**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 verandah. It is quite fascinating for a school bell 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 yawning 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 is not finished yet.

by Choy Him Wah (Rosary Evening School)

**PASSAGES FOR APPRECIATION**

"Sadsus and fear and hate, how they swirl up in the heart and mind..... Cry for the broken brook, for the law and the custom that is gone, and cry also for the man who is dead, for the woman and children beloved... "Cry, the beloved country, these things are not yet at an end..... Who can enjoy the lovely land..... and the sun that moves down on the earth, when there is fear in the heart? Who can walk quietly in the shadow of the jacarandas, their beauty is gone to dream....." Who can live peacefully, while the darkness holds some secrets... "Who loves his life is his own enemy, when memory (as I speak) grows with themeasure of their solitude (as I speak)".

by Alan Paton

"Cry, the Beloved Country"

**Can You Fill My House?**

1. Sharp-concise.
2. Look at.
4. Sale.
5. A forest tree.
7. The short word of Georgia.
8. Verb to be.
10. Scoops.
12. Obtain.
13. The short word of league.
15. Book again.
16. The short word of Semitic.
17. Jump.
18. Absurd.

**PETER: Do you know where it all is?**

MOTHER: Oh, it will rain rats and dogs.

CHILD: But I hope it will rain kittens and poppies.

**Animal Dwellings**

Do you know where the following animals live?

1. Dogs live in .........
2. Pigs live in .........
3. Horses live in .........
4. Bees live in .........
5. Birds live in .........
6. Y. Y. Lam (8th Nat College)
7. Tigers live in .........
8. Eagles live in .........
9. Lions live in .........
10. Pigeons live in .........
11. Wasps live in .........
12. M. C. (St. Louis School)
13. R. T. (National College)
14. Rabbits live in .........
15. Sheep live in .........
16. Squirrels live in .........
17. Monkeys live in .........

by J. G. (Wah Yan College)

**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.

**Such**

"The word "such" should always be followed by "as".
Wrong: This is not such a book which I expected it to be.
Right: This is not such a book as I expected it to be.
Wrong: His behaviour was such which could not be pardoned.
Right: His behaviour was such as could not be pardoned.

by L. Chee

(Pui Ching Middle School)