**Picnics in English**

**THE SCHOOL BELL**

When we pass by a school, the most interesting thing which catches our eyes is the school bell hanging outside the school. It is quite noticeable for a school to be without a bell.

The school bell is so effective that it can cause a vast crowd to assemble, though they are scattered widely. It is no less powerful than a general's command.

A school must have a bell because its sound denotes the beginning of each lesson and the ending of it.

My liking for the school bell is changeable. Sometimes I like it, but sometimes I hate it. I like it when the lesson is dull. I keep looking at the watch and yearning for the bell to ring.

I hate it during the composition period and other interesting lessons because it is rung too soon. I have to write very quickly and strain my brain so much that I feel fatigued afterwards. Also during examinations, I have to give in my paper with a sigh as the essay or the questions are not finished yet.

by Cho Yen Wah
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**PASSENGES FOR APPRECIATION**

**Cry, The Beloved Country**

Alan Paton

"Sadness and fear and hate, how they swell up in the heart and mind .... Cry for the broken tribes, for the law and the custom that is gone by, and cry also for the man who is dead, for the woman and children bereaved (喪夫,喪子,喪女). Cry, the beloved country, these things are not yet at an end. .... Who can enjoy the lovely land .... and the sun that shines down on the earth, when there is fear in the heart? Who can walk quietly in the shadow of the jacinth trees, their beauty is gone to design? How can lie peacefully there, while the darkness holds some secret (暗黙のうちに)." What lover can he soهtiy under the stars, when memory (暗黙のうちに) grows with the measure of their seclusion (暗黙のうちに)?

【注】：Alan Paton 是南非中洲的一位著名作家 behaviour (behaviour)。他的 "Cry, The Beloved Country" 是一部描写新形势下的艰难处境和孤独成员以及另一个民族的面以及前辈的故事，文字简单而深刻。