

Most Influential Teacher

Min Huang

ESL 33B—Prof. Paulette Koubek-Yao

A teacher plays an important role in our educational life. The teacher who influences us the most not only gives us knowledge but also teaches us some special things. The teacher who was taught me Chinese in the junior high school was the most influential teacher in my life. He taught me that independent learning is important, and helped me like to read books.

My Chinese teacher taught me how to learn independently. Based on what I had learned from my other teachers in elementary school, we should follow the teacher's way of thinking while reading books. In China, most teachers never require the student to think independently, but my Chinese teacher was different. On the first day in the class, he said we needed to write a journal every week. He didn't confine the contents. We could talk about something we had learned from a book or tell some story that happened recently. The only requirement was that the content should be truthful. So, I developed a habit after that. When I read a book, I think about what I can get from it. I started to think how to solve problems independently.



The Chinese teacher didn't just teach me to think independently, but also he helped me like to read books. I thought reading books was a boring thing before I met him. He required us to read some extra books in our free time, and he would check. At first, I didn't like that, but I quickly found happiness in the book world, discovering interesting things and acquiring new knowledge. My Chinese teacher said when we left school, the teacher couldn't accompany us in studying anymore, but the books could. So, this Chinese teacher taught us how to enjoy reading and find new things in the books.

My Chinese teacher was strict in our studying but amiable in life. Studying in his class, I felt relaxed and happy. I thank him because he taught me how to learn independently and helped me like to read books.

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My Older Mother

Shuyi (Suki) Chen

ESL 422—Prof. Paulette Koubek-Yao

I have two “mothers”. One is my direct mother and the other one is my grandmother. The older mother in the title is my grandma. I love my grandma because she is the one person who raised me after I was born. She came from Canton, which is a small village in China. She was born in a poor family and she was sold to another family by her parents. When she was 21, she moved to FoShan and married my grandfather. She worked hard and she forced herself to finish everything ahead of schedule. The only purpose of working hard was helping the family. She has 10 grandchildren. I am glad to be one of them. My parents were busy at work so they sent me to my grandmother when I was a little child. My grandma raised me and gave me her best love.

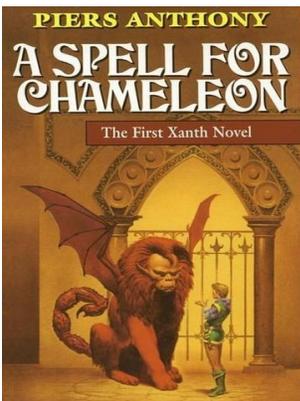
In my childhood memories, my grandmother was an easy going, amiable, and considerate person. She never studied in school, but she knows lots of things about the wisdom of life. She cooked delicious food for me and taught me her valuable personal experience. When I studied in high school, I had to live in a dormitory and went home on weekends. Going home not only meant I could play with my friends but also meant I could taste the dishes which my grandmother cooks. I love the way she braises chicken wings. It is one of my favorite dishes. Other than the chicken, she also makes Canton soup for me. She uses gentle heat to cook the soup for at least two hours and it consists of a variety of fresh ingredients and herbs. Therefore, it not only tastes good, but also is healthy. The most important part is the soup contains her love for me!

In China, students should arrive at the classroom before 6:50AM because the morning reading class starts at 6:50AM every day. It was blissful for me to get a warm, sweet, and steamed egg which was prepared by my grandma every morning. My grandma woke up at 5:30AM daily to cook an egg for me. Especially, on winter mornings, the egg not only warmed up my body but also warmed up my heart. In junior high school, after I finished night classes, she prepared some dessert or snack for me before I went to bed because she worried if I would feel hungry. When I studied in university, if I forgot to call her after I arrived at school safely, she couldn't sleep at night because she was anxious. Grandma is a considerable and kind mother to me. She cared about me more than my direct mom did.

Right now, she is 84-years-old, but she has a healthy body to plant the crops in her back yard. Sometimes, she would lose her temper because of a small thing that she disagrees with and worries about everyone in our family. I call her every day, even though I am busy because I know that she needs our care and wants to get more attention. She is an older child so some people need to talk with her, coax her and comfort her when she is upset or unhappy. I want to visit her and tell her we love her! I love my old “mother” so much!



A Spell for Chameleon



If you are a fan of magical fiction novels, you would be in for a treat by reading *A Spell for Chameleon*. This novel includes love stories and exciting adventure throughout the magical land and forests. The main character, Bink, is born with a hidden talent for magic, which is against the law in his hometown Xanth. Without knowing what his power is, he is exiled as an animal. Throughout his journey, he eventually finds out what his talent is and discovers the value of someone loving him for who he is.



One Of The Worst Laws-SCA 5

Yueyi Zhu and Eva Wen

ESL 33B—With editing by Katia Barone

Senate Constitutional Amendment No.5, SCA-5, labeled as “Skin Color Act 5” was protested on February 28th in front of a state office building. Hundreds of Asian Americans expressed their outrage by gathering and appealing against SCA5. In fact, it is completely against the federal law on education, which eventually led it to be rejected by the Republican State Assembly. According to *The LA Times*, on January 30, 2014, “SCA 5 repeals portions of Proposition 209, the 1996 ballot measure prohibiting using race or gender in admission decisions. The California Senate voted to put a constitutional amendment on the November ballot.” If SCA 5 passes, all of the California public universities will be allowed to admit students based on their race or gender. As politician Bob Huff said, “This bill allows our public schools to use race and gender to discriminate against students.”

We strongly agree with Huff that students should not be judged by their race or gender. Universities should judge students by their merits, their efforts, and their performance. As Martin Luther King said, “I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character.” The U.S. claims to be a country that has the most freedom and the one that does not tolerate racism. We are so shocked and disappointed that nowadays in the United States we still have these kinds of unfair things happening! While it aims to boost education for Black and Latinos, it deprives the educational rights for hardworking Asian Americans. Such an unthoughtful law would cause two disadvantages to the American higher educational system. One of the cons is that it would hinder the state’s educational development, and another is that more Asians will abandon the American dream. Therefore, this policy has recently been cancelled.



The new proposal SCA5 would hamper the nation’s hope in education. We believe that university admission should not be based on racial preferences. Students who study hard and make effort deserve equal opportunity in college admission no matter what race or gender they are. Fairness is important! If a student works harder and gets better grades, he or she should be rewarded to have a chance to go to a better college. According to the statistical data of students’ GPA required for some top universities such as UCLA, Asian students need to obtain 4.28 while other ethnicities just need to get 3.7. Such raw data shows an absolutely unfair platform for Asian American students. Moreover, is not fair that SCA 5 will give students who have lower educational achievements more chances to get into the college than the students who have better educational achievements. Tracing back to the original basics of the American establishment, democracy is meant for every race. SCA5 would add more strains to the “democratic” American educational system. Citizens’ anger could spread all over the country and make people argue and fight over this issue, creating some kind of “mental civil war”. Thus, it was urgent for government to vote “no” for this policy since it would lead American education to a cliff or a swamp.

Furthermore, many Asian immigrants would abandon their ambitions to serve America. Only Asian-American participants in politics can bring hope to provide more appropriate benefits for Asians in America. Due to the unfair SCA5, Asian students would start to abandon their goals to achieve a perfect GPA in order to go to the top universities. Especially at our school, PCC, many Asians are struggling to be on the top to realize their dreams in the future, but SCA5 could make them frustrated, and they would start to question what they are studying for. Would they be able to accomplish their educational dreams or be ordinary university graduates? Hypothesizing that no more Asians would work for NASA or Silicon Valley, could America go backward to be a less developed country? Therefore, SCA5 is a dangerous blasting fuse to prevent more Asian Americans from working and studying for their fascinating goals.

In conclusion, SCA5 is a bad college admission policy change. SCA 5 encourages American society to go backward to fifty years ago, prior to what Martin Luther King had fought for. Not only would it destroy the future of many capable students in the country who work hard and may never have a chance to be admitted to their dream colleges anymore, but it could also lead to a disturbance among different races. Moreover, it definitely would dissuade numerous Asian students to abandon their goals and dreams. Consequently, we should praise the cancellation of this policy.



How Evaluation Affects Students

Yunzhi Fu
ESL 33B—Prof. Jorge Ribeiro

Teaching is one of the most respectable jobs in the world. It takes time and effort for a teacher to selflessly help students get educated and become successful in the future. Therefore, teacher evaluations are very important in helping the school decide who will be best to teach. However, these evaluations have no direct impact on students. It is only a necessity for schools because there is a belief that those evaluations can affect students positively. Students should be determining who their teachers should be. In order to let it happen, schools should abolish teacher evaluations and adapt a better method to evaluate teachers properly.

Nowadays, schools use students' judgment as the way to evaluate teaching quality. Schools would randomly choose classes where they ask students about their teacher's performance in the class. Students usually do not take this process seriously since they have been through this kind of process many times. They tend to evaluate the teachers however they like, knowing this is not a big issue compared to their grade. Some students give their teacher a poor evaluation only because they are receiving an unfavorable grade. For example, one of my friends got a bad grade in his Biology class and then gave a bad evaluation of the professor. Another one of my friends gave her professor a good grade simply because she liked the professor's handsome appearance.

This method of choosing teachers is extremely erroneous and will significantly affect students' learning. It does not help students to know which teacher will be a better fit for them. It also gives schools inaccurate information that supposedly helps them make decisions. Schools pay attention to how students think of their teachers, but do not understand that teacher's evaluations help little. They want to maximize students' learning outcomes only by having students respond in an unappreciative manner. Teacher assessments affect everybody's life and schools should be aware of the impact. If schools do not take action, evaluations will continue to have a huge impact on the academic system.



Liwen Li (Wendy)
ESL 33B—Prof. Paulette Koubek-Yao

Technology

Nowadays, technology is developing very fast. People upgrade their phones and computers faster and faster because companies launch high-technology products more and more frequently. Some people believe that technology is killing our leisure time while some people insist that technology makes our lives more interesting. In my opinion, technology makes our life more colorful because of two important reasons.

One reason is that technology helps us get information easily. For example, before the Internet was popularized, people used to get information from newspapers and magazines. However, newspapers and magazines have a weakness. They cannot pass information promptly. Now we have the Internet, and we can get information immediately. In addition, the Internet helps us get more information. Newspapers and magazines can only give a certain amount of information, but online we can get as much information as we want. We can get information anytime and anywhere through the Internet.

Another reason is that technology makes our lives more convenient. For instance, nowadays our mobile phones are more multifunctional. In the past, when mobile phones were not popularized, we could not immediately contact people who are not in the same country. After mobile phones were popularized, we could contact people no matter where they were. Our mobile phones can do a lot of things such as face time and Email. We can talk with friends, and we can also see their faces. If we have some emergency situations, we can contact our friends right away. We also can use our mobile phones to surf the Internet when we need it and where we need it. When we are waiting for someone, we can play with our mobile phones to kill time. For these reasons, technology makes our lives more convenient.

In conclusion, although people have opposite opinions on technology, I believe that technology can make our lives more colorful. I like high-tech equipment, and it makes my daily life more comfortable.





Pasadena City College - A Community College Where Dreams Can Come True

I started my study at PCC in Fall 2013 and when I first entered the campus of this college, I did not like it at all. However, after a semester, I realized why PCC is a well-known community college in California with such a high transfer rate each year compared with other community colleges in California. There is a whole set of integrated systems at PCC to help students become successful.

The very first program I like to mention is **the iJam**, which is a program that began at PCC not long ago. At first I did not like this program. One reason was that it occupied most of the two weeks before classes started in August 2013. I was sad about this program because according to the schedule posted online, the school would show us around Pasadena, Chinatown, downtown LA, and other places. Unfortunately, we did not go to any of these places during the whole iJam. However, when I completed the mandatory program, I was not so frustrated and understood why PCC offers us this program. An obvious reason is that every student who successfully completes the iJam will be guaranteed his or her first year's classes. In other words, the student who attends the iJam from the beginning to the end will surely be able to register for at least 12 units for each semester of the first year. This is really a



wonderful award for international students with F-1 visas, isn't it? Imagine if we do not have this privilege, it will be so tough for us to survive for the first semester as 12 units is a bottom line for each F-1 student. When I think of this, I appreciate the board of trustees of PCC. Even though the whole iJam was really a boring experience, I think it is worth attending it from the beginning to the end.

As an ESL level 4 student, I would like to say the ESL placement test levels and Pathway program are really helpful to me. After I took the ESL placement test, I was placed in a level 3 block. I could not choose any other classes at all. As a result, I took 4 ESL classes and one Counseling course to make up the 12 units. At first, I was not happy about this because I took the Math placement test as well but I could not take a Math class just because my ESL was level 3. I thought it was not fair. Amazingly, by the time I finished my first semester, I understood why PCC has 5 levels of ESL courses before one can take college level courses. The five levels of ESL courses are firm foundations to help a student get into English 1A, a college level English class. Generally speaking, those students who take ESL placement tests are either international students or non-native English speakers. In this case, it is critical for them to have a strong foundation of language before they start their college level courses. The five levels of ESL courses are really useful for students whose native language is not English. (With these courses, it will be easier when they get into other general education courses or even major courses. As for Pathways, when I entered PCC, I was placed into Pathways automatically; it was another way to help me to have at least 12 units for the first year. Plus, I can use the Teaching and Learning Center (TLC)'s computers to print several pages free.)

In conclusion, not only is Pasadena City College a community college with a beautiful campus environment, but also a place where young adults can fulfill their dreams. I love PCC and welcome more and more students to come to PCC to study and make their dreams come true.



Time to apply for Pasadena City College Summer Sections

Applying for Summer sections have begun. It is time to register for your summer sections.

Time of Session 1: May 19, 2014—June 29, 2014

Time of Session 2: June 30, 2014—August 9, 2014



The Curse of Pele

Dongwoon Ra (Jake Ra)
ESL 33A —Dr. Lia Lerner

The world's biggest soccer festival is coming. 2014 Brazil World-Cup will be held on June 13th in several cities around Brazil. The soccer style of Brazil is called "Samba Soccer", and it has created many famous legendary soccer players. For that reason, many people are excited to see how the World-Cup is going to be. On the other hand, many sports reporters are focusing on one person whose name is Pele. He is the most famous legendary soccer player in the history of soccer. Why are the sports reporters paying attention to him? He has predicted several World-Cup winners and top scorers, but has ended up cursing them instead. It has attracted mass media attention, and has given birth to the "Curse of Pele." This funny story dates back to the 1966 England World-Cup.

During the 1966 England World-Cup, Brazilian "Samba soccer" had no serious competitors from the rest of world. Brazil was the favorite, and nobody had any doubt that Brazil would collect the trophy. At that time, Pele expected their victory, showing a sense of confidence. However, Brazil had dropped out from the 1st tournament with one win and two defeats, which was the worst result that Brazil had gotten in World-Cup history. During that time, nobody thought a severe curse had begun.

For almost 30 years, Pele's curse continued. In the 1994 U.S World-Cup, his strange expectation turned into one of the saddest accidents in soccer history. Pele predicted that Colombia would achieve a good result in the U.S World-Cup, and Brazil would not win the trophy. People were curious about why he picked Colombia as the favorite. Colombia did not have good results in World-Cup history. When the 1st tournament had started, Colombia failed to advance to the next round. Brazil kept on rolling, and finally got the 4th World-Cup title. Brazil was ready to have festivals, but Colombia went into shock shortly after the tournament. As the Columbian players were returning, Andres Escobar, who committed a self-goal in the World-Cup, was killed by a stranger. It was a notorious incident of Pele's curse.



Pele's curse continued even outside of soccer. In 2002 Pele was invited to the South Korea & Japan World-Cup drawing event as a presenter with Anastasia, who sang the title song of World-cup. There was footage of Pele hugging Anastasia while staring directly at her breasts. Exactly one year later, she was diagnosed with a breast cancer, so she had a critical surgery. Due to this incident, one cannot help but believe that Pele's curse exists not only on the soccer field, but also in everyday life.

Whenever the World Cup season comes around, people cannot help but wonder if Pele's curse will occur again. The interesting point for this World Cup is that Brazil is the hosting country, and of course, Pele is Brazilian. It will be entertaining to see what his predictions are and what will be the outcome.



There are three things to remember about education. The first is motivation. The second is motivation. The third is motivation.

-----Terrell Bell

If someone is going down the wrong road, he doesn't need motivation to speed him up. What he needs is education to turn him around.

-----Jim Rohn

Nothing in the world is ever completely wrong. Even a stopped clock is right twice a day.

-----Paulo Coelho, *Brida*

It's not the load that breaks you down, it's the way you carry it.

-----Lou Holtz



To dream by night is to escape your life. To dream by day is to make it happen."

-----Stephen Richards



Looking back on the memories since I came to LA, I find it rather hard to pick one that leaves me with the fabled “warm and fuzzy feeling”. But the recollection of the weekend I spent in Seattle with my friend, Tutu, after I broke up with my last boyfriend is still quite distinct.

It was autumn, and Seattle just entered into its rainy season. I did miss Tutu so much after the summer when we spent almost every day together. Seattle is quite different from Los Angeles; it’s more like a city but not as prosperous. It’s very romantic with some patchy rain, but also very desolate for me. She took me to a local park called “Gas Works”. From there we could see the whole view of downtown across the lake. She was holding my hand all the time in case I fell because of the darkness there. Even though it’s so far from our hometown, it felt like I was back there that night. We talked almost till the sun rose, finishing all our conversations after summer.



It was still raining the second day, and Tutu took me to watch the Daft Punk laser show. We were lying on the ground and the laser was showing on the ceiling, with Daft Punk music, which is my favorite. All the bad memories seemed to be gone at that moment. Later that night, just like the day before, we talked till the sun rose, I had the best sleep since I came abroad.

I woke up that afternoon, realizing it was still raining and it was my last day in Seattle. But instead of going somewhere cool, we just took the bus to a Japanese bookstore. I bought my favorite unicorn toys there and a bunch of school supplies. Then we ate at a dim sum place called Harbor City, which was not very authentic but very cheap. After we took a cab home, Tutu was taking care of me all the time. She asked the taxi driver to turn on the heat to keep me warm in the car, and she boiled me hot water when we got home. She knew Seattle was too cold for me since Los Angeles was still hot at that time.

She drove me to the airport that night. We didn’t talk much on the way, and we just listened to music and sang along with it, not knowing when the next reunion will be. I hated parting with her, but the time came. We had to say goodbye at the airport. She didn’t leave until she couldn’t see me.

A sincere friend is somebody you don’t have to see every day, but when you see her you just won’t be able to stop talking to her. So no matter how hard it’s raining outside, our hearts will be still wrapped in sunshine.

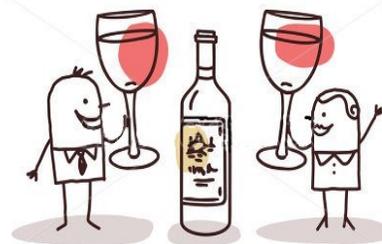
Chinese Drinking Tradition

Shirley Liu (Xinyi)

ESL 33B—Prof. Paulette Koubek-Yao

Drinking is gradually becoming a social skill in Chinese society. Drinking occurs not only between friends, but it also used in reaching a contract or begging others for help. It’s said that things cannot be perfectly done unless we have alcohol. The Chinese drinking style is far different from the American drinking style.

Chinese people think that getting drunk is one of the indications of successful drinking. People prefer to persuade others to drink more and more. It sounds horrible, but they always finish their cups at once, which makes people feel dizzy. When businessmen come from different companies, they drink together. Although they don’t want to drink too much, they have no choice. However, drinking is supposed to be graceful and enjoyable. Chinese people always neglect this fact and choose to drink roughly. Besides, drinking too much reduces the speed of reaction and thinking. The fact is that drinking too much is bad for our health. On the contrary, American people enjoy the taste of red wine. Instead of drinking boorishly, they prefer to taste the flavor. In their view, it’s considered to be a waste of tasty wine to dry the cup.

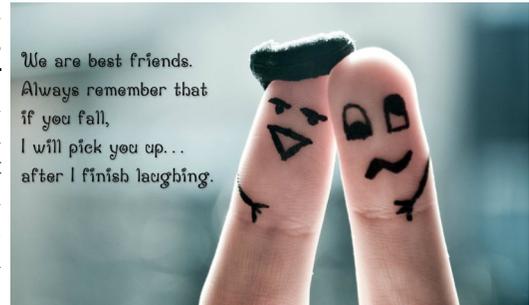


In addition to drinking with friends, Chinese people would like to invite their bosses or cooperative partners to drink together in order to get a promotion or reach a contract. As time goes by, it has become a tradition in Chinese modern society. Interestingly, Chinese people often talk about business and contracts while eating and drinking. Although there is no evidence that the rate of reaching a contract would be higher through drinking rather than talking in the office, people just get used to this way and continue to do it. Meanwhile, Chinese people believe that a good relationship with the cooperative partners can help to deal with everything. They are more likely to rely on the relationship rather than law. Wine is thought to be a stimulant to boost people to make a final decision.

This unusual drinking tradition has been booming in China for decades. Nonetheless, it’s hard to find the original start of this tradition. Even though many people don’t think this is a good drinking style, Chinese people are still drinking in this way.

My tears ran all the way down to my chest. Tears in my life somehow do not only express the sorrows, but also delineate the pleasures. When I turned on my computer, a delightful rhythm together with indelible pictures caught my tears. It was my 21st birthday present made by my best friend, Grace, who through this music video has illuminated the dignity in poverty, the true value in life, and the love in our friendship (into this music video).

People can be poor, but still have aspirations. These ambitions will be reflected as the dignity in poverty. My best friend, Grace, told me she didn't have money to buy a fancy gift for my big 21st birthday. Instead, she promised that she would give me a surprise and send best wishes from Thailand. I was so impressed when I got the present she made. It was a music video. I knew that she always wanted to make a music video because she had a dream of a film career. However, I never thought she would make her first music video for me since she didn't have any advanced equipment. When I clicked the play button on my computer, joyful music rose up together with the words that encouraged me to be strong in the United States. It immediately brought back (the) memories I had of when we were in China. All of a sudden, I realized that even though we are poor now, as long as we keep our dreams and our ambitions, our dignity would take away the poverty one day and light up a road to success.



There is always something in my life that can't be measured with money, like my friendship with Grace. She must have spent at least two weeks on making this music video filled with all the childhood memoirs we had. It felt like I was holding a priceless treasure. As she told me, that was her first composition, and I couldn't imagine how much effort she had put into it, or how many people she might have asked for help. I knew that she hasn't started earning her own money, and she is a frugal student studying abroad like me. Even though she didn't spend a penny on it, the value of this special present is worth anything money can buy. It vividly depicts our friendship, which can't be assessed by money.

Love is an emotion, and it can flow into any type of relationship. Our friendship is full of love. The unique music video she made for me symbolizes a profound friendship we have. My eyes were burning when the images were appearing. Later, I couldn't hold my tears any more, so they dropped on my cheeks, my neck, my chest, and warmed my heart. There was a picture in which we were running side by side together to the end of the track. In the next one she was carrying me to the shore after I slipped into the ocean and almost got drowned. Another one was of my high school graduation. She stood by my side, and we were both smiling like farmers with the whole year harvest in our hands. Those images made me feel a great honor to have a friend like her: she put her effort to make something extraordinary to cheer me up. Every single scene on the screen was a story of our childhood, and her words made me strong when I felt vulnerable.

Along with the cheerful tune permeating through my brain, this music video motivated me to look on wealth from a different perspective. Obviously, the music video that my best friend Grace gave me is not just the combination of music, pictures, and words, but also her ideas, efforts and blessings. This is a sweet memoir for me to look back on, so that I have the courage to move forward. Although Grace is not here by my side, I know she is somewhere with me whenever I need her.

We Want Your Articles



The Globe newsletter wants more interesting and fascinating articles. Share your stories with us.

Deadline: April 14, 2014

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