

## *1<sup>st</sup> Place Winning Essay*

### **A “Friend” of Mine**

By Becky, Class 4, Grade 2

Without friendship, the tree of life will die as time goes by. The soil of heart will become a wilderness. And friends come in all shapes and size.

I was a lovely girl when I was a senior school student, many many friends surrounded me. We always chatting, singing, climbing, playing basketball or doing other things, together. School life seemed joyful, although many books and a pile of papers played the main part. I think I was really happy at that time. Before I came to this college, I always dreamed of my college life, it should be more wonderful than in senior school, I thought. However, I was wrong, almost everything is not the one I expected. I tried my best to make friends, but I failed. My foreign teacher told me I should learn to adapt and if I had done this I would find it's a good way in our life. I remembered how I can't change the world, but I can change myself to be happy in life. Maybe I was a little mad, I then spoke English to everything I met at any time, flowers, trees, grasses, rivers, stones, birds and so on. Anyhow, life still full of boring. To my surprise, my foreign teacher introduced a friend to us. I visited him in the hope of making friend with him. I was a little disappointed when I first saw him. He had a common appearance and his body is not big enough. Just because of lonely, I visited him from time to time. Unexpectedly, day after day, I found myself couldn't go without him, he is so learned.

Up to now, I don't know which country he comes from, maybe America, but I'm not sure. Because the only language he knows is English. He owes many tapes, CDs, magazines and a great many books, which gives me various knowledge and only written in English. I can borrow whatever books I like from him, he never says “No” or “Stop.” Also I can read any book I want at his home. So far, I have been reading many books, it refers to animals, fashion, western foods, cartoons, fights, history, politics, music, sports, famous persons, diary, detectives, fairy tales and other kinds of stories. My favorite book is about detectives and stories. Of course, during my reading, as new words I met, my vocabulary enlarged, the information store in my memory is enriched. Every time I met the sentences and the short paragraphs which I thought is useful or beautiful, I would write them down, memorized it and used it in my study. Personally speaking, the important information I learned is not just these books themselves, but the feelings and thoughts they give me. Some stories in the books or some plots in some books sometimes really touched and moved me inside. It taught me the knowledge which is out of books and it made me think a lot.

Many books have vivid pictures. It helps us to understand the story easily. Sometimes it also gives my imagination wings to fly freely. Every time I saw the delicious food's pictures, I had a strong desire to taste them. They looked so different from China's foods. And fashionable clothes and shoes caught my eyes so much, either.

Staying with the learned friend, I know the past history and the present news. I know the life of animals and the life of human beings. I remembered my childhood and dreamed my future. Staying with him, my reading speed rised.

My friend has a lot of Chinese friends and five foreign friends. Almost every day, he wait with a smile and welcome everyone visited him. All of his friend will speak only English in his home. Chatting with others is my favorite thing to do there. I like speak my mind out in English and share it with people. My oral English can be improved in this way. By the way, I made a new Chinese friend in his house. When I felt boring, I could just sit on sofa, eating some candies or fruits and listening to others talk. I find is helpful to my listening.

Sometimes I visit him just for fun. I will enjoy pictures on the wall and play letter game, or I will just look at the small plant there silently. In winter, I will visit him for warm. His home is like my home, I can enjoy myself freely.

Everybody like beauty, my friend, too. On every holiday, he will dress up by his foreign friends and some Chinese ones. He will be more beautiful. Sometimes, there will be some games at his home, his foreign friends always help him to organize it. I'm very glad to take part in it, not for presents, just for fun. They can make my college life colorful.

Foreign friends visit him to help our Chinese whatever problems we meet. They are so friendly and so patiently. They let us hear the real English speaking by foreigners. And let us know more about their culture, I think.

So, do you want to know the kind and helpful person's name and to make friend with him. Every body call him Book Nook. Busiest man find the most time, go and visit him. Don't say you have no time, I'm sure you'll like him with your whole heart. Friendship is forever, I like him and I won't let him alone. Although he can't speak, he teaches me a lot and he is more than a friend for me.