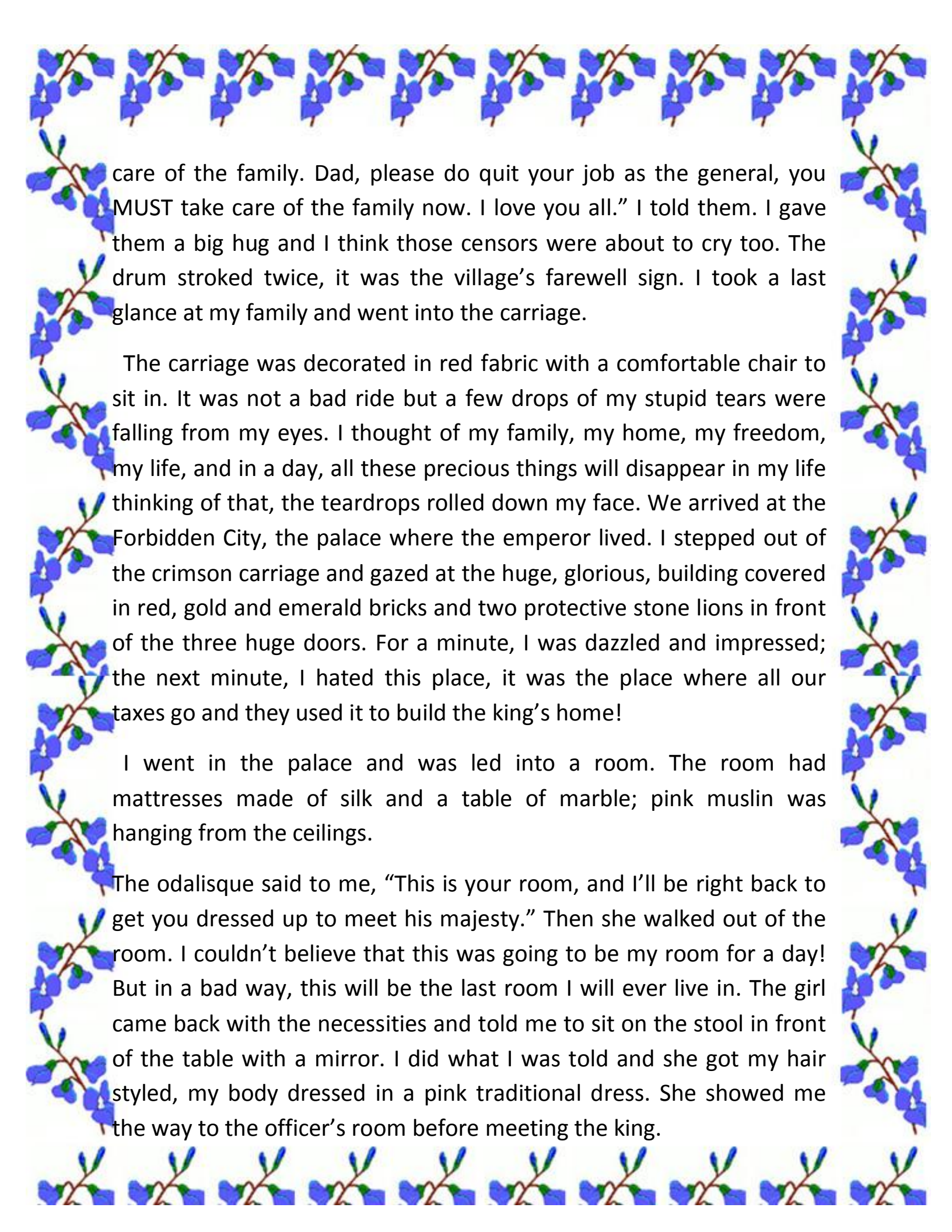
I was dancing and dancing on the marble floor, my feet sore and in pain. It was all because of a sacrifice, a cruel rite.

I was born with coal black hair that shimmers in the sunlight, fair skin and was called the 5th beauty of all China. People said that such beauty was a gift, but I define it as a curse, a curse that will never leave me till I'm dead. Zhou-Jin-Huang, our king, was a blind faith who will do anything to go to heaven and become a God, he did cruel sacrifices like burning people alive, piercing the fetus of a pregnant woman before the child could be delivered and even killing a man without any anesthetic and then forcing the man to swallow his own thumping heart.

Every year, the prettiest girl in the entire nation is forced to dance till death for the goddess of spring, Mago. This year, I was the tribute for this cruel event because every person told the king about me in order to save their own daughter's life. Tears were flowing like a river on my mother's cheeks when the edict arrived, even my father, who always keeps a stern face and has strict rules for everyone, wept in his room silently and secretly. My sister, Song Shao Mei, was crying too, after all, I was her sister.

That day, when the carriage arrived, my mom begged the censors to let me stay and that she will do anything for it, my sister and father, joined in too.

"Shao Mei, do not be mischievous anymore, you know that I will not be able to take care of you anymore. Mom, stop crying and take good

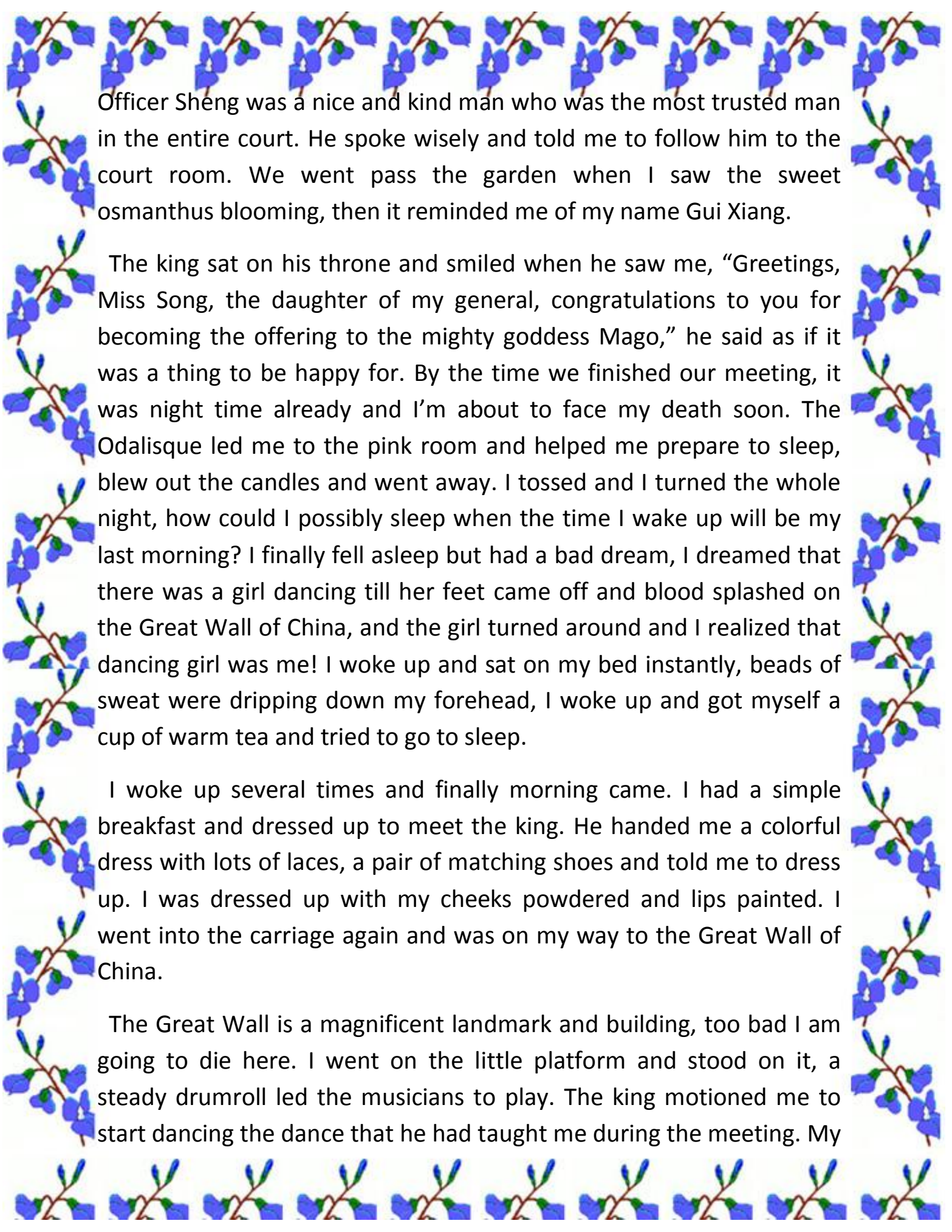


care of the family. Dad, please do quit your job as the general, you MUST take care of the family now. I love you all.” I told them. I gave them a big hug and I think those censors were about to cry too. The drum stroked twice, it was the village’s farewell sign. I took a last glance at my family and went into the carriage.

The carriage was decorated in red fabric with a comfortable chair to sit in. It was not a bad ride but a few drops of my stupid tears were falling from my eyes. I thought of my family, my home, my freedom, my life, and in a day, all these precious things will disappear in my life thinking of that, the teardrops rolled down my face. We arrived at the Forbidden City, the palace where the emperor lived. I stepped out of the crimson carriage and gazed at the huge, glorious, building covered in red, gold and emerald bricks and two protective stone lions in front of the three huge doors. For a minute, I was dazzled and impressed; the next minute, I hated this place, it was the place where all our taxes go and they used it to build the king’s home!

I went in the palace and was led into a room. The room had mattresses made of silk and a table of marble; pink muslin was hanging from the ceilings.

The odalisque said to me, “This is your room, and I’ll be right back to get you dressed up to meet his majesty.” Then she walked out of the room. I couldn’t believe that this was going to be my room for a day! But in a bad way, this will be the last room I will ever live in. The girl came back with the necessities and told me to sit on the stool in front of the table with a mirror. I did what I was told and she got my hair styled, my body dressed in a pink traditional dress. She showed me the way to the officer’s room before meeting the king.

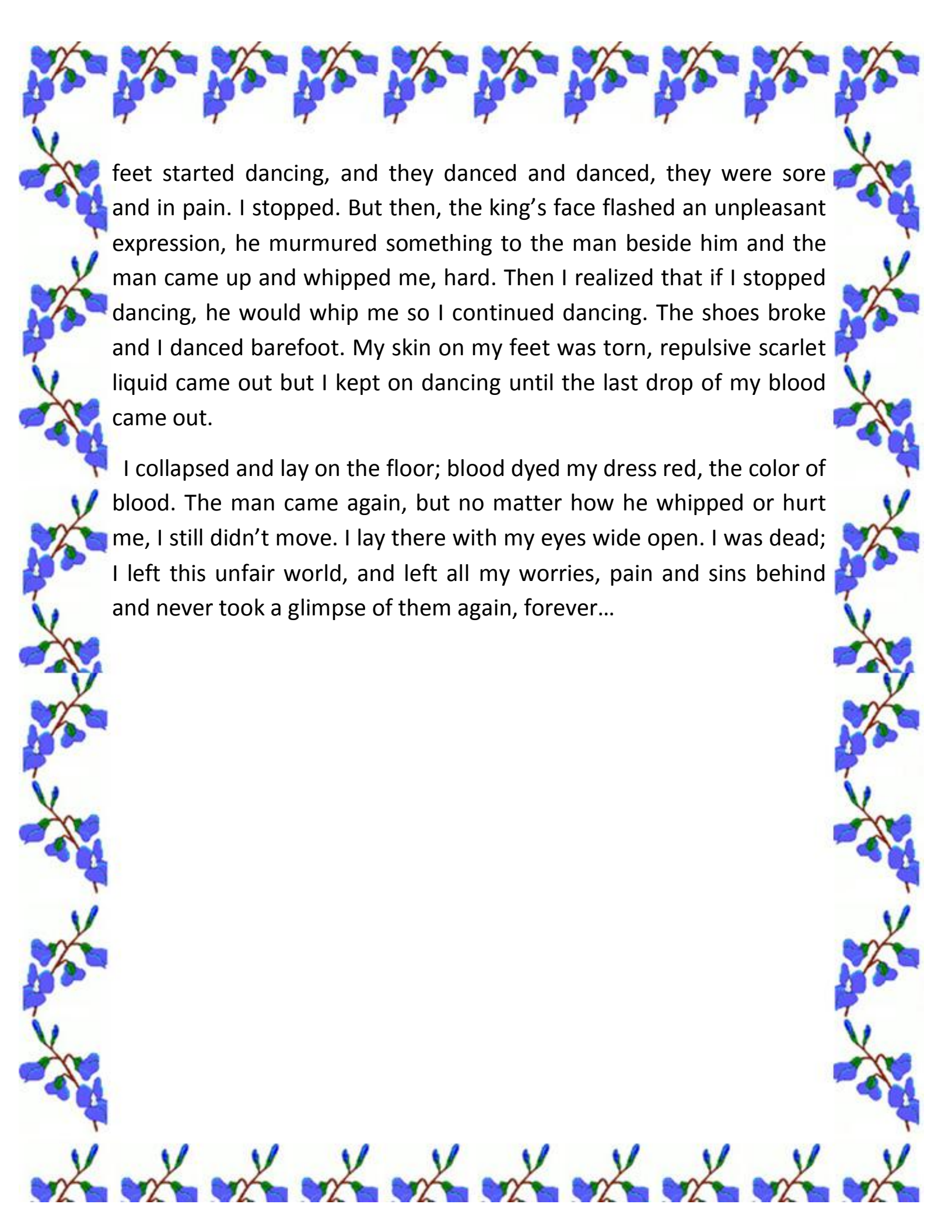


Officer Sheng was a nice and kind man who was the most trusted man in the entire court. He spoke wisely and told me to follow him to the court room. We went pass the garden when I saw the sweet osmanthus blooming, then it reminded me of my name Gui Xiang.

The king sat on his throne and smiled when he saw me, "Greetings, Miss Song, the daughter of my general, congratulations to you for becoming the offering to the mighty goddess Mago," he said as if it was a thing to be happy for. By the time we finished our meeting, it was night time already and I'm about to face my death soon. The Odalisque led me to the pink room and helped me prepare to sleep, blew out the candles and went away. I tossed and I turned the whole night, how could I possibly sleep when the time I wake up will be my last morning? I finally fell asleep but had a bad dream, I dreamed that there was a girl dancing till her feet came off and blood splashed on the Great Wall of China, and the girl turned around and I realized that dancing girl was me! I woke up and sat on my bed instantly, beads of sweat were dripping down my forehead, I woke up and got myself a cup of warm tea and tried to go to sleep.

I woke up several times and finally morning came. I had a simple breakfast and dressed up to meet the king. He handed me a colorful dress with lots of laces, a pair of matching shoes and told me to dress up. I was dressed up with my cheeks powdered and lips painted. I went into the carriage again and was on my way to the Great Wall of China.

The Great Wall is a magnificent landmark and building, too bad I am going to die here. I went on the little platform and stood on it, a steady drumroll led the musicians to play. The king motioned me to start dancing the dance that he had taught me during the meeting. My



feet started dancing, and they danced and danced, they were sore and in pain. I stopped. But then, the king's face flashed an unpleasant expression, he murmured something to the man beside him and the man came up and whipped me, hard. Then I realized that if I stopped dancing, he would whip me so I continued dancing. The shoes broke and I danced barefoot. My skin on my feet was torn, repulsive scarlet liquid came out but I kept on dancing until the last drop of my blood came out.

I collapsed and lay on the floor; blood dyed my dress red, the color of blood. The man came again, but no matter how he whipped or hurt me, I still didn't move. I lay there with my eyes wide open. I was dead; I left this unfair world, and left all my worries, pain and sins behind and never took a glimpse of them again, forever...



Once Upon a Great Wall

by Angelina Hui (6B)

The moon was hanging in the dark sky, lonely. The wind was roaring madly. Leaves were swinging pitifully. The wolves were howling all night. There was a big palace on a hill. The palace was very resplendent and decorated in bright red. All the furniture was made of gold. Peanuts and lotus seeds were pouring out everywhere. A naive girl, named Phoenix, was wearing a Chinese wedding dress and sitting in the middle of a room. A phoenix was sewn on the dress with golden silk thread. However, tears were dropping on the dress and blooming like a flower. She was sobbing. Her face was full of sadness and worry. She looked so young and helpless.

A handsome man came in. His face was blushing red with wine. He gave his new wife a bear hug and whispered in her ear, "Oh! Phoenix, my little queen. Why are you so sad?"

"Qin Shi Huang, I hate you! Why do you force me to marry you? I don't even like you!" Phoenix cried.

Qin Shi Huang smiled evilly, "That is because I like you! You are the funniest girl I have ever seen. You are the only one who does not scare me. Therefore, you need to marry me! It is so easy to understand, isn't it? A king can always get what he wants. Ah! I love my power. It is too marvelous."

"Although you get my body, but you will never get my heart! I will never ever love you!" Phoenix shouted. She tried to punch Qin



Shi Huang.

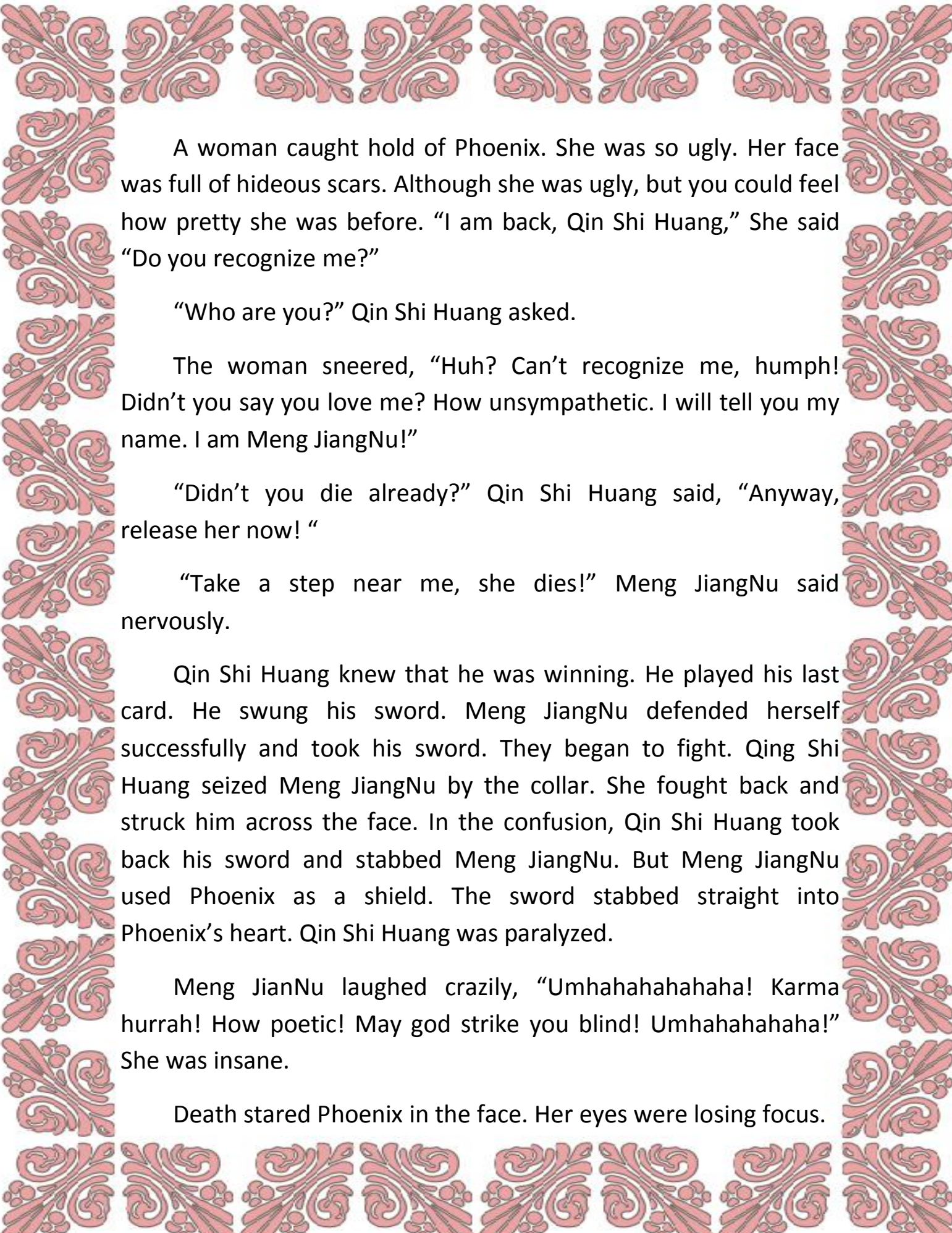
“Never say never. Everything can be possible...for me.” Qin Shi Huang said. He caught Phoenix by the hand easily, “Give me a chance, or I won’t ever release your hand.”

“Unless you can stop the Huns!” she said it carelessly. She knew it would not happen anyway. From dynasty to dynasty, the Huns were always big trouble to the king. At this moment, she felt so tired after crying. She just wanted to get things done. However, Phoenix finally lived in the palace. She was inside a golden cage like a bird. She felt peaceful without Qin Shi Huang.

Until one day, Qin Shi Huang came happily and wanted Phoenix to see something. “My dearest, I have something for you!” he said excitedly. He dragged Phoenix to a palanquin. Phoenix’s curiosity and anger were fighting against each other. At last, curiosity won. She sat down without a word.

After a while, the palanquin stopped. “We are here, honey,” Qin Shi Huang said. “The Great Wall... the Great Wall is about 6,400 km long, Like you can never see the end. It stands 5 people wide and 20 people high. It is made out of mud, straw, and twigs. The Great Wall winds up and down across deserts, grasslands, mountains and plateaus. It is the symbol of my love and promise. So, will you love me?” Qin Shi Huang whispered in Phoenix’s ear.

Watching the Great Wall, Phoenix felt love. She was touched by Qin Shi Huang. She replied, “Yes, I will....AHHHHHHHH!”



A woman caught hold of Phoenix. She was so ugly. Her face was full of hideous scars. Although she was ugly, but you could feel how pretty she was before. "I am back, Qin Shi Huang," She said "Do you recognize me?"

"Who are you?" Qin Shi Huang asked.

The woman sneered, "Huh? Can't recognize me, humph! Didn't you say you love me? How unsympathetic. I will tell you my name. I am Meng JiangNu!"

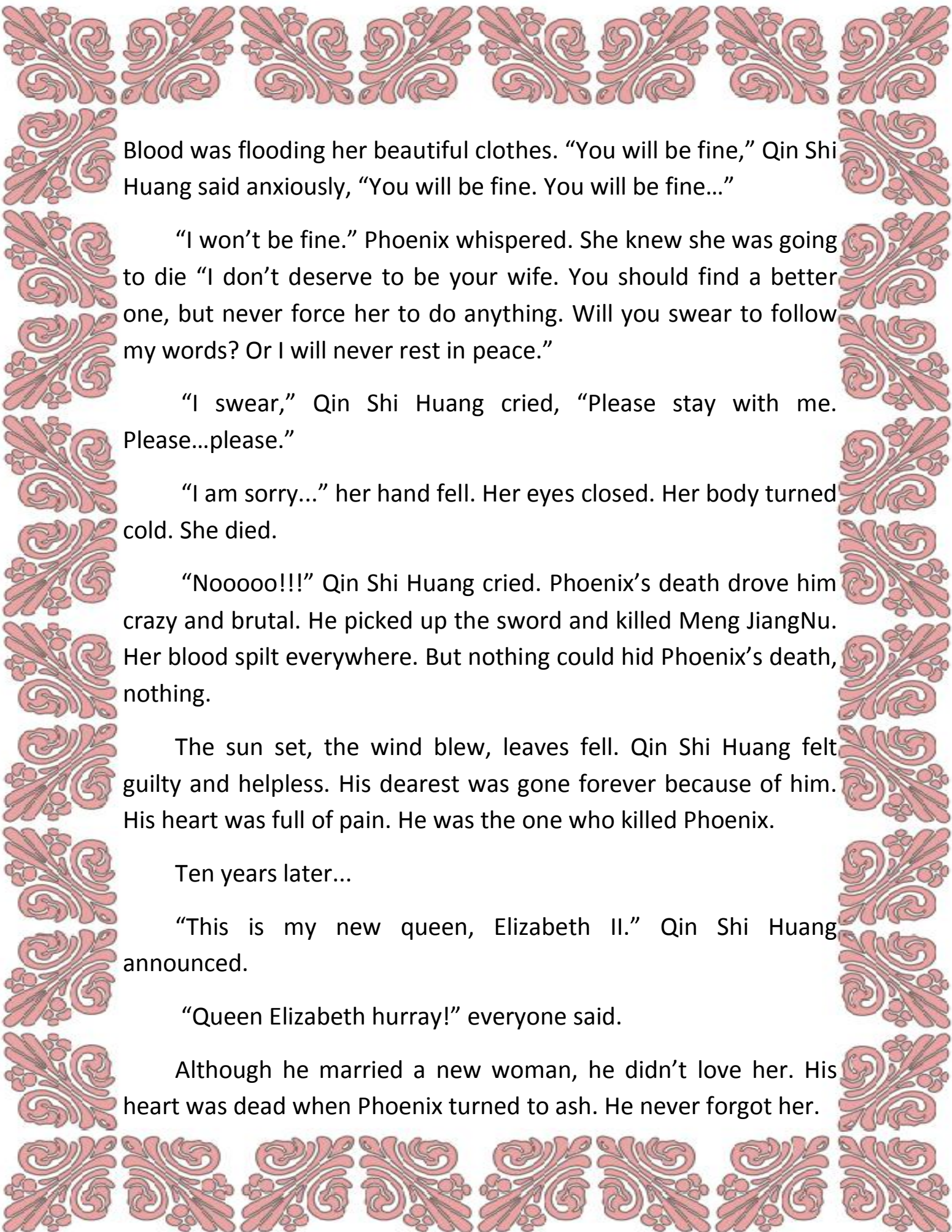
"Didn't you die already?" Qin Shi Huang said, "Anyway, release her now! "

"Take a step near me, she dies!" Meng JiangNu said nervously.

Qin Shi Huang knew that he was winning. He played his last card. He swung his sword. Meng JiangNu defended herself successfully and took his sword. They began to fight. Qing Shi Huang seized Meng JiangNu by the collar. She fought back and struck him across the face. In the confusion, Qin Shi Huang took back his sword and stabbed Meng JiangNu. But Meng JiangNu used Phoenix as a shield. The sword stabbed straight into Phoenix's heart. Qin Shi Huang was paralyzed.

Meng JianNu laughed crazily, "Umhahahahahaha! Karma hurrah! How poetic! May god strike you blind! Umhahahahahaha!" She was insane.

Death stared Phoenix in the face. Her eyes were losing focus.



Blood was flooding her beautiful clothes. “You will be fine,” Qin Shi Huang said anxiously, “You will be fine. You will be fine...”

“I won’t be fine.” Phoenix whispered. She knew she was going to die “I don’t deserve to be your wife. You should find a better one, but never force her to do anything. Will you swear to follow my words? Or I will never rest in peace.”

“I swear,” Qin Shi Huang cried, “Please stay with me. Please...please.”

“I am sorry...” her hand fell. Her eyes closed. Her body turned cold. She died.

“Nooooo!!!” Qin Shi Huang cried. Phoenix’s death drove him crazy and brutal. He picked up the sword and killed Meng JiangNu. Her blood spilt everywhere. But nothing could hid Phoenix’s death, nothing.

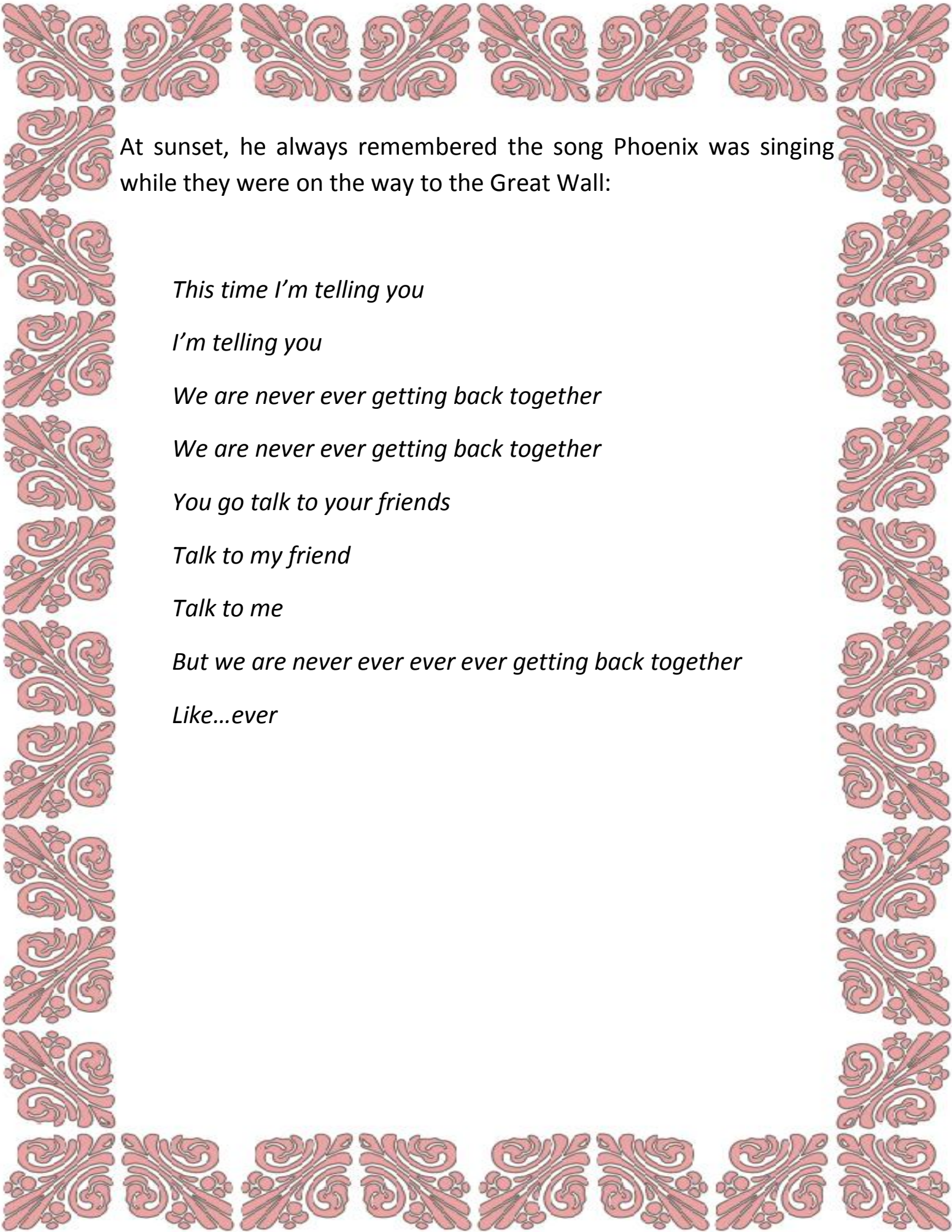
The sun set, the wind blew, leaves fell. Qin Shi Huang felt guilty and helpless. His dearest was gone forever because of him. His heart was full of pain. He was the one who killed Phoenix.

Ten years later...

“This is my new queen, Elizabeth II.” Qin Shi Huang announced.

“Queen Elizabeth hurray!” everyone said.

Although he married a new woman, he didn’t love her. His heart was dead when Phoenix turned to ash. He never forgot her.



At sunset, he always remembered the song Phoenix was singing while they were on the way to the Great Wall:

This time I'm telling you

I'm telling you

We are never ever getting back together

We are never ever getting back together

You go talk to your friends

Talk to my friend

Talk to me

But we are never ever ever ever getting back together

Like...ever



Tails of a Wall

by Dennis Toepker (6M)

I came back home, screaming my head off, YEEEEESSSSS! I went, WOOOOOHOOOOO! I yelled, then, my mom came in to the living room and yelled, "What is all the shouting all about!?"

"It is the beginning of the summer vacation!" I said with happiness."

I see..."said mom.

"What's the matter?" I asked.

"I nearly forgot, have I told you that we are going to Beijing?" asked mom.

"No," I replied.

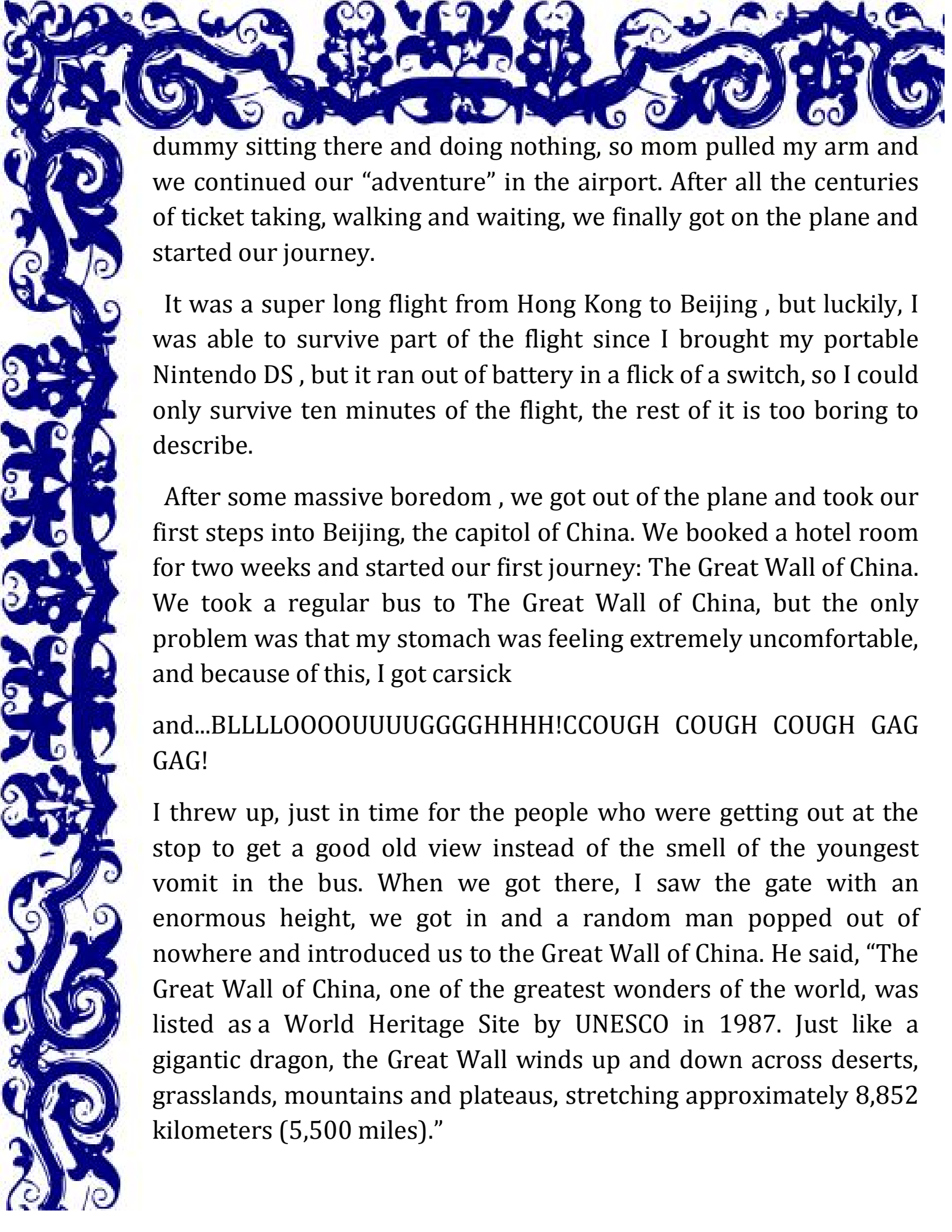
"Well I already told you, shall we go?"

"Sure," I said.

After the conversation, I got into my room so I could prepare a little bag for myself while mom got into her room and started to sweat already!

After a lot of packing, we got out of the door sweating and went toward the airport.

When we got to the airport, we couldn't believe our eyes, it was bigger than ever! I looked around the art museum of planes and I found the most interesting thing: There was a dummy sitting on an airplane , putting both of his arms in the air, I thought it was pure abnormal, but we had no time for seeing the beautiful view of a

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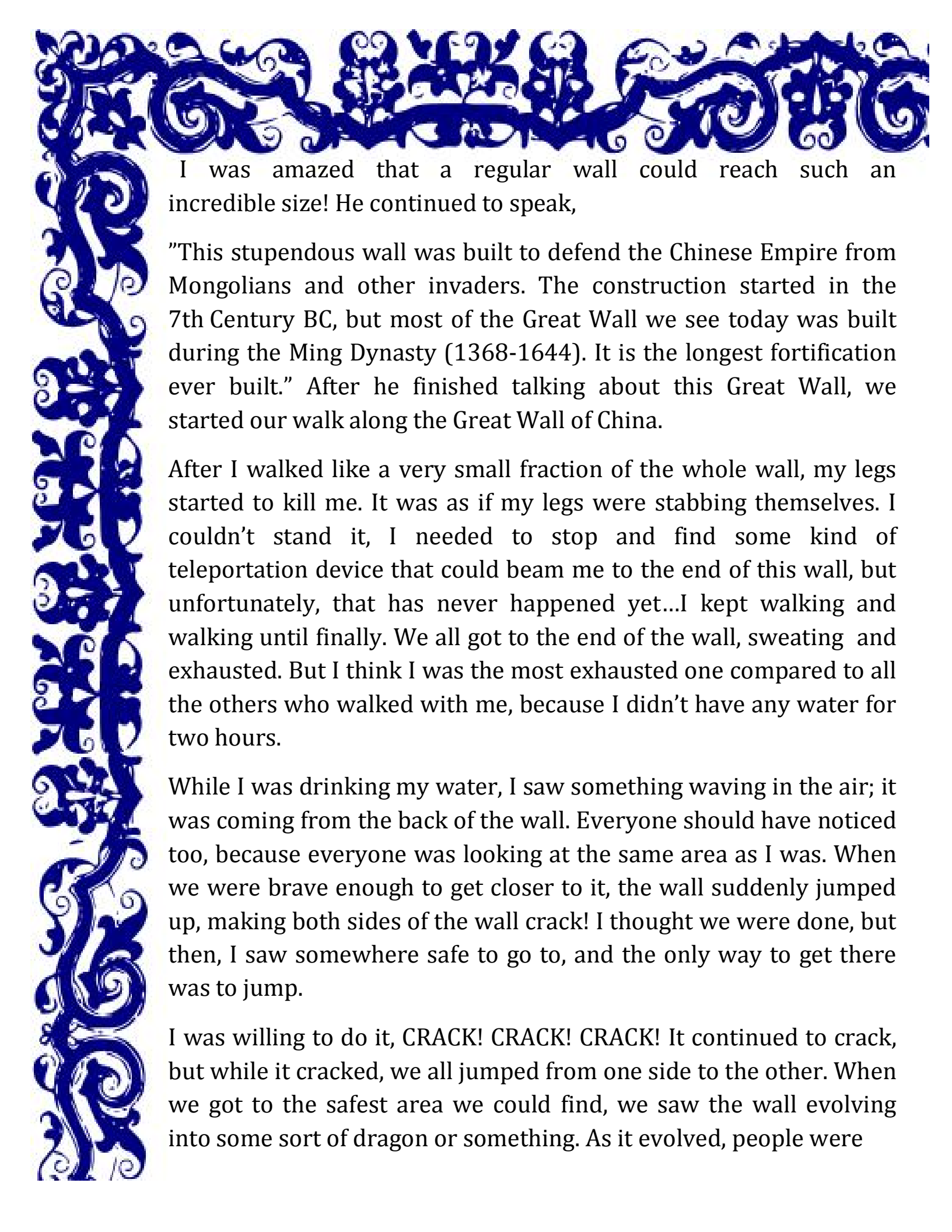
dummy sitting there and doing nothing, so mom pulled my arm and we continued our “adventure” in the airport. After all the centuries of ticket taking, walking and waiting, we finally got on the plane and started our journey.

It was a super long flight from Hong Kong to Beijing , but luckily, I was able to survive part of the flight since I brought my portable Nintendo DS , but it ran out of battery in a flick of a switch, so I could only survive ten minutes of the flight, the rest of it is too boring to describe.

After some massive boredom , we got out of the plane and took our first steps into Beijing, the capitol of China. We booked a hotel room for two weeks and started our first journey: The Great Wall of China. We took a regular bus to The Great Wall of China, but the only problem was that my stomach was feeling extremely uncomfortable, and because of this, I got carsick

and...BLLLLLOOOOUUUUGGGGHHHH!CCOUGH COUGH COUGH GAG GAG!

I threw up, just in time for the people who were getting out at the stop to get a good old view instead of the smell of the youngest vomit in the bus. When we got there, I saw the gate with an enormous height, we got in and a random man popped out of nowhere and introduced us to the Great Wall of China. He said, “The Great Wall of China, one of the greatest wonders of the world, was listed as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1987. Just like a gigantic dragon, the Great Wall winds up and down across deserts, grasslands, mountains and plateaus, stretching approximately 8,852 kilometers (5,500 miles).”



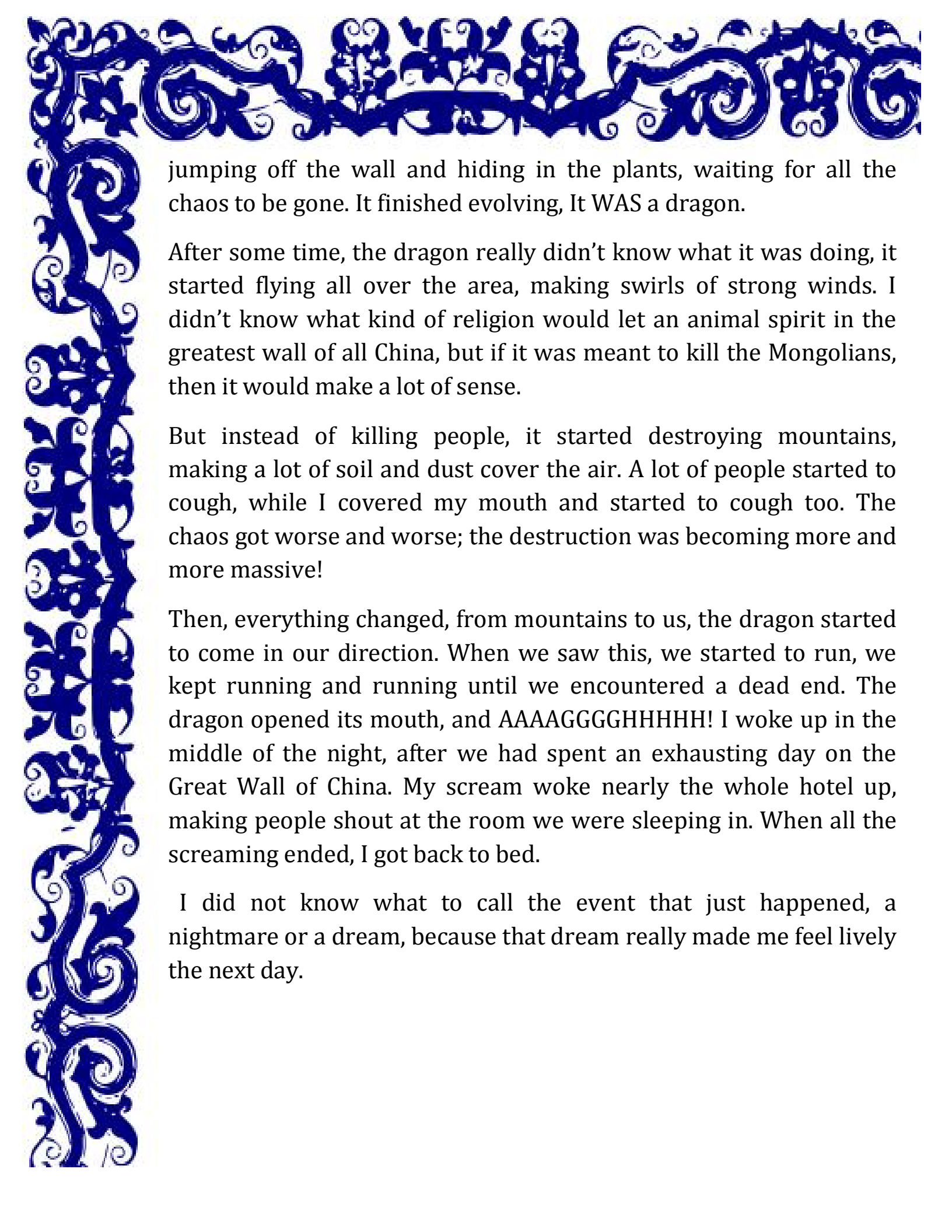
I was amazed that a regular wall could reach such an incredible size! He continued to speak,

"This stupendous wall was built to defend the Chinese Empire from Mongolians and other invaders. The construction started in the 7th Century BC, but most of the Great Wall we see today was built during the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644). It is the longest fortification ever built." After he finished talking about this Great Wall, we started our walk along the Great Wall of China.

After I walked like a very small fraction of the whole wall, my legs started to kill me. It was as if my legs were stabbing themselves. I couldn't stand it, I needed to stop and find some kind of teleportation device that could beam me to the end of this wall, but unfortunately, that has never happened yet...I kept walking and walking until finally. We all got to the end of the wall, sweating and exhausted. But I think I was the most exhausted one compared to all the others who walked with me, because I didn't have any water for two hours.

While I was drinking my water, I saw something waving in the air; it was coming from the back of the wall. Everyone should have noticed too, because everyone was looking at the same area as I was. When we were brave enough to get closer to it, the wall suddenly jumped up, making both sides of the wall crack! I thought we were done, but then, I saw somewhere safe to go to, and the only way to get there was to jump.

I was willing to do it, CRACK! CRACK! CRACK! It continued to crack, but while it cracked, we all jumped from one side to the other. When we got to the safest area we could find, we saw the wall evolving into some sort of dragon or something. As it evolved, people were



jumping off the wall and hiding in the plants, waiting for all the chaos to be gone. It finished evolving, It WAS a dragon.

After some time, the dragon really didn't know what it was doing, it started flying all over the area, making swirls of strong winds. I didn't know what kind of religion would let an animal spirit in the greatest wall of all China, but if it was meant to kill the Mongolians, then it would make a lot of sense.

But instead of killing people, it started destroying mountains, making a lot of soil and dust cover the air. A lot of people started to cough, while I covered my mouth and started to cough too. The chaos got worse and worse; the destruction was becoming more and more massive!

Then, everything changed, from mountains to us, the dragon started to come in our direction. When we saw this, we started to run, we kept running and running until we encountered a dead end. The dragon opened its mouth, and AAAAGGGGHHHHH! I woke up in the middle of the night, after we had spent an exhausting day on the Great Wall of China. My scream woke nearly the whole hotel up, making people shout at the room we were sleeping in. When all the screaming ended, I got back to bed.

I did not know what to call the event that just happened, a nightmare or a dream, because that dream really made me feel lively the next day.

I LOVE

MS. CHAN SAYS...

Have you ever loved a particular book, play or drama? I remembered I first watched the tenth anniversary production of the musical *Les Misérables* on TV and was absolutely enthralled. The music is gorgeous and the story so touching. I was so thrilled that I started to collect CDs, DVDs and read the novel written by Victor Hugo that the musical is based on.



Les Misérables leads me to ponder upon what hope and love are. It is the story of Jean Valjean, who vowed to reform himself after receiving love and help from Bishop Myriel. He became an honest man who helped and loved others in return. There are discussions of poverty, righteousness, forgiveness and selflessness. I wonder if everybody would try to be a better person after reading the book.

ENGLAND

I LOVE

I was so happy that I finally saw *Les Miserables* on stage in London two years ago, after waiting for fifteen years since I first watched it on TV. That was a must-do when I planned my itinerary. The movie, with richer visual images, made me love the story even more. If you have the chance to watch the movie or musical of *Les Miserables*, please do so as I am sure you will like it as much as I do.



PICTURES AROUND CAMPUS



