Six Little Tricks

1. How would you put yourself through a keyhole?
2. Can you stand two inches away from someone without being able to touch them?
3. Can you touch a book inside and eat without opening it?
4. Can you leave the room with two legs and come back with two mice?
5. Can you place a pencil on the floor so that no one can jump over it?
6. Can you ring a song backwards in the same time that it takes to sing it forward?

Answers in this page.

Vocabulary

12. Point of view: 視角

例句：He and I looked at this matter from different points of view. (他和我都从不同的角度去看这件事。)

13. Heart of matter: 實質

例句：You should get at the heart of the matter quickly. (你应该迅速抓住问题的核心。)

14. Gentle slope: 渐变

Gentle hill: 轻缓的山丘

15. Foot the bill: 付款

例句：Because he had no money, I footed the bill for him. (因为他没钱，我替他付了账。)

16. Sacrifice too Great: 牺牲太大

No Sacrifice too Great

In St. Louis found a worker caught his right hand in the door of a blaring farmer. Desperately he tried to pull it out, knowing that if he didn’t act quickly it’d be too late. But his efforts proved in vain.

Left with only one choice, he reached into his pocket, took out a pebble and smashed it on his right hand at the door. He lost his hand, but saved his life.

Answers to Six Little Tricks:

1. Write the word “yourself” on a piece of paper and put it through a keyhole.
2. The door doesn’t close between you.
3. Touch it indoors, then go outdoors and touch it.
4. Bring a chair where you return.
5. Place it next to a wall.
6. Stand with your back to the group.

A Little Glass Cat

Dick’s aunt gave him a little glass cat. It was as big as his thumb, and its eyes had wonderful greenish color. When you held it up to the lamp, you could see the magic of—-all bubbles transparent.

Dick was an orphan. His parents died when he was only five years old. He was then placed under the care of his aunt. But he was lonely because he had no friends to play with and no people to talk to. Except his aunt, who was quite nice. To fill the world of the grown-ups, he was always strange and perplexed. So he stroked into his own imaginative world.

Now he had a good companion though it was as deaf as his aunt. At night he lay in bed and talked to the little cat. He couldn’t see it because it was behind him, but he held it in his hand. He whispered confidentially to the cat, “Do you know where darkness comes from? … It comes from inside people."

Comments by James Lai

The story is quite touching. The sorrow in the story is heartbreakingly beautiful. The use of the little glass cat as a companion is a great idea. It is a wonderful piece of writing. The way the story is told is very effective.

Reference: The story is titled “Altogether” in the original Chinese text.”