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 veranda. It is quite familiar 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 even 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 so that I feel fatigued afterwards. Also during examinations, I have to give in my paper with a sigh as the essay or the questions is not finished yet.

by Chong Hin Wah
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Passages for Appreciation

Cry, The Beloved Country
Alon Paton

"Sadness and fear and hate, how they swell up in the heart and mind ....... Cry for the broken tribe, for the law and the custom that is gone and cry also for the man who is dead, for the woman and children becometh (失去......), Cry, the beloved country, these things are not yet at an end ....... Who can enjoy the lovely land ....... and the sun that pours down on the earth, when there is fear in the heart? Who can walk quietly in the shadow of the jacarandas (一種樹種), when their beauty is gone to dress? Who can live peacefully abed, while the darkness holds some secret (某些秘密)? Who loves one he secretly understands the stars, when memory (記憶) grows with the measure of their selection (選擇)?"

【註】：Alon Paton 是南非中的一個著名作家和小說家。他的 "Cry, The Beloved Country" 是一部精彩的小說，也以很大的同情心和積極描寫出當地種族間的友愛和知識的，時時刻刻的女權不佔優勢，而是不佔優勢，選出一個女人的字裡行間，還有最後“部分文字中看來”（字）

Think and Grin

Can You Fill My House?

ACROSS:
1. Sharp-case.
2. Look at.
4. Sate.
5. A: forest tree.
7. The short word of Georgia.
8. Verb to be.
10. Soothe, ally.
11. National Education Association (abbreviation).
12. Obtain.
13. Eater again.
14. The short word of M S.
15. Jump.
17. Internal Revenue Office (abbreviation).

PETER: Do you know where hell is?
MOCK: In Paradise.

PETER: What is it?
MOCK: I mean, I mean in some part of our "Earthly Paradise."

K. T. (Queen's College)

MOTHER: Oh, it will rain cats and dogs.

CHILD: But I hope it will rain kitten and puppies.

L. Y. T. (King's College)

PAUL: If you commit such a sin again your soul would never be saved.

COBBLER: Don't worry. I'll mend it myself.

J. Lai

"Due to" and "Owing to"

In the following sentences "Due to" and "Owing to" are misused—
1) Due to his laziness, he failed in the examination.
2) His failure is not owing to his laziness.
3) In the first sentence "Due to" has an adverbial function but is really an adjectival phrase. In the second sentence "owing to" does the work of an adjective which is also wrong, the sentence should be rephrased as follows—
1) owing to his laziness he failed in the examination.
2) His failure is due to his laziness.

Due to and Owing to

"Such"

The word "such" should always be followed by "as".

Wrong: This is such a book which I expect to see.
Right: This is such a book as I expect to see.

Wrong: His behaviour was such which could not be pardonable.
Right: His behaviour was such as could not be pardonable.

L. Chee
(Pui Ching Middle School)

Answer to "Can you fill my house?"
