On the Ferryboat

I always enjoy watching passengers on a ferryboat for it is a miniature of the world in which all walks of life are going on.

The ferryboat I was now in was crowded with people. Most of them were going home from their offices; it was then half-past five. Some were yawning and looking very tired, both mentally and physically. Some were leaning against the gunwales for they had no seats to sit on. Some children sat impatiently and wanted to run about but were forbidden by their parents.

The girl sitting next to me was a man about thirty; he was reading a newspaper absorbedly. A pretty girl on my left was gazing at the sun; she seemed to be meditating. Two persons who sat before me were belated; they were discussing some business matter. Several schoolgirls sat behind me; they were chattering and laughing all the way.

Before the ferryboat had hardly reached the pier, the people rushed to the gangway. When it was finally lowered they dashed out like a wave of men. They came and went, so hurriedly. This, above all, interested me most.

Christina Song (Sacred Heart School)

My Dislike

In truth I really dislike and even hate my desk. I do not know why everybody should have a desk, a very tidy and good one but not 1. Is it because my desk is disliked?

As a matter of fact my desk is quite pretty, and I have tried my best to keep it clean. So you may feel it strange that I dislike it so deeply. But you will understand while I am opening my desk...

"E-2."

Do you hear? what a piercing sound it makes! It pricks my ears and my nerves. Everyday I open it in "E-2" and "E" noisily so that every classroom looks at me. It seems as if it takes delight in laughing at my unsuccess. Oh, what an insult!

Really my desk is like a talkative and annoying woman. Do you like a chatter-box? I don't like it.

Christopher (Pui Sun College)

A Chinese Historical Story Retold—

How To Weigh The Elephant?

At the time of the Ch'ou Hsun Dynasty, when Cho-cho was then the prime minister, an elephant was offered to China from a foreign country. When Cho-cho and other officials went to view the elephant, Cho-cho suddenly said, 'It is really a huge elephant, but who knows what its weight is? Nobody could answer his question. A little boy came before Cho and said, 'It is quite easy. Bring the elephant to a river in the ship and make a mark at the place where water reaches the side of the ship. Drag the elephant ashore and then put stones into the ship till the water reaches the same mark. Then weigh them one by one. The total weight is the true weight of the animal.'

Cho was very satisfied with that answer. And do you know who this boy was? He was Chiu-ch'ung, the son of Chiu, the lord of the north.

B-8 (Wah Yan, H. F. C.)

A Night Promenade At Ch'eng-t'ien

On the twelfth night of the tenth moon of the sixth year of Yung-ch'ing, I had wandered and was going to bed, when the moonlight entered my door, and I got up happy of joy. I thought there was no one to share this happiness with me. So I walked out over the "Jung-yen" Temple to look for Hsing-hai. Hsing-hai had not yet gone to bed. So we passed about in the yard. The yard looked like a transparent pool with the shadows of the trees cast by the moonlight. Isn't there a moon on every night? And aren't there bamboo and pine-trees everywhere? Only there are few careless people like the two of us.

From "My Country and My People" by Li Yu-Tung