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Day Trip – National Museum of Ireland

This time was my second visit to the National Museum of Ireland. I liked everything very much, but I prefer the Ancient Egypt exhibition. I am very interested in the complex civilisation of Egypt. It is difficult to choose just one thing from the exhibition, so the things that I most liked were the mummy cases. They are elaborately painted. It is incredible from that period. Unfortunately, the exhibition is very small, but I hope to visit and spend two days in the Cairo Museum in Egypt in December this year.

I liked this visit to the museum more than the first one because of your explanations. I would like to have another class the same as this. MARCO

My favourite thing in the museum is gold. There are many kinds of gold jewellery, such as necklaces, torcs, collars, ear-spoons and lock rings. Many of them were found in hoards and were discovered during farming or turf-cutting. The Celts made things with gold. LIN



People We Know

Do you recognise any of these people?

My aunt is in her forties. She's quite tall and very slim. She's got black hair and it's short and straight. She's very friendly and generous. Also, she is sociable. She likes playing tennis at the weekend with her daughter. She always smiles with friends, that's why people think she's good and friendly all the time. ALICE

My cousin Wei is my uncle's daughter. She is tall and thin. I think she is good-looking. She has long, wavy, brown hair. She usually wears jeans and T-shirts. She is a very friendly person and she is hard-working and ambitious. Sometimes she works like a boy. She is not a shy girl. She likes talking to other people, but I think she is bossy sometimes. She doesn't like sports, but she likes travelling and reading. KEN

My cousin's name is Yang. He is my uncle's son. He looks fat and tall. He likes wearing jeans and T-shirts. He is sociable. He likes fishing. ANON

My friend Ketty is tall (about 166cm) and slim. She looks very thin. She has long, straight hair with a fringe. She always likes wearing nice dresses. She is a self-confident girl, sometimes she's very selfish. She wants to do everything well in her life, but she's a little lazy. She likes playing computer games and watching TV. She likes playing mah-jong but she plays very badly - always loses money. When she is unhappy, she likes to go to the pub and dance. QIN

My friend is Fen Lin. He loves shopping for everything. He doesn't like shopping with girls. He doesn't like queuing in shops. He enjoys going to a shopping centre to buy something. He absolutely loves spending money. YE

My friend Alice is Chinese. She doesn't like spending money, but sometimes she goes shopping at the weekend with her friends. She loves going to the supermarket to buy fresh food. She really likes vegetables. Then back home she cooks for herself. She doesn't like eating fast food. She enjoys staying at home and watching TV in her free time. She doesn't like going out. She likes peace and quiet. IVERSON



Things We've Learned

When I was 16 years old, I started learning to play tennis. I chose this sport because I am very bad at the most popular sports like football, volleyball and basketball. The experience of learning was very good for me. I went to class for around 2 years. I had a strict teacher. He told me that I would learn by doing, so I did. I know that practice makes perfect, but in my case it wasn't true. I could never play well. I was learning in a small group, just three students with the teacher. I saw the other students had a steep learning curve, but unfortunately I hadn't the same performance. For several months, I tried to make progress by practising alone. After two years, I stopped going to class. I never played well but during that time I enjoyed it a lot. These days, I play just for fun in my free time. MARCO

When I was 15 years old, I started learning English. I'm a slow learner, because I can't remember everything in my head, but I had a strict teacher. When I failed the exam, she brought me to study in her house. I had to practise. My teacher told me how to learn. It was difficult. Now I'm in Ireland, I learn English also. It's easier than before. I have useful techniques at my work because I talk to customers. It helps me make progress. ANGEL

When I was ten years old, I started learning basketball. I'm a fast learner and I had a strict teacher. My teacher always said, "Practice makes perfect", so I learned very hard. Besides studying for the test, it took up most of my time. My teacher showed me a lot of useful techniques and gave me plenty of good experiences. I learned basketball every day. Eventually, I was successful. I was a monitor in my class of basketball at university. We won lots of prizes. RICHARD

When I was 7 years old, I started learning to play basketball, because I think basketball is a really cool sport. I remember that Michael Jordan could jump from the penalty line and make a perfect slam dunk. I was thinking about how I could make it. That was impossible for me because I'm not as tall as Michael Jordan, and besides, his profession was basketball, so of course he could do it. But I did try my best to jump higher, and then I really could jump higher than the people who were taller than me. So that's the example that practice makes perfect. But of course, I'm not perfect yet. I believe in myself because I'm a fast learner, and I also always learn by heart as well, so my big words were "nothing is impossible". By the way, until now, I'm still working on that and I keep learning by doing, but actually I need a strict teacher to improve. But anyway, forget about it. That was a dream that never came true, but I still believe it will! DUNCAN

When I was 20 years old, I started learning Japanese, because I wanted to go to Japan. It was a very good experience. I learnt by heart. I made notes every day. I revised my notes before I went to bed every night. I learnt Japanese in a group. There were 20 people in our group. My teacher was a very friendly lady. She had been in Japan for 10 years. She told me everything she knew about Japan. It was difficult to learn. I always forgot the tenses and grammar. My

teacher said it was OK to make mistakes. Making mistakes would help me to learn more. I practised with my classmates. I made progress every day. That was great. I learnt some useful techniques in learning Japanese, but I didn't get a visa to Japan. What a pity! L J N

When I was 20 years old, I graduated from university. I started learning cooking. I learned to cook in the cooking training school. I was a fast learner. It took me 3 months. I learned to chop vegetables, fry, and grill and so on. I learned in a group. I had a strict teacher. I learned cooking half the time in a class and half in the kitchen. When I finished school, I always made progress in my own kitchen. I went through what the teacher had taught that day and made the dish. I think that's a useful technique for my life. YAMJNG

When I was 11 years old, I started learning how to play badminton. I wasn't a fast learner. My teacher taught me everything, and practice made perfect. Every time I needed to play with my partner, I didn't have a good experience. I often made mistakes, but my teacher never lost her temper. I wanted to learn quickly but it was a steep learning curve. My teacher said everyone needed to learn by heart. I decided never to give up. After that I was a good player. LAN



Legends of the World

Boto-Cor-de-Rosa is a real animal, exactly like a dolphin, but it's pink and lives in the rivers just in Amazonia. The local people say at night this animal transforms into a handsome man and seduces girls. So usually mothers say to their daughters, be careful with handsome men at parties because the Boto can make the girl pregnant and then go back to the river. Some girls become pregnant before marriage and to explain to the parents they say, "Sorry, it was the Boto".

Saci Perere is a boy with dark skin. He came to Brazil from Africa as a slave, and in a capoeira fight he lost one leg. He dressed only in shorts and a red hat. This hat gives him his powers. Usually he smokes a pipe, and he is a guardian of animals and plants. He knows all the medicinal plants and helps people to find the right plant to cure illness. But if the people take plants without his permission, he will cheat the people and cheat everyone who destroys plants or hunts more than is necessary to feed the family. Usually he makes the housekeeper burn the food, tangles the animals' manes or puts things out of sight. He likes when people make offerings of tobacco for his pipe and joke with children. AMERICO

Almost all the legends from Italy are close to the real Greek/Roman history. The legend that I am going to narrate talks about the twin brothers who founded Rome, Romolo and Remo. The legend tells that these two brothers were probably grandsons of Ettore and Lavinia from Troy, and became orphans. They were found and brought up by a female wolf. Nowadays the wolf is the main symbol of Rome. Again, the history is a little bit different, but we can see it then. Romolo and Remo grew up to become two very strong warriors, leaders of a little army. One day, they made a decision to found a city, but each one wanted to call it by his name. For this reason, a quarrel started. During this quarrel, Romolo killed his brother, becoming the first king of Rome. The real history tells us that the twins were exiled from Albalonga village, the city today called Albano, a few kilometres away from Rome. They were born to a prostitute. The historical mistake came about because in ancient times in Rome, prostitutes were called "wolf". ANON

Once upon a time there were ten suns in the world. They came into the sky one day each. But one day they had an argument between them about who should be in the sky that day. The problem couldn't be solved by themselves, so they decided to all stay in the sky. The earth was getting very hot. There were no nights, only days. No more water was left on the earth and lots of people had died. There was a man called Yi. He was very strong and brave and also very good at archery. He shot at the suns. Nine of them were shot down and only one was left. The gods gave a pill to him to thank him for saving the people on earth. The pill can let people become immortal. But Yi's beautiful wife took the pill. She flew to the moon in the end. YANGZI

This is an old and famous romantic story. In ancient times in China, Chinese tradition did not allow girls to accept education. But a girl, whose name was Zhu Ying Tai, was born into a wealthy family. She always expected to study in school, so her parents taught her as a boy and brought her to the school. Zhu Ying Tai enjoyed her school life very much, because she had a roommate. His name was Liang Shan Bo. They were eating, sleeping and studying together for 3 years. Liang Shan Bo was an honest person. He felt they were like brothers, but he never knew Zhu Ying Tai loved him for a long time. After they graduated, Zhu Ying Tai invited Liang Shan Bo to her home and promised him she would introduce her sister to him. In fact, she wanted to introduce herself to Liang Shan Bo. When

Liang Shan Bo knew that Zhu Ying Tai was a girl, he was really surprised. Then they were very much in love. Unfortunately, the father of Zhu Ying Tai told her she must marry a son of a powerful family.
CHEN

This is a very old legend in China. This story was told to me by my grandmother. Niu Lang is the name of the person. He lived in the countryside. He planted rice for life. He lived with his mother. Every day he started work very early and came back home very late. One day he finished work at one o'clock in the morning. He felt tired, so he lay on the lawn and almost fell asleep. Suddenly, he saw a young woman who came from the sky. She was more beautiful than he had ever seen. Then they started to talk. Like this, Niu Lang met this young woman every day at the same time. Her name was Zhi Nu. Very soon they fell in love. They wanted to get married, but they lived in different worlds. Niu Lang was a person. Zhi Nu was a supernatural person. She lived in the sky. Zhi Nu's father did not allow marriage to him, so at last her father brought her back to the sky. Before they left each other, Niu Lang promised her that he would go to the sky to get married to her soon. After they left each other, Niu Lang missed her so much. Every day, he looked at the sky and cried. One day a cow came to him and said to him, "I am nearly dead. You can use my skin to put on your body. Then you can fly to the sky to meet Zhi Nu, but you need to build a bridge and cross the bridge, then you can meet each other." Niu Lang was very happy because the cow could help him, but he started to worry about how he could build a bridge. This time, a bird came to him and said to him, "I can help you. I can call all the birds, and we can build a bridge for you." YAN

All children in Brazil are afraid when they hear the name Cuca. Cuca is an old woman, but her shape is an alligator with long, blonde hair. She lives in a cave and she catches naughty children and you never see them again. That legend is from Portugal. When the Portuguese came to Brazil, they brought the Cuco legend. After some years the name of the legend changed to Cuca. Mothers always tell Cuca's story to their children when they are crying or not behaving, and they stop crying or being naughty at the same time because they are afraid to leave the house and never go back. I grew up listening to that story and I learned a song about Cuca. That song is a lullaby. It tells of how a baby can't cry because the Cuca will come. We have another really similar legend, but I think the difference is more urban. You hear it more when you live in a city. It is a man who takes children who don't behave and he puts them in a big bag. In Brazil there are many legends, but now you can't hear them as often as before. That's a pity! Because we Brazilians are losing wonderful legends and our identity. VIVIAN

His name is Saci-Perere. He's a black guy around 12 years old and he has just one leg. He smokes a pipe. He doesn't wear any T-shirt, just shorts and a red hat. He lost one leg when he was playing capoeira. He jumps on his leg and he likes playing tricks on everybody. He lives in the jungle, but always comes to farms on the border of the jungle and plays tricks. He likes annoying animals like horses and cows. He takes the horses' mane and he plaits and tangles it all over. He scares the animals on the farms. To humans, he likes playing tricks like hiding all objects. People get crazy because Saci-Perere hides objects really well and they need time to find them. With housekeepers, he's always annoying them till they burn the food and get really angry. ANDRESSA

Holiday Time

It's not too late to plan a holiday! Here are some ideas.

I went to Florida with my family because I heard a lot about this city, so we decided to go there to see a white shark. When I saw the shark, I couldn't believe it. It was very frightening and dangerous. The most interesting thing was when I threw the meat to the shark. And the uninteresting thing was my small sister, because she was afraid and she cried for a long time. Finally, I recommend everyone to go there.

MAMDOU

The first place to go is Bingxin Park in the city centre. There is a landmark in the city. Don't leave without going to Jinfen Town. There are many famous places and traditional stories. If you enjoy fishing, you can go to any river in the countryside. There are many rivers and people breeding fish there. QI

This is my city, Fu Qing. It is a beautiful and not huge city. I like the people. They are so kind and friendly. The first place to go is the beach. There are some restaurants. It's so cheap for seafood. One of the best places to visit is the mountain. It's so famous. If you enjoy it, make sure you include a trip by bamboo boat. It's so safe. You can see nice lakes, forests and so on. Why not try to do it? ANGEL

If you go to my city, you mustn't miss the local food. There are many types of food to choose from. That's a good way to learn about our culture. My city is becoming a modern city now. You can see many modern buildings in the city centre now, but there is a big population. It's crowded in some places. My city used to be a dirty city, but it is better now. There are many plants and flowers. If you like shopping, my city is a good choice. There are many shops and supermarkets in the city. Most of them are open until midnight. You can take a walk on these streets. It's livelier if you go in the evening. In the centre park, you can see some people dancing there at night. This is my city. Would you like to visit it? LIN

My city is Sao Paulo. It's 450 years old and around 20 million people live there. The first place to go is the Ipiranga Museum. It's a big palace where Don Pedro I lived. Today it's a very nice museum and in addition there is a big, beautiful garden too. If you enjoy art, make sure you include a trip to MASP (Art Museum of Sao Paulo) where there is one painting by Picasso and one painting by Monet. Don't leave without going to the shops. There are a lot of good shops to buy nice things. Finally, you must try traditional food from Sao Paulo - the delicious pizza. These are just a few things that you need to do in Sao Paulo. So, for a beginning, it's OK. I assure you, you'll never forget it and you will love it. MARCO

The first place to go is Mei Zhou Island. You mustn't miss the statue of the Mazu. She's the city's heroine. She was very beautiful and she died at 1888 years old. She was one of the god's daughters and her responsibility is to protect people. The people don't want to forget her, so they built a temple for her. Every year in January, most people go to her temple to make a wish and give some money. WANG

Fu Qin City is a modern city with good nightlife. If you go there, first you can hear music on all the streets. You can buy fashionable, modern clothes. Around the city, there are mountains. If you go to Fu Qin, you mustn't miss eating the famous Fu Qin cake. It can only be made with Fu Qin water. It's not sold in other cities. ZHAO

Shen Yang is my city. It's old and has a long history. It is older than Beijing. It was the first capital city in China. There are many famous, old palaces and castles. The weather is good. You can feel four different seasons. Now it has become a big modern city. In the daytime it is busy and fast, but at night it's a beautiful, relaxed city. There is wonderful nightlife. If you want to go there, you should try our famous foods and restaurants. After dinner you can go to KTV and be a super singer. Then go to the pubs. XIA

Da Lian is a city over 100 years old. It's located in the north-east of China. There's a population of over 5 million. It's a young city with not too many historical buildings, but full of excitement. The city is surrounded by sea, so the weather is lovely, not too hot in summer and not cold in winter. If you would like to visit it during summer, you mustn't miss "the National Fashion Festival" in Da Lian. There are lots of tourists from every country in the world and lots of fashion shows exhibited. During the summer nights, why don't you go jogging beside the sea? Lots of tourists enjoy swimming, and young people have BBQ parties. All that just makes you happy, and you forget the busy life. If you like shopping, the city centre is full of shopping malls. You can find lots of famous brands of designer clothes, everything you like. Shop till you drop! And don't leave without trying the delicious seafood. You can order it in any restaurant. It's served raw or cooked. It's unforgettable. ELLIE

Welcome to Tonadico. It is located just 30 minutes from the big Aldi Mountain, and just 20 minutes by car from the Paneveggio natural park. Come to one of the most picturesque areas of the Italian Aldi Mountain, where you can get a completely relaxing holiday, spending your time walking in the numerous woods. It is a wonderful place where you can enjoy an unforgettable view. Then come to visit the three blue Colbricorno Lakes in the Rolle Valley, where you will be able to eat a typical cheese made in the farm by the peasants. The Cap Del Gal Waterfall is born from the S. Martino Mountain and is one of the most important natural attractions of the region. It's near the old refuge of the mountain where you could spend a night listening to the typical songs of Northern Italy. You can stay in the Belvedere Hotel, a typical Tyrolean building in the centre of the Tonadico Village, near the Feltre train station. Or, if you like adventure and you love natural places, you can choose between the hundreds of mountain refuges located in all the area. EUGENIO

Welcome to Lucan, Co. Dublin, only 30 minutes by bus from Dublin City Centre. Lucan has been a big area of residential quarters since 10 years ago. The motorway to Lucan is very thick and convenient. Ballyowen Castle is an old and small castle in Ballyowen Lane, Lucan. It has over 100 years of history. It was built in classic Irish castle style. Although the castle is very small, there is a big shopping region around it, making it very important in Lucan. Another point is, you can walk to Liffey Valley Shopping Centre in 10 minutes. When you walk in Lucan, you will feel fresh air and quiet. In the last 5 years, many immigrants have moved into Lucan. They have brought their culture with them. ANON

Peruibe is a subterranean city where you can find the ruins of a church dated 1600. You can retreat in a spa with medicinal dark mud. The temperature is about 32°C in the summer. In this city is located the Jureia Ecological Reserve. It's an island where you can't visit, but you can rent a boat or a kayak and go around this place on the quiet Jureia River. This island has a lot of animals and plants. Unfortunately, only scientists can stay in a bungalow in the heart of this place. But don't be sad. You can also enjoy the Pereque Beach. It's near there, and it has a nice lake where you can enjoy the day on the water or in a restaurant 30 metres from the lake. At night the centre has lovely restaurants, pubs and artisans' products to sell. If you like to

dance, there is also a club where you can dance until 4am. Just in time to have an early breakfast in Apple Bread, the most famous croissanterie in the city. ANON

Sao Paulo is the most important city in South America. It is an exciting city. You can live many styles of life in just one place. Find the galleries, the museums, the best restaurants and the highest dancing clubs. The MASP is one of the most important galleries in Sao Paulo, where you can appreciate the works of art and the fashionable architecture. The Ipiranga Museum is an old palace, where you can see the history of Brazil. The museum is about the Independence Day of Brazil. It's really interesting. Hopi-Hari is a famous theme park in the city, just a few kilometres from the city centre. If you are looking to have fun, that is the place. In Vila Mariana and Vila Olimpia, you can find the best dance clubs and restaurants. It's the best place for a lively night. VIVIAN

Come to Shenyang. You can have different lives in one day. It's full of ordinary culture and also it's a huge modern city. The first king of the Qing Dynasty was living in the Old Palace. It is famous for its old style. In the centre of the city, there are two main shopping centres called Taiyuan Street Shopping Centre and Centre Street Shopping Centre. You can find everything you want. In the city centre, near the shopping centre, there are lots of hotels. They're all very nice and not really expensive. YANGZI



Book & Movie Reviews

The last movie that I saw is called "O Alto da Compo Leada". If we translate it into English, it is called "The Land of the Virgin Mary". It's a comic history about some very bad priests and their communities in the north-west of Brazil. The movie is about their actions. They do ceremonies for the boss of the city, the prefect, or whoever has money. The cast is very good, with a lot of famous comic actors. This film is a comedy, but in this country we have a lot of this kind of religious professional. This is a gripping movie, because it is funny and gives a very good critique of our religious and their ambitions with the people who have money and those who haven't. In the second part it appears good, and shows the good side of the Christian people. JOCORE

Saving Private Ryan: In this film, directed by Steven Spielberg, the main role is played by Tom Hanks. The movie tells the story of a group of soldiers who, in the middle of World War II, have to look for and save a soldier named Ryan, played by the young actor Matt Damon. The good thing about this movie is the amazing action scenes, with lots of special effects, the speciality of Mr Spielberg. Another positive thing about the film is the good cast, with brilliant actors. The bad thing is that the point of view of the story is of the Americans. Sometimes it's like they think they are so much better than the Germans. The film won the Oscar for best photography. You can see why in the first 20 minutes of the movie. It's a very good movie that shows the public how the battles were. In some of the scenes, it's like you are in the movie, especially if you watch it in the cinema. FERNANDO

Goldfinger is one of the most famous movies of James Bond. 007 was a British detective who had to find out how Aurick Goldfinger was smuggling gold from London. Aurick Goldfinger was an ex-soldier from the Soviet Union who came to London at the end of the war and started to sell gold. But Aurick wasn't retired. He was still working for the Soviet Union. This is a detective movie written by Ian Fleming. It was set in London. In my opinion, this is the best movie of 007, because I love detective movies. THIAGO

One of my favourite films is "Canone Inverso". It's a true story set in Prague during the second war. It is a story about a Jewish violinist and his love with a pianist. During the film, the characters prepare a concert and in the middle of their performance, the police arrest him because he is Jewish. However, the pianist wants to go with him, even though she is not Jewish. At the end of the film, they die, but their daughter survives and she tells the story about her parents. In my opinion, this film is very moving. When I saw this film, I was gripped by the love story and the cleverness of the characters. In addition, the music of the film is moving as well. Finally, I think the director has chosen a perfect place to set this film. In fact, Prague and its melancholic environment represent a perfect medley with the music and the story. DANIELA

Harry Potter is a fantasy film and is a gripping film. The plot is based on a book which is a sequel. The story happens in a witchcraft school. The hero is Harry Potter, who has two best friends, Hermione and Ron. Harry is a wizard whose parents were killed by the worst wizard from this school, and he leaves a scar on Harry's face. So, Harry and his two friends are

involved in every problem that the school has and they try to resolve everything. These problems are caused by the worst wizard and when Harry tries to resolve the problems, the wizard tries to block him by the trademark, but he never wins and Harry has success with all his actions. I have seen all the films in the last year, and I think that the writer is very smart, because she can involve everybody in her story, and the director can pass every fantasy to the film. JULIANA

Lately I watched a film which I liked very much. The title of this is "The Boy with the Striped Pyjamas". The movie is set in Germany and talks about the situation in a concentration camp during the second war. The plot is about a young German boy, who is the son of one of the most important chiefs of soldiers in Germany. The main character, this boy, keeps a very strong friendship with a Jewish boy who lived in that concentration camp just behind his house. Nobody knows about this relationship, which finishes in the worst way possible. Both of them died trying to look inside the camp for the father of the Jewish boy. I don't know if this movie won any important prizes, but in my opinion it is a really gripping movie, although it is a very dull story. In my point of view, all the cast is very professional, and I also like the kind of movie where even if it isn't totally real, it can teach you something new. I have watched this movie three times and every time I have been very moved. I suggest this movie to people who like serious movies, but not when they feel melancholic, because maybe it is not the proper movie when you have this feeling. VALENTINA

The last movie I saw was a horror movie, "The Skeleton", directed by Steven Spielberg. I liked the action of the movie, which involved two spirits who were looking to steal people's bodies. Even if it is a common horror story, the special effects were brilliant, the soundtrack was very frightening, and the actors were placed in a beautiful old castle. The hero, a nurse who discovered the bad things happening in that castle, ends by becoming one of the negative characters when the movie is finished, so it is not a happy ending, which we usually expect from a horror movie. It is gripping. The movie doesn't have predictable action, and the scenes kept your attention by bringing more terror. The makeup was terrific. The actors really got into the characters' skin. The description of the movie is not based on a true story, which makes me feel relieved. DANIELLA

"Non Cieresta Che Piangere" is a brilliant Italian comedy, directed and played by Roberto Benigni and Massimo Troisi. The costume comedy relives the past in a comic key, where during a strange day, the characters wake up suddenly in 1492. After the first moment of panic, they make a decision to take a journey to stop Christopher Columbus, who was leaving to discover America from Palos. During their trip, the characters live different fantasy situations. They meet Leonardo da Vinci and try to write a letter to Savonarola, harsh Doge at that time. The amazing directors' performances assure laughs and justify the ticket's price. EUGENIO

Gladiator is a classic movie about a gladiator who defeated an Emperor. The movie is set in Rome of the Ancient Age, the Roman Empire. Russell Crowe heads the cast in this epic movie, and he plays the hero, Maximus, a brilliant general in Rome's army who was loyal to Emperor Marcus Aurelio. But when Marcus Aurelio was killed in secret by his own son, Comodus, who became the Emperor of Rome, Maximus didn't agree. Comodus got very angry and he ordered

Maximus and his family killed. Maximus escaped alone and he went to a very distant land from Rome. There, he became a slave who fought against other slaves in competitions. They were called Gladiators. Maximus had a very good skill at fighting because he was a general of the Roman Empire, so he quickly became famous because of his victories in combats, and he received a chance to fight a very important competition in Rome made by Comodus, the evil Emperor who ruined his life. So Maximus went to Rome to fight and to have his revenge. Gladiator is a very exciting movie. The scenes of fighting are gripping and the story is very moving. Russell Crowe had a great performance playing the hero Maximus, the gladiator. FELIPE

One of my favourite films is Dirty Dancing. It is a romantic movie, with a love story between a girl who is on holiday with her parents, and a man who works as a professional dancer in a holiday village. The girl is called Frederique and the man Johnny. They met at a private dancing party, where they danced together for the first time. She is really enthusiastic when she finds this new type of dance for her, and she likes to dance, but she is a beginner. Johnny's partner gets into a poor condition of health, so Johnny needs another partner to do the show with him, and he chooses Frederique to accompany him. He tries to teach her how to dance. It is so difficult for her, but she arrives at her aim. During the dance classes, they fall in love with each other, and it is a really passionate love story between them. But her family don't like this idea, and they forbid her to see her dance partner again, but they can't stay away and meet to practice dancing. In the end, they dance together. She is splendid when she dances with him, and her parents start to like Johnny because she is happy with him. I like this movie. It is a perfect love story with a perfect cast. I like all the actors, they are very good. And I can watch this movie hundreds of times, again and again. It is a gripping film with lots of up and down emotions. I really like the scene at the end when they do their show. It is very exciting. PAULINE

This film is called The Proposal. It's about a woman from another country and she has a good job in a company in America, but unfortunately her company told her to get a new visa or she would have to go back to her country. Then she wanted to get married to her assistant, but not really married. They stayed two weeks together before they got married. In these two weeks, they fell in love. In the end, they really got married. This film is a comedy and the assistant was very funny. It was an interesting film. This film tells me that if something started not true and if you didn't have a plan, something will happen and you won't know the end. Something will change your mind. I think if we want to do something, we shouldn't promise everything to everybody, and we must think clearly and not make fools of ourselves. If something small happens, that's OK, but if something serious happens, that's a big problem. ANNA

I read a book. The book's name is The Other Man. A man wanted to write a book, so he found a little room. This room is very quiet, but strange things happened every day. YING

I read a good story about a happy ending. Meg is thinking a lot about John. He hasn't been to visit for a long time, but one day he arrives at the house to collect his umbrella. While he is there, he and Meg talk. He asks Meg to marry him, but Meg can't marry a poor man. Meg just says yes anyway. Jo is very upset that Meg is going to get married, but Meg will be very happy with John. MING

I read a good story about a Cork man called Jeremiah O'Connor. He has a new €35,000 a year job as a zombie. He put tomato ketchup over his white shirt and tore his suit to get the job. I liked it, because I really enjoy listening to ghost stories. XIAOHUA

I read a story. The story's name is The Doll. It's about Mr Brown. He lived in the centre of town. He was a lonely man. He didn't have any friends and didn't talk to any people. One hot day, Mr Brown walked on the street. There was a small shop. He looked in the window and saw a doll. He liked the doll because he was lonely. The doll was the same as him. So he brought the doll home, but the doll was bad. DAVID

I saw a good film on my computer yesterday. It's a Chinese film. Its name is White and Black. Two young men are policemen. Something happened in the police bureau. I liked it because they are so handsome. COCO

I've seen a good film in Chinese. The man is popular, everybody likes it. The film talks about a woman who is like a woman, but she is undead. When she wakes up, she hasn't forgotten the man, so the man tries to love her again. I like it, because the man never renounces the woman. YING F

I read a good story called Lost Love. The story is very good. A woman died. She was beautiful. A man didn't have any petrol. He fell in love with the girl, but she was 350 years old because she died in a war. Her village can only live for one day every ten years. The man wants to go there and marry her. The story is very good. I like this story. CATHY

I saw a good film. This film's name is Robot 3. The man is Jackie Chan. He helps everybody to kill the bad robot. He makes a new robot and everybody likes it. I like it, because Jackie Chan is very popular. Everybody likes him. He is very good. LEO

