



LAUGHTER COMES BACK TO OUR HOME

One of the first Prize essays of the 2006(11th) “Read to Discover” Essay Contest

Sponsored by the Education and Science Education Society (ESS)

Author: Dong Jia Jun, winner of “Read to Discover” essay contest

Teacher: Qi Guo Wen

School: Qinghai Province, Mutual Support Autonomous County of Tu People, Tai Zi Village, Shang Tai Elementary School, Third Grade

Library Book Donors: Huang Yu Lin and Huang Zi Hou

Translated by ESS Volunteer Bella Li

There was only mom and I. Since my dad passed away, everything had changed. There was no laughter in our home any more.

Mom was a homemaker. She cooked for me, tended to the pigs and goats. She thought nothing of having to work extra hard to put me through school.

Everyday mom looked depressed, and I felt listless. Our life was filled with loneliness and grief.

Once I got my math test back. I earned a 95% score. My teacher asked us to obtain our parent’s signatures on the back of the papers and bring them back.

I went home and showed my mom the test paper. Holding the paper in hand and checking the score, she said: “You did a good job!” I said, “Mom, the teacher wants your signature.” She froze. After a moment, she sighed and said, “But I can’t write!” It never occurred to me that my mom was not able to write even her own name. I gazed at her hands, what nimble hands! They were good at sewing, embroidering, and almost everything, yet not writing. I grabbed her hands and said, “Mom, I’ll teach you how to write!” Mom was taken by surprise. She kept staring at me that I almost became embarrassed. Her eyes brightened and said, “Good, teach me!” It only took fifteen minutes and Mom was already writing her name. She is truly my mom with nimble hands! I spread out the test paper, and steadily she wrote “You Jun Hua”. Even though the three characters looked nothing like being stylish, yet not missing any stroke either. I tilted my head, took one look at them, then another look, and I smiled. Mom smiled also. That was the first time I saw my mom smile after we lost my dad.

Ever since, after doing my homework, I taught mom some everyday words. We brought back laughter and happiness to our home.

Comment: Young friends, can you tell me why learning to write her own name can bring back the mom’s laughter? Is it because it is fun to write? Not completely. I think it is because we feel fulfilled when we experience a breakthrough in life. And that makes us happy. Our young friend Dong Jia Jun has opened up a window in his mom’s life.