# ① The North Wind and the Sun

A long time ago, the North Wind and the Sun were having a big argument. They were disputing which of them was the stronger and more powerful. They talked and talked, but neither of them would give up.

Suddenly, they looked down and saw a traveler walking along a dusty country road. The traveler was wearing a thick, warm cloak because the weather was getting a bit chilly.

The Sun looked at the North Wind and said with a smile, "Let us have a fair competition to settle this matter. Do you see that traveler down there? The one who can make that traveler take off his cloak first shall be called the stronger one." The North Wind agreed loudly. He thought this would be an easy game for him to win.
First, the North Wind took a deep breath and began to blow with all his might. He blew a cold and fierce wind across the land. *Whoosh! Whoosh!* The trees shook, and the dry leaves flew everywhere in the air.
However, the harder the North Wind blew, the more closely the traveler wrapped his cloak around his body. The poor traveler shivered and said to himself, "Oh, what a terrible and freezing day! I must hold my coat tightly." The North Wind blew and blew until he was completely tired, but he could not remove the cloak. At last, he gave up in great despair.

Next, it was the Sun's turn. The Sun did not blow or make any loud noises. Instead, he simply smiled and shined out warmly behind the grey clouds. Slowly and gently, his golden light covered the whole earth. Within a few minutes, the cold weather began to change. The air became warmer and warmer. The traveler stopped shivering. He looked up at the

sky and said, "What a beautiful and pleasant day! The weather was so cold just a minute ago, but now it is so warm and bright."

As the Sun continued to shine brighter, the road became hotter and hotter. The traveler began to feel very warm, and sweat started to run down his face. Finally, he could not stand the heat anymore. He sat down under the cool shade of a big green tree and gladly took off his heavy cloak.

Therefore, the North Wind had to admit that the Sun was the true winner of the game. This famous story teaches us a great lesson for our lives: Gentleness and kind persuasion can win the hearts of people much more easily than force and anger.

# ② My Mother

Everyone has someone special in their life, and for me, that person is my wonderful mother. My mother is the most important person in my world. She is not only my loving parent, but she is also my best friend and my greatest teacher.

Every single day, she wakes up very early in the morning before the sun comes up. She works incredibly hard to take care of our family, cooking delicious breakfast for us and keeping our home clean and comfortable.

What I love most about my mother is her beautiful and kind smile. Whenever I come home from school feeling sad, lonely, or tired, she always sits quietly beside me. She listens to my problems with great patience.

When I fail a difficult test or make a big mistake, she never gets angry or shouts at me. Instead, she holds my hand gently, looks into my eyes, and says, "It is okay, my dear. Everyone makes mistakes. Just try your best next time, and I will always be here to support you." Her sweet and encouraging words always give me the courage to stand up and try again.

I can still remember a special story from last winter. I fell very sick and had a terrible fever. My body was shaking, and my head hurt badly. My mother was so worried about me. She stayed up all night long just to watch over me. She put a cool, wet towel on my forehead to help me feel better. Every time I opened my eyes in the dark night, I saw her sitting by my bed, holding my hand and whispering sweet words to me.

Thanks to her love and wonderful care, I recovered quickly. The warm soup she cooked for me during those sick days was the most delicious food I have ever tasted in my life. It was filled with her deep love.

As I grow older day by day, I realize how lucky and blessed I am to have such an amazing mother. She gives me everything without asking for anything in return. On this special day, I want to say "thank you" to her from the bottom of my heart. I want to tell her that I love her more than words can say, and I promise to be a good child.

# ③ The Joy of Reading

In our busy school lives, we have a lot of homework, tests, and activities every day. Many students think that reading books is only for getting good grades or passing exams. However, for me, reading is not a boring duty at all. In fact, it is the most wonderful and exciting journey in the world. Books are like magic doors that can take us to any place and any time we want to go.

When I open a great book, I can travel all around the universe without ever leaving my own bedroom. For example, on a rainy afternoon, I can open an adventure book and suddenly find myself swimming with beautiful, colorful fish in the deep blue ocean. I can see bright coral reefs and look for hidden treasure chests on the sea floor.
On another day, a science book can take me into the dark, mysterious space. I can fly past the silver moon, explore distant red planets, and watch beautiful stars dance in the sky. Reading makes my imagination grow bigger and stronger every day.

Moreover, books are like time machines. They can introduce me to many great people from history. I can read about famous scientists, brave explorers, and wonderful artists. I can learn about how they faced problems, how they never gave up, and how they changed the world with their ideas. It feels like these great people are sitting right next to me, sharing their secrets and giving me wise advice for my own life.

Most importantly, reading brings me great peace and happiness after a long, stressful day at school. When the world is too noisy, I can always find a quiet corner, open a book, and enter a peaceful world of my own. It

opens my eyes to see the beauty of life, and it helps me become a better, kinder person.

As an old and famous saying goes, "A good book is a good friend." Friends may leave, but a good book will always stay by your side whenever you need it. I truly hope that everyone can find a book they love, open that magic door, and enjoy the wonderful joy of reading together.