Richard Montgomery
High School

Chinese Program

Summer Reading Packet
For Entering

AP Chinese, IB Chinese 5

Chinese 5 (AP Chinese, IB Chinese 5)
1. Read the following 4 Chinese folk stories

   a. 牛郎和織女 (牛郎和织女)
   b. 孟姜女哭長城 (孟姜女哭长城)
   c. 白蛇傳 (白蛇传)
   d. 梁山伯 與祝英台 (梁山伯与祝英台)

2. Answer each story’s questions (3-4) on a new 3 ring binder sheet

3. Turn in the 4 pages of questions/answers on the first day of class.
Chinese folklore includes songs, dances, puppetry, and tales. It often tells stories of human nature, historical or legendary events, love, and the supernatural, or stories explaining natural phenomena and distinctive landmarks. The main influences on Chinese folk tales have been Taoism, Confucianism and Buddhism. Some folk tales may have arrived from India or West Asia along with Buddhism; others have no known western counterparts, but are widespread throughout East Asia.

The Chinese folk stories are popularized among Chinese and have been deeply rooted as a part of culture in Chinese people's life. And folk stories are part of Chinese folk literature, which can be taken as a mirror to reflect the traditional living styles, values, customs, and festivals of ordinary Chinese. In this unit, six interesting folk stories are selected as representatives to guide you on a tour to the wonderland of truth, conscience and beauty.
Ní zhī dào zhōngguó de qín rén jié ma?

Niú lán zhī nǚ yǔ qī xī jié de gù shì

从 前，牛 家 庄 有 个 聪 明、忠 厚 的 小 伙 子 叫 牛 郎。由 于 父 母 早 早 就 去 世 了，他 跟 着 哥 哥、嫂 子 生 活。嫂 子 非 常 狠 毒，常 常 虐 待 他。为 了 把 牛 郎 赶 出 家 门，她 想 尽 了 各 种 办 法。一 天，嫂 子 让 他 去 放 牛，给 了 他 九 头 牛，却 让 他 带 十 头 牛 回 家。

牛 郎 个 人 赶 着 牛 进 了 山，山 上 有 树 林 和 草 地，他 坐 在 树 下 叹 气：“怎 样 才 能 带 十 头 牛 回 家 呢？”这 时，有 位 白 胡 子 老 爷 爷 走 了 过 来，问 他 为 什 么 叹 气。牛 郎 说：“嫂 子 让 我 带 十 头 牛 回 家，但 我 只 有 九 头 牛，我 该 怎 么 办 呢？”
爷爷听了，笑着对他说：“别难过，牛郎爬过几座山，走了很远的路，终于找到了那头生病的老牛。老牛病得很厉害，牛郎去给老牛割了一捆草，连续喂了它三天。老牛吃饱了，突然抬起头说起来话来：‘我是天上的灰牛仙人，因为触犯了天规被贬到人间，摔断了腿，不能动了。我的伤需要用百花生的露水洗一个月才能好。’牛郎不怕辛苦，白天采花上的露水为老牛疗伤，晚上在老牛身边睡觉。牛郎细心地照顾了老牛一个月。老牛病好后，牛郎高高兴兴地赶着十头牛回家了。

喂养：to feed

厉害：seriously

触犯：to violate (the law)

天规：rules of heaven

贬：to delegate

露水：dew

疗伤：to treat an injury
回家，很诧异，也很生气。以后，嫂子又用了些办法想把牛郎赶出家门，但是都被老牛一一化解了。

有一次，嫂子趁老牛去河边喝水，诬陷牛郎偷家里的米，把牛郎赶出了家门。牛郎恳求嫂子把那头老牛送给他做伴，嫂子同意了。

从此以后，牛郎就和老牛相依为命。一天，天上的七个仙女一起到人间游玩，去河里洗澡。老牛把牛郎带到河边，躲在一棵树后。老牛让牛郎去偷一个仙女的衣服。当仙女们洗完澡后，个个都穿上了衣服，只有最小的七仙女——织女发现自己的衣服不见了，十分着急。她的姐姐们听到天庭的钟声，不得不一个个地飞回了天庭，只留下织女一个人在河边伤心地哭泣。这时老牛让牛
郎把衣服还给织女。原来这七个仙女都是天帝和王母娘娘的女儿，织女是最小、最漂亮和最善良的一位。因为错过了回天庭的时间，再也回不去了，所以织女很伤心。牛郎觉得内疚极了，因此把织女带回家，好好地照顾她。久而久之，织女发现牛郎是一个热情、善良的小伙子，两个人相爱并结了婚。

牛郎和织女结婚以后，男耕女织，感情很好。他们生了一男一女两个孩子，一家人生活得很幸福。织女觉得人间的生活非常美好，再也不想回天庭了。但是这件事被天帝知道了，因为神仙不能与凡人结婚，所以他让王母娘娘亲自到人间，强行把织女带回天上。
牛郎没有办法上天，非常伤心。老牛告诉牛郎，在它死后，可以用它的皮做成鞋，穿着就可以以上天了。牛郎按照老牛的话做了，穿上牛皮做的鞋，牵着自己的儿女，一起乘着云朵上天去追织女。眼看快追到了，王母娘娘拔下头上的金簪在面前一划，一条天河出现了，牛郎和织女被分隔在天河的两岸，只能面对面哭泣。但他们的爱情感动了喜鹊，千
万只喜鹊飞来，搭成了一座桥。

注释

搭桥：to build a bridge
农历：lunar calendar
相会：to meet each other

后来，人们把这一天叫做“七夕节”或“七巧节”，是情侣相会、表达爱慕之情的日子。这就是中国情人节的由来。

问题

1. 牛郎和织女是怎么认识的？
2. 牛郎和织女为什么不能在一起？
3. 牛郎和织女最后相见了吗？
4. 你能用自己的话简单说一下中国情人节的由来吗？

Cultural Note

Qixi Festival (七夕节)

The Qixi is also known as the Magpie Festival and Chinese Valentine’s Day. It falls on the seventh day of the seventh lunar month on the Chinese calendar. Qixi originates from the Han Dynasty. It came from people’s worship of the stars. On Qixi, a festoon is placed in the yard and single or newly married women in the household make an offering, consisting of fruit, flowers, tea, and facial powder (makeup), to Niulang and Zhinü. After finishing the
offering, half of the facial powder is thrown on the roof and the other half divided among the young women of the household. It is believed that by doing this, the women will be as beauty as Zhinü. Another tradition is for young girls to throw a sewing needle into a bowl full of water on the night of Qixi as a test of embroidery skills. If the needle floats on top of the water instead of sinking, it proves the girl is a skilled embroideress. Single women also pray for finding a good husband in the future. And the newly married women pray to be pregnant quickly in the future.

The Story of Niulang and Zhinü

A young cowherd named Niulang lived with his elder brother and sister-in-law. His sister-in-law did not like him and wanted to kick him out of the family. One day, she gave Niulang nine oxen, but asked him to bring back ten oxen. Niulang was very sad and thought he could never come back with ten oxen. Fortunately, an old man told him that there was a sick ox in the woods which Niulang could bring back. Niulang went and cured the old ox and brought him back home.

His sister-in-law was surprised. She kept trying to think of ways to get rid of Niulang. Eventually, Niulang left home with the old ox. With the help of his ox, Niulang stole the clothes of Zhinü — the seventh daughter of the Emperor and Queen of Heaven, when she was taking bath in the river. Zhinü fell in love with Niulang, and they got married without the knowledge of the gods. Zhinü proved to be a wonderful wife, and Niulang to be a good husband. They lived happily and had two children. But the god eventually found out that Zhinü had married a human being. He was furious and sent his wife to bring Zhinü back to heaven. On Earth, Niulang was very upset that his wife was taken back to heaven. His ox told him to use his skin to make a pair of shoes, telling him that once he wears this pair of shoes, he will be able to go up to Heaven to find his wife. After the ox died, Niulang put on the skin shoes, and carried his two beloved children off to Heaven to look for Zhinü. The goddess discovered this and was very angry. Taking out her hairpin, the goddess of Heaven scratched a wide river in the sky to separate the two lovers forever. But once a year, on the seventh night of the seventh moon, all the magpies in the world take pity on them and fly up into heaven to form a bridge, so that the lovers may be together for a single night. From then on, the seventh night of the seventh moon became the Chinese Valentine’s Day.
你知道中国的长城吗？你知道关于长城的传说吗？

孟姜女哭长城

秦朝的时候，有一户姓孟的人家，种了一棵瓜苗。瓜苗顺着墙爬到邻居姜家结出了一个大瓜。瓜熟了，一边在孟家，一边在姜家，所以两家人就把瓜剖开，一看，里面有个又白又胖的小姑娘，于是就给她起了个名字叫孟姜女。

孟姜女长大后，美丽聪明，大家都很喜欢她。

这时候，秦始皇开始到处抓壮丁修长城。有一个叫范喜良的读书人从家里逃了出来。他口渴，想找点水喝，忽然听见人的喊声和马的叫声，原来这里

注释
瓜：melon
熟：ripe
壮丁：male adult
正在抓人呢！他来不及跑，就翻过了旁边的一堵矮墙。原来这墙后面就是孟家的后花园。这时候，孟姜女正在花园里散步，忽然看见范喜良，她刚想喊，范喜良急忙说：“小姐，别喊！我是逃难的，救救我吧！”

孟姜女一看，范喜良是个读书人的样子，长得很英俊，对他一见钟情。后来两人结婚了。

结婚还不到三天，突然闯进来一伙官兵，把范喜良抓去修长城了。

孟姜女每天盼着丈夫回来，可是过了一年，连一封信都没有。孟姜女很担心，她连续几个晚上不睡觉为丈夫做衣服，决定亲自去长城找丈夫。她整理好行李，告别了父母，一直往北走，饿

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<tr>
<td>翻</td>
<td>to climb over</td>
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<td>墙</td>
<td>wall</td>
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<tr>
<td>逃难</td>
<td>to flee from a disaster</td>
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<td>一见钟情</td>
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<td>闯</td>
<td>to dash into</td>
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<td>盼</td>
<td>to look forward to</td>
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<td>行李</td>
<td>luggage</td>
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<tr>
<td>告别</td>
<td>to say goodbye to</td>
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一日路上，不管经历多少艰难困苦，孟姜女都没有掉下一颗眼泪。终于，靠着顽强的毅力和对丈夫深深的爱，她来到了长城。这时的长城已经修得很长了。孟姜女四处找，却始终不见丈夫的踪影。最后，她向人打听：“你们这儿有个叫范喜良的人吗？”那人说：“嗯，是有这么个范喜良的。”孟姜女一听，开心极了！她连忙问：“你知道他在哪儿？

**Notes**

馒头：steamed bun

溪水：spring water

艰难困苦：difficulties and hardships

靠：to depend on

顽强：persistent

毅力：will power

始终：from beginning to end

踪影：trace

打听：to inquire

连忙：promptly; at once
那 人 叹 了 一 口 气 ： “ 哎 ， 已 经 死 了 ！ 死 的 人 太 多 ， 埋 不 过 来 ， 尸 体 都 被 埋 到 长 城 里 了 ！”

听到 这 个 消 息 ， 孟 姜 女 眼 前 一 黑 ， 一 串 心 酸 ， 大 哭 起 来 ， 整 整 哭 了 三 天 三 夜 。 最 后 ， 连 天 地 都 感 动 了 。 天 越 来 越 阴 沉 ， 风 越 来 越 猛 烈 ， 只 听 “ 哗 啦 ” 一 声 ， 一 段 长 城 被 埋 倒 了 。 露 出 来 的 正 是 范 善 良 的 尸 体 。 孟 姜 女 的 眼 泪 滴 在 了 他 的 脸 上 ， 她 终 于 见 到 了 自 己 心 爱 的 丈 夫 ， 但 他 却 再 也 看 不 到 她 了 。

为 了 修 长 城 ， 成 千 上 万 的 百 姓 献 出 了 生 命 ， 孟 姜 女 哭 倒 长 城 的 故 事 也 一 代 一 代 地 流 传 下 来 。

**问题**

1. 孟 姜 女 是 怎 么 认 识 范 善 良 的 ？
2. 范 善 良 为 什 么 被 官 兵 捕 了 ？
3. 孟 姜 女 是 怎 样 找 到 丈 夫 的 ？
Cultural Note

Qin Shi Huang (秦始皇, 259 BC—210 BC), personal name Ying Zheng (嬴政), was the king of the Chinese State of Qin from 246 BC to 221 BC during the Warring States Period. He became the first emperor of a unified China in 221 BC. He ruled until his death in 210 BC at the age of 49. Calling himself the First Emperor after China’s unification, Qin Shi Huang is a pivotal figure in Chinese history, ushering nearly two millennia of imperial rule. After unifying China, he and his chief advisor, Li Si, passed a series of major economic and political reforms. He undertook gigantic projects, including the first version of the Great Wall of China.

The Great Wall (长城); The Qin was constantly fighting nomadic tribes to the north and northwest. The Xiongnu tribe, in particular, could not be defeated and subdued, thus the campaign was tiring and unsuccessful. Therefore, to prevent the Xiongnu from encroaching on the northern frontier any longer, the emperor ordered the construction of an immense defensive wall. This wall, for whose construction hundreds of thousands of men were mobilized, and an unknown number died, is a precursor to the current Great Wall of China. It connected numerous state walls which had been built during the previous four centuries, a network of small walls linking river defenses to impassable cliffs. A great monument of China to this day, the Great Wall still stands, open to the public to challenge its million steps. However, the Great Wall, for all its majesty, is also a silent monument to untold stories of unimaginable hardship, cruelty and starvation. Fable along with fact has survived to this day and the story of Meng Jiangnui is one of the all-time favorites.

Abstract

Meng Jiangnui’s Bitter Weeping

In the ancient times, the Meng family and the Jiang family were neighbours. One day, in their backyards, a watermelon was broken; one half dropped in Meng’s garden, the other half dropped in Jiang’s garden. In this melon, there was a little girl. The two families named her Meng Jiangnui.
Meng Jiangnui grew up and became a beautiful lady. One day, she saved a scholar called Fan Xiliang and then fell in love with him. The two lovers got married, but unfortunately, Fan was shortly drafted by the Qin authorities to build the Great Wall. Meng Jiangnui heard no news of her husband for one year, so she decided to undertake the dangerous journey to look for him alone.

Meng Jiangnui started the arduous journey by walking in a general northerly direction and plotting the route as she went along. She walked and walked, climbed mountain after mountain, crossed river after river. Despite suffering from hunger, blistered feet and having to endure the biting cold weather, she continued obstinately along her journey. Finally, she arrived at her destination. Every worker she met knew nothing about the whereabouts of her husband. Day after day she persisted with her enquiries, but nobody seemed to know her husband. Finally she came to a group of workers who had worked with her husband before, they told her that Fan Xiliang had died and been buried under the Great Wall.

After hearing this news, she cried and cried. She cried unceasingly for many days and many nights. Her grief was so great that God had pity on her and raised a big storm. The section of the wall under which Fan Xiliang was buried, collapsed and delivered forth her husband's body. Finally Meng Jiangnui saw her husband.

Many people devoted their lives to the building of the Great Wall and Meng Jiangnui's story was passed from generation to generation.
西湖边，断桥下，发生过一段美丽的爱情故事。

白蛇传

清明时节，西湖岸边风光明媚。从湖边走来两个美丽的姑娘，她们是两条修炼成人的蛇妖，因为羡慕人间的生活，来到西湖边游玩。白蛇是姐姐，叫白素贞；青蛇是妹妹，叫小青。

这时，天下起了大雨，白素贞和小青没有带伞，到处找地方躲雨。突然，她们觉得头顶多了一把伞，转身一看，有一位斯文英俊的年轻人在为她们撑伞遮雨。白素贞和这个年轻人互相看了一眼，不由而同地红了脸。小青看到后，忙说：“谢谢你，请问您贵姓？”年轻人回答：“我姓许，叫许仙，就
住在断桥边。”白素贞和小青也介绍了自己。

从此，他们三人常常见面，
白素贞和许仙的感情越来越好，
不久他们结婚了，还开了一家药店。白素珍和许仙一起给病人看病，小青也在药店里帮忙。因为他们治好了很多病人，而且给穷人看病不收费，所以药店的生意越来越好，人们也亲切地称白素贞为“白娘子”。“
金山寺有一个和尚叫法海，他会捉妖。有一天，他路过药店，看到白娘子正在给人看病，发现白娘子原来是蛇妖，就悄悄地跑去告诉了许仙。许仙怎么也不相信，他对法海说：“我娘子心地善良、美丽大方、能干贤惠，怎么可能做蛇妖呢？”法海说：“你不信，可以试一试。明天是端午节，大家都要喝雄黄酒避邪。人喝了雄黄酒没有关系，妖精如果喝了，就会现出原形。”

许仙半信半疑，第二天，他去酒店买了一罐雄黄酒，让白娘子陪他一起喝，庆祝节日。喝完酒后，白娘子觉得全身不舒服，就回到卧室休息去了。许仙偷偷跟着白娘子来到卧室门口，躲在门后
观察白娘子。只见白娘子在床上翻来翻去，突然，一条蛇的尾巴从被子里伸了出来。紧接着，蛇的身体和头全都伸出来了，许仙吓得昏迷过去了。

白娘子酒醒后恢复了人形，发现许仙倒在了卧室门口，十分着急。为了把丈夫救活，她来到遥远的昆仑山摘灵芝草。灵芝草是一种能让死人复活的草药，但是非常稀少，一千年才有一棵，因此被山神守护。为了得到灵芝草，白娘子与守护灵芝草的山神恶战。最后，山神被白娘子感动了，把灵芝草送给了她。

许仙被救活以后，非常感激白娘子。他对白娘子说：“无论你是妖还是人，我都会永远和你在一起。”从此以后，夫妻俩更加
恩爱了。

法海得知许仙不但没有离开白娘子，两人的感情反而一天比一天好，心里非常生气。为了把白娘子和许仙分开，法海把许仙骗到了金山寺，关了起来。白娘子等不到许仙回来，心里很着急。当她得知许仙被法海关起来，就带着小青来到了金山寺，求法海释放许仙。

法海见了白娘子，说道：“大胆妖精，我劝你还是快点儿离开人间，否则别怪我不客气了！”白娘子为了把许仙从金山寺救出来，拔下头上的金簪，对着风摇了几下，长江的水很快就涨了起来，向金山寺直扑过去。法海看见水快要漫上金山寺了，连忙脱下袈裟，袈裟变成了一道……
长堤，把水拦在了寺外。水越来越高，河堤也随之长高。因为白娘子已经怀孕了，她实在精疲力竭，斗不过法海，最后变回了白蛇。法海将白蛇收进他的金钵，压在了雷峰塔下。他终于把许仙和白娘子拆散了。

小青逃离金山寺后，在深山里勤奋地修炼了十几年，最后找到法海，打败了他。法海逃到了螃蟹的肚子里，白娘子被解救了。
出来。从此，白娘子、许仙和他们的孩子幸福地生活在一起，再也不分开了。

问题
1. 白娘子和许仙是怎么认识的？
2. 白娘子为什么受到人们的喜爱？
3. 法海是用什么办法让许仙相信白娘子是一条蛇的？
4. 法海是怎么把白娘子压在雷峰塔下的？

清明节（The Qingming Festival）可以被称为清明节，清明节是传统的清明节，清明节，清明节，清明节，清明节。它是一个传统的中国节日，通常在清明节之后的第104天（或从春分到春分），通常在每年的4月5日左右。从天文角度来看，它也是一个节气。清明节是清明节的第一天，是第五个节气，清明节。它表示一年中一个适合外出享受春天绿意和祭祖的日子。

清明节是一个祭祀祖先的日子。年轻人和老人在祖先的墓前祈祷，清扫墓地，供上食物、茶、酒、筷子、纸钱以及祭品。祖先的崇拜在亚洲，尤其是农民中，有很长的历史。有些人会在清明节带柳枝去祭拜，或在门前放柳枝来驱邪。他们认为柳枝可以驱邪。

西湖（Xihu）是位于浙江省杭州市的著名淡水湖。西湖是杭州的象征，也是中国最美丽的风景之一。宋朝时期，著名诗人苏轼将西湖与西子湖相比，夸奖道：“西湖水光潋滟晴方好，山色空蒙雨亦奇。平湖秋月，三潭印月，断桥残雪，雷峰夕照，这些景色都是西湖的特色。”西湖被分为东湖和西湖两部分，面积约为6平方公里，周长15公里。西湖周围有三面环山的风景名胜，有无数的游客来此观赏。
centuries. West Lake is not only famous for its picturesque landscape, it is also associated with many scholars, national heroes and revolutionary martyrs, thus embracing many aspects of Chinese culture. In addition, many ancient buildings, stone caves, and engraved tablets in the surrounding areas are among the most cherished national treasures of China, carrying significant artistic value.

Legend of White Snake

Lady Bai Suzhen was a white snake with a human being’s shape. Bai Suzhen and her sister, Xiaoqing, a green-blue snake, met a young man, Xu Xian, at the Qingming Festival on the banks of Xihu. Lady Bai and Xu Xian quickly fell in love and got married. They opened a medical clinic. Because Bai Suzhen often offered free treatment for the poor, people loved her and called her Madame Bai.

One day, a monk from the Jinshan Temple, named Fahai, told Xu Xian that his wife was a snake with an evil spirit. Xu Xian was coaxed into having his wife drink the Xionghuang Wine by the monk during Chinese Dragon Boat Festival. After drinking the wine, Bai Suzhen changed from human to snake. Xu Xian was so scared by the snake shape of his wife that he lost consciousness. For saving her husband, Bai went up to the heaven to embezzle immortal grass, and Xu Xian was brought back to life. Xu Xian thanked his wife for saving his life and they lived on even happier than before.

But the monk still wanted to catch the snake. So he locked Xu Xian in the Jinshan Temple. Bai fought with Fahai to have her husband back. She flooded the Jinshan Temple. Because Bai was pregnant, she was defeated and imprisoned under the Leifeng Tower by Fahai. Dozens of years later, Xiaoqing defeated Fahai and rescued Lady Bai. The monk Fahai ran into a crab to hide.
你知道中文版的孙悟空与朱丽叶的故事吗？

梁山伯与祝英台

古时候，祝家庄有个姑娘叫祝英台，她聪明好学，很想去省城的学校读书，但那时候女孩子不能去学校学习。为了上学，祝英台把自己打扮成男孩子的样子。得到父母的同意后，祝英台上路了。路上祝英台遇见了一位也是去省城上学的年轻人，叫梁山伯。他们互相介绍自己，一起喝酒、作诗，结伴而行。

在学校，梁山伯和祝英台常常一起吟诗作画，成了最好的朋友。但是祝英台是女孩儿这个秘密梁山伯却一直不知道。三年过去了，两人的友谊越来越深，祝
祝英台不知不觉爱上了梁山伯。

一天，祝英台收到一封家书，说她父亲得了重病，让她马上回家。祝英台离开学校之前，想暗示梁山伯自己是女孩儿，于是她告诉梁山伯自己有个妹妹，和自己长得很像，让他来提亲。老实的梁山伯信以为真。临走时，祝英台把自己的耳环作为信物让人转交给梁山伯，梁山伯拿到耳环才知道祝英台其实是个女孩儿。他回忆起自己和祝英台在一起的日子，泪流满面：“我怎么这么傻呢？”他急忙去了祝家。

祝英台回家以后发现父亲没有生病，而是骗她回家，让她和地主的儿子结婚。祝英台心里只有梁山伯，她想了很多办法逃
跑，但是都没有成功，反而被父亲关了起来。

梁山伯来到祝家以后，听说祝英台和别人订婚了，后悔莫及。为了再见祝英台一面，梁山伯晚上偷偷地从窗户爬进了英台的房间。英台看到梁山伯，悲喜交加，梁山伯也十分伤心，两人约定：“就算今生不能在一起，死后也要同葬在一个坟墓里。”正在这时，祝英台的母亲来了，梁山伯不得不从窗户逃走了。

梁山伯回家后，由于过度伤心病倒了，不久就死了。英台听到梁山伯去世的消息，伤心欲绝。

几天后就是祝英台的婚礼。婚礼那天，英台坐在迎亲的轿子里，经过梁山伯的坟墓时，她让轿子停了下来。她走到梁山伯的坟前
放声痛哭。这时晴朗的天空突然变得阴暗起来，狂风暴雨，电闪雷鸣，“轰”的一声，梁山伯的坟墓裂开了一个大口，英台毫不犹豫地跳进了坟墓。很快，坟墓又合上了。

这时，风也停了，雨也住了，天空又恢复了晴朗。一对美丽的蝴蝶从坟墓里飞了出来。一只飞到哪里，另一只就跟着飞到哪里，
他 们 越 飞 越 高 , 越 飞 越 远 , 渐 渐 看
不 见 了。 人 们 说 这 对 蝴 蝶 是 梁 山
伯 与 祝 英 台 变 的, 他 们 活 着 的 时
候 不能 在 一起, 死 后 变 成 了 蝴
蝶, 永 不 分 离。

1. 祝 英 台 为 什 么 要 打 扮 成 男 孩 的 样 子?
2. 梁 山 伯 是 怎 么 知 道 祝 英 台 是 女 孩 的?
3. 祝 英 台 结 婚 那 天 发 生 了 什 么 事 情?
4. 你 知 道 类 似 的 爱 情 故 事 吗?

Cultural Note

Traditional Chinese Marriage is a ceremonial ritual within Chinese societies that involve a marriage established by pre-arrangement between families. Chinese marriage became a custom between 402 BC and 221 BC. Despite China’s long history and many different geographical areas, there are basically six rituals, generally known as the three letters and six rules of etiquette (三书六礼).

Six rules of etiquette

- Proposal: An unmarried boy’s parents must first find a potential daughter-in-law. They must then employ a matchmaker whose job is to act as a mediator in what can be a very delicate situation, especially since the two families may hardly know each other. He must be sensitive to embarrassing issues and try to assuage any conflicts of interest between the two families.

- Birth dates: If the selected girl and her parents do not object to the proposal, the matchmaker will match the birth dates in accordance with the predictions of the Suan Ming.

- Bride price (Betrothal gifts): At this point, the bridegroom’s family arranges for the matchmaker to present the bride’s price (betrothal gifts), including the betrothal letter, to
the bride’s family.

- **Wedding gifts:** The groom’s family will then send an elaborate array of food, cakes, and religious items to the bride’s family.

- **Arranging the wedding:** Before the wedding ceremony, the two families arrange the wedding day together to make sure the date is auspicious.

- **Wedding Ceremony:** The final ritual is the actual wedding ceremony where bride and groom become a married couple. Unlike the West, bride and groom need to wear a red coloured dress and suit.

Before modern times, women were not allowed to choose the person they married. Instead, the family of the bride picked the prospective husband. Marriages were chosen based upon the needs of reproduction and honor, as well as the needs of the father and husband.

**Chinese Traditional Funeral:** The funeral rites in China originate from the concept of the undying spirit and the worship of ancestors. The Confucian School regards funeral rites as the embodiment of ethics. Buddhism, which is popular in China, even takes death as the start of reincarnation. Because of this, corresponding elements are added to the funeral:

- **Sable** is a white dress worn for condolences given to the deceased. Sables worn by juniors for mourning the elderly are called mourning dress.

- **Condolences:** Before offering their condolences, family members of the departed must set up a mourning hall. An altar is set up with offerings — candles, censer and a lamp which burns day and night — and is placed before the bier.

- **Coffin:** After the condolences, the deceased is placed in the coffin. The dutiful son washes the eyes of the departed to ensure a bright and happy reincarnation. It’s called “opening the light.”

- **Seven Weeks of Mourning:** Usually the family members of the deceased will conduct “seven weeks of mourning” upon the death of the person, to help the dead to acquire happiness thereafter.

- **Burial:** Before sending the coffin to the graveyard, people burn paper resembling human figures, horses, and money as an offering to the dead. This harks back to the ancient institution of burying the living with the dead. The funeral ceremony comes to an end after the completion of the sacrificial altar in front of the grave.
Butterfly Lovers

Zhu Yingtai was a girl who liked to study very much. However, in those days, girls were not permitted to attend school. But she persuaded her father to let her go to school disguised as a boy. She met Liang Shanbo on the way to school in Hangzhou. They got along with each other very well and became best friends at school.

Three years passed. Liang Shanbo had still not realised that Yingtai was a girl. One day, Yingtai received a letter from home, asking her return as soon as possible. Zhu Yingtai had fallen in love with Liang Shanbo, but she did not know how to tell him the truth of her gender. She implied that she had a sister who looked very much like her and persuaded Liang Shanbo to propose to her. Zhu Yingtai left Liang Shanbo an earring as a keepsake for love. Finally, Liang Shanbo learnt the truth. He went to Yingtai’s home to propose to her, but it was too late, because by this time, Yingtai had already been forced into an engagement with another man. Shanbo was so sad and regretful that he fell into illness and soon died.

On Yingtai’s wedding day, when passing by the tomb of Liang Shanbo, she came out from the sedan and cried loudly and sadly. A sudden thunder-storm came and the tomb split open with a loud noise. Yingtai, who loved Shanbo deeply, jumped into the tomb. Then the tomb closed. After a while, the wind ceased and the clouds scattered. Flowers were dancing in the wind. Two beautiful butterflies flew elegantly out of the tomb. Freely and happily, they floated around in the sunshine. They were the spirits of lovers who had pursued their love.