

Vocabulary

Abroad (adv.)

a place that is outside of the country you live in

Confident (adj.)

believing in one's ability to do things well

Permanent (adj.)

being likely to continue for a long time, not temporary.

PART ONE

Good morning. My name is Mary Poon, and I used to be a pupil here. <sup>Q1</sup> I started secondary 1 in 1994, but left in 1998 when my parents moved abroad. <sup>Q2</sup> Just like you, I felt quite nervous when I first came to the school.

In secondary 1 and secondary 2, I concentrated on my studies. But towards the end of <sup>Q3</sup> secondary 2, I felt more confident and started getting involved in school activities. I found I was good at speaking in public, and I was asked to be the Master of Ceremonies at a school event because of that. I took part in several Inter-School Speech Festivals and also entered a dubbing competition organised by the Students Union – and won first prize!

Now I am a permanent voice actor at a local TV station, but it hasn't been easy. To be a <sup>Q4</sup> good voice actor, you have to speak fluently, clearly and naturally. I had to work hard on my pronunciation. To get it right, I spent hours listening to cartoons and foreign films. Doing the recordings was very tiring. The first time I dubbed a short video clip, it took me 4 hours! The video was only 10 minutes long!

I've had a lot of encouragement from my parents and teachers. <sup>Q5</sup> I'll never forget what one teacher told me, 'The only place you find success before work is in the dictionary'. That <sup>Q5</sup> teacher is someone you all know, our Principal Ms Agnes Lam. Then, she was my amazing English teacher.

I hope my story has inspired you to pursue your goals despite any difficulties you may face. Remember, challenges are there to make you stronger, and make life more interesting.

PART TWO

**Alice:** It's so sad Miss Chan is leaving at the end of the year! We should have a collection and buy her a gift.

**Matthew:** I think we can do better than that. Why don't we have a farewell party for her as well?

<sup>Q6</sup> **Alice:** That's a good idea! We could have it after school, on the last day of term.

**Matthew:** <sup>Q6</sup> The last day of term is okay, but I think it would be better to have it at lunch time. Everyone might want to rush off after school.

**Alice:** Okay. That would work as we have her class before lunch on Fridays. We can get the food as soon as the class finishes.

<sup>Q7</sup> **Matthew:** <sup>Q7</sup> Get it when the class finishes? Won't that take too long?

**Alice:** You're right. <sup>Q8.1</sup> Let's buy it on the way to school and <sup>Q8.2</sup> hide it in the classroom cupboard with her gift. In this way, we can <sup>Q8.3</sup> give her the gift as soon as the lesson ends.

<sup>Q8.4</sup> **Matthew:** <sup>Q8.4</sup> That's certainly better! I can ask my mum to make a cake. We can have that for dessert. Shall we have sandwiches for lunch? We can have them cold. It's easier to bring than hot food.

**Alice:** Yes, that's fine. So, what gift shall we get her? I'm sure she would like some flowers.

<sup>Q9</sup> **Matthew:** <sup>Q9</sup> Maybe, but flowers die quite quickly. Let's also give her something she can keep for a long time.

**Alice:** What about a nice scarf? <sup>Q9</sup> She wears a scarf almost every day at school.

Vocabulary

Collection (n.)

a sum of money obtained by receiving small amounts from many people