



Creative Writing  
**Fiction**  
Group 2

# New Tales of China's Inventions

*Alliance Primary School Kowloon Tong, Chan, Lok Tung – 11*

In ancient China, the world was a very different place filled with natural powers and mystic abilities. There was a man named Shennong. He was the emperor of China many centuries ago and he was also the man who was known to be the father of “tea”. Though tea was from long ago, it is still a popular drink that we enjoy today. However, the birth of tea was not an easy path for Shennong.

When Shennong was a little child, he was always curious about what he would do in the future. The future was always a big mystery to him, as he was a special child born with a special ability. He was very thin and he had a crystal tummy. This meant that whatever he took in could be seen by anyone around him. The different food and drinks he would ingest would turn his organs into bright colours, mostly yellow, red and blue, as the nutrients were absorbed by his body. This also meant that if he took in poison, people could instantly see the effects on his body. This ability was so rare that the royal family wanted him to live in the palace. They wanted him to try all the food that was served to them before they ate it, to be sure that they would not be poisoned. They distinctly instructed him to keep his crystal tummy a secret from the rest of the world, so no one else would use him. He was happy with this life but he somehow felt that he could put this special ability into better use. He studied different books and literature about food and drinks and somehow became very curious about adding nonpoisonous elements into them to elevate the flavours of the food and drinks. This impressed the royal family. As he grew up, the royal family saw him as part of their family and loved how he always placed responsibility and a pure heart before anything else. When he was of age, it was decided that he would be crowned the emperor of China.

Being the emperor of China was a really important job that he needed to fulfill. He was a good emperor and the people of China loved him dearly. He had amazing leadership skills and was always kind to others. He was willing to listen to people's advice and learned to be just.

As a good emperor he led his people into prosperity but hid the fact about his crystal tummy. One day a merchant came over and gave him some root crop food to taste. As a courtesy he tried it, but instantly his crystal tummy fogged up and turned pitch black. He knew in an instant that this man had given him something poisonous. However, being a kind hearted emperor he did not want to blame the merchant right away. He stood up and walked into his garden to try to alleviate the pain he was feeling. He asked his servants to boil some water under his favourite Camellia tree. He thought about his life and how he has been blessed tenfold. He was grateful for his crystal tummy that had given him a chance to be who he was today. As he lay down under the tree, next to the boiling water, he felt he was ready to breathe his last breath. Suddenly, a leaf from the Camellia tree fell into his boiling water. He took his cup and had a sip. A full new flavour filled his mouth. His eyes started to glow in delight. As the tea made its way to his crystal tummy, all the organs it touched turned bright green. With a sudden gust of energy Shennong sat up and looked at his crystal tummy in amazement. It had never turned this colour before. He felt much better and full of life. The old merchant felt so bad about what had happened. Shennong truly was a kind hearted emperor as he did not blame the merchant when he understood that it was an accident.

This new discovery was a great success. He wanted to share it to the world. He wanted everyone to feel what he felt when he had taken a sip of this new drink. He ordered all his men to spread the news about it. After a month the news about this new drink spread all across the world.

He thought that it was a great success, it not only healed sickness, but it also made the other countries more open to be friends with China. One of his most trusted allies once asked him what this drink was called. He thought for a moment and remembered the sound of the leaf as it fell into his boiling water. He simply said, “Cha”.

# A bridge to the Past and Future

*Alliance Primary School Kowloon Tong, Chung, Martin – 12*

China's history is filled with many remarkable people whose groundbreaking inventions have left a mark in history. Nowadays, many people take inventions for granted, but have they ever stopped to take a look at why and how the inventions were made? In this writing we will take a deep dive into the achievements of Chinese inventors who revolutionized the world with their inventions and exploring potential future inventions.

Firstly, we will start with the Chinese Han Dynasty in AD 105. Ts'ai Lun, a court official at the time, invented a papermaking process which you can use rags (known as textile waste) as the material to make paper. Chinese papermakers further developed some specialties such as dyed paper, sized paper and coated paper. Around the 11th century, papermaking was brought to Europe, when they didn't use rags and wooden panels anymore. By the 13th century, Spain made paper mills which use water wheels. Papermaking enhancements were in the 19th century as they started to be made by wood. Paper plays a crucial role in the world as it developed printing, enabling so that we can make books, drawings, newspapers, letters etc. This greatly impacted communication, education, documentation and creativity. (for the authors and artists) Not only that, but it also led to a common item many people use: tissues and toilet paper, where hygiene also improved massively. They used to be rough at the time but have led to a soft surface over the years.

Secondly, we will also be visiting another invention from the past – the compass. The first compass' original creators are currently unknown. But those scientists may have invented navigational compasses as early as the 11th or 12th century. It is one of the four great inventions! The compass was first invented for divination from the Han Dynasty in 206 BC but then improved and made for navigation from the Song Dynasty. Although its use was first recorded in Western Europe and the Islamic world in 1190. Next, I am going to tell you how it functions. The magnetic compass is the most common and familiar type of compass, where it functions as a pointer to north, or "Magnetic North". It always points north because the magnetic needle inevitably aligns itself with the Earth's magnetic field. After that, let's see how groundbreaking and useful they can be! In the present, it led to electromagnetism, so that the foundation was laid for large scale electronic communications, like the invention of the telegraph or the electric motor, which greatly impacted communication and transport. The crucial part is that it leads to social media with apps like Discord, WhatsApp, Gmail etc.

Not only do we need to learn from the past, but we must look to the present and future, where society has evolved drastically, and technology has advanced rapidly to another level. So now I will be introducing many new possible inventions that might happen in the future, existing now in the present or even very soon. The first invention I think that will be coming very soon are smart glasses that give vision to the blind. The concept is to use AI and sensors in order to detect objects and let the blind person know what it is, working similarly to a mobile phone. This invention would be life changing to the blind people and make them able to live like a normal person, although I think the AI might need a lot of training to get it right.

Another invention from the present I would like to introduce is a 3D printer that prints a house in only 3 days! The company Winsun, printed many houses in China and the "Office of the Future" in Dubai. Ma Yi He, the founder of Winsun, constructing buildings and houses is painful and inefficient nowadays. He also said, "Taking the hot weather, rough condition, dangerous environment, and time-consuming matter into account, why can't building houses be easier like how cars or planes are manufactured by machines?" The houses he prints on are made by a 3D printer, layer by layer. One day, they wanted to test the endurance of the structure, so they put 28000 kg (about 61729.36 lb) on the building for 1 and a half days, but there only were a few cracks here and there, proving that 3D printed houses can be 3 times more durable than traditionally built ones. In addition, the material of the house is eco-friendly and combined with all its benefits, costs can be reduced by 70%!

In conclusion, when people look at future inventions, they should also be aware that some of them were inspired and used by inventions of the past. For example, social media wouldn't have been invented without the compass' discovering electromagnetism, inventing the telegraph and the electric motor, leading to the media, household appliances, vehicles, power tools, disc drives and so on.

# A Chance to Change

*Alliance Primary School Kowloon Tong, Ding, Chen Bei – 11*

Sometimes, life can certainly be very boring. Well for a little boy living in Hong Kong named Sunny, it's always. He's just a normal boy living a day-to-day life. Wearing simple and unostentatious clothing every day. However, on one normal but fateful day, a miracle happened. A miracle that would potentially change the course of Sunny's life.

It was just a normal Friday morning. Sunny didn't suspect anything. He was just in Chinese history class waiting for his teacher to come teach, but little did he know, he was about to experience a life-changing adventure. BANG! Mr Chen had just stormed into the classroom, simultaneously slamming the classroom door deafeningly. Everyone in the classroom immediately went to a halt with what they were doing, even the normally talkative classmates closed their mouths instantly. For several seconds, the classroom was dead silent excluding the sound of Mr Chen's corrected worksheets being thrown to his desk by him. Even from afar, Sunny could see numerous red markings on the paper.

"How many have I told you all that....." Mr Chen barked.

But Sunny didn't even bother to listen and quickly bent himself into a dumpling on his desk. He had never actually cared about Mr Chen's yapping; besides, he hated Chinese history. To him, Chinese history felt very additional. So, Sunny just wanted to sleep to stop hearing his teacher's annoying words, but for some reason, he couldn't. Instead, his forehead started burning in pain. It felt like a small fire boiling in his head, jumping around and punching his skull to escape. Sunny started shaking his head uncertain of what was happening. He looked up and instead of seeing his teacher, he saw a blurry vision of gray and white. Then, his body all of a sudden started feeling numb and slowly but surely, he closed his eyes, not feeling anything.

Darkness. Then a damp wet feeling all over his body. It was raining, and he had gained consciousness but was terrified to open his eyes and see what had just happened. So, he twitched his hands and slowly moved them around to feel his surroundings like a blind old man using a mobility cane. Sunny didn't do this for too long as he thought it looked a bit daft. But as soon as he opened his eyes, a silhouette used its long arms to reach for his waist and scoop him up running. Sunny wanted to see who it was but the blistering cold made him slowly fall asleep.

"Hello? Hello?" a deep voice repeated.

Sunny opened his eyes wearily. "Oh thank god it isn't Mr Chen", thought Sunny.

"Hi! I saw you lying in the rain. You must be a new villager. Let me introduce myself, I am Lu Ban, a skilled craftsman." Said Lu Ban.

Sunny only just realized he was lying on a sofa in Lu Ban's house. He was completely baffled though, how did he go from a classroom to someone's house. "Anyway," thought Sunny, "I better introduce myself too."

"Uhhhhh..... Hello! My name is Sunny. Pleased to meet you!" Sunny replied.

"Me too! Now I was just hoping that you could help me with a recent project I was planning on. I think its impact on humanity might be massive!" said Lu Ban.

Sunny was interested, he always wanted to help people and thought inventing was certainly very cool. Lu Ban later explained that he had suddenly got inspiration to invent after seeing that when it was raining, no one could go out and it was very inconvenient. His original plan was to hire numerous experienced craftsmen and build many large pavilions to hide from the rain and the shade, but this would only keep the person at the same place and not let them get to their destination. Lu Ban thought for days but still didn't know, and now he asks Sunny for advice.

Sunny was about to say how daft Lu Ban was and ask him why he didn't know what an umbrella was as Sunny didn't realize he was in the past. But, at that moment, the sight of children playing started coming from the window. Two young children were playing tag next to a little lake and wanted to hide from the sun so that they wouldn't sweat as much. The younger child had slowly bent down to the lake and took out two lotus leaves. The children then held them up to block the sun, a fantastic plan. As soon as Lu Ban saw the ingenious trick, he got to work. Sunny followed him to see what he was going to do. Lu Ban stayed in the shed for hours and Sunny observed his work. Lu Ban told Sunny all the tricks and chatted with Sunny while crafting. Sunny slowly but surely saw how skilled Lu Ban was and found out he was wrong about Lu Ban. Finally, at near midnight, the first umbrella was made.

“Yes! I did it!” exclaimed Lu Ban.

Sunny observed the umbrella Lu Ban had just wielded in the sky triumphantly. He could see the gorgeous stripes and silky texture. Sunny realized how smart, skilled and artistic the people in the past were even though education wasn't that convenient. And just as Sunny was admiring Lu Ban's work, everything suddenly went black again.

BANG! BANG! BANG!

“Huh? Oh.....” Sunny mumbled

Mr Chen death-stared Sunny, he could just see the guiltiness in Sunny's eyes.

“So, Mr Sunny! You must know everything in the textbook to be sleeping in my class. Let me just check if you do know everything. Who invented the umbrella?” said Mr Chen insultingly

“Lu Ban.” Sunny answered straightforwardly.

“That is ..... right.” Replied Mr Chen sadly.

Mr Chen told Sunny to sit down and continued the class while humiliated. Sunny was, for once, happy in Chinese history class. He gradually started liking history and realized how important it is. Many many years later he would become a well-known historian.

# New Tales of China's Inventions

*Alliance Primary School Kowloon Tong, Ho, Hiu Lam – 12*

Once again, another tedious night of endless studying for Yinshi. The sound of pages flipping and the clock hands moving were echoing in the room, and the dim light coming from the lamp was barely lightening the pitch-dark room. A few frustrated groans and sighs escaped from her mouth, as she ran her fingers through her hair. Exams were arriving, and she was great at all subjects... Except for Chinese History.

The truth is, she had never found any kind of history interesting – whether it was Chinese or Western, or any kind of history. To her, it was all the same. Inventions that were a big impact to humanity, important figures that died, or famous incidents in the past – it all sounded like a sweet, melodious lullaby to put someone to sleep, at least Yinshi thought so.

Two highlighters in one hand, and a blue pen about to run out of ink in another, Yinshi took a huge sip of black coffee and a deep breath, and continued to write down notes, highlight important information and write every single detail next to every incident in her Chinese History textbook. Opium Wars, the history of paper making, gunpowder... Every single word spun around in her mind. Was Zhang Qian involved in the Opium Wars? That doesn't seem too right. Oh, he was involved in the history of the Silk Road.

"I've had enough! I wish there was a time machine to transport me to the time after the exams, and I could finally relax," Yinshi groaned and buried her head into the pages of her textbook. The caffeine was slowly wearing off, and she dozed off a few times. As she was about to start studying again, the fatigue did not allow her to and made her so tired that she couldn't move a single limb.

"I...can't fall asleep now."

Darkness.

Then light.

The bustling noises of a market?

Yinshi's eyes slowly widened.

She looked around frantically, and everyone wore hanfu.

"Young miss, please don't block the road." A grumpy and stern voice pierced through her train of thought, causing her to quickly apologize, move out the way, and run off to somewhere quiet.

She leaned against a tree, and looked at herself, only now realising she was also wearing a traditional hanfu. She stared in awe, as she noticed the details on it. The left side of the bodice was wrapped over the right one, making a "y" neckline, the dress had a relaxed fit, top to bottom, with a wide hem.

"Why am I in this place?" She murmured, but there seemed to be another voice saying the same.

"Who's there?" A young boy, probably the same age as Yinshi, appeared in front of her out of the blue.

Yinshi squealed, before taking a closer look at him.

She states, "You look kind of familiar."

He replies, "I think I've met you somewhere before. Anyways, my name's Gaoshan."

"I'm Yinshi. Nice to meet you. Are we're both dreaming?"

"You too?" He replied, shocked. He looked relieved, even happy to see that there were others that were in this situation. "How about we explore this place for a while? Looks like ancient China to me."

She nodded, and they both walked around the market for a while. There were horses passing by, and men carrying items that would be sold at the market.

Out of the blue, a strong wind blew towards the two teenagers, and when they opened their eyes, they were in an entirely different place.

“Where are we?!” Gaoshan yelled out, and Yinshi immediately smacked him to keep him quiet.

“Shush!”

They both look down at themselves. They were now wearing clothing that was like their previous hanfu, but much plainer, and looked like a servant’s clothes.

“Servants! Come!” A loud voice rang throughout the room. Assuming the person was referring to them, Yinshi and Gaoshan quickly arrived to the command. They bowed down, and Yinshi nervously asked,

“What would you like us to do, erm Master?”

She eyed the name plate on his table that read, ‘Cai Lun’.

“Bring me tree bark and fishnets,” He ordered. “I’m planning to improve papermaking.”

“Right away, Master!” The two yelled out and excused themselves out of the room.

Yinshi gathered the tree bark that Cai Lun needed, and Gaoshan clumsily grabbed some fishnets from the fishermen.

Yinshi whispered, “Isn’t that the inventor of papermaking? He’s involved in China’s Four Great Inventions!”

He replied, “I was studying this before I slept.”

They scurried back to Cai Lun and handed him the materials.

“Servants. Do you know why I’m doing this? It is because bamboo and wood slips are inconvenient, and other alternatives are too expensive. No matter how many years, or decades it takes, I will never give up.”

First, he ordered Yinshi and Gaoshan to look for more materials like hemp, old silk cocoons, and cloth. Once they came back with everything, Yinshi chopped all the ingredients finely and Gaoshan boiled everything in a pot.

Cai Lun pounded the result into a starchy mixture and dissolved it in water before adding another type of starch.

With many failed attempts, they had finally succeeded after a long period.

When this mixture was lifted out of the water, it separated into fine layers of fabric. Once dried for a few days, they became sheets of paper.

“Good job to all of us! The emperor has approved of our paper!”

The teenagers made a high five, and Yinshi suddenly jolted up.

Back to real life.

Her face was slightly sore from sleeping on the table, and she stumbled to the bathroom.

After freshening up, she changed into her uniform, and went to the bus station alone as usual.

Yinshi was still thinking about her dream.

She got on the bus.

A familiar-looking boy went up to her.

Gaoshan?

She faces him, opens her mouth, and he does the same.

“Hey, did we have the same dream?”

“Did you have the same dream?”

# New Tales of China's Inventions

*Alliance Primary School Kowloon Tong, Ho, Wing Sin – 9*

Once upon a time, there was a spaceship in the middle of space. There was a boss called Lipo and there was a person called Ligu. Ligu had a mission, which was to discover the invention of banknotes in China.

He traveled all the way back to the 7th century using their time machine. Back then, he found out that merchants would use a piece of sheet to record the money that the sailors had to pay afterwards. He asked the owner of a restaurant about the evolution of money. He replied, "Before we used the sheets called promissory notes, we used rounded coins. There was a square-shaped hole in the middle so the people could use strings to attach them. The downside was that the strings were heavy. We also use them now." He wrote down the facts about the coins and quickly traveled to an important time when the banknotes were developed.

Ligu traveled to the 11th century, and went to a local market and saw people holding pieces of paper in their hands to pay. He was curious about what those papers were. He bought some food from a random stall and purchased with coins. The stall owner asked, "Don't you have 'jiaozi'? Those coins are so heavy!" He replied, "I don't have them." After he said that, everyone's eyes turned to him. He felt embarrassed but also learned about the importance of paper money.

After the stall owner closed the stall, he said, "My grandfather told me that the government didn't have enough money to produce coins when he was a child, so the government gave notes to the populace who needed to have money. The government promised the populace that they will get the exact value written down on the sheet afterwards. But after a specific amount of time, the money will be less than the original. Now, there is 'jiaozi'. You can use them immediately after you get them. Almost everyone would use 'jiaozi' to purchase because it is lighter, but some would still use coins. Why do you use coins to purchase?" He replied that he liked them. The owner also said, "You could exchange the type of money, from coins to 'jiaozi'. Let me take you to the deposit shop and exchange the money type." He exchanged the money and traveled to thirty years later.

When he traveled there, he found out that people are using so many different kinds of money produced by different companies. Shortly after that, he saw a post. The post said the government used their technique to produce money. They had built four money factories in four different cities. There were so many people working in those factories. But, the usage of the area and time were limited. Ligu wrote down all the notes and left.

He traveled to the late 12th century, when the southern Song government published a gold or silver colour banknote. He got one of them and bought a sausage in another territory in the country and the owner of the stall accepted the money. He found out that by the 12th century, the money could be used all over the country. And that type of money was even the country's standard. He bought a book about money and read it. He saw that the money were called "jiaochao", and discovered that because the government didn't have enough money, so there weren't any restrictions on the time. Ligu tried to look for any special patterns on the "jiaochao", and there were too many colours that it made Ligu felt dizzy. He wrote down everything he had read in the book and traveled back to the spaceship because he thought the information was enough.

At last, he reported the information to his boss. His boss was very interested in the money in China so he called more people to discover about the invention of banknotes.



# New Tales of China's Inventions

*Alliance Primary School Kowloon Tong, Law, Cheuk Wai – 10*

Li Yue woke up on a large merchant ship. The wooden planks creaked as the ship danced with the waves. He rubbed his eyes and stepped out onto the deck, where the salty sea breeze instantly refreshed him. The sun climbed up the sky and painted a path of gold on the water.

"Good morning, Li Yue!" called a fellow sailor, a friendly man named Ah Xia. "Did you sleep well?"

"Yes, thank you, Ah Xia. You must be tired after keeping watch all night. Take some rest," Li Yue replied while stretching.

"I'm too excited to rest now," Ah Xia said with a wide grin. "We're nearly there. Look ahead, and you'll see the towering pagodas and lush jungles of the Srivijaya Empire. It's one of the busiest ports on the Malay Peninsula!"

Li Yue was a young man during the Tang dynasty. Li Yue's father had been a student of the legendary alchemist Sun Simiao and was both a doctor and an alchemist. Immersed in his quest for medicine for eternal life, he experimented with burning various substances. Tragically, during his last experiment, his pot exploded and fatally injured him. Soon after his father's death, Li Yue's mother also passed away. Becoming an orphan at the age of 13, Li Yue grieved for his parents but also felt that his father's obsession had been foolish. To feed himself and satisfy his curiosity, he decided to do something more practical and became an apprentice to a merchant, Mr. Zhang, who frequently set sail for Southeast Asia.

Li Yue was diligent and eager to learn from Mr. Zhang, who treated him like a son. He taught Li Yue how to barter with the cunning traders and shared secrets of the monsoon winds that carried them across the sea.

One sunny morning, they set sail for the Srivijaya Empire. Their ship was full of the finest goods. Li Yue's eyes widened with enthusiasm as they approached the port, where boats laden with exotic goods from across Asia were docked and merchants from different countries were discussing prices. Li Yue could see colourful textiles and smell the rich aromas of spices. Li Yue's heart was pounding rapidly as this was his first visit to such a foreign bustling port.

In the sweltering heat, Mr. Zhang and Li Yue traded bolts of silk and delicate chinaware for aromatic resins, exotic spices, and gold. Mr. Zhang, thrilled with the significant profit he made, rewarded the sailors and apprentices with gold coins. Li Yue and Ah Xia purchased some fresh tropical fruits. That night, Li Yue showed Ah Xia a snow-like substance. Ah Xia, wide-eyed with curiosity, asked, "What is that?" Li Yue replied, "It's saltpetre I inherited from my father. It's what took his life, but it can be used to make ice to cool our fruits."

However, their peace was abruptly disrupted when a gang of pirates, notorious for robbing and killing along the Malacca Strait, descended upon the harbour. The city was in panic.

Li Yue remembered his father's alchemical experiments and had an idea. He rushed to his wooden chest and retrieved all the saltpetre. Ah Xia asked with a trembling voice, "What are you doing? Are you making ice for preserving our dead bodies?"

Li Yue said no words. He mixed saltpetre with sulphur powder and wood ash by following the steps he had seen his father perform countless times, though never for this purpose. Ah Xia watched, puzzled. "Aren't those the ingredients alchemists use to seek eternal life?"

Li Yue remembered one of his father's notes that recorded a conversation with his teacher, Master Sun, about the combusive properties of sulfur, charcoal, and saltpetre.

"Yes, but my father may have discovered something else – something powerful," Li Yue admitted, feeling the weight of his father's legacy in his hands. "He sought immortality, but perhaps he found a different kind of power and overlooked its potential."

Li Yue and his fellows prepared the mixture and packed it into pots with makeshift fuses. Then they went to a coastal fort. "Light them and run away," Li Yue instructed with a steady voice despite the chaos around them. The fuses were lit, and with a tremendous roar and a series of blinding flashes, the pots exploded and sent smoke and terrifying echoes through the city.

Those arrogant pirates had never seen this power before and fled in terror because they believed the city had magical and mysterious weapons. Filled with relief, the citizens cheered. Li Yue's father had not found eternal life, but in that moment, his work had saved many people.

A Tang Dynasty ambassador, who was en route to the Srivijaya capital and had witnessed the event, was astounded by the power of Li Yue's "weapons." The ambassador approached Li Yue and said, "Your talents could contribute to our great Tang empire. Would you consider becoming a consultant for our military?"

Li Yue loved his country and felt honored, yet at the same time, he was conflicted. "Sir, my knowledge is a legacy from my father and his teacher, Master Sun Simiao. I hope to use it for defence and protection, not for conquest. But who can promise such things?" Li Yue replied, declining the offer respectfully.

The ambassador was a noble man. He understood Li Yue's choice and did not force him to accept the offer. However, he was concerned about the risk that other countries might learn this technique before them. The ambassador investigated the remains of the exploded pots and his eyes brightened with surprise.

As Li Yue's ship cut through the waves, he mulled over the enigmatic power hidden in those ordinary ingredients. The world seemed to be cheekily keeping its mysteries. Some, like Master Sun, had the luck to catch a glimpse, while others had paid a price. With a mix of fear and respect for the unknown, Li Yue continued on his voyage.

# New Tales of China's Inventions

*Alliance Primary School Kowloon Tong, Lien, Hsu Yuan – 11*

When Luna was re-organizing her room, she found a polaroid she took on an outing day. Although she already graduated from primary school, still so many memories popped up in her head. She sat on the sofa, blowing out the dust on the polaroid. When she was seeing it clearly, she couldn't help but think of all the things that happened on the outing day. It was again, the annual off-campus learning day, every students were excited but none of them knew where they were going, it had always been a mystery to them until they arrived at the destination. Little did they know, they were going to a museum to learn about the Chinese inventions.

They arrived at their first stop, the compass introduction area. "I never knew compass was made in China!" Luna's classmate Jake said. Mrs. Lau, their class teacher, explained patiently the history and the usage in the past, "The magnetic compass was first invented as a device for divination as early as the Chinese Han dynasty. The compass was used in Song dynasty China by the military and for navigational orienteering by the year 1040 to 1044, and was used for maritime navigation by 1111 to 1117." Luna said, "It's great to know about the history of a basic thing that we use till this day." Mrs. Lau exclaimed, "Yes, that's right. But the first ever compass was device made of spoon, speculated to be a loadstone, observed "pointing in a cardinal direction" is a Chinese work composed between 70 and 80 AD, which records that "But when the south-pointing spoon is thrown upon the ground, it comes to rest pointing at the south." Luna seemed to be confused, but still nodded her head as if she understood. "Miss, it's getting quite boring, can we move on to the next stop?" asked Kate. "Sure, why not," Mrs. Lau replied.

Next, they went to the printing area. Kate, in a confused face, asked Mrs. Lau about the history. She gladly answered, "The history of printing starts as early as 300 BCE, when the proto-Elamite and Sumerian civilizations used cylinder seals to certify documents written in clay tablets. Other early forms include block seals, hammered coinage, pottery imprint, and cloth printing" "Oh wow, glad to know about it, wait.. what's that?"

Jake ran towards the paper money section. Once again. Mrs. Lau gladly explained, "Paper currency first developed in Tang dynasty China during the 7<sup>th</sup> century, where it was called "flying money", but real paper money did not appear until the 11<sup>th</sup> century, during the Song dynasty. The use of paper currency later spread throughout the Mongol Empire or Yuan dynasty China. Kate took out a banknote from her wallet and asked, "Is this the first ever paper money?" Mrs. Lau replied, "No, the banknote gets developed over time." "Oh, never knew," replied Kate.

Although Luna had no interest in Chinese history, yet it was a memorable outing day. In the Ancient China, we invented paper, gunpowder and compass etc. At that time, they are greater than aircraft, computer in today's life, which is a part of our lives, also a common symbol of nature.

## New Tales of China's Inventions

*Alliance Primary School Kowloon Tong, Tong, Yiu Yiu – 9*

Have you ever wondered what it would be like if there were AI robots in China? There might be AI robots that look like humans in the future, too! AI robots driving you around the city, AI robots that can help you with your chores, AI robots that you can share your feelings with? Now, let me take you to the future China of my imagination!

There will be an AI butler for every family in China. The AI butler looks just like a human! For example, it wears clothes and it has hair. It also changes every day like we do. The AI butler can help you with your chores, wash the dishes, do the laundry and even cook for you and your family! You can also share your feelings with it, whenever you are sad, happy or angry! And because the AI butler never gets tired, it can help you whenever you need it! It can work like a secretary and arrange your schedule. It can also work like a teacher or a coach because it knows everything. It can play with you when you are bored, too. You only need ten minutes to charge it and it can work for twenty-four hours again.

But there are also some things that are bad about having an AI butler. It may make you lazy because the AI butler does everything for you. So you must try to do some things by yourself. Buying an AI butler can be very expensive, before you buy an AI butler you need to consider if you have enough money or not. The AI butler may be exploited or invaded by intentional people or equipment, causing threats and harm to humans. For example, the AI butler may be used for crimes, wars, terrorism or the AI butler may lose control or resist from commands.

I hope I can become a scientist someday and create an AI butler for everyone! I believe that with the development of science and technology, people will create more miracles. In the future, the world in my imagination will come true.

## New Tales of China's Inventions

*Alliance Primary School Kowloon Tong, Zheng, Wui Chi – 10*

I am a bus fan. I love taking bus rides whenever I have time. This afternoon, I took a bus to go home. The bus I was on today was a green bus, as I noticed there were many solar panels on the bus deck. All of a sudden, I had a thought, "Will there be transparent solar panels on bus windows in the future?"

Solar panels can produce electricity for air-conditioners, for lights and for running buses. It is sustainable green energy, which is environmentally-friendly. If transparent solar panels are used in all commercial and residential buildings in Hong Kong, more green electricity can be produced for the people to use. Just imagining that transparent solar panels are used in all cities in the World, an even more massive amount of green energy can be produced! The use of green energy can also reduce the use of non-environmentally friendly energy such as fossil fuels. And thus, the use of green energy can also reduce global warming crisis. Isn't this killing two birds with one stone?!

According to Wikipedia, China is the largest market for solar power equipment. There are many mega solar power plants in China. These plants have produced the largest amount of solar energy in the World, with advanced technologies.

I hope transparent solar panels will be invented by China manufacturers in the near future. When transparent solar panels can be made efficiently at low cost, cheaper and sustainable green electricity can be produced and used by people every day. This would be a significant contribution by China for protecting the Earth.

I hope it will be soon that transparent solar panels are installed in all buses, so that I can see a greener World through these transparent solar panel bus windows!

# New Tales of China's Inventions: The Noodle Machine

*Alliance Primary School Sheung Shui, Kan, Yee Pak Pakson – 12*

A very long time ago, there was a big problem in China. Everyone loved eating Chinese food but after eating they had to use the toilet. It was really disgusting and dirty.

One day, a boy named Chris was walking in the forest. He saw a monkey rub his butt on a tree. This gave him an amazing idea. He took a loaf of bread and sliced a piece of it. He went back into the forest and caught a new monkey. He tried to wash the monkey's butt with the slice of bread. "Wow! That is really clean!" he shouted.

He ran excitedly to tell the King about this new idea. Everyone loved it but using all of the bread in the kingdom was expensive and people were also going hungry. Then, Chris decided to solve this problem. He saw that his little sister's storybook was on some paper. He touched the paper and decided it was too hard.

Later, Chris and his apprentice, named John, tried to invent a new kind of paper. They got some leaves, bread, tree bark and other things. They cooked it in a big pot until it became liquid. Then, they poured it out to dry under the sun. When it was finished, they saw it was a nice thin and light paper. It was soft and cheap. They started a new business and everyone bought the toilet paper. However, a wildfire destroyed the forest, so there were no more leaves or bark for the paper recipe. All the people panicked!

One day a new inventor named Bob came to the kingdom and tried to help. He found a new plant called cotton and tried to make toilet paper again. "What a perfect paper!" everyone cheered. This new paper was smoother than Chris and John's paper. Now there was unlimited toilet paper for everyone to use. China's disgusting problem was solved forever.

# New Tales of China's Inventions: Master Inventor Yu

*Alliance Primary School Sheung Shui, Lai, Chin Yin Casper – 12*

A very long time ago, there was a teenager named Yu. His village had a big problem; monsters came out of a nearby mountain called Demon Tower Mountain. It was horrible for all of the villages, so King Qin decided to stop the monsters. He assembled an army to fight with the fierce monsters. Yu had a plan to join the army and fight the monsters.

Yu was ready to leave home to find the army, but his mother was worried that he would get hungry. She didn't have much time, so she quickly threw some ingredients such as flour into a bowl. The soft bun she made was too big for his bag, so she cut it into a lot of small strips.

After Yu joined the army, he carelessly dropped his strips of bun into a pot of boiling water. It was very tasty, and he shared it with other soldiers. The soldiers enjoyed this food and started eating it every day. King Yu saw that this food was easy to make and easy to eat. The soldiers now had more time to fight the monsters. This is how noodles were invented.

Although the army wasn't hungry, the monsters were very difficult to kill. The King was worried that the Demon Tower would win. Then, Yu found a special black stone and put it in his pocket. A few days later, lightning hit and Yu found that his black stone had changed into a black powder. While cooking noodles, some fire touched the powder and it exploded. At that moment he thought it could be used to hurt the monsters.

The next day, the King sent them into Demon Tower Mountain with the special powder. One soldier ignited the powder and the mountain exploded. There were no more monster sounds and they knew that they had killed them all. The king and soldiers sang and danced to celebrate the end of the war. That is how gun powder was invented.

In a short time, the wonderful inventions of noodles and gun powder were available everywhere in China. The King gave him the name *Master Inventor Yu* and he returned home to live happily ever after.

# New Tales of China's Inventions: Noodles

*Alliance Primary School Sheung Shui, Lam, Yuet Moon – 12*

Many, many years ago, in a small village in the mountains, lived a boy named Xing. His family was so poor that they could barely buy food to eat every day. Xing was very clever but still, nobody would expect that one day he would grow up to become the world's most well-known inventor.

One day, Xing was playing near a pond. There was mud everywhere. He picked some up and started sculpting with it. Awhile later, he was starving and went back home. "Mom! Can I have something to eat?" His mom was sorry and explained that because they didn't make any money yesterday, there's nothing to eat today. Xing sighed and went back to the pond.

Woosh!! Suddenly a beautiful white swan appeared. Xing was taken aback. "Don't be scared!" said the swan. "I'm here to help you. My name is Noodle. I think you're hungry, right?" Xing nodded eagerly and asked for some food. Noodle replied, "I can't give you any food, but I will give you an idea about how to make your own food!" Although Xing didn't know how to cook anything, he quickly agreed. At that moment, his head was filled with many amazing ideas. He didn't know what to cook yet, but he knew he needed many ingredients. He ran to his good friend's house. Fortunately, his friend wasn't selfish and was happy to offer him the things he needed.

When Xing got home, he went straight to the kitchen and started to mix random ingredients together. The first mixture he made turned out to be a sloppy mess. The second concoction smelled horrible, and the third blend looked sickening. Xing started to feel like giving up, but his stomach growled and reminded him of how badly his family needed this food.

After brainstorming for a long time, Xing remembered the mud he played with earlier and thought it resembled a kind of dough. So, he decided to try to make a dough with his ingredients. He put flour, eggs, water, and salt together and began mixing it. A few minutes later, a lump of dough started to form. The one big lump wasn't going to be easy to share with all his family members, so he decided to cut it into long thin strips.

Next, he boiled it in water until it was well cooked. He divided it into bowls and took it to his family to try. They were a bit nervous to taste it and asked what it was called. Xing had to think fast, what should he call this new thing? He remembered where the idea had come from and named it after the swan Noodles! "Alright!" said his family "Let's try these *noodles!*"

Surprisingly, they said it tasted good. Although Xing wasn't the best cook, over the years he got better and so did his new recipe. His new dish was shared from family to family in the village and it soon started to become popular everywhere. Eventually, Xing became rich from all the noodle shops, but the most important thing was that his family was proud of him. Although Xing never saw Noodles the swan again, he often thought about the miracle that happened and why he was chosen.

# New Tales of China's Inventions: A Flying Bike

*Alliance Primary School Sheung Shui, Law, Shing Hei Dasmund – 12*

It is the year 2058, and there is a very smart little boy that lives in Shanghai with his family. His name is Mei Mei and he is just 5 years old. He is so clever that he can imagine anything and everything. Any new thing he sees, he can immediately see how to improve it.

One time, he was in the park and he noticed an old bike. Suddenly he imagined how it could be so fantastic. So, he went to a bike shop nearby and bought the cheapest bike. He took it home and brought it into his bedroom. He started to make some changes to it by adding parts of his toy drone which he never used anymore.

After five or six hours of work, he was finally finished. He showed his family the new inventions he added to the bike, but his family thought it was dangerous and a waste of time. He didn't let his family's attitude bother him and he continued to add some safety measures.

A few days later he was ready to show the world his flying bike! It was half drone and half bike! Still his family laughed at him but he took it to the park and tried it. Everyone gathered around to watch. Someone at the park made a video and posted it on the internet. The next morning the video had been seen by people around the world.

He joined a design competition and won 1<sup>st</sup> prize. In the end, people everywhere started buying his drone bike and he earned \$10,000 a day. He started a new life in a brand new house.



# New Tales of China's Inventions: Spring Shoes

*Alliance Primary School Sheung Shui, Li, Tsz Ho Leo – 12*

In the year 2078, there is a boy named Mei Son that lives in Beijing. He is 23 years old and comes from a very rich family, just like Elon Musk. He has a little brother named Lei Son. The two boys had a crazy imagination and they loved creating new things. Everyday, Mei Son used his computer to search for other people who created something new. He and his brother would talk about these new ideas.

One night, Mei Son was sleeping well at 4am. He was having a dream about wearing some very bright green shoes while playing basketball. While running on the basketball he stepped on some metal springs on the ground. He fell down and immediately woke up from the dream.

He remembered his dream and started to think about putting springs on the bottom of his shoes. After he found some springs, he glued them to his basketball shoes and went to play. Everyone was shocked at how fast he could run and how high he could jump. Everyone noticed he could jump high to dunk the basketball. Mei Son cheered, "Wow!! These shoes are so cool!"

He ran home and put a photo of his invention on Instagram. Everyone on social media was surprised by the video of the new shoes. The social media comments were so good and everyone wanted to try this amazing shoe design. Mei Son noticed the comments and decided to improve the shoes by making them look better and adding more springs. He tested the bounce and felt good because he could jump 2 metres high now! He made a lot of versions of the shoes; red, green, even a pink colour for girls.

After all of the hard work, he finally had a finished design. Everyone immediately bought the shoes and tried it on the basketball court. At the next big competition, all the players were wearing Mei Son's shoes. However, after the first score, the referee stopped the competition because it wasn't fair. The government soon had a ban on players using Mei Son's shoes.

Mei Son felt really disappointed, but his shoes could be used for other things. Mei Son and his brother started to write a list of all the useful things the shoes could do. In the end, the shoes still became very popular and his family became richer than Elon Musk.

# New Tales of China's Inventions: The Noodle Machine

*Alliance Primary School Sheung Shui, Lo, Shin Yue Crystal – 12*

Once upon a time, in a mountain village in China, there was a boy named Lee. The people in his village didn't have enough food to eat so he wanted to invent a food for them. He was smart and hardworking, so he tried to invent a new food every day. Many times he mixed different ingredients together but it always tasted terrible.

One night, God went to Lee's bedroom and woke him up. God said, "Since you are a hardworking boy, I am going to teach you how to make a new kind of food that will be named noodles!"

Lee replied excitedly, "Oh, thank you! You are my benefactor!" Then, God started showing him how to knead it into dough and then make it into long noodle shapes about the same thickness as chopsticks. After a pinch of salt and some steaming, the noodles should dry on a mat in the shade. They will be ready anytime you feel hungry. Just put them into boiling water and you are done! Then God disappeared.

Lee tried to follow the method he was taught but he failed each time. The noodles were always too thick and very difficult to eat. He became sad and felt like he hit rock bottom. Soon he cheered up when he saw the villagers and told them what had happened. He asked them to help him with the recipe, but nobody believed him.

Lee was so angry that he took a gun and shot the dough. The dough was in small soft pieces and this gave him an idea to build a machine that would shoot the dough into super long and bouncy noodles. Some people didn't agree with Lee, but he continued to follow his new idea that God had given him.

A few days later, Lee shouted, "Oh, I'm done! The noodle machine is ready!" All of the villagers came to see this strange machine. Lee put the ball of dough inside and turned it on. Suddenly, delicious noodles were jumping out of the end. The villagers were surprised and dance around eating noodles. They never had to worry about food again and some more people believed in God.

## New Tales of China Invention (AI-Hair Dresser)

*CCC But San Primary School, Law, Yik-Hei, - 10*

A good dresser young man called Shaw who lived in Hong Kong. He did not only always pay attention to the fashion trend but also the hair trend. He had visited the reserved hairdresser, Harry, for having a perfect hair style once per week over 10 years since his graduation from the university. However Harry retired recently. Shaw could not meet another qualified hairdresser who could handle the new hair trend or design the best hair style for him.

One day, while shopping in a quiet street in Mong Kok, a fabulous sign "AI Hair Dresser Best Fits Your Expectations" comes up Shaw's eyes. Full of his curiosity, he entered the AI hair salon in a flash.

An enthusiastic young lady who was the owner of the AI hair salon greeted Shaw warmly and introducing his AI hair dresser, Mr AI-Hair, who looked a robot.

"Good afternoon, Sir. I am Miss Magic. Let me introduce my super professional hair dresser, Mr AI-Hair. He can make a new trend hair style that is best fit for you." Miss Magic exclaimed.

"It sounds interesting!" Shaw responded excitedly.

"Could I ask you a few questions first, Sir?" Mr AI-Hair requested politely and confidently.

"Amazing! You can talk. Sure!" Shaw replied surprisingly. He was on cloud nine.

After questioning, Mr AI-Hair used the big data to analyse the new trend of hair around the world and make the best fit design according to Shaw's age, sex, nationality, occupation and all his special requests like preferable colour. Light brown was Shaw's favourite colour.

Before action, Mr AI-Hair sprinkled his eyes to take a 3D data of Shaw's face, height and body shape. Then he merged the newly designed hair style for Shaw and projected an 3D image how his new look would be into air (without any physical medium to serve as a display).

Shaw couldn't believe what he saw in front of him just in a few minutes. He even couldn't say a word at his first sight. "Oh my goodness! Incredible! My 3D image... with a new hair style. Unbelievable!" Shaw mumbled to himself.

"Sir, does it look good?" Miss Hope added.

"I love this hairstyle. It's just the ticket and will make me look much handsome around the city," Shaw replied unexpectedly.

Mr-AI spent only an hour to finish the new hair style for Shaw. Shaw turned up his nose when he left the hair salon. He satisfied with his new hair style which was made by Mr AI-hair.

From then on, Shaw carried the latest trend of hair style. All the people around the city would like to follow his trend. They even visited the hair salon when Mr AI-Hair provided the services. The manufacturer of Mr AI-Hair started to produce more and more Mr AI-Hair. Gradually, Mr AI-hair became a common staff at each hair salon. People could change their perfect hair style anytime and anywhere they preferred.

# New Space Silk Road

*Ching Chung Hau Po Woon Primary School, Chong, Levin – 11*

In 2080, a secret conference is held in Hong Kong. Commander Chong stands before the Dragon Team, preparing for their mission to explore the New Space Silk Road. Their goal is to establish alliances with extra-terrestrial civilization and procure essential resources from other planets. The spaceship they are about to board is a marvel of cutting-edge innovation invented by group of Chinese scientists.

"The spaceship is a true masterpiece of technological innovation," Commander Chong addresses the team with great excitement. "Powered by an antimatter reactor, it harnesses the immense energy released through matter-antimatter annihilation, propelling us at previously unimaginable speed. The spaceship is navigated by the BeiDou Super-Sonic-Plus Navigation Satellite System, enabling precise navigation in the vast universe."

He points towards the spacecraft's exterior, which boasts a sleek design adorned with a shimmering, self-regenerating nanomaterial coating. "This advanced coating not only protects against cosmic radiation and micrometeoroids but also seamlessly repairs any damages sustained during our journey. It ensures the integrity and longevity of our vessel in the harsh environment of space."

Commander Chong directs the crew's attention to the spaceship's propulsion system. "Our ship is equipped with a revolutionary plasma propulsion system that combines electromagnetic fields and ionized gases to achieve extraordinary speeds. This enables us to travel vast distances in a fraction of the time previously required." He adds, "Inside the spacecraft, an artificial gravity generation system has been integrated. By harnessing the power of gravitons to create gravitational field that mimics Earth's, providing a comfortable environment for us throughout the mission."

Unveiling the ship's command centre, where a massive holographic display dominated the room, Commander Chong says. "This state-of-the-art command centre houses an advanced quantum computing system, capable of processing vast amounts of data in milliseconds. This provides us with real-time information, simulations, and enhanced decision-making capabilities, making our exploration safer and more efficient."

He continues, "Our spaceship also boasts advanced sensors and scanners, including a quantum entanglement-based telescope. This telescope allows us to observe distant celestial bodies with unparalleled clarity. It provides us with a deeper understanding of the cosmos and helps uncover hidden resources and potential discoveries."

Captain Drake, Dr. Reynolds, and the rest of the crew are filled with a sense of wonder and anticipation. They understand that their mission is not just about acquiring resources but also about pushing the boundaries of human knowledge and exploration.

3...2...1.... The moment arrives. In the Gobi Desert, the Dragon Team sets off on their futuristic spaceship. They plan to visit Mercury, Moon, Europa and Neptune as their first attempt of New Space Silk Road. The first destination is Mercury, where they aim to establish contact with the Mercurians and procure diamonds, iron, and nickel. In exchange, they offer the Mercurians the precious treasure of fresh vegetables.

The Dragon Team lands successfully on Mercury and is greeted by their alien partners, the Mercurians. "Guess what? The Mercurian have given us tons of diamonds! ' Surprised Captain Drake, marveling at the shining gems. 'Well, the diamonds here are as common as stones.' Commander Chong calmly responds.

After their successful encounter with the Mercurian, they eagerly set their sights on the next destination – the Moon. As they approach the lunar surface, the crew is mesmerized by the breathtaking view of Mercury, shining like a blue jewel against the darkness.

Upon landing the Moon, they don their spacesuits and make their way towards a designated meeting point to meet the advanced alien civilization known as Kasp who has established a lunar colony and possess invaluable knowledge of the Moon's resources.

The crew is greeted by delegations from Kasp, whose elongated limbs and luminescent skin giving them an otherworldly appearance. Through a combination of advanced translation technology and hand gestures, the two groups exchange greetings and begin negotiations.

Commander Chong, leading the conversation, expresses their purpose. "We are here to explore and establish connections with civilizations like yours, and to acquire resources that can benefit both societies."

The Kasp leader, with a gentle smile, responds, "Welcome, Dragon Team. We are willing to share our knowledge of the lunar resources. In return, we request assistance in obtaining a sustainable source of fresh produce that you have offered."

Captain Drake steps forward, presenting a carefully sealed container filled with various types of vegetable seeds. "We have brought a selection of vegetable seeds, along with soil, fertilizer, and other necessary materials. Our aim is to contribute to the sustainability of your colony and establish a mutually beneficial relationship."

Pleased with the offering, the leader nods in agreement. "This is a generous gesture, Dragon Team. We shall provide you with the resources you seek, including helium-3, rare minerals, and valuable lunar regolith. Let us work together!"

With the exchange completed, the crews load their cargo with the lunar resources. As they bid farewell to their allies, they can't help but feel a sense of bliss. The Dragon Team has successfully established a connection and acquired valuable resources from the Moon, solidifying their mission's purpose.

With the Moon behind them, the crews eagerly head to the next adventure – Europa. Upon arriving at Europa, the Dragon Team descends into its icy depths, encountering the Aquarian, an intelligent underwater civilization. The Aquarian agrees to share its abundant water resources in exchange for advanced knowledge from Earth.

Finally, the Dragon Team sets its sights on Neptune, known for its diamond rain. Upon landing, the crews are surprised to find no visible aliens. However, Captain Drake encounters a slimy creature that turns out to be the inhabitant of Neptune. As they converse, a shower of diamonds descends from the sky – the diamond rain! The crews collect the diamonds with joy, becoming the first group of human beings to experience such a spectacle.

With their mission completed and the first route of the New Space Silk Road explored, the Dragon Team feels a sense of pride and accomplishment. The New Space Silk Road has established meaningful connections with extra-terrestrial civilizations, contributing to humanity's pursuit of a brighter future.

# A Travel to The Greatest Moment in History

*Ching Chung Hau Po Woon Primary School, Lee, Ching Chung – 11*

Paul was just an ordinary boy, but he got a high fever, so he stayed in the hospital for one week. After a week, he returned to school and had to finish all the homework that he hadn't done. He finished all his homework except for one assignment that required online research. Since he didn't like searching on Google, he decided to build a time machine that could take him to the past. He wanted to do a presentation on how paper was made in the past, so he aimed to find the year when paper was invented.

After building the time machine, Paul felt proud of himself, even though it took him a few days to complete. He selected a specific year, a few days before the invention of paper, but he needed to make a few adjustments before activating it. Finally, he managed to get the portal to work.

As he activated the portal, Paul remembered that he had set a timer to remind him when to return to reality. He realized that if he exceeded the set time, the portal would close, and he would be forever trapped in the past. Therefore, he had to be cautious and could only use the time machine once. With the timer ready, he entered the portal and found himself in a place where Cai Lun, the creator of paper, was just starting to make it.

Paul decided to follow Cai Lun and observed how he made paper. He was impressed by Cai Lun's determination and perseverance. Despite taking a month to make paper, Cai Lun never gave up. Paul thought Cai Lun was an amazing person. Eventually, Cai Lun took a break and decided to rest. Paul took the opportunity to examine the paper that Cai Lun had been working on and could tell that it was almost finished.

A few days later, Cai Lun successfully completed the first paper in the world. He felt proud of himself and hurried to show it to the Emperor. Paul ran after him, curious to see what would happen. When Cai Lun presented the paper to the Emperor, he was impressed with Cai Lun's work. The Emperor decided to instruct his guards to help Cai Lun make more paper and sell it to the village.

However, a few days later, the Emperor received false information from a villager who accused Cai Lun of stealing his work and lying about his identity. The Emperor, believing the villager's claims, wanted to punish Cai Lun. Cai Lun and Paul overheard the Emperor's conversation with the guards about this terrible plot. Fearing for his life and being sent to death in a dishonorable way, Cai Lun bathed and dressed in formal clothes before taking his own life by drinking poison. Paul wanted to intervene and stop him, but he also knew that he had to return to reality before getting trapped in the past. He rushed back to the portal just in time and returned to reality.

Paul couldn't understand why the Emperor suddenly wanted to kill Cai Lun. Nonetheless, he had written his presentation and had to share it with his class.

# Journey through Time: A Strange Encounter with Zhang Heng

*Ching Chung Hau Po Woon Primary School, Wang, Qiany Qianyue – 11*

'Have you ever had an adventure that left you changed forever? Something that shifted your perspective and awakened your feeling of awe and wonder? If not, please let me share my experience with you...'

It all started one day when the English professor, Mr Aqeel, decided to show us a poem for the library archives. 'Genuine Han Dynasty,' he claimed. It went like this:

The seismoscope – godly device  
However though – gives bad advice  
Earthquake shattered – village scattered  
All in ruins – all Zhang's doings!  
He's put to shame – as he's to blame.

The rhymes made me rather giddy, and, as though in a trance, I couldn't stop staring stupidly at the parchment. The words seemed to squirm and dilate before slowly washing drowsiness over me, absorbing me into their universe...

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I couldn't believe my eyes as I saw myself standing in a wooden workshop. Rays of light were centred on a seismoscope sitting on a table.

'Good morning, my friend!' cried an enthusiastic voice behind me. I turned hastily to find a senior gentleman smiling at me. He shook my hand vigorously, 'There is no time better to be alive than 130 AD! I am Zhang Heng, please explore this historical moment – '

'Um, excuse me sir, but your wife demands you fix the leaking roof at home,' interrupted a panting messenger. 'I'll see to my good lady, adios my friend,' apologised Zhang Heng. His employees escorted him outside and left me wondering where he had learnt his Spanish.

I was alone. It was quiet. I approached the seismoscope, studying it carefully, running my hand along the delicate carvings. I noted that a balancing piece if disturbed, would trigger a marble-dropping mechanism. 'Quite ingenious. Identical to the dispensers at home. What if... I give it a good shake here and...!' Ping! A bronze marble rolled down and clattered into its container.

'Ah, I need to find the –' I was startled when Zhang Heng appeared behind me, but he was cut short when he saw the marble in the toad's mouth.

'There's an earthquake southwest of here!' the old man's eyes grew wide, his voice shrill. Before I could tell him his mistake, he ran off, with his robes billowing in the wind.

As everybody hailed for help, I felt a terrible pang of *deja vu*.

After a while, Zhang returned, looking downcast. 'Sorry to disappear like that, my young friend, false alarm, false alarm,' Zhang Heng explained, disappointed. 'We didn't find anything – very mysterious, all this business.' Guilt swept over me as I stared at the ground. 'Now, excuse me...!' 'What you need is there,' I said, directing him to the lavatory.

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Suddenly, my vision blurred and fast-forwarded. I was viewing an image of the street outside. Pedestrians were running marathons while the carts flew by at Formula 1 speeds. From the unnaturally fast voices, I pieced together that the government, enraged at the misapprehension had cut funds to his project while the general public laughed at Zhang and shrugged at the possibility of an earthquake. It was a sticky situation which Zhang Heng was slap in the middle of.

'I just want to contribute to our society – I have harmed no one,' sighed Zhang. I was pitiful how Zhang was blamed for my error. Wait a second... I could help Zhang fix the problem, amending my childish mistake and conclude this hullabaloo! I dived into the screen and the empty cinema melted away. (A waste of some good popcorn.)

'Oh! Thank goodness you're here!' cried Zhang. His hair was pale, cheekbones visible – he was overworking. I trust it is because of the spring – it is too sensitive and triggers it accidentally,' I told him after he came over the shock. I didn't even have time to elaborate (and he didn't have time to ask me how I knew that) as the seismoscope was triggered – again!

'There's an earthquake northwest of here!' he cried out frantically. 'Are you sure? It's not fixed yet,' I said doubtfully. He shook his head. 'Come. We must alert everybody!' Then, I suddenly remembered the poem Mr Aqeel showed me...

We hurried off together, trailing dust. A fair distance later, we saw a bustling village full of activity. 'Is this it?' 'Just evacuate the villagers – rush them out of the village as soon as possible!'

I, being the faster runner, volunteered to alert the cops (or the Han alternative).

I ran down the dirt path as fast as I could. Zhang's workshop was already in view when –

'Excuse me for disturbing you,' Mr Aqeel sighed, tapping me on the shoulder. I shook myself awake. 'Where am I?' I asked confusedly. Mr Aqeel shook his head. 'I don't tolerate naps in my class, now, going back to the poem...'

My eyebrows flew up my forehead as I saw how the poem had varied from when I first saw it:

When all was lost – a stranger came  
He improved it – (he had no name)  
But his skills were – beyond insane  
He saved the town – from the flame  
Of the earthquake – and hurricane  
The seismoscope – it came to fame



Thirty years later...

'I realised that Zhang Heng's passion was not just inventing. It was about using his knowledge and skills to help people in need. And he was able to do just that.

'When I left, I realized I had learned something important from him. I understood that knowledge and skills weren't enough. I had to use them and my courage to make a difference in our world.



'And with that, I bid farewell to Zhang Heng. But the lessons I had learned would stay with me forever.'

The audience applauded while I bowed and signed autographs. People were fighting to shake my hand. 'That was one inspirational TED talk!'

# Gunpowder in China

*Farm Road Government Primary School, Ip, Shun Kiu – 11*

One day, I was reading a book about China's inventions. When I was reading the page about gunpowder, I thought, gunpowder is amazing! I really like reading this book. Suddenly, I saw I was in ancient China! Why was I there? I didn't know.

At that time, I heard a sound, 'Boom!' I ran and ran. Wow! I saw the palace and went in. I saw the emperor shouting, "I want medicine that make me not grow old or die!" I was shocked because the emperor's voice was so loud.

I ran to a building which was called the alchemy building. I entered the building and saw some medicine. The ministers there were examining the medicine and one of them ate it. 'Boom!' He exploded! The other ministers said they were testing the medicine and said it was called 'Don't get old or die medicine'. I knew what it was but couldn't see it clearly. 'Do you have any more?' I asked. 'No, we don't!' said the minister. 'We are making a new medicine now because the old one will explode!' "Ha! Ha!" I laughed. "Keep fighting!" "Ok! Goodbye!" said the minister.

I went to a hotel. I thought, why does the medicine explode? I didn't know what the answer to the question was.

A week later, I went to the alchemy building again. I saw the ministers were still trying to make the 'Don't get old or die medicine' there. 'Hi!' said the minister when he saw me. 'Hi!' I replied. 'Did you test the new medicine?' 'No, we didn't. We will test it today!' said the minister. 'We can test it now!' said the other minister and suddenly he ate the medicine! 'Boom!' he exploded! 'Oh! Please keep going!' I said and exited the alchemy building again.

I went back to the hotel and thought, why did the medicine explode? Have they added gunpowder to it? Umm...wait...is that medicine gunpowder? I had read a book about China's inventions a week before. It said gunpowder was made by scientists trying to make a medicine to never get old or die. So, the ministers were making gunpowder! It was very interesting. I couldn't sleep that night because I was so excited.

The next day, I wanted to visit the ministers, but I didn't want them to explode in front of me. So, I walked around in the old Chinese city. I saw the people were buying buns, vegetables and meat. They also bought clothes. The clothes were so beautiful! Then, I went back to the hotel.

Two weeks later, I went to the alchemy building and visited the ministers. They looked as tired as pandas. 'What happened?' I asked. 'We tested for a long time, but we couldn't make a successful medicine,' said one sleepy minister. 'I think you can make gunpowder. Do you know what it is?' I asked excitedly. 'No, what is it?' asked the ministers. 'It's a thing, when you ignite it, will explode!' I said. 'Really? But the emperor told us to make medicine,' the ministers replied nervously.

I didn't know how to make gunpowder, so I couldn't help them. I thought about how I could make gunpowder. I didn't know. Then, I sat on a chair and looked outside. Suddenly, I had a good idea and decided to visit the ministers later.

Two days later, I went to visit the ministers again in the alchemy building. I entered a room and called the ministers by pulling a bell. They came immediately. I asked the ministers to take their medicine to that room. They felt a bit strange because people couldn't eat the medicine. I said, 'Please take away the skin covering the medicine.' They felt even stranger, but they listened to my commands. Then I put the medicine in a cart and used fire to ignite it. Suddenly, there were some fireworks. They were so beautiful. The emperor saw them too. He liked the fireworks very much!

The next day, I found out that the emperor liked the fireworks from another minister. I told the ministers, 'The emperor likes our fireworks. Maybe he will cut the 'Don't get old and die medicine' project and start a fireworks project.' The ministers felt delighted. They took the medicine to the palace and the emperor was so pleased he started the fireworks project. We were extremely surprised and hugged together. 'We succeeded!' shouted a minister.

Later, we went to the palace and used fire to ignite the fireworks. They were so beautiful. They people yelled together, 'We're so happy to see the fireworks!' We were all very happy.

Finally, I went to the place I arrived in ancient China. I took my book about China's inventions and said goodbye to the emperor and the ministers. Then, I went back to my home! The trip was so exciting and fun!

# Paper in China

*Farm Road Government Primary School, Lam, Hiu Yu Elsa – 12*

China has a long history of creativity and many inventions. The one thing we use all the time nowadays is paper. Paper was invented by Cai Lun who was a very famous inventor in China. He has a very interesting story about how and why he invented paper.

Once upon a time, there was a person called Cai Lun. He loved reading and studying. One day he saw a man carrying many bamboo slips. The weather was very sunny and hot and many people were sweating. Cai Lun thought it was very bad for the people to carry many heavy bamboo slips and was not convenient at all, so, he thought of making something light and useable. He used many different things to try making paper. He tried many times and never gave up until at last he had invented paper.

Paper has many good advantages but some bad drawbacks as well. Paper is very light and convenient. You can carry many pages at the same time and it can save more space than bamboo slips. However, it does take a lot of trees to make paper – almost 4 billion each year are cut to make paper. Trees are getting fewer and fewer and maybe one day we will have cut down all of our trees and everything will be gone. But I still think paper is a great invention.

Nowadays, people use technology to read and send emails and texts. A lot of things are done through technology. A long time ago, if people needed to send letters, it took a long time to send, but now with just one button, your message can already be sent. Lots of schools use BYOD, so now we don't use as much paper and the trees are growing bigger. The technology is convenient and use can save a lot of things on one USB. We also don't really use books as much now, instead using iPads to learn.

But I think paper is better because it is not heavy and we will hurt our eyes if we spend too long on our devices. And maybe you will become addicted to your devices and no longer want to read books because you use your devices too much.

I think iPads, phones and computers all have very unique and fast technology, so that students don't even need to type on their phones or write on paper. You can just press a button and speak into your device and you will get your message written out, ready to send to your friends and family.

Even though the technology is great, I still prefer paper. Writing on paper can help you exercise your mind and help you memorize the words more.

I like paper. What about you? I think paper is the greatest Chinese invention.

# The Discovery of Magnets

*Farm Road Government Primary School, Lo, Tsz Shan Sofie – 11*

The discovery of the magnet has been recorded by the Chinese back to the Zhou Dynasty. Around 7000 B.C. an iron maker found some metal that would be attracted to iron ore in a mysterious way. The iron maker could not explain why the iron ores were self-moving as if moved by an invisible hand, so he shared the findings with his friends and villagers. Time after time, people revealed it was a characteristic of natural magnets and made use of its properties to apply in many ways to facilitate our lives.

In the Zhou Dynasty, there was an iron maker called Chen Yang. One day, Chen Yang found a dark colored metal that moved when he put it near iron ore. He shouted, 'Wow! It's amazing!'

Many people came and took a look. Some of them were attracted by the amazing findings. One of the villagers was called Chen Ping. He was a natural born scientist, so Chen Ping was very interested in this discovery. After that, he examined a lot of different metals and iron ore and did a lot of tests. He wanted to find out the reason the metal was moving by itself. Some villagers made fun of Chen Ping and said, 'He is a stupid guy! He does something useless every day.' But Chen Ping believed he would find the answer if he didn't give up.

One month later, Chen Ping left his village and travelled around China. He planned to go to different quarries to collect all sorts of stone samples. Half a year later, he arrived at a mountain that had a bulk of iron ore. At that moment, he had financial problems because he hadn't worked for half a year. The villagers were curious about the tests that Chen Ping was doing. There was a teacher there called Choi Hung. He was so absorbed in Chen Ping's experiment that he decided to help him. Chen Ping was delighted because he was not alone.

The main duty of Choi Hung was to make money and the main duty of Chen Ping was to focus on his research and experiments again. There were more and more people who were interested in the findings. Chen Ping and Choi Hung held a workshop and invited the villagers to join the workshop to help them.

Five years passed and there was a breakthrough in the research. Chen Ping found that there was a metal that always pointed to the south direction if he put in on a magnet. All of the villagers were elated at the result. Chen Ping called it a compass. The villagers who had no sense of direction, could find the correct way if they brought the compass. After that, people changed their habits. They wanted to travel and do business far away. It was easier for them to find the correct places they would like to go. The compass helped them save a lot of time.

Chen Ping went back to his village. There villagers who loved there were proud of him. Some of them said, 'Chen Ping is intelligent and selfless!' Chen Ping's parents were thrilled to bits with his success.

One day, a shipmaster called Wang Liang came to Chen Ping's village. Wang Liang had a fleet of ships and he did business with other countries. They spent a lot of time on the way back and forth and often would get lost on the ocean. Wang Liang hoped that Chen Ping could use the compass for sailing. The compass showed degree angle and gave direction with high accuracy.

Chen Ping held a workshop dedicated to finding applications for the compass. They found a compass that was suitable for sailing and sold it to Wang Liang. The compass helped Wang Liang a lot and saved him a lot of time and helped him earn a lot of money. He appreciated Chen Ping and became best friends with him.

Chen Ping's workshop produced different kinds of compasses for different uses. After a period of time, the compass was widely used in the Zhou Dynasty. Chen Ping became very rich due to the popularity of the compass. He donated a lot of money to the village and founded a school of science and technology when he was aged 50. The science and technology school provided education opportunities to many young men. Many of them became famous teachers, scientists or government officers after they finished their studies.

Perhaps in the future, new technology will be developed in the theory of magnetism over hundreds of years. Maybe a magnetic turning motor will be developed which can sustain its own movement. Without further energy added to it. People will no longer face a power shortage after this breakthrough.

# China's Technology

*Farm Road Government Primary School, Ma, Tsz Yu Cara – 12*

As the world's most populous country, China is always at the forefront of being a powerful innovator. Some of the creative inventions in the past were papermaking, the compass, gunpowder and printing. These creative inventions not only solved our problems in daily life, but also helped in education. Paper helped with printing books, so education could continue over time. But these inventions cannot help this generation anymore. So, China is making more high technology innovations to help with our daily life.

For example, WeChat is a community app that is a very popular invention in China. Most people now use WeChat daily to communicate with friends and family without having to write a letter, which is very convenient for this generation.

While these are important inventions, the one invention I think changed the world is paper. The first ever paper was made with rags, but now we use wood. The first paper was just a small piece or a thick brown sheet. Now it is usually white, not as thick and not as ripped as it was back then. But what part actually changed the world? The answer is that it improved education and was much easier to write as the old paper was made from bamboo strips. They were very heavy and inconvenient to write on and it took a long time for the ink to dry.

Now, since the technology improved a lot, we don't have to wait for so long for the ink to dry. We can just use a pencil or pen to write on a piece of paper. Or we can even do our essays and homework on computers, iPads or phones. How cool is that?

During the pandemic, a lot of apps have been created, like TikTok. The teenagers just make TikTok videos all day long in their rooms, so a lot of people wear glasses now. We had online classes, but had no homework that needed pens for. After one or two years of staying indoors, we could finally go back outside and go to school. But we had to wear face masks and talk to our friends with a board between us. Now we don't have any of that anymore. We could take off our masks, eat lunch together and we could do homework again that required our pens and paper.

Technology has improved so much! Chinese people are so smart and they invented so much to improve our lives. Would you prefer the old-fashioned bamboo or actual paper? I would prefer actual paper myself since I don't want to wait so long for my homework to dry!

Now, on to how paper was invented. Once upon a time, a wide man named Chan Tai Man loved writing, but he hated the way he had to wait for the bamboo strips to dry, so he wanted to change things. He did lots of research and did a lot of experiments to make better paper. He then found out he could make paper using wood. He chopped up as much wood as he could and did many tests on it. He finally succeeded and made a sheet of paper. He wrote many things on it, including the formula and the steps for making paper. He then hired a few other people to help him make the paper. They continued doing experiments and made a lot of paper which they sold for a lot of money.

Since then, paper has become easier and easier to make and has become much cheaper.

# The Invention of Moveable Type

*Farm Road Government Primary School, Tse, Pui Yan Naomi – 11*

Long, long ago, China didn't have printers. People had to carve Chinese characters into blocks of wood, cover the character in ink and press the wood into a piece of paper. So, Song Dynasty books were very beautiful but took a long time to make.

Bi Sheng was the person who invented moveable type printing. He was an engraver and inventor. He tried many ways to make moveable type, including clay, wooden, pottery, porcelain and copper moveable type. He used clay to make models with a depth of one to two millimeters and made an iron frame in which to place the moveable type held in place with rosin. He placed the characters in the frame until the entire page was filled, then heated the plate to melt the rosin and then cooled again to fix the moveable type on the plate. Then, the printing was ready.

But, he found some problems. If he used the moveable type printing many times, the characters became more and more blurred. He needed to find better materials. He tried many different materials, but they weren't good.

One day, he saw his wife boiling water in a crock. He thought if he cared the Chinese characters in the soft clay, they wouldn't absorb water and moisture, but he thought they would be easy to break. He thought about it a lot, but he didn't find a solution.

One morning, he was very tired, so he decided to go for a walk. He saw some children who were playing with some dice. He picked one up to look at it and found it was very hard. He asked the children what material was used and they told him it was made of clay. Maybe he could use clay after all.

Bi Sheng got some strongly viscous glue, some clay for making pottery and water. He mixed it together and made small squares, engraving them after air drying, then baking them in a fire until the word was as hard and as smooth as porcelain. The words were hard and non-absorbent and also clear to be printed many times. Even if the character was misplaced, it was very convenient to move it.

After the initial success of the experiment, he set up a small earthen kiln in his backyard and made 5000 square, half-inch long moveable type molds which were baked for two days. He finally had a set of clear, hard and non-absorbent moveable type. It sped up printing because characters could be used for more than one word, rare words could be made quickly and the fonts could be classified and stored so they were easy to find when used in the future.

Bi Sheng's invention of moveable type printing led to uses in modern printing, manufacturing and type setting. Although there have been continuous improvements, the basic principle is the same as Bi Sheng's moveable type printing. Now when we enjoy our books, we need to thank Bi Sheng.



# China's Inventions

*Farm Road Government Primary School, Tse, Pui Yee Aliza – 11*

China had a lot of inventions, such as paper making, the compass, silk, the abacus and gunpowder. With so many Chinese invention to choose from, I think the inventions I find most interesting are Cai Lun's paper making, the compass and gunpowder.

Cai Lun was born in 63 A.D. in the last year of Emperor Yong Ping of the Han Ming Dynasty. Cai Lun was selected to be a eunuch by people who were sent to his hometown by the imperial court. Cai Lun proved himself to be talented and learned, loyal to his official duties and honest in his work.

Later, Cai Lun served as Shang Fang Ling and supervised the production of palace items. It was at this time that Cai Lun started to improve paper making technology.

Since ancient times in China, books and manuscripts used bamboo slips as a writing medium. Later, soft silk appeared. However, the cost of making paper from silk was very high and bamboo slips were heavy and bulky. So, Cai Lun wanted to innovate technology and use other materials instead. Paper began to be made from cheaper materials such as leather, rags, hemp heads and fishnets, greatly reducing the cost of paper making.

The conditions were prepared for the popularization of paper, and in the first year of Yuanxing, Emperor He of the Han Dynasty, Cai Lun reported the results of improved paper making to the emperor. The emperor admired Cai Lun's talents very much and promoted the improved paper making technology to various places.

The next invention is the compass, which is a tool used to indicate directions, widely used in various direction interpretations such as navigation, outdoor exploration, urban roads, map reading and other fields. The compass is also called the north needle because contemporary pointing needles often have a colour mark painted on the end pointing north to help users find the direction of north. The closer you get to the poles, the less effective the compass becomes. At the North Pole, any direction on the surface can be considered south. At the South Pole, any direction on the surface can be considered north.

In China, the compass was also known as Si Nan, which was a metal spoon that always faced south. The word Si Nan first appeared in the Youdu chapter of Han Feizi during the warring states period. However, due to the lack of direct cultural relics, the meaning, function and shape of the word Si Nan has been lost. According to different documents and archaeological evidence, various parties have opinions and disputes such as the guide theory, big dipper theory and the official position theory.

The next great invention is gunpowder. Gunpowder was an invention in ancient China. It was accidentally discovered by Taoist priests during the Eastern Han Dynasty trying to refine the elixir of life.

During the Song and Yuan Dynasties, gunpowder was widely used in military affairs and a variety of gunpowder weapons appeared such as artillery, rockets and muskets. The invention of gunpowder also led to the emergence of fireworks and primitive firearms in China.

# Cai Lun Invents Paper

*Farm Road Government Primary School, Wong, Cheuk Kiu Miya – 11*

A very long time ago, a man named Cai Lun saw a problem. He realized reading heavy bamboo slips was making him tired, He was so sick of it that he thought, 'Bamboo is cheap but heavy, silk is light but expensive. How can I make this invention light but cheap?'

Cai Lun looked around and saw some materials that made him have an idea. 'These materials must be helpful. Maybe I can make an invention out of these materials. I must be smart! This is a brilliant idea! Soon people will adore me and I'll be famous!'

Cai Lun quickly went to work on making his invention successful. He thought about the steps first and then he tried and he tried, but still failed. He never gave up and kept trying until one day he finally succeeded. He wrote something on it and he was proud. 'I did it! I did it! I can show the village what I made! Then they won't have to carry heavy bamboo or buy expensive silk now.'

The inventor was very proud, so he decided to write down a whole recipe about how to make paper with materials easy to find and use. 'Let me tell you the process of making paper,' he said.

First, cut down some bamboo shoots and tie them together. Next, soak them in water to soften them. It might take a while to do so. After that, boil and pound the bamboo to form a pulp. Dip a fine screen into the pulp and a thin layer of fibers will cling to the screen. We just have to press the paper to remove the water, then just let it dry. The finished paper is then peeled off the screen.

'That's how to make paper! It's just that simple!' Cai Lun said happily.

The people in the village were very excited. "Wow!" "It's amazing!" "You're our savior!" The people said happily. The citizens cheered for Cai Lun. He was very happy.

Nowadays, people use paper a lot. In school, we have textbooks, homework and worksheets. They are all made out of paper. Even newspapers are made out of paper. Paper is really impressive. We can fold it into a hat, boat or paper plane. We can use it for drawing, writing or reading books. We can also make paper cards for someone's birthday, Christmas, Mother's Day or Father's Day. They will be happy after receiving the cards and you can see the joy in their eyes. That's why paper is important!

# Lu Ban's Crisis

*Kowloon Rhenish School, Lung, Yin Wang – 9*

On a scorching day in the Zhou Dynasty, the king grew weary of staying still in his old palace and declared, “I yearn for a cool and majestic sanctuary for this sweltering summer!” One of the king's concubines suggested, “Why should it be just one palace? How about we build two?” Another concubine chimed in, “And let's hire brilliant craftsmen to construct them for us!”

In order to fulfill the concubines' extravagant wishes, the king commanded Lu Ban, an exceptionally talented structural craftsman, and another craftsman named Ng Hei to individually construct two grand palaces in just three months. Failure to accomplish the mission before deadline would result in beheading. Lu Ban wasted no time and immediately began working with his team. However, despite their tireless efforts, progress was agonizingly slow. Lu Ban grew increasingly exhausted and anxious about the pace of the construction. He tried various methods to expedite the process, including hiring the finest craftsmen and utilizing the best tools available. Unfortunately, all of his attempts failed.

A few days later, when the king eagerly inspected the progress of the palace, his face turned as dark as thunder upon seeing Lu Ban's slow advancement. The king interrogated Lu Ban, demanding, “Will my palace be completed on time?” Lu Ban replied, “Your Majesty, it is impossible to construct a palace within three months with our current resources.” The king then turned to Ng Hei and asked the same question. Nervously, Ng Hei stammered, “Hmmm, your Majesty, I... I...can definitely accomplish it on time!” In comparison, the king was fuming with anger and deemed Lu Ban's response as an excuse and sent him to prison without hesitation.

On the eve of Lu Ban's scheduled execution, heavy snow unexpectedly blanketed the town. The sudden weather change in the midst of summer frightened the king, and his ministers convinced him to reconsider his decision. The king pondered, “Is this a sign of divine wrath for my intended act against Lu Ban?” Reflecting on his actions, the king made a remarkable decision to release Lu Ban from prison.

Once released, Lu Ban resumed his work on the palace. Despite the continued struggle to make progress, he refused to give up. One day, while leading his crew into the forest to gather wood, Lu Ban's leg was accidentally injured by a sharp thorn on a blade of grass. Concerned, a crew member asked, “Are you all right?” Before Lu Ban could respond, a giant mantis leaped nearby and effortlessly shredded the grass in two with its strong and spiky forelegs. Witnessing this, Lu Ban's eyes widened with amazement and he exclaimed, “Ah... I have an idea! I know how to create a tool that will revolutionize the construction process.” Perplexed, the crew members exchanged puzzled glances, unsure of what he meant.

That night, Lu Ban attempted to cut wood with the jagged grass, but it proved too brittle. His wife sobbed and whispered, “Oh! We might not succeed as we only have three weeks left.” Struggling to improve for days, Lu Ban fashioned a wooden saw, but it was broken after a couple of trials. His wife wailed and whispered again, “Oh! We might not succeed with only two weeks left.” After several sleepless nights, inspiration struck Lu Ban when he observed his wife cooking with an iron wok. He wondered, “Why don't we make a saw out of iron? A metal saw would undoubtedly be more durable!” The next day, Lu Ban commanded his crew, “Bring me all of your iron woks.” Though puzzled, the crew confided in his ingenuity and eagerly awaited his invention. After collecting the woks, Lu Ban swiftly produced dozens of iron saws. On the following day, he presented the saws to his crew members. Scratching their heads in confusion, they curiously asked, “What are these, Mr. Lu? How can they assist us?” Lu Ban replied confidently, “These are wood-cutting tools inspired by the jagged grass and the mantis I encountered. With them, we can shape the wood quickly and precisely.” By employing the saws, Lu Ban's crew was able to construct the palace with unparalleled efficiency.

On the day of the construction deadline, the king examined the progress of Lu Ban and Ng Hei. Only Lu Ban had managed to complete the palace due to his invention, while Ng Hei had failed to meet the deadline. Trembling, Ng Hei awaited his death sentence. On the other hand, the king was both elated and astounded by the majestic and magnificent palace built by Lu Ban. He rewarded Lu Ban with thousands of golden treasures and offered him one wish. Filled with compassion, Lu Ban pleaded for an extension for Ng Hei and handed him a saw. The king grinned and granted his request.

Filled with a sense of accomplishment, Lu Ban returned home to a jubilant reception from the villagers. Celebrating this unforgettable moment with a multitude of feelings, Lu Ban's wife thoughtfully made him several freshly steamed buns. Savouring the aroma of bamboo and warmth of the soft buns, Lu Ban contentedly ate them. Intrigued, he asked his wife, "May I see the steamer you used?" His wife showed him the steamer while complaining about the difficulty of making holes in the steamer rack. Tenderly, Lu Ban held his wife's rugged hands. Suddenly, a tweet echoed from the garden outside. A woodpecker kept pecking rhythmically on a tree trunk. Lu Ban stared silently at the perfectly designed beak of the woodpecker for a brief moment before exclaiming, "Ah... I have an idea. I know how..." with the same tone he always adopted when inspiration struck from nature.

# Baby–Sitting robot

*Kowloon Rhenish School, So, Fei Yin Vian – 9*

Have you ever thought of inventing some new things for where you are living in? Well, I have but not exactly where I am living but for China. In China, there are lots of parents have to leave their child at home and go to work in other cities so I thought of inventing an animal robot that can also be a babysitter!

The baby–sitting robot could be different animal, like kitty, puppy, bunny, or hamster that kids likes.

Its eyes will be a projector that gives information for kids to solve difficult questions when they are doing homework.

Its ears will be a speaker that can play songs like lullaby or party songs and it can also become a telescope for your ears to hear something from far away. It will hear you no matter where and how far you are, and it would hear what you say clearly.

Its legs will be like cheetah legs but even faster! When you have problem oversea, its legs can transform into a boat and quickly sail to your location.

After saying its legs, ears and eyes, you may think “What about the mouth, tail and hands?” Well, here I am going to tell you.

Its mouth will be very useful in daily life. The mouth can be a water fountain and shoots water or other drinks in your mouth or cup. It will also have very sharp teeth when you need it. Its tail can turn into a fan when you feel hot.

Its hands will have sharp claws that can help to protect you when you are in danger, but it will never poke it’s owner by a special feature. I thought of “what if it’ dangerous function hurt the good guys?” so I thought of making a security system that can remember which person is good and which is bad. With three passwords, you can set the name of the good guys inside the security system when you buy it.

With all the good features, the final and most important question should be the price. I will set the price to be free! For people more affordable, it will be nice if they can make a donation to poor families.

# My Robot Best Friend

*Kowloon Rhenish School, Wong, Yi Ching Greta – 9*

This was my twelve-year-old birthday. I woke up in the early morning. My mum and dad shouted, “Happy Birthday, Netiri!” They gave me a huge cardboard box. It was nearly the same big as I was. “What is this?” I asked. Mum said, “Open it.” I opened the box and I saw a human-like robot! Human-like robot was one of the best birthday gifts for children nowadays. We could create our unique robot as our pet or our friend by simply choosing online its specie, gender, face and body. I remembered that my dad showed me years ago a video of humanoid robots at the World Robot Conference in China. The robots looked very real. Their eyes, their facial expressions and body movements were very natural. I also remembered that I saw cleaning robots at the MTR stations and service robots in the restaurants when I was little. My mum told me that there were even factory robots that could read human minds on the assembly lines in China. Human and robots have been friends for many years. They helped human out on many boring and repetitive work tasks. I could not imagine technology has become even more advanced today and I got the latest generation of humanoid robot for my birthday. The robot had long hair and its face was just like mine! I turned on the robot. She said, “Hello! I am ShiShi robot. I will be your very best friend. What can I help you?” “ShiShi is like your twin sister. We hope you will have a good time with her.” Dad said. ShiShi was intelligent but very naughty. She always ran away herself to explore our world.

My examination day would be started tomorrow but I was not ready! What could I do? I waited for an idea to pop into my head. I knew! I thought something bad. “Wake up! Or you will be late!” mum said. ShiShi said, “I am coming.” She went out of my bedroom. “Good morning Netiri!” Mum did not notice it was ShiShi at all. ShiShi did not answer and went to school. “Netiri is so quiet today.” “She is strange. She did not answer me.” my classmates said. “You have an hour to do your examination.” ShiShi sat at the desk but did not do the examination. “You need to start writing, Netiri.” said the teacher. ShiShi finished the examination papers in just one minute!

ShiShi went back home. “I am back!” She went to my bedroom. “It did work out!” I shouted with joy. From that day on, ShiShi helped me a lot. She helped me to do my homework. She tidied up my bedroom and she even went to school for me. “I will go to school by myself tomorrow.” I said to ShiShi. “Good morning everyone! I am going to school now!” I felt excited because I have not been school for more than two weeks. “Today I will give you back your examination papers.” said the teacher. I looked at my paper. “What! Why is 0 point?” I was sad. I talked to my classmates but no one comforted me because they thought I was being impolite before. I felt so sorry for misusing my robot.

I went back home. I was ashamed and scared to talk about my problem to my parents. Mum gave me a big hug and said, “Your teacher called us today.” Mum handed an instruction manual to me. “Did you read it?” “Use your robot wisely. It learns fast.” I read the first two sentences on the manual cover. I realized that every invention is made for the good of the world. It can make the world a better place. However, if it is used in a selfish way, it will have a bad impact on the world. I learnt my lesson. I became a responsible user and trained ShiShi sensibly. I believed we will be the best friends forever.

# A Bullet That Travelled Through Time

*Kowloon Rhenish School, So, Yee Lap Ethan – 10*

China is home to lots of inventions, some inventions may be considered a small step forward, but many are considered huge leaps for humanity. I had the most amazing encounter with an invention considered to have made a huge, lasting impact and changed our world forever.

One day I was relaxing on a bench reading a magazine about inventions when the sky suddenly went dark as night. Gusty winds blew from the magazine and sucked me into it without notice. I woke up inside a cave, feeling petrified. Deep inside the cave was a dwarf-like man standing in front of a bubbly pot, focussing on cooking something. He wore clothes exactly like the ones I saw in the history books which made me wonder where I was. At the same time, the rotten smell of sulfur made me realise that I could have travelled back in time and this man was perhaps an ancient alchemist making medicine for the leader of the Qin dynasty to gain immortality! I recalled that alchemists accidentally discovered gunpowder when trying to make medicine with saltpeter, sulfur and charcoal.

Before I could ask the man anything, I realised somebody was standing behind me. I turned around and saw a young, handsome man of my age, giving me a cheeky smile. He introduced himself as a genius time traveler named Leo and he revealed that it was him who sucked me into the magazine so that I could travel back in time with him!

Before I could ask Leo further questions, a huge explosion hit us, and rocks started pouring from the cave pushing us to the Tang dynasty!

When we reached the Tang dynasty we were exhausted. We seemed to be inside a misty forest with very low visibility. Hungry as a lion, Leo suggested we go find some supplies so we would not starve to death. Suddenly out of nowhere, a cannonball landed one meter from Leo, thankfully the small explosion did not injure us. However, an army emerged from the mist. Leo explained that the army could have been a Tang dynasty Chinese army. I was shocked by the sight in front of me. A war was unfolding right in front of us. It was a battleground, a field of mass destruction, a catastrophic scene which terrified me. For the first time, I saw someone using gunpowder as a weapon of mass destruction. After that cannonball, raids of hundreds if not thousands of cannonballs bombarded towards us. Stuck in the middle of the battlefield, Leo and I also saw many fire arrows flying around like eagles trying to catch prey. Many soldiers were hit, Leo and I got badly bruised and wounded and eventually passed out.

We woke up on a vessel from the Ming Dynasty with a clear “Ming” flag on it. It was not any commercial vessel equipped with bows and arrows or spears, it was a warship mounted with cannons. We realised we ended up in a war again, so with no choice left we decided to swim back to shore.

Landing on a shore on the Chinese Mainland, we saw a weapon stash being loaded onto a huge ship that was heading to the warfields in the east. Many types of weapons were being loaded like cannons, spears and small stone guns. We overheard the crew’s conversation and realised the ship we originally landed on in the sea with the “Ming” flag was an enemy vessel trying to attack the citizens of the Mainland! Wanting to help, we snuck into the ship and hid inside a barrel of food. When the loading door was closed we left the barrel to see what happened. All we saw was dust mist and an enemy ship with its crew members from far, getting ready to attack.

We revealed ourselves to the captain and the crew and told them what we originally saw on the enemy ship. Being a genius, Leo told them that we are able to help and taught them how to retaliate. The crew accepted us and let us control the cannons and cannonballs. With our help, the retaliation was a success.

After the battle, I felt it was time to go home and wanted to say goodbye to Leo. Leo said to me, “Nice to have met you. I am Leonardo da Vinci.” I was in utter shock, I met Leonardo da Vinci, the inventor and the artist, and I travelled through time with him!

If you thought my crazy and impossible story was over, no not really. As Leo said his goodbye to me, a whirlwind swept in, a flashback image appeared in front of me and Leo, showing the evolution of gunpowder in

China through time, from the ancient alchemist to the development of guns, dynamite, construction methods and so much more. The discovery of gunpowder and its development have really brought about lasting impacts to our world and I wished we could have used it not for war but bringing good to our world. Looking to the right Leo grew, he was no longer a 10-year old, but a much older, fully grown man in his sixties. Then I bid my final farewell to Leo before getting whizzed back by the magazine.

Before I knew it, I was back at the bench with the magazine in my hand. Having witnessed the aging of Leo I thought I also grew years older but when I looked at my watch, I was stunned that only one second had passed. I was a bullet that travelled through time.



# A Story about an Egg

*Kowloon Rhenish School, Wu, Cheuk Wai – 11*

“Cock-A-Doodle-Do”

I am an egg, produced from Gushi eggs in Henan.

In the early morning, the first day ray of sunshine arrived.

Our little guys, who were born last night, were about to set off on the highway, over the mountains and ridges to Hangzhou, a place 2,000 kilometers away.

Every day, the wind through the forest blows continuously through my home, and the gurgling spring water nourishes us silently. The mother chickens enjoy the nutritious grain meals scientifically formulated by the breeders, and take careful care of them so that they can produce high-quality eggs one by one. Come. If you don't believe it, the mother chickens are “quarreling” again. One of the mother chickens showed off her eggs loudly: “All of them are big, all of them are big!”

Good mountains, good water, good ecology and scientific modern breeding model work together to make chicken mothers grow healthy and strong, and also make us loved from the moment we are born – handsome in appearance, round and fragrant, with first-class nutrition and taste great.

When I looked up, I saw the worker MaMa who was about to pick me up to a new place.

In the meantime, listen to my wonderful journey.

"I'm almost done packing ready and soon got into the truck.

The truck took me to the highway. I saw mountains, tunnels, and bridges... After nearly ten hours, I finally saw the sales department of a store called Hema (Freshippo) in Hangzhou.

The Hema store is growing rapidly in China, opening 65 locations in one year. It is what the future of retail store will look like: serving as a place to shop in person, a distribution center for online orders and the restaurant.

Let's see what interests me. First, I notice is the price system.

Every price tag has a barcode, in which you can use the Hema app to scan the barcode and see the price of the item online. First a smart egg inkjet printer was operating at high speed. The clerk was busy counting, selecting, coding, and packing boxes again... Soon, I saw that all my friends were being Marked with "exclusive coding".

Mr. Jack, the person in charge, said that these codes are our "identity cards."

"We don't have to worry about sales. About 11 tons are shipped every day, and we can usually sell them out on the same day. In the past, we mainly targeted large customers such as supermarkets, schools, and workplace canteens. Now, in order to keep up with the market situation, retail sales are also going very well."

Mr. Jack also said that my friends will be transported to the Greater Bay Area 365 days a year, and it only takes 24 hours from output to market, ensuring freshness to the greatest extent. After arriving, we will be selected, graded, etc. again, so that we can become high-quality eggs "both inside and outside".

At the store in Hangzhou, I once again felt the love that Hangzhou citizens have for us.

If you don't believe it, listen—

The person in charge of the store said: "Usually, the fresh Gushi eggs are sold out before noon."

We only stay in the store for a short time before someone makes an order and we get picked out. When I can walk out of the store, I will hum a song proudly: I am an egg, produced from Gushi eggs in Henan.

By using the Hema app barcode, customers can see reviews of that product. What is also fascinating is that even though those price tags look like they were printouts and that is not all. It is a special technology that can change the price in real-time. It even tells customers when I and any products were delivered to the store and where I and other products came from. Customers can even see a scan of a government certificate proving, for instance, if I was organic.

It also shows delivery options if customers decide not to buy me and other items in store. I just saw an employee who works for the store and she was fulfilling an online order. So using her scanner, she would pick me or other items that are being ordered. And then what was really crazy, is instead of walking across the store to get me where I need to go, she puts me on a conveyor belt, which then took me to the ceiling, to the back area, where I will go out for delivery. So essentially now we are talking about not a retail store, but also a distribution center. We are packed neatly and safely.

And if my customer lives within 3 kilometers of a Hema store, he can have delivery of his groceries within 30 minutes. Furthermore, Hema announced that its "global shopping" business has been fully upgraded and will provide online next-day delivery services. .

There are a lot of employees walking around the store, fulfilling orders. I understand how the store can maximize efficiency of sourcing, but it creates a somewhat chaotic experience too, when I saw a lot of staffs running around.

Actually now much customers go to the stores as they can order everything online and it is easy to just order from an app.

If customers have picked some items and want to check out in store, there is literally no traditional cashier at this grocery store. It is not like customers have an option between a cashier and self-checkout. So if you are looking for that human interaction, you have to go somewhere else. You can use the Hema app, which is connected to Alipay, consumers swipe the phone in front of a scanner, and that is pretty much it. There is also the option to pay using your face, too.

Technology might be very advanced, but as an egg, I don't want to be sold. I want to keep staying in the store to see its rapid development in the very near future.

# Gunpowder

*LKWFSL Wong Yiu Nam Primary School, Liu, Qing Tian Sunny – 11*

Once upon a time, in ancient China, there was a small village where everyone was fascinated by the stars and fireworks. Among them was a curious young boy named Tom. Tom dreamt of making his own stars on the ground.

One day, while Tom was taking an experiment with several mixtures. He mixed those materials such as some charcoal from the fireplace, some sulfur that was used to keep snakes away, and a little bit of a white powdery salt called saltpeter that used for keeping food fresh too. He mashed them together into a paste, thought maybe it would sparkle a little if put it on a fire.

'Be careful!' his mother would always remind him, 'Don't play with the fire, it's not a toy'.

However, Tom was too excited about his new invention. He took a tiny bite of the paste, put it on stone and used a stick to light it from a distance. Suddenly, the mixture burst into a dazzling display of sparks, and a cloud of smoke swirled into the air. Tom stumbled back, so surprised and a little scary, full of amazed.

After the smoke cleared. Tom was thrilled! He had accidentally created something wonderful. He hurried to share his discovery with the Village Elder who was very wise.

The Village Elder listened carefully what Tom's excited. He smiled and said, 'You may have found something very special, we must use it wisely'.

The villages found that if they packed the mixture into bamboo tubes with different salt and spices, it could scare away the animals which tried to eat their crops. The exploding powder could create beautiful colours in the sky as well, just like the stars that Tom love so much.

It became the first fireworks then, and they were used for celebrations to bring joy and keep the village safe. Tom became famous as the boy who brought the stars to the ground. As the same time, his invention was later named 'gunpowder'.

# Super Transmission Tubes

*LKWFSL Wong Yiu Nam Primary School, Mohamed, Jinnah Azurudeen Reema – 11*

Goods delivery was first made popular by the Japanese in the 1970s. Recently, this trend is soaring in China since Tao Bao was founded in 2003 and the ease of shopping online or through mobile apps. Thanks to COVID-19, “delivery guy” has grown in popularity as people were “immobilised” due to various restrictions in that very moment. After the pandemic, people have started to appreciate the beauty of such an occupation.

A delivery guy helps pick up the order – food, clothes and other sundries. They use bicycles, motorcycles, or even walk to deliver their orders to customers in a timely manner. Its efficiency is often times higher than most courier companies. However, at times, the order can go astray, including delivering to the wrong places or the goods get broken while on the delivery route. In the worst scenario, the goods might get stolen by the delivery guy.

To help save the hassles mentioned above, in the short term, it is predicted that the biggest online store in China, Taobao, will invent “Transmission Tubes”. The transmission tubes are able to allocate goods from the central warehouse to the branch warehouse through the tubes once receiving an order. It only takes 15 minutes for the goods to transport from the central warehouse to the branch warehouse via the tubes. Not only can such an invention avoid all the downsides mentioned above, it can even save the time and the manpower required in manual delivery.

A few years ahead from employing standard “Transmission Tubes”, Taobao may further improve “Transmission Tubes” to tackle different manpower problems and security problems arisen in the process of transporting goods from the branch warehouses to the customers. That marks the era of the “Super Transmission Tubes”.

Super Transmission Tubes are inspired by the ones in *Super Mario*. The tubes exist in two types, including branch warehouse tubes and district tubes. These tubes are built underground and even run through the sea, connecting the branch warehouses and the buildings in which where the customers are. This part of the system starts from the branch warehouse, where products are placed in password-protected baskets. The products are then transported from the branch warehouse tubes to the district tubes. There are colour-coded labels for the district tubes. For instance, Hong Kong is purple and Shanghai is pink. When customers receive the designated baskets, all they need to do to unlock the basket is to input the shipment code and password sent from Taobao. The whole process only takes ten to fifteen minutes.

The entire ‘Transmission Tube Project’ is jointly devised, budgeted and monitored by Taobao and the Chinese government to ensure maximum quality assurance. The customers no longer have to worry about the problems brought along by the traditional mode of delivery. The store owners can also save the big amount of money on renting a physical shop and thus maximise the production output. As far as the government is concerned, more land can be used for residential purpose. It is foreseen that with the advancement of Artificial Intelligence, such a project can even elevate to the next level to better satisfy the wishes of the stakeholders.

# Almighty Robots

*LKWFSL Wong Yiu Nam Primary School, Wong, Ho Yin – 10*

Robots are generally used as a toy. On a more sophisticated level, they can be used as a tool to carry out tough and dangerous missions. In China nowadays, robots are being developed in the entertainment, education and healthcare fields. However, few people have ever thought that there might be great potential to use robots to help the needy, who result in sad endings like committing suicide or having fatal accidents due to the lack of timely assistance.

Household androids may be one of the most popular robots in the future. They target the elderly living alone and cater for the needs in their daily life. They act as the old people's star housekeeper and do all the household chores for them. It is not difficult to have a Michelin's cook at home as the androids can make the world's most delicious dishes while tendering for the health requirements of their owners. Also, they can help 'run errands' and buy the things they need. Differing from traditional physical shopping, they can order goods online and get the delivery.

Robots have long been considered aloof and lack of emotions. In fact, they can be just like a human in all ways. First, they are no longer just made of metal parts. Human-like elements such as human body temperature and facial expressions are possessed. This marks the birth of Companion androids. More importantly, they can even satisfy the emotional needs of the elderly and thus become the best companion of the elderly. When the owners are sad, the robots will come and talk to them to make them feel better. Also, the robots can even take the elderly out and go anywhere the elderly want it to. For example, it can be taken to a cinema and a restaurant. To achieve this, the robots themselves should carry different feelings including happiness and sadness. In the more distant future, they can even bear more complicated feelings like embarrassment. The single elderly will no longer feel miserable because of losing their better halves or having no friends.

Eye seeing dogs will soon be replaced by Eye Seeing Androids. This type of robot can outperform their dog counterpart as they are able to avoid obstacles at home or on the street. They can even emit sound signal when danger is approaching. For instance, they can sense a falling object from the above and a dysfunctional speeding car. In an emergency, they can even protect their owners by extending a safety shield. In other words, they are an eye seeing dog cum a body guard.

Some science-fictions have it that robots in the future may become jealous of the people and may destroy or conquer the world. To tackle these issues, the above robots are all infused with artificial brains, in which critical thinking and empathy elements are running through them. People no longer have to worry about the security issues and can live with the robots peacefully.

In the future, these different types of robots can be customised to suit the needs of the people. There may be different functions in one robot. Also, these robots will be manufactured in bulk and the general public can easily afford one.

## Astra in the Future

*Mui Wo School, Yiu, Tsz Yan – 11*

*Today is the day of our visit to the museum! I always wanted to learn some history from twenties. The 2023 was different from the year 2055. There are many robotic things nowadays.*

*“Astra, time to wake up! You’re going to be late!” Someone shouted from another room. “I’ll be ready in a few minutes.” I forgot to mention that my name is Astra, and the person I just talked to was my mother.*

*I opened my closet and took out a hoodie and putting it on, as well with some shorts. “Are you done yet, Astra?” My mother asked before opening the door to my room. “Mhm! I’ll get going to school now, Cya!” with those words, I darted off outside my house. The school bus was already waiting for me. It looked like a hover-board but bigger!*

*When we arrived at the museum, my teacher, Miss Lang, led us inside. It looked pretty much weird. It didn’t look anything like in the 2050s. It wasn’t like anything robot related. It just looked plain and boring.*

*“Yo, Astra!” someone shouted my name, “Long time no see,” Danny, my classmate said, with Yuri, my best friend, behind him. “Yeah, I know! It’s been a long time since the summer holiday,” I exclaimed, waving at them “So, since we’re allowed to go wherever, whenever. Where do you want to go first?” My best friend, Yuri, asked. I thought about it for a while “How about the fragments of the Great Wall of China?”*

*“You mean that weirdly cool giant wall in China that fell down about 20 years ago?” Danny asked. Yeah, it’s kinda of devastating to see the Great Wall of China collapsing sad, “Yeah, I meant that,” I answered. “Well, then let’s go!” Danny shouted, then running off to the place where they held the Great Wall’s fragments.*

*“Geez, when is he going to shut up?” Yuri asked. I shrugged then following behind Danny.*

*When we arrived at the room, there was a small mini version of the wall made out of clay. Danny was already staring at some fragments that were shown in the room. “Danny, what are you doing?” Yuri asked.*

*“Just looking about how cool this place is!” Danny shouted, then turning to one of the fragments of the wall, staring at it before turning back to us, “Don’t you love learning history?” He asked with excitement.*

*“Well, I guess it is interesting.” Yuri answered. Then looking around the place. “I love learning history! It teaches us not to do the same mistakes!” I said to Danny,*

*“You both are kinda of boring.” Yuri said, rolling her eyes before noticing a hole. “What’s this?” Yuri asked, some kids came and nudged Yuri a bit on accident.*

*“Yuri, be careful!” Danny yelled, grabbing her arm before she fell. Yet, he was almost going to fall as well. I caught him but we all fell in the end.*

*I had time to turn on the safe fall. A soft surface appeared on the floor. “God, where are we!?” Danny asked, looking around, confused. “I don’t really know.” Yuri answered.*

“We’re in 2023!” I shouted, then quickly looking at my holo-watch, immediately trying to contact my parents but it didn’t work “Astra, the holograms are powered by the energy in 2050” Yuri said, then looked around.

“Well, what are we going to do!? We’re stuck here!” Danny said, then jumped off the soft surface. “I guess, we have to find the energy that powers our holograms?” Yuri suggested. Then, Danny shouted suddenly that made both me and Yuri jumped slightly. “But we’re kids! We don’t know anything about those energies!” Then, they just went silent.

“Oh, I know!” Yuri whistled. After that, a robot dog jumped out of the hole. It looked at Yuri happily. “We can use the robo-dogs to find the energy we need,” she explained, petting the robo-dog. “But you sure 2023 have the same energy we have in 2055?” Danny asked, confused about her explanation, “Uhh, I hope.” Yuri answered, then looked at my holo-phone

“Low battery” was on the screen. I turned back to the two of my friends “Wait how do you even get the robo-dog? I thought it was off-limits for people?” I asked again, Yuri shushed me. “I found it when he was broken,” She said, then told the dog to find the energy we need.

Few hours later...

“Is this it?”

“I guess!” Yuri answered, then picked up the crystal that was in the dirt. It looked pretty. I turned on my holo-watch and still “No battery”. Then I chipped out a piece of the blue crystal and placed it over the hologram. The piece disappeared! My holo-phone was charged. “Now we can call for help!” I opened my holo-watch and started to call my mother. “Hello? Mom?” I spoke to the watch, “Astra! Where are you? I was worried sick for you!” my mother yelled. “Yeah it’s a long story, but can you please come pick us up? There’s a hole in the China fragment room in the museum, bring your holo-jet and drive us out.” I explained to my mom, she sighed then hanged up the call.

30 minutes later...

A mini version of a jet flew down with my mother riding on it. “Astra I told you to be careful!” My mother spoke with slight worry then jumping off the jet, “Less talking, more escaping! This place is scary...” Danny disturbed me and my mother, before we left. I looked back, then picking up a shiny rock and hopped onto the jet.

“We’re finally back to 2055!” Danny exclaimed happily, and then running off back to his home, Yuri sighed then walked behind him looking annoyed. Did I say that they we’re siblings? My mother watched them disappear before zooming off back home with her jet.

# New Tales of China's Inventions

*Po Leung Kuk Choi Kai Yau School, Chen, Ka Hei Charlotte – 10*

Yuen had always been a clever perfectionist. Although she was really gifted, her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Qiang, thought quite the opposite of that. “Little fussy,” they’d snort when she passed by them or, “Don’t know how I brought up a girl like that,” and they would leave, leaving poor Yuen with her eyes glistening with tears.

Fortunately, little Yuen found friends who understood her and her obsession to perfection. She would spend as little time as possible in her house and play with her friends instead. Mr. and Mrs. Qiang didn’t mind. They never cared about what their daughter did and never cared about her in any way.

However, Yuen’s best friend was Cai. Usually, she never even came home. She just had sleepovers and then the whole day and on. But today, she couldn’t because she was busy helping her father at a shelter her father owned.

Yuen paced around, fixing a strand of hair that had escaped her bun neatly back in place. Her parents were downstairs, eating dinner. Neither of them had asked her to join them, but she wasn’t surprised. She had all her meals at Cai’s, and her parents couldn’t have cared less. But that was fine. Dinner was never worth eating, in her opinion. The soup was too thin and cold. There was never enough meat and vegetables for everyone to eat, and the rice was often either undercooked or overcooked.

Yuen felt frustrated, not about the food, but her parents. Things were never right around the house, and worse, her parents acted as if nothing was wrong. There was the busted air conditioner, the moss-eaten sofa, or the worn carpet. But most importantly, the whole house smelled of trash, and nobody cared. When she tried to point that out to Mrs. Qiang, she would insist it smelled of fresh lavender, although her frown usually gave her away.

Yuen clenched her fists, knowing this was her chance to prove her parents wrong, she would have to fix the scent. Still bristling, she marched down the stairs with her nose held high, swept past her Mr. and Mrs. Qiang, and out of the door, slamming it as she went. Mrs. Qiang had glanced at her, but then shrugged, and continued sipping her cold soup.

It started raining when Yuen went outside, so she ducked quickly into a shelter. Sweet scents of honey and pollen drifted into her nostrils. This place was the complete opposite of her stinky, stuffed house. She then suddenly realised this was Cai’s shelter, perhaps she could ask her.

She began looking for Cai. Surely her father knew what caused this amazing sensation, and that he would help. There! Cai was jabbering away to her father. Seizing her chance, she darted over to them.

“Cai,” she called. Cai turned, waving. “Hey, Yuen,” she replied. “I need a favour,” Yuen said breathlessly. “Could you tell me how this place smells so satisfying?” Cai grinned, nudging her father, who had been listening. “Ah, yes,” her father told Yuen, swelling with pride, “Come.” Yuen followed Cai’s father.

Yuen was led to the largest marble wall of the whole shelter. Her eyes grew wide. Hidden inside the wall were loads of pretty flowers, and they smelt amazing! “Wow,” said Yuen, starting to have ideas, she whirled around and rushed home.

When she arrived home, it smelt like rotten fish. She wrinkled her nose, found the rotten fish, and dumped it into the trash. “Hey,” Mr. Qiang yelled from behind her, “I was going to eat that later!” Yuen ignored him, went up to her bedroom, and thought. She could put flowers at the house, but her parents wouldn’t allow it, obviously. Placing flowers in a shelter was one thing, placing them in a hot, stuffy house was quite another.

But she could find something to replace them. Grabbing her umbrella, she headed out once more, ducked into the same shelter, and found Cai. “Cai, I was wondering if I could borrow a couple of flowers?” she asked. Cai knew a lot about Yuen, so she guessed, “You wanna fix the scent, do you? With less space, right? Maybe I can help.”



Yuen told Cai her plan, how to brew the camellia sinensis (the name of the plant used for green tea) into liquid and keeping the scent.

Together, they went into a small private room in the shelter. "Here," Cai said, showering the small round table with leaves from the camellia sinensis. Yuen grabbed a blender and blended it into liquid. "Yikes," said Yuen, when she smelt it, "The scent is gone." "Try blending it less," Cai suggested. Yuen gave the liquid three quick blends, and smelt it. "It's not liquid," Yuen pointed out. "Try using that and dump it into this," Cai offered, shoving the equally blended liquid which had no scent.

"Sure," replied Yuen, dumping the shredded leaves into the green liquid, giving it a few quick mixes, and stuck her nose in. The smell made her mouth water. "This is terrific, thanks, Cai!" she called, as Yuen hurried home, smiling with anticipation.

"Yuen," Mrs. Qiang furrowed her brow when Yuen arrived home, "What have you done to the scent of the house?" "Improved it," she replied cheerfully, waving to the jar, just as Mr. Qiang thought it was his water and poured it into his cup. "No!" cried Yuen, leaping forward. Mr. Qiang stared at her as if she were crazy. Mrs. Qiang was shocked, her face was as pale as a ghost's, and she looked as if she would faint. But it was too late, Mr. Qiang drank it. "Wow," he said in awe instead, "It tastes amazing!" So Mrs. Qiang sold it as a drink, and Yuen named it tea. Mr. and Mrs. Qiang never underestimated Yuen again. Today, there are many versions of tea, and we all love it, and it all started with a little girl named Yuen.

# The Invention Before New Year

*Po Leung Kuk Choi Kai Yau School, Lee, Yin Tung Serena – 10*

Have you ever wondered how Chinese words were created? Well come forward and listen closely, for you are about to hear an old legend passed down for many generations. Legend has it that there was once a man known as Cangjie who worked as an impressionist for the Emperor of the Shang Dynasty. He kept many turtles and therefore entertained the Emperor with a variety of his turtle tricks. But one day a cataclysmic plague befell on the turtles and many of them perished away. The Emperor was also getting weary of the turtle tricks, for they were mostly the same each time. “Cangjie,” the Emperor muttered with a profound voice one day, after Cangjie had finished the entertainment. “Your entertainment had once astounded me, but now I no longer feel the same way. You must find me a new entertainment before the New Year celebration or else you shall be executed.”

‘Executed?’ Cangjie thought as all the colour from his face drained away, “But I have no talent except doing turtle tricks! The New Year celebration is in five days and there is no way I will be able to keep entertaining the Emperor. I shall become the deceased!” After he finished the day’s work, he darted home and went into deep thought. He had many ideas, but none of them were special enough to make the Emperor approve of it. ‘How about music? Or maybe games? Ah! I know how to do the Chinese Dance, and that could be entertaining! But those were already done by the Emperor’s forty other entertainers! What could I do?’ he thought desperately.

Minutes passed. Then hours. Then days. The New Year celebration got closer and closer, but Cangjie still had not decided on any entertainment for the Emperor. A soldier had come pounding on his door just a few hours ago to remind him of the execution happening tomorrow. Butterflies swarmed in his stomach and he shuddered at the thought of his own head departing from his body and put onto a sharp iron pole like how the Emperor did to anyone who dared to disobey him. “This is it, my last day of life and the last time I can see the world while being able to move and breathe...” he uttered indistinctly. Cangjie was desperate to live on, but he tried all he could, being wakeful all night every time, and he still could not think of any entertainment that the Emperor might be bewildered about. He glanced at the bucket of turtle corpses and thought pessimistically that he would soon become a human version of them...

“Cangzhen! What are you doing with the dead turtle shells? They are soiled and full of sickness that might spread!” After a while of staring at the turtle corpses Cangjie saw his son, Cangzhen, starting to entertain himself with the turtle shells. Cangjie immediately got as infuriated as a hornet about his son fiddling with the dead turtle shells and rushed to stop him. “Son! I’m about to die tomorrow, and you’re just playing with tortoise shells? Don’t you know there is a deadly disease in those things, and what if you die too? You are embarrassing the Cang family!” But as Cangjie calmed down, he realised Cangzhen was contentedly drawing different shapes on the turtle shells. “Daddy!” Cangzhen smiled euphorically. “Look, I drew many shapes on this turtle shell! Here’s a rabbit, here’s the sun, and that is your face!” As Cangjie slowly approached Cangzhen and looked at the little drawings, an idea suddenly sparked in his mind. “Shapes?” Cangjie murmured thoughtfully. “Huh, if I draw a lot of these shapes onto the turtle shells, and then communicate through them...Eureka! I could use this to entertain the Emperor! Cangjie’s dull, exhausted eyes suddenly glowed back to life and he danced around the room holding his startled son’s hands. “I’m living on!” He cried as his eyes welled with tears of relief and happiness. Soon he rushed into his room, grabbing a sharp stick and a whole bucket of tortoise shells, and settled to work.

Throughout the night he did not have any second to spare, but the perseverance definitely paid off at the end. By dawn the soldiers banged at the door holding a deadly axe and a ginormous leather sack ready for chopped heads, only to find a heavy-eyed but prideful Cangjie presenting them a tremendous invention. The Emperor was amazed by the hundreds of exceptional symbols Cangjie had written on the tortoise shells, and therefore the execution was unhesitatingly cancelled. The unique pictures embarked on the tortoise shells became renowned throughout the world and it made the country stronger with more symbols to communicate around. Cangjie not only became popular, the symbols he wrote were later named as “Jia Gu Wen” (甲骨文), had slowly evolved into the Chinese words that nobody can ever communicate without in China today.

# The Story and Origin of the Great Invention of Paper

*Po Leung Kuk Choi Kai Yau School, Pun, Nok Tung Athena – 11*

Long ago, there was a hardworking Chinese official named Cai Lun in the second century in China. He respected everyone equally and loved the teachings of Judge Pao, leading to his love of cracking cases and codes. He was also very much well respected and a favoured official of the King of China.

One day, he was given a riddle to crack by The Great King “Cai Lun, the country Japan has given us a challenging riddle to solve, and it will be your mission to solve it, as you have been studying the great Judge Pao’s teaching, and our best detective, you are our best chance. If you succeed Cai Lun, you will get a great award from Japan and from myself. Is your mission understood?” The Great King asked him. Cai Lun was overwhelmed by this great mission, and quickly went to work on this riddle.

Cai Lun was very much excited as he wasn’t getting too many cases to crack these few years, so he was glad to finally get something to solve. The riddle was one of the hardest that Cai Lun had ever cracked, it was mysterious and unclear, making Cai Lun more confused day by day. Just to crack this riddle, he spent every day of his week trying to find an answer. That week soon became 2, then 3, and then a month...

“This is so frustrating! What is the answer to this riddle?” Soon, Cai Lun had been working on that riddle for a month. He only had another month before the riddle was due, but he still could not figure out the answer to this challenging question! He had been proved wrong a million times by this riddle, proving all of his estimated answers wrong. Cai Lun had trapped himself in his room for a month, without eating or drinking. This riddle was far too hard, Cai Lun’s mind was about to explode, he had also tried finding reference books from his house about any clues in this mysterious riddle, but none could be found. One of the biggest clues in the riddle was to pay attention to small details we don’t easily see, but Cai Lun had turned his whole house around twice to find any missing clues that could be the answer to this question, but again, none were found. He was beginning to wonder if there was an answer to this riddle, or if it’s a trick question with no answer, with the due date being so close, he has finally decided to stop thinking about this riddle and leave the Great King upset.

Cai Lun had gone outside of the house for the first time in a month, and he had missed the fresh air and plants with the beautiful flowers on them. Yet he felt a guilt for not completing the riddle. “ Mr Cai! Wonderful to see you outside! Have you finished solving that impossible riddle, so you came outside to have a walk?” It was his next door neighbour, Mr Fai. Mr Fai was a caring and generous old man who often came to his house to make him soup. Cai Lun sighed, “Unfortunately not, Mr. Fai. Thank you for asking, it was too hard for me! I spent so much time trying to find and estimate an answer, but all of my answers to this impossible question were proven wrong! I have given up thoroughly and I cannot bear to continue to answer that riddle.” “ Ah, dear Mr. Cai, sometimes the simplest things in life can be the answer to everything! For example, look at this wasp nest! Isn’t it beautiful!” Cai Lun frowned, the wasp nest looked like something, but he could not remember clearly, but in a split second, Cai Lun remembered! The riddle! The riddle was pointing towards a wasp nest! The papery thin texture, with an elegance of a butterfly! He understood! The whole riddle was pointing towards a wasp nest. As he went inside to have a further look, he was mesmerised by how the wasps make their nests, so after thanking Mr Fai for giving him inspiration, he quickly went home and tried out the way wasps make their nests. But instead of using the chewed wood, he used pounded mulberry, barks, rages and fishing nets. Then he spread it on a screen and let it dry. And when he came back, he peeled off a thin sheet of, well, paper! Cai Lun was amazed by how this was created, he thought if he showed this to the Great King, everyone could use this instead of silk, bamboo and other disgusting things!

After presenting himself to the Great King, he quickly showed the King the riddle and also the “Thing” that he created that could allow people to write and read a lot easier. The King was very impressed by Cai Lun and decided to use this “Thing” and name it as paper for all people all over the land to use. The scribes at the castle were also very pleased with this Paper that they could now all use Paper instead of the bones and bamboo that they had to use before. And this is the story and origin of the great invention of Paper.

# Space Compression

*Po Leung Kuk Choi Kai Yau School, Tai, Yin Hei Neal – 9*

In the year 2030, people were all going to China because it was better than other countries. The cities were filled with different people from around the world. Every place had the sounds of various languages.

But the bad thing was there were too many people coming in, and China needed to think of a good solution for this huge problem—there were too many people and not enough room, especially when everyone tried to get on buses, trains, or planes. It was like trying to fit a bunch of people into a tiny toy car. Everyone was trying to go places, but the traffic was too slow!

Then the super intelligent scientists of China came in. They thought of all sorts of ideas. Among them was the leader of the scientists, called Chung Lee Hok. He had an idea that all the scientists thought was impossible to achieve—making more room without needing more space. Because nobody thought he could do it, he worked on a secret project in his lab called "Space Compression." It was like magic where he could fit ten times more things into a small box than the original capacity!

He spent six years working hard and making sure everything was safe. Finally, in the year 2042, China revealed a solution that made people's jaws drop. It was the first space-compressing aeroplane! This wasn't any normal aeroplane – it could carry over 5000 people! That's as many people as there were in some towns! But even with all those people, everyone had more room than they did in old planes. Every passenger had a whole row of seats to himself!

This new technology was so good that it was also used in buses, taxis, cars, trucks, and even trains! The impact was astounding. Cities became more accessible. The bustling sounds of the crowds had a cheerful rhythm. The once overwhelming crowdedness in public transport was replaced with a comfortable spaciousness. Thanks to this, the energy and time saved in travel changed economies and daily lives. So after inventing this technology, people in the world could also go around the world to travel and discover. Everyone was thankful for Chung Lee Hok for inventing this "Space Compression" technology. Even places that were far away seemed just like neighbours whom you could take a short ride to visit .

And that's how China changed the world with the help of the scientist, Chung Lee Hok. Travelling was easier, faster, and much better than before. It could bring everyone together, making the world feel like one big family. And all lived happily, travelling in a world that felt like a better home, thanks to the new tales of China's inventions.

# New Tales of China's Inventions

*Po On Commercial Association Wan Ho Kan Primary School, Panwar, Arush – 10 (submission not in folder)*

China has made many inventions. All of them are related to war directly or indirectly. One of them is rockets.

They made rockets by placing gunpowder on paper and wrapping the paper around it. You can say that they were fireworks but the idea of rockets was invented.

There is a story about the inventions.

Once upon a time there was a King, he was going on a war. The king was going to make bombs out of gunpowder, but placed gunpowder on paper and wrapped it. While testing it went really far away. The King saw it. The King used them. They won.

They celebrated the victory.

There is one more invention that changed the world. It is paper.

Once a woodcutter was cutting a tree. There was a bit moldy wood. The wood cutter threw the moldy wood away in polluted water. After a few hours the wood cutter came back to the polluted water. He saw a pulp. He thought it would be silk. After it dried. He realised it was a thing on he could write. From then on paper is used for many purposes.

# New Tales of China's Inventions

*Po On Commercial Association Wan Ho Kan Primary School, Wong, Pui Lok – 11*

Yesterday, my Chinese teacher told my classmates and I about the history of the four famous inventions of ancient China: the compass, gunpowder, papermaking and printing. After class, I read a book called “The Four Great Inventions” for more informations at home. When I read the chapter on Cai Lun’s papermaking technology, I was amazed by his talent. I became curious about his life and the paper making process.

Suddenly, the book in front of me glowed with a huge yellow light. The light was harsh so I closed my eyes. When I opened my eyes again, I found myself travelling to a strange place. I was shocked ! “where am I?”. I asked myself. When I saw myself in a wooden house, wearing an ancient Chinese costume, I found that I have traveled to ancient times. “ Cai Lun! Have you started fishing ? “ Cai Lun’s mum asked me. I then figured I am Cai Lun !

One day, I went fishing by the river. As I walked through the forest, I saw birds flying in the woods, butterflies perched on colorful flowers, and the shapes of mountains reflected on the river. I want to record such beautiful scenery, but it is a pity that I don’t have paper to draw it. Although paper is very common and easily available in modern life, paper was very expensive in ancient times. Cows were one of the important animals in every family at that time because they could produce fresh milk every day and could also help with farming or transportation. But paper was more precious than cows, and only emperors and wealthy families could afford its price. It took three cows to buy a piece of paper. The quality of the paper was very poor and as rough as stone. Therefore, people living in towns choose to use bamboo slips, wooden slips or animal skins to write, which is very inconvenient to use. This got me thinking “ why don’t I make my own paper?” A paper that is cheaper and easy to write on.

With this idea, I started my papermaking journey. But first I needed to know more about paper, so I started reading books trying to find the materials needed and the process of making paper.

After researching the information, I started making paper and adding my new ideas. Since I don’t have a lot of money, I want to use the things around me to create a “new paper” First, I ran to the forest, I cut down a tree to get the bark, and I also found some plants to make a flax thread. After that, I returned home distressed not knowing what to add next. I saw my mother’s clothes falling to the floor. The clothes looked old and had some mud on them. A new idea came into my mind that I could try making paper out old clothes. I looked around to make sure she wasn’t nearby. I secretly picked up the clothes and cut them into pieces. Finally a fishing net was added that was broken from the last fishing trip long ago.

After gathering all the supplies, I started making the paper using the following steps. First, cut all the materials: tree bark, flax thread, old clothes and fishing net into pieces. Second, immerse them all into water to make sure they are all moist. Third, mix all the ingredients evenly in a pot. Heat over high heat until all ingredients are completely dissolved into a white smoothie paste. Finally, use a large piece of cotton yarn to separate the residue. Spread the paste evenly on a wooden board to dry. After two to three days of sun drying, the “ new paper” is successfully produced.

The remodeled paper is very thin, three times thinner than the original. This paper is very smooth too, just like the king’s clothes, very flat and without roughness. The most important thing is that the remodeled paper is very cheap, equivalent to one cow’s leg that can replace thirty pieces of paper. Even ordinary people have enough money to buy it, which brings convenience when they want to record their daily life. The day after the “new paper” was successfully produced, I presented it to the emperor along with the production method. The emperor found its texture and quality incredible, so he received it with great pleasure. He ordered people to mass-produce this paper

and give it to other countries for trial use. After trying it abroad, people praised this paper as very easy to use, very thin and as white as a swan, with less impurities than the original version.

They want to buy the remodeled paper from us in large quantities. When the emperor found out, he rewarded me with many jewels and promoted me. He said that my papermaking technology was of the greatest inventions he had ever seen, and that it would bring many conveniences to the world even many years later. I feel a sense of accomplishment after listening to it. I felt that my hard work paid off and I was proud of my contribution to the country. The year was AD 105! When I got home I told my mum about it and she was happy for me and we celebrated by having steamed cakes together.

But when I opened my eyes the next day, I traveled through time again and returned to that familiar place. My ture home in modern life ! I hold the book “The Four Great Inventions” in my hand. Although technology is now advanced, I still think papermaking is the greatest invention in the world. Through this journey. I not only experienced the inconveniences of ancient China, but also experienced the profound wisdom of ancient China such as papermaking and printing. It makes me more motivated to study in school.

# Tea

*Pui Ching Primary School, Cheng, Hoi Hei Hallie – 12*

The Chinese emperor Shen Nung was sitting beneath a tree while his servant boiled drinking water, when some leaves from the tree blew into the water. Eventually, the tea was ground and cooked in a brazier before drinking in a tea bowl. It tasted bitter, cooling and slightly sweet. He decided to try the infusion that his servant accidentally created.

Shen Nung started to invent different flavors of tea, oolong tea, green tea and so on. Some have a bitter, sweet and cooling flavour, some have a nutty or floral flavour. While he was following the process described by Lu Yu, the Chinese tea master, he put tea leaves in a steamer. After he used the steamer to steam the tea leaves, his servants helped him. The leaves were then ground using a mortar. After that, it is shaped into a cake before being dried and strung with reed or bamboo. He started a shop called Delish tea to sell tea, but unfortunately, nobody came and bought his tea. He started letting people try the tea for free and comment about it. Strangers that passed by tried his tea and commented about it.

"Well, it's too sweet, try making it bitter but still sweet," one of the strangers suggested. Shen Nung tried to add more bitter ingredients into oolong tea, to make it more bitter. His customers liked it a lot. His shop started to get more popular.

One day, one of his customers brought a mystery girl, Shen Nung was too busy to even look at anything until he saw the girl. She has black brown hair mixed, a pair of blue eyes, as blue as the ocean. He was shocked. He had never seen a girl that astonished him.

"Hey Nung, I've brought my daughter here. She had been begging me for ages to let me agree and take her here to taste your new invented tea flavours," said George.

"I never thought a princess would come to my poor shop and taste my tea..." said Shen Nung. He was touched, crying while talking.

"Are you ok?" asked Elizabeth.

"Um I'm...I'm ok... I guess?" answered Shen Nung with his face turning red.

"Nung, have you done anything to make some bitter tea yet? My daughter is struggling with what tea she should get and make her have more energy in the morning," asked George.

Shen Nung gave them some bitter tea to try.

"But can you guys do me a favour?" asked Shen Nung.

"Sure, but what can we do for you?" asked George.

"I need some peppermint but I can't get it. It's too rare...If I don't get it, I'll never be a better tea inventor!" exclaimed Shen Nung.

"Woah woah woah! Calm down, Nung. How much does the peppermint cost? Hopefully I can help." answered George.

"It cost around 48 thousand dollars," said Shen Nung.

"It's too expensive that I stopped inventing tea flavours," said Shen Nung with a depressed voice.



"Sorry... I can't help. My castle collapsed a day ago so I couldn't help, but can you still give me some bitter tea, I can still afford it" exclaimed George.

"It's okay, here, it'll be 10 pounds." answered Shen Nung, giving the tea mixed with tannin to Elizabeth.

George gave Shen Nung the correct amount of money and left the shop.

After George paid, Princess Elizabeth started tasting the tea. To her, it tasted like matcha tea but made her get more energy to do her work and have lessons.

She told her servants about that and asked them to make some drink and add some tannin into it to see if it's the same taste and gives her more energy as Shen Nung's tea.

Elizabeth's servants tried making exactly the same drink but they still failed. At first, only Elizabeth, her family, and the servants knew that Elizabeth wanted to get bitter tea. But then, everyone in the world knows it, nobody knows who spread it.

A week later, Shen Nung's tea shop is crowded while he is still thinking about how to get the money and buy peppermint.

"Wow! What is happening to my shop? Why is it crowded? Is it because George came to visit me? No no no, it couldn't be. Stop dreaming, Shen Nung," thought Shen Nung.

"This is Princess Elizabeth's favourite tea shop! It doesn't look fancy but Princess Elizabeth said that the new flavoured tea tastes good, let's try!" said the strangers pointing at Shen Nung's shop while holding their phones and seeing if the shop was correct.

"Woah ladies, what are you doing here?" asked Shen Nung.

"We're here to buy your newly invented tea that Princess Elizabeth recommended!" answered the ladies with a big grin.

"You seemed kind of surprised!" said the ladies.

Shen Nung covered his eyes and started crying tears of happiness.

"Thank you so much for visiting Shen Nung's shop! Please tell Elizabeth that I'm pleased that she helped promote my shop!" said Shen Nung, grabbing the pack of his newly invented flavour tea.

The ladies paid and started opening the package and boiled the tea.

"Um, it doesn't taste really good. I'm sorry." said the ladies.

Shen Nung was very depressed, he thought he finally is a successful tea inventor but in fact he isn't.

After the ladies went back to their countries, which are the United States and United Kingdom, they started commenting and depreciating about the tea.

A week later Shen Nung's shop was crowded, everyone wanted to see who is the owner of this shop and think up the tea flavours that make the princess so obsessed with it.

After Shen Nung showed up, everybody immediately bought some tea, the ladies also saw it and regretted what they did before and decided to help Shen Nung and spread the tea to make Shen Nung's shop more popular and people started knowing more things about China and traditional cultures.

That was the history of how tea was made.

# Chopsticks

*Pui Ching Primary School, Fok, Ho Yee Kalie – 12*

“Wake up and get to work!”

There was a booming voice ringing in her ear as Jade dragged herself out of bed. It felt oddly rough like the bark of a tree. A cold gust of wind was blowing on her back. She swore she had shut the windows tight last night. Jade rubbed her eyes and realised she was in a stable! Shocked yet confused, she rushed out to see a palace full of bustling servants.

“Ah, there you are, new kid. Help me with this food. Be quick, the Emperor is getting impatient.”

Jade looked up to see a tall and plump man staring at her. He pointed at a stove and a pair of chopsticks that were neatly placed next to it. Not knowing what to do, Jade grabbed the chopsticks and started to stir the soup.

*What is this place?* Jade thought. *Should I go to the market and ask? That would be stupid...*

Jade decided to go to the market once she finished the soup. She made an excuse that they were out of eggs and set off. People in Hanfus walked hurriedly around the busy streets, barely paying attention to Jade.

As Jade walked around, she realised this was Ancient China. She saw one of the stands with no customers and walked towards it. As she approached the stand, she caught a glimpse of the things the seller had. There were chopsticks of different sizes, some had weird sharp ends and some looked like twigs plucked from an old tree. It reminded her about the assignment she was supposed to do about China’s history. She shivered at the thought of the face Ms. Johnson, her strict History teacher, would make if she didn’t hand it in.

“Excuse me, sir. May I ask which year we are in?” Jade asked in a timid tone. Surprisingly, the seller laughed at her.

“Hahaha! You really took a hit in the head, haven’t you?” teased the seller, “Haven’t you looked in a mirror? Your clothes look so odd! Is that some kind of clown costume? Well, before you get changed, just to let you know, we’re in the Han Dynasty since you are so curious.” added the seller.

Sure enough, Jade looked down and realised she was wearing her pyjamas from last night! She tried to put on a confident tone as she spoke, “Er–these are some nice chopsticks you’re selling... how’d you get the idea?”

“These are my special handmade chopsticks. I used some twigs and my chisel to make these exquisite shapes.” replied the seller. Jade made a slight cough when she heard the word “exquisite” as she thought it was nowhere near. She finally thanked the seller for his time and left.

As she made her way to the palace, she thought about how she was going to write this assignment. Without realising it, she had arrived at the kitchens, which were still filled with people running around, preparing food for the emperor.

“Where were you, new kid? The emperor was furious when he didn’t receive his breakfast. We’re trying to make a feast for lunch to make it up to him. And we never run out of eggs! What did you go out for?” Shouted the head chef. His face was bright red like he was about to explode.

Jade panicked as she tried to help the chef. Seeing as the chef is calming down, she approached him once she finished her work.

“Pardon me, but can you tell me the history of chopsticks? I’ve been so fascinated with them lately.” asked Jade, batting her eyelashes.

“Well, you see, nobody knows who invented chopsticks. One person just took two twigs and started to eat food with it. We thought it was a good idea and soon, we started to use them. We assume that they dated over a thousand years ago as we are progressing so fast.” The chef added proudly. Jade wanted to say that now, in 2024, things are much better, but decided not to destroy the chef’s mood.

Wanting to start her assignment as she had learnt so many facts about chopsticks, she started to wonder how she would get home. Making her way back to the stable, deep in thought, she came across the emperor’s chamber, fiddling with his chopsticks. Jade took a quick glance at it and left. She strained her memory and saw that it was actually made of jade! Going back to the stable, she started to write her essay on the wall with a stick so she would remember the next day. Hours passed and Jade finally managed to carve her essay on the wall. Starting to feel tired, she decided to end the day. She gathered some hay from the horses and made a small bed, laid on the rough hay and dozed off.

“Jade, wake up! I know it’s the weekend, but it doesn’t mean you can sleep in!” Jade heard her mother's voice and got out of bed. She stumbled across the hall, rubbing her eyes as she walked into the living room. There, she heard the TV playing the news.

“Next up, is some exciting archaeological news. They’ve found a piece of wood that contained a 500 word essay in China! Who knew, maybe Chinese people secretly learned English? Well, that piece of wood is now displayed in the National History Museum of China where you can admire it. Stay tuned, folks! After a quick ad break, we’ll be reading the weather report...” said the news reporter. Hearing this, Jade became wide awake and noticed the TV. She was home!

“Quite odd for someone to carve an entire essay on a piece of wood, isn’t it? That reminds me...have you done your assignment yet, Jade?” asked Jade’s father.

“Nope, but I finally know how to write it!” exclaimed Jade. She quickly ran into her room to grab her pencil and a piece of paper, writing about Ancient China’s chopsticks.

# The Making of Paper

*Pui Ching Primary School, Leung, Kaycee – 12*

Let me tell you a story about paper...

During the Han dynasty, a Chinese court official named Cai Lun thought, "I hope we could have something satisfactory to write on. The bones and bamboo are too heavy and big. If I achieve that, I will name the material, paper."

When he was deep in thought, he heard a voice. "What a magnificent idea, I expect nothing less from the great Cai Lun." Cai Lun looked up and gritted his teeth, "Ting, what are you thinking about?"

Ting, another court official, chuckled and answered, "Oh nothing, just plotting on how I will create paper and sell it at unreasonable prices and be filthy rich."

Cai Lun replied with a stern tone, "I will never allow that to happen." Ting shook his head and barked to his servant, "I order you to make paper. You hear that? Stupid servant." Then, he left with a scoff.

Cai Lun rushed back to his chamber to make paper as soon as possible. He tried various different recipes but he failed every time. After a few months, he started to lose hope and decided to take a stroll around. As he walked, he came across some kids chatting.

One of them questioned his friend, "What do you think the future will be like?"

The other replied, "I think we will be able to time travel."

Suddenly, a thought came to Cai Lun's mind, "What if my descendants told me the recipe to make paper! I'm certain there is going to be paper in the future. I just need to let them know my thoughts." And with that, he hurried back.

When he reached his chamber, he sat down at his grand desk and wrote on a piece of silk, "This is Cai Lun, I am in A.D. 100 and am in the Cai chamber, time travel here and tell me how to make paper." Then, he put the letter on his desk and waited. Sparks flew and with a puff of smoke, a man with metal legs and arms appeared in front of him.

The man questioned, "Are you Cai Lun? My name is DT, I am tasked by the people of the future to reveal to you how to create the material named paper."

Cai Lun was beyond happy and nodded with glee.

DT said, "You need to boil bamboo, hemp waste, old rags, fishnets and tree barks to a pulp, beat it, and mix it with water. May I leave?" And Cai Lun dismissed him and DT disappeared.

Suddenly, Ting appeared in front of him and said with joy, "I eavesdropped on your conversation with that weird guy, and now I can make paper. In fact, I told my minions about the recipe and they will start producing paper tomorrow. Ha ha ha!"

Cai Lun glared at him with immeasurable rage and tried to speak, but his mouth failed him, and all he could do was stare at Ting walking away.

Suddenly, an idea popped into Cai Lun's mind. He went to Ting's factory. Ting's minion came up to Cai Lun and asked, "Sir, what do you want? I am just Ting's servant, please don't be mean to me. I only follow orders."

Cai Lun asked him what his name was and after he replied, Cai Lun said, “Song, I know how Ting treats his servants, work for me, and I will treat you as my friend and co-worker, I will give you the recognition you deserve and protect you from Ting’s wrath.”

Song considered it for a moment and finally agreed. He said to Cai Lun, “Okay, I will work as your underling, what’s your first order...sir?”

Cai Lun smiled, his idea worked. He said, “My first order is, we will have the entire factory make paper for me and after 1000 sheets are made, we will find a reliable shop and try selling it there, then we split the money.”

The paper was a big hit and over the years it became more and more popular, and more and more was produced. Now it is sold all over the world and used everywhere. Our lives are so much better now, because of Cai Lun.

When it was night, Cai Lun sneaked into Ting’s factory. He found a piece of paper with the recipe scribbled on it, and he added one very dangerous material, firepowder. And after he did, he hid in a bush near the factory and waited silently. Then workers, servants and Ting arrived and started to make paper.

Suddenly, there was a loud boom and fire enclosed the entire factory, all the workers and servants ran out unharmed, but Ting was less fortunate. He emerged from the flames with his hair covered in orange flames. He screamed with a high note only fourth graders can reach and jumped into a nearby pool.

He came out of the pool safe but fazed and wet. The emperor just happened to be passing by and saw Ting, he became furious and screamed at Ting, “I will not allow such disgrace in my palace, leave right now and never enter my sight ever again.” And he left.

It was finally the end of Ting’s rotten days and Cai Lun started producing and selling paper. It quickly became popular for how cheap and useful it was. And now, it has become the paper we need in our everyday life.

# The Interesting Invention

*Pui Ching Primary School, Wong, Tsz Him Samuel – 12*

The great Emperor Liao Gui was a wise and just ruler, known throughout his kingdom for his compassion and leadership. He had always been preoccupied with thoughts of how to safeguard his kingdom from external threats, and this was a constant concern that occupied his mind.

The vicious emperor sat on his throne, lost in contemplation, stroking his chin, his red and golden robes flowing across the floor. He was interrupted by a knock on the door.

"Who is it?" he inquired, his voice echoing through the throne room.

"Your Majesty, a wise monk by the name of Li Tian, desires to speak with you," replied one of his servants.

The emperor was intrigued. He had heard of Li Tian's reputation for his great wisdom, and he was eager to hear what advice the monk had to offer.

"Bring him to me," commanded the emperor in an authoritative tone.

After a few moments, the monk arrived in the throne room and greeted Emperor Liao Gui with a bow.

"Greetings, Your Majesty. I have come here to offer you my guidance in ruling the country," he said in a respectful tone.

The emperor was captivated by the monk's aura of serenity and the gentle way he spoke. "You have my attention," replied the emperor, his voice tinged with curiosity.

Li Tian began to share stories of his travels and the knowledge he had accumulated over the years. He spoke of the silk road, his love for freedom, and the importance of living in harmony with one's surroundings.

The emperor was entranced by the monk's tales, and he listened attentively to every word. He was struck by the simplicity of Li Tian's wisdom and the profound insights it contained.

"Your Majesty, during my travels, I came across a remarkable invention that could change the course of history," said Li Tian.

"What is this invention?" asked the emperor inquisitively.

"It is called gunpowder," replied Li Tian. "It has the potential to dominate warfare and bring great power to protect the kingdom."

Emperor Liao Gui's eyes shone with excitement, "Gunpowder? Do tell me more about this substance," he said eagerly.

Li Tian pulled out a cylinder and lit it with a candle and there was a little explosion. Li Tian elaborated on how gunpowder could create explosive reactions when ignited and said, "When it is ignited, you'll see its potential use in warfare."

The emperor saw the immense value in this invention and immediately ordered Li Tian to work with his alchemists to unleash the power of gunpowder.

Months went by, and Li Tian and the alchemists worked tirelessly to refine the composition of gunpowder and discover its various applications.

"Your Majesty, we have made a breakthrough," said Li Tian one day. "We have discovered that adding sulphur and charcoal into the mixture increases its explosive power."

Emperor Liao Gui was overjoyed with the results, "This is incredible! We must share this knowledge with the world," he exclaimed.

And so, fireworks were created to celebrate the discovery of this new invention. News of this incredible invention spread far and wide, and Emperor Liao Gui's kingdom became renowned for its advancements in science and technology.

But the emperor's mind was not solely focused on the power of gunpowder. He was also deeply concerned with the welfare of his people, and he sought to implement policies that would improve their lives.

Under his leadership, the Song dynasty flourished. He invested heavily in education, building schools and universities that taught the latest scientific and philosophical ideas. He encouraged trade and commerce, creating new markets and opportunities for his people.

But he also remained humble and compassionate, never forgetting the importance of kindness and empathy. He often met with the common people, listening to their concerns and offering assistance wherever he could.

As the years went by, Emperor Liao Gui became known as one of the greatest rulers in history. His kingdom prospered, his people were happy and content, wealthy and smart and his wisdom and leadership were revered by all.

And though he had achieved so much, he remained humble and grateful, always mindful of the lessons he had learned from the wise monk Li Tian. In the end, it was not the power of gunpowder or the wealth of his kingdom that defined him, but the kindness and compassion he showed to all those around him. As for Li Tian, he went back to the mountains and was never seen again.

# The Dream of Paper

*Pui Ching Primary School, Yam, Po Sing Matthew – 11*

In ancient China, there were two kinds of paper: bamboo slips and silk. Bamboo slips are small thin bamboo stripes that are linked together by strings. They are very cheap but too heavy, and you can only write about a few hundred words on the bamboo strips. Silk is very light and easy to write on but too expensive. A piece of silk costs about 700 to 1000 Wuzhu (Currency back then)! This problem has been a huge problem for Emperors.

Professor Nolan Davison, Bryon Bell's teacher, has just invented a time machine. It lets you dream a historical dream and whoever dreams back in time must be awakened by another person to wake up. He had the chance to see the piece of paper that changed the world with Professor Bell...

Professor Bryon Bell was at an archaeological site in China. A gigantic smile appeared on his face. He could not suppress his excitement. He was about to see the first paper in the world getting unearthed! However, there were some gibberish words written across this mysterious artifact. Professor Bell frowned and started to read the words. Just like magic, some purple particles formed a sphere. Professor Bell was surprised. He had never seen these incoherent words, not to mention the weird particles. He just can't wait to research this paper. In the blink of an eye, he was sucked into a strange tunnel full of images of Chinese people. Suddenly, the only thing he could see was blackness...

When he woke up, the surroundings were poles apart from nowadays. Everyone was wearing loose clothes and had a small piece of jade hanging around their waist. Everyone was riding in chariots. There were no skyscrapers; only single-story houses. He has travelled back in time! He was transported to the palace, dressing like a servant. Phew! Luckily, I was dressed like a servant. Unless the Emperor might punish me, or even chop my head! Professor Bell thought.

"Cai Lun."

"Yes, Your Majesty."

"I have been worried about the problem of bamboo slips and clothes. Bamboo slips are not quite expensive but very heavy. On the other hand, clothes are light but very expensive. Can you think of a way to help the civilians?"

"Yes, Your Majesty. I'll do my best."

Professor Bell was transferred to Cai Lun's house. This time, he was dressed as an entourage and his clothes magically changed. Cai Lun's house was a huge villa with a big garden and a huge balcony to observe the civilian life so that he could improve their life. He was sitting on the balcony and sighed, "I shouldn't be accepting this huge mission. What a huge problem! How can I make new material to write on?"

Professor Bell spoke unconsciously, "Why don't you go to the village and get some inspiration?"

"That's a great idea! Tell the servants to get the sedan chair."

"Yes." Professor Bell spoke.

A few moments later.

"Hey! What are you doing with that white, thin stuff?" Cai Lun shouted to the women he saw across the river.

"We are people that do sericulture. We are getting silk from silkworms. These are the silk that failed the quality test. We usually use them to fix broken windows or wrap something up. My husband even uses them to practice calligraphy."



It must be very light. If I can improve it, I might make new writing material! Cai Lun thought. He couldn't wait to go back and test it. "Return and try to make it from these silkworms."

"Yes."

Cai Lun got a few silkworms from those women and went back. Professor Bell was again sent forward to the future half an hour later. Now, he was a bush in the garden. He saw Cai Lun was collecting silk from silkworms. They collected the bad-quality silk intentionally. He mixed them with some waste wood and bamboo. He put it on a wooden frame with a cloth inside of it. When this mixture was dried, he found out that this material was very unstable: sometimes it was very fragile, and sometimes it was too tensile to write on. Sometimes it was not even writeable! After countless trials and errors, he finally found the perfect recipe: he used withered flowers, skins of trees and broken fishnets to mix with water, then boiled it, and put it on the wooden frame.

Cai Lun reported this to the Emperor. He tried calligraphy on it and it was perfect! It was just like an even cheaper and lighter version of bamboo slips, or a way cheaper version of silk. The Emperor decided to give Cai Lun a great reward. Cai Lun named this material "paper".

Professor Bell noted all the history of the paper carefully, but he still couldn't go back to the present. Suddenly, he remembered the effect that whoever went back in time must be awakened by another person to come back to the present.

"ARGH! Please someone wake me up!" He screamed at the top of his lungs.

About a minute later, he saw the strange tunnel. He was travelling back in time. He woke up, back to reality.

"How was the experience? Did you see Cai Lun? A piece of paper accidentally slipped into the machine. That's why you dreamed about the history of paper. Sorry!" Prof. Nolan Davison said. "Oh, can I have a look at your notes?"

Professor Bell searched in his pocket. "I... I lost it!"

The next day.

"Archaeologists had unearthed an ancient notebook written with the details of Cai Lun's papermaking technology. It is estimated the time Cai Lun had discovered papermaking technology. Archaeologists are still discovering why there was a notebook at that time. That's all for News Today. Thanks for watching. Have a good night."

How? Why is my notebook right there? Could it be... the dream really happened? Professor Bell was shocked.

# Humanity's Odyssey

*S.K.H. St. Peter's Primary School, Cheng, Carlisle Spencer – 10*

Earth was dying. Global warming was so severe that humans were facing extinction. China, the world's leading country was humanity's only hope. The Chinese used the power of China's AI to create a force barrier to protect the remaining humans on Earth. However, it was just a short-term solution.

In the midst of all this chaos, presidents and leaders from all of the countries gathered to discuss this problem. They were going to send out two elite Chinese agents with the code names 'Wiseman' and 'Wisewoman' on a mission in search on another livable planet for humans.

The Chinese leader carried a lot of scrolls and said, "These are the knowledge of our ancestors. It contains the history of countless Chinese inventions and predictions of future ones according to prophecies. We want you to read the scrolls inside the eternity capsules, in order to protect them. Remember, the fate of humanity rests on your shoulders. Good luck!"

Once the wiseman and the wisewoman got into the rocket. They studied the scrolls and followed the instructions to another planet. Soon, they had landed on a planet filled with life. The grass acted as the planet's luscious green carpet. There were fruits covering every tree. Wiseman checked out the place. They had already found a "livable place" for humans. In fact, this was more like heaven to him. They decided to name the planet TAR-15420.

Suddenly, over 60 poisonous darts suddenly flew towards the agents. When they opened their eyes, the darts were still in the air. At that moment, they realized that they possess the power of telekinesis. To test this ability, a wisewomen punched the grass. The darts then "shoved themselves" into the ground. But in an instant, the darts exploded, and formed a thick green mist. But then, the wiseman shouted to the wisewoman, "Look out!" The wisewoman then moved to another side. Then, a sharp spear flew towards where the wisewoman were at.

"How did you know that there would be a spear flying towards us?" asked Wisewoman.

"I had a vision that you were stabbed by a spear, so that's how I knew," said Wiseman.

That's when they realized that they had another power. It was the power of seeing the future. Then, several humanoid giants lunged them. But in the blink of an eye, the giants were piling on top of each other. Turns out, the agents had also gained the power of super-speed. They used this power to escape the threat. They are able to run 25000 miles per minute, which is fast enough to run TAR-15420's length.

However, they soon realized that they were surrounded by giants. Instead of fighting them off, the agents used the knowledge in the scrolls to help them to join forces with the mysterious humanoid giants. With their super-speed, traveling far distances was a piece of cake. When they got there, they saw a group of giants chanting in an inaudible language. Suddenly, Wiseman whispered, "I know what they are saying. The language that they are speaking is ancient Chinese. I know how to communicate with them."

The giant said, "I used to live on Earth. In fact, there are many humans here. I was a soldier in the intergalactic war around 1000 years ago. I am Chinese, so I know that you are also from the motherland. During the war, our ship malfunctioned. We then crashed onto this planet. We then decided to call this place "home". We then realized we had powers that we could never have, such as superspeed, super strength. However, we have immortality. Then we

have the ability to fly. In fact, we could fly up to 10 million miles per hour but we can't fly back without oxygen in the universe," sighed the giant.

Wiseman and Wisewoman spent five days collecting resources with the help of the Chinese giant. Then they said, "Don't worry, we'll be back soon."

Back on Earth, the phone rang in the Chinese leader's office. The Chinese leader picked up the phone and received the news about the wiseman and wisewoman coming back to Earth to meet with him.

When the wiseman and wisewoman met up with the Chinese leader. They then shared where and how far the livable planet was and what creatures lived there. They then said that they now have superpowers. Hearing this, the US president and Chinese leader had another idea. They then took around 250 mg of the agent's blood. Then, they chose 750 of the strongest men and 750 of the strongest women in the country. They then infused only 2 mg of the combined blood. But even 2 mg of blood was able to change their DNA. Apart from super-speed and super strength, the wiseman and wisewoman also got impenetrable skin, and the ability to be able to breathe in space. And those were the powers that the men and women got. They then made enough spaceships to fit the entire world population.

Soon after boarding the spaceship, they arrived on TAR-15420. The wiseman and wisewoman then led the way to the giants. When they got there, they were shocked by how many buildings and houses there were. There were almost 1 million buildings with each one having 20 floors, and each floor having 15 apartments, and around 500,000 houses! There were also decorations in the house. The wisemen asked the giant, "How did you pull off all of these?"

The Chinese giant replied, "Well, we all learned from the best. We couldn't have done it without the wisdom from the Chinese scrolls. There are around 70 bamboo forests on this planet, with each forest having around 5 million pieces of bamboo. Don't worry about the animals too. There are around 4 billion animals on this planet. Thanks to the intelligence of us Chinese, our inventions have saved the world!"

"Cheers!" everyone celebrated as they get to live to see another day.

## When The Olds Meets The New

*Shanghai Singapore International School, Chan, Jui Jung – 10*

It was a plain sunny day, while the Wu family drove their car to a small town in Jiang Xi for 2 weeks summer vacation. This would be an absolutely new experience for the family who had a quite luxurious life in Shanghai. They had little idea of what laid ahead of them.....

10 years old Simon was slim and short and always excited about everything. He poked his head out of the car window, peeking out at the golden plains of grains that never seemed to come to an end. As the car pulled into a rest stop, Simon bounced out of his seat and his little brother Steven trotted behind with an infectious smile. Before anyone could stop them, they had set off at the speed of light.

As the boys advanced through an alleyway, they saw booths bustling with people selling foods and other objects. As they walked past, some old, tiled houses appeared in the distance.

“I smell something sweet!” Steven whispered to Simon. The boys dashed to a small booth, with an aroma of sugar that could makes one’s palate burst. An old man with a white beard sat on a stool, blowing some sugar with his mouth. He bent his waist and coughed intermittently. He looked about 70 years old. “Hello, what are you making here?” Steven interrogated innocently.

The old man glanced at the boys with a grin full of yellow teeth, looking like he had eaten too much of his own sweets. “Hello, dears, I am blowing some sugar figurines here! This is something my family has passed down to me years ago. You start with a few grains of heated sugar, and you turn them into animals or any other shapes just by using your breath!” the old man said with pride, pointing at some amazing sugar figurines.

“WOW! They look awesome; we have never seen anything like them before! They all look alive! Can we have the sugar figurines of the Monkey King and the Pig from the *Pilgrimage to the West*?” Simon politely requested, clutching money from his pocket.

“Sure boys, come back tomorrow and I will show you how I make it!” insisted the old man with a gleam on his face.

Back in the hotel, Simon shared their adventure with excitement to their parents while Steven kept licking on the sugar figurines.

“Mom, may we bring a phone to record the making?” Simon pleaded. Their mom nodded and the following day, the boys escaped after breakfast and sprinted to the old man’s booth.

By the side of the booth:

“Grandpa, may I have a pair of new soccer shoes? Everyone on the soccer team has one, and they make fun of me for wearing ones so old and broken,” begged an adorable little boy with a small voice.

“I am sorry that we don’t have the money to buy new soccer shoes now. But I promise to buy you one when we earn enough money. Now, head to school and enjoy the day!” the old man declared with an apologetic voice.

The old man turned back and was shocked to see Simon and Steven so early.

“Hey boys, want to see me blow some candy?” proposed the old man.

“May we record you? You can see how professional and cool you look when you blow sugar!” inquired Steven cheerfully. The old man beamed and started blowing sugar.

“Look! These are the figurines of the 12 Chinese Zodiac signs. What are your signs?” the old man questioned. For the rest of the morning, the two brothers listened to the old man telling the story of his ancestors passing down this special blowing skill generation by generation while recording the video.

Before sleeping, Steven voiced, “I feel sad for the old man and his grandson for not being able to afford a pair of soccer shoes and not getting the chance to show his exceptional sugar blowing skills to more people.” Simon looked thoughtful for a moment and his eyes suddenly lit up!

“I have a splendid idea how to solve this problem! Let’s post this on the most popular social media channel, DOUYIN! It’s seriously gonna be a trend and seize attention of more people!” Simon explained, pleased with his idea. So, the boys created a Douyin account and started posting videos of old man blowing different kinds of Sugar figurines with fun stories every day.

After a few days, the boys put up a video playing “mouse and cat sugar figurines” chasing each other around the house, just like *Tom and Jerry*. It was such a hit that hundreds of followers were willing to pay to watch their videos.

On the last day of their trip, the boys went to teach the old man how to use Douyin on his phone. “You can make videos of these sugar figurines playacting or just livestream how you blow them and even tell the fascinating stories behind every single one! You can use this as a way to spread the knowledge of Sugar blowing and also as a means to earn some money!” Simon remarked.

“The money added up could definitely be used for soccer shoes and others daily necessities!” Steven added with a chuckle.

“Thank you so much, boys! You cannot imagine how helpful this is for our family!” the old man uttered with happy tears in his eyes.

The boys bid farewell before heading back to Shanghai with their parents. Not only they learned about sugar blowing during this summer vacation, but they also made long-lasting friendship!

As for the old man, he continued to post videos on Douyin and his grandson finally got a new pair of soccer shoes!

It is a blessing that a Traditional skill of Sugar blowing can be revived and spread to more people using modern Chinese invention like Douyin. Miracles happen when the Old meets the New!

## Hope of future, Back in time

*Shanghai Singapore International School, Lee, Vera – 9*

In those dark days, the air was thick with smoke and there were no oceans, only vast, endless pools of wasted water with dying sea life. On land, the beautiful forests were gone and all that was left were piles of ashes and the occasional wildfire.. People wear masks everywhere they go, resigned to the fact that the world is coming to an end. Of course, there were attempts to save the earth. The governments from all the countries debated and debated but could produce nothing concrete. Many scientists were studying how to save the earth, but it looks like the opportunity vanished thousands of years ago. Out of desperation, some scientists were studying wormholes to travel back in time to get a material that may save the earth.

Meanwhile, a young, bright, but frustrated scientist was reviewing the work of her colleagues and thinking of a way to go back in time to retrieve the ancient material. Tired, she poured herself a cup of coffee, and silently looked at the infinite night sky. And that was when something sparkled in her mind... a new idea. She worked feverishly for a few hours, it seems there is a way to hold the wormhole long enough for them to travel back in time and return safely with the material. Ms. An abruptly stood up, took the papers, and went back to her office. She took a deep breath, and started making phone calls to other prominent scientists in the best universities around China.

The rest felt like a dizzying ride. Airplanes and limousines, the Forbidden City, the White House, many important people in different uniforms. Meetings in one language gradually became meetings at foreign places in many languages... It was decided, on a crisp day of October 17<sup>th</sup>, that humankind will put all the resources together, and put Ms. An's idea into action.

Ms. An and her small team were waiting with anticipation in the W906, the first wormhole holding machine/rocket humankind had built. They were strapped inside a small room waiting for takeoff. They all knew how dangerous the journey would be, but they also knew what it means if they return safely with the material. Ms. An closed her eyes and felt the rumbling movement, the count down, the loud noise, and it went black...

"We are entering the wormhole! Repeat, everyone at their positions!" The sound of Mr. Wu's voice woke Ms. An and she scrambled to the controlling room. Her fingers quickly typed in the code for preparation, and she strapped herself onto the bed.

Whoosh! It felt like they were in a dream. The wormhole sucked them in, and they traveled faster than the speed of light. Everybody was thinking the same thing. Would they disappear, and never come out, or would they land in the Qin dynasty and find their invention a success? Darkness again...

Ms. An sat up and rubbed her eyes. Then again. And again. She could see workers building buildings with wheelbarrows instead of machines, and people doing jobs AI were supposed to be doing. "The Qin Dynasty." Ms. An gasped. She jumped up and hugged the rest of her colleagues. They were overjoyed, for their wormhole holding invention had worked! Ms. Lan glanced back at the machine and was astonished to find part of their invention broken. It was decided the lead engineer Ms. Li would stay and fix the problem, and the rest of the team embarked on the search mission.

They knew the special material is close to Qinshihuang's tomb, but didn't know what exactly they were looking for. As they moved around within the underground tunnel, a voice startled them. "Hey! You aren't supposed to be here!" A young woman stepped out of the shadows and drew her sword. As fate would have it, they were stopped by Princess Leen, the youngest and brightest of the emperor's children. Leen was a scientist herself, and her eyes only grew larger as she listened to the visitors' story. "Our top technology is from the alchemists, who were supposed to make a medicine that will make people immortal. During the process they inadvertently invented the bright paint that we used on Terracotta soldiers. Perhaps that's it?" A quick test proves that was exactly what they were looking for. Princess Leen carefully took some materials and handed them to Ms. An. "As a scientist to another, good luck saving the world!" They thanked princess Leen, bid farewell and parted ways.

When the five excited scientists came back, they noticed that W906 was fixed but Ms. Li looked worried. “Ms. Li! Look, we got the material!” Ms. An said, running towards her and waving the rock. Ms. Li forced a smile and said, “That’s great! I fixed W906 but because the wormhole cannot be held for much longer, it can only bring 5 people back. I am staying, since I am the one who designed the rocket.” The smile left everyone’s faces, and they let the truth sink down. “No. I will stay. I’m the team captain, and this is what a captain does”. After Ms. An stated the words, everyone began to argue why they should stay but Ms. An was not wavering. She placed the alchemized rock into Ms. Li’s hand and said, “Bury this inside the earth and the earth will get better in a month. Plant trees and clean the water. Goodbye.” Tears welled up in everyone’s eyes and there wasn’t a dry eye as they each hugged Ms. An. Then, Ms. An pushed them onto W906. The engine started, and the rocket zoomed into the sky. Ms. An waved goodbye until her eyes had no more tears, and until the rocket was just another twinkling star in the beautiful sky.



# Chinese Invention— Tea

*Shanghai Singapore International School, Xu, Amy – 12*

Tea is a type of drink that we see or drink very often. People drink them in special occasions, breakfast, at work and even drink them for health preservations. There are many types of tea, black tea, green tea, dark tea, oolong tea.....But have you ever wondered who invented tea?

Long ago, in an ancient Chinese village, there lived a young man called Ming. Ming was poor, but he was hard working. He worked in a shoe factory, which was owned by a rich, cruel man named Li. At the time when Ming lived, rich and poor got really big differences. The rich people were really rich, and the poor people were really poor, Ming is one of them. The rich people got all the powers and the rights, they could live in big houses, eating the best food, and let the poor people work for them. Every week, Ming only had 8 coins and usually being hit by Li. Li got no sympathy, when he hit Ming and other the workers, he uses his whip. The

Whipping sound was like thousands of lightning strikes striking the ground.

Ming was fed up. He doesn't want to work for Li anymore, so one day ,he packed his bags and walked straight out of the village. He walk into the mountains, it was very quiet. He could hear birds chirping and little streams flowing, Ming like that. He walk to a nearby stream and decided to settle down here. "I already have a place to stay, next step is to go find some food" Ming said. He walked up the stream through some bushes and found a big apple tree, Ming was filled with joy. He pick as many as he can, his pockets and inside the sleeves are filled with apples.

After a few days of drinking water he could only drink, Ming was bored it. Only drinking stream water is so boring , I'm gonna invent a drink" he stood up and walked to the place where it has beautiful leaves. The leaves there are colorful, red, green, yellow and brown.

Ming picked a random color, yellow. "I wonder what will this taste like," he said. Ming brought the leaves back. He took out a cup which he had brought from home, and filled it with stream water. The water turned a little bit yellow ,as yellow as the joy in his feeling. He took a little sip, Wow, the happiness went through his body and into his mind, it taste like he was flying in the air, the sun's warmth wrapped around his body, like it's hugging him. He close his eyes and took another sip, hmm, it was like all the lovely thing is trapped inside him. He felt powerful,

He felt love, he felt happiness. Ming jumped up, his body was filled with energy. "The emperor will love this, I will show it to him he said. He packed his bags and headed towards the emperor palace.

The emperor was bored of water too, he wanted to drink some other drinks. Just then Ming showed up, he told the emperor that he invented a new drink. The emperor was so happy, he took a sip, he felt the same as Ming and he dazed in his chair. the emperor confer upon Ming to be his gourmet. And lead some of the people to pick the leaves. "We should give this delicious drink a name, as you invented we should call it your name. Whats your last name?" "My last name is Tea" said Ming. "So this drink is called TEA! From that day on, tea is a popular in the whole China.

# Gunpowder

*Shanghai Singapore International School, Xu, Chenghu Jerome – 11*

Gunpowder. One of the five major Chinese inventions. But did you also know that gunpowder was actually the byproduct of a mistaken experiment?

In China a thousand years ago, the Chinese emperor was taking his evening stroll in his magnificent courtyard. He admired the flowers, he listened to the nightingale's soothing songs and glanced at the Koi swimming around in the glimmering waters of the fishpond. Suddenly, the Emperor's eyes shifted towards a Koi that was floating on the water, not moving a muscle. It took the emperor a while to realise that it had died of old age. The emperor staggered back a few steps and ordered the palace servants to remove the dead Koi as he walked back into the throne room.

The sky darkened. The emperor tried to sleep, but he couldn't keep his mind off the dead Koi he saw during his evening stroll. He suddenly realized that he would also die eventually, sooner or later. He woke up with a start. "I can't just die, can I?" He thought to himself. Just then, he had an fabulous idea.

On the following day, the emperor ordered alchemists all over China to create a medicine that could cure death. Anybody who successfully creates the medicine would be rewarded generously but would also be punished severely if not complete. The news spread like wildfire.

One of the alchemists was Wei Boyang. He was commissioned to create the immortality medicine within three days.

While Wei was gathering the ingredients, he coincidentally knocked over a mixture of grounded sulphur, saltpetre, and charcoal onto his candle lamp. He was surprised after the substance exploded after coming in contacting with the candle flame, producing a large noise and a burst of flames.

Soon, Wei had forgotten about the creating the immortality medicine and instead got curious by his new discovery. He tested it a few times with different ratios of each ingredient and poured the mixture onto the candle flame. The results almost always ended with a loud bang and a fiery explosion. But while conducting an experiment, the explosion was larger than expected and it even tore a piece of Wei's wall down with a fiery blast. Instead of fearing that the explosion might tear down his entire house, he got even more excited and concluded that it could deal a significant amount of explosive damage. He then named the newfound substance fire drug(火药) after the fiery explosions.

The second day passed as quickly as the first, as Wei was so hooked on his discovery that he completely forgot making the emperor's medicine. Soon the third day came, and the government officials knocked on Wei's door while he was conducting another experiment.

Wei was so startled by the knocking that he accidentally dropped the tube that contained the 'fire drug' inside. The tube shattered when it touched the floor. The 'fire drug' spilled everywhere.

“Oh no! I totally forgot about making the immortality medicine!” Wei exclaimed stressfully as he went to open the door.

“You must be alchemist Wei Boyang. Have you finished his majesty’s medicine yet?” The government official asked.

“No, I didn’t—“

The government official cut Wei at mid-sentence. “You didn’t finish it? You shall be punished and it’s your own fault you didn’t finish it.” Guards dressed in heavy armor suddenly appeared behind Wei and dragged him towards the palace.

“How do you plead, Wei Boyang?” The emperor thundered. “I see that you don’t care about the tasks that you are assigned. Are you treating me, the emperor, like a fool? Imbecile! To the dungeons!”

The guards were about to force Wei into the dungeons when a messenger suddenly burst into the palace, “Your majesty, the Xiongnu have just invaded our nation and their equipment are far more superior than those of our army. What do we do?”

The emperor began to think when Wei suddenly shouted. “I have an idea!”

The emperor laughed. “Really, and why should I believe you when you would refuse to make the immortality medicine for your emperor?”

But despite the emperor’s doubts, Wei was determined. “I just need some charcoal, saltpeter, and some sulfur. Oh, and also a burning candle.” Wei said to the emperor. “That would be my last request before I get sent to the dungeons.”

The emperor stopped laughing. He then turned to his servants, “Go get the items this man requested for! Go!” The emperor commanded.

A few moments later, the servants showed up with what Wei had requested for. Charcoal, Saltpeter, sulfur, and a burning candle.

Wei grounded the saltpeter, charcoal, and the sulfur as the emperor and his advisors eyed him suspiciously. Ignoring them, Wei grounded the three materials into a black, powdery-like substance. After mixing the substance, Wei poured the mixture onto the candle. BOOM! The ‘fire drug’ exploded in a burst of flames. The whole room went silent. The emperor and his advisers were startled as they had never seen such a powerful explosion before.

Suddenly, one of the emperor’s advisers broke the silence “That was a great experiment, but how will that help against the enemy?”

Wei thought of the advisor’s words carefully. How will that help against the Xiongnu? Suddenly, Wei remembered how the ‘fire drug’ tore down a piece of his wall with a blast and soon he had an conclusion.

Wei then replied, “You saw the powder ignite and explode after it touched the fire, right? So, I was thinking that we drill a small hole in the bamboo and add some of the powder into the bamboo. We then have to put a rope inside the hole with its tip sticking out. Then all the soldiers need to do is to ignite the rope and the bamboo will detonate, harming the enemy.

After hearing Wei’s explanation, everyone in the palace started clapping for him. Thank’s to Wei’s invention and quick thinking, in a few months, the Xiongnu retreated.

This is the story of the invention of gunpowder.

# New Tales of China's Inventions

*St. Eugene de Mazenod Oblate Primary School, Wong, Trek – 11*

“Ring! Ring!” Fa’s smartphone yelled at 8 o’clock in a peaceful morning. Sew and Fa, the renowned superpower cats, were boiling tomato soup, based on the special recipe of Fa’s late mum. Fa grabbed her smartphone. There was a call from a hospital.

“Your father was stuck in a mine shaft. He was rescued right after the massive rock was blasted by dynamite. He is now with bandages all around his body. He wants to see you.” The nurse said in a worried tone.

Fa blurted. “Oh Dad! Here I come.”

Dynamite was invented by China in the late 19th century. Chinese are peacemakers who make firecrackers to scare the imaginary monster ‘Year’ and bless the villagers all year long. It is generally used for breaking apart rocks and demolishing buildings. Its contribution to urban planning and reconstruction cannot be underestimated.

Sew said, “Let’s go as soon as possible!”

They left home in their pyjamas and dashed towards the city centre as fast as gales.

“How do we get there?” panted Sew.

“I don’t know. Let’s check the Internet.” Fa forced herself to be calm and decisive.

Charles K. Kao, a great Chinese scientist, contributed to the spread of the Internet. He devoted his whole life to the research of fibre optics which speed up the global connection. He sent optics technology as a precious gift to the whole world. Almost all knowledge and information can be obtained by just one click. No one can live without the Internet nowadays.

The phone chimed. Fa exclaimed, “The long–distance bus journey will take about four hours!”

Sew reassured hopefully. “Fret not! Let’s take the high–speed train. The journey can be compressed to one hour.” Sew jerked to a stop and dragged Fa to the station.

Maglev technology enables train speed up to 400km/h. China created a faultless network covering almost the whole country. It increases labour mobility by creating many one–hour living circles in all First–tier Cities.

Sew heard an embarrassing grumble from her tummy. Sweet Fa was considerate of Sew, “I’m starving to death. Let’s grab a thousand hotdogs there before we board the train!”

At the hotdog booth, the mouth–wateringly scrumptious hotdogs waved to them. Fa found desperately that she had left her purse at home. Sew jumped up. “Why don’t we use WeChat Pay?” After scanning the QR code, feeling a soft vibration of the phone, they devoured all the hotdogs in front of them.

Wechat, which is described as the ‘app of everything’, became the world’s largest standalone mobile app in 2018. Around 943 million users now send text and voice messages, play games, share videos as well as complete touchless mobile payments which saved many lives in the outbreak of COVID–19.

After one hour, they arrived at the hospital. Shockingly, they spotted Fa’s father groaning in a ward with hundreds of tubings attached to his body. They bursted into tears and rushed towards him in no time.

“Dad! What is going on?” Shivered Fa. “I am sorry. Your father’s wound is infected by an unknown virus. We are still figuring out how to help him.” The doctor explained.

Dad softly said, “My girl, it is too good to see you one last time,” He smiled. “I am so grateful to have you and your mum in my life. I miss her and will see her soon in heaven. One of the sweetest memories we shared was the tomato soup made by your mum.” “My boiling soup!” Gaspd Fa. She choked like the apocalypse came.

Sew pressed Fa’s shoulders firmly. “No mission is impossible in China.” Sew kept working on the phone and taking videos.

Suddenly, the familiar aroma of soup filled the air and Fa’s father was energised. A man wearing a jacket with the logo of ‘SF Express’ carried a box of ‘Alibaba’. Fa’s lips were quivering, “How can it be?”

Sew chuckled. “I turned off the stove and unlocked the door with smart home systems. I asked Kin, our blind neighbour who is one of the Alibaba suppliers, to send the soup and make a personalised delivery by SF Express. With Angeleye, the smart glasses, which allows blind people to navigate their world through the use of AI and sensors. They help Kin to detect objects, recognize money bank notes and read text messages. He now can overcome darkness and live like a normal person.”

Haier Smart Home came top of the Global Smart Home Invention Patent Rankings since 2020.

Alibaba contributed the next. It set up effective online trade and delivery systems. It runs warehouses with high technology robots. A man in Foshan received his package 13 minutes after he placed the order on Alibaba's shopping site on 11th November, the most popular shopping festival in China!

Fa’s father was delighted with the soup. He whispered afterwards, “It’s my time to see your mum.” Fa sobbed, “No! Please don’t leave me.”

“Clack! Clack!” There was then an awkward silence after the sound of high heels. Here came a crew of professionals.

"We've watched your video on Tiktok. Millions of people were touched by your heartbreaking scene. They urged all the best doctors to work on the virus." A doctor comforted Fa sympathetically.

TikTok was launched by Zhang Yiming and spread the personalised videos to 1 billion users worldwide.

A doctor extracted fluid from father’s wound and whispered, “Chinese medicine, like acupuncture and herbal medicine, has gained acceptance worldwide. China has invented three kinds of Covid-19 vaccine, including inactivated, mRNA and Cepharanthine-based vaccine which is plant-based and was found to have excellent anti-Covid-19 activity. We integrated Chinese and Western medicine with high technology and established a plant-based vaccine which is proven to be more powerful than Cepharanthine. Do you want to try?” Fa’s father nodded confidently.

The bed was pushed into the surgery room. Fa and Sew saw a glimmer of hope shining from the door crack. China’s inventions are creating tales of hope and love for the next generation.

# A Magnet for Victory

*St. Francis of Assisi's English Primary School, Cheung, King Ting – 10*

“We need something to give to them now otherwise our empire will be ruined! It has to be magical and exquisite or it wouldn't be good enough! Hurry!”

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The captains had all dishonourably deserted their fleet and fled into the lower Pearl River to join the enemies; large ships had been shot via numerous volleys of arrows, uncountable pieces of timber slowly drifted into the Pacific Ocean, and the remaining crew were forced to burn the corpses of their peers on their once undefeatable vessels. Hardly anything was left of the South Song Ships; and the only flag that flew high was plain and white.

The brutal Visayan Pirates had made reaching a peace treaty very difficult. Nothing offered by the Emperor seemed to be able to satisfy them. It seemed the job could only go to one man, someone who had proven himself to be able to make things more exquisite than treasure itself.

This young intelligent scientist had just moved to China. He was the best hope for producing this gift to placate the barbaric pirates. He had already made countless innovations for the Song Empire. The “Science Master” was welcomed by cheers on every occasion he presented himself. The news about him had been moving southwards from Lin'an. Emperor Gaozong knew it was his only hope.

His name was Shen Kuo.

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Shen had travelled miles to see the emperor. The Emperor, with determination in his eyes, said, “Shen, hope is all on you. Whatever you decide to invent must be worthy in the eyes of these pirates. They have only given us one week to make it. When you have made it, you will be presented with whatever you wish.” The Emperor held out his hand and gave him a handful of gold coins to complete the project, “South Song's destiny is in your palms.”

“My dear Lord, I don't want anything as a reward; entrusting me with this task is reward itself. Now, I will depart to do what you have asked, my Lord.”

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Shen lived in a small hut just outside the capital. He paced back and forth across the room for days, his mind absorbed in creation and innovation. From the outside, it seemed that it was all futile. All hope was lost. It seemed destined that the barbarians would take it all.

Finally, the seventh day had come. With no progress reported, the Emperor became frantic and furious, and Shen knew it too. While Shen had been an excellent inventor with a solid track record, he had never been tasked with such an important undertaking before. Shen knew he was losing the trust of the Emperor and all the citizens. But he just knew he could not give up.

“Shen, time's up! You've failed and caused the destruction of our empire. Follow us to meet the Emperor and answer for your failure,” three royal guards commanded Shen, as they knocked down the door of his house.

As they captured Shen, one of them said with a smirk on his face, “The Emperor has despatched us to bring you to the Grand Palace. Since you've failed in your mission, you'll likely be hanged.” Even though Shen remained composed, everyone thought he was putting on act. “Let me pack my things,” Shen said calmly.

Emperor Gaozong raised his eyebrows, as Shen was presented before him. One eunuch had a sharp blade by means of his side, ready to dish out his own punishment. But, Shen smiled. The Emperor, taken aback, said, “Well, where is your invention?”

Shen stayed silent, and slowly took out a wooden board with a dark metallic spoon made of lodestone. There were characters carved onto the board telling the extraordinary signs of the gods.

“Here it is, your Majesty.”

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The pirates with their massive navy had arrived at a dock in Canton. Zhang Long, a famous captain of the pirates, was ready as the time reached midnight. He smiled at his quartermaster, saying, “In about ten minutes, all of this in front of our eyes will be ours.”

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Emperor Gaozong was frustrated, “A South Pointing Fish? We have had this Feng Shui fortune-telling device for ages! This is all you can come up with in all this time?” Shen calmly replied, “Well, I understand that in the south, the pirates don’t know an awful lot about Feng Shui. If we inform them that this is a direct message from the gods, we will be able to trick them into retreating.”

The Emperor looked at Shen in disbelief. “Shen, but the ladle will always point towards the south. How do you make sure that it would point towards bad fortune?”

“It’s easy,” Shen replied, “Just change the writings on the wooden board. We can make it say whatever we want.”

“Very well, I have no other choice. We need to meet the pirates now. I pray to the gods that this works.” The Emperor ordered his entourage to leave the palace and begin their journey to meet the pirates. All the while, he was thinking just how he was going to punish Shen to make an example to all his subjects for making a fool of him.

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The fleet of pirate ships finally left the delta. They were marvelling at this unique device they had just received. The ladle appeared to be able to move by itself. None of them had ever seen anything like it. And best of all, it was supposed to be able to tell fortune.

Shen had taught the quartermaster how to read the inscriptions on the wooden board. He also told them that whatever the ladle pointed at, it would come true. The quartermaster slowly read the inscription on the board, exactly where the ladle was pointed at.

He was horrified.

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“It says we are all going to die?” Zhang Long uttered in disbelief.

“Yes, it says that we have infuriated the gods by trying to invade South Song. Now the gods want revenge. They said that if we ever return, we are going to die terrible deaths!”

Zhang immediately ordered the ship to steer as far away from the coast as possible and vowed to punish any sailor who chose to return.

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“Guards!” bellowed the Emperor Gaozheng in his booming voice, as he towered above a kneeling Shen, casting an ominous long dark shadow over him.

“Yes, your Majesty?”

“Give this man whatever he desires.”



# A Blast From the Past

*St. Francis of Assisi's English Primary School, Ng, Chun Lam – 12*

A black canvas filled the sky, with strings of ethereal moonlight beaming through the gaps of the bamboo houses. The streets quickly turned back into the lonely void that it was, with only the sound of crickets filling the midnight air. The creatures of the night gathered to cast fleeting shadows, swiftly leaping through the gaps of the bamboo walls to an old forging house, hidden by the other buildings in the street.

Upon the grounds of the forging house, resided a Taoist alchemist, who was conducting an experiment with gunpowder. But just outside the house, unbeknownst to him, scheming eyes were observing ...

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In a modern, well-developed city many centuries later, an old scientist was walking through the wild forest, filled with excitement and hope. His was named Cornelius, Professor Cornelius to be precise. He was a German-Chinese engineer, and his mission? Find the person who invented gunpowder.

Legend has it that an alchemist known as Wei Boyang from the Jin Dynasty in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC had invented gunpowder. However, information about him was scant, and it was up to Cornelius to fill in the gaps of history.

He panted as he made his way through the dark forest. He received a tip that there might be something worth pursuing in the forest. Exactly what, he had no idea. As multiple thoughts flashed through his mind, he carelessly tripped over a protruding rock. As he fell, it felt as though he was being seized into a spiritual dimension. Everything felt warped. He had to lie down. Eventually, he lost consciousness...

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When he fully awoke, he discovered himself lying on a strange bed, with bamboo all around him. As his grogginess faded, he noticed an elderly man sitting at a wooden table, eagerly waiting for him. "You are awake," he mumbled, tending to Cornelius. "Where am I..." Cornelius scanned over the unadorned room and turned his attention towards the old man.

"Greetings. I am Wei Boyang, and we are currently situated in the Scattered Village of the Eastern Han Dynasty in China. It appears to me that don't live here, do you?" he chuckled. Cornelius was astonished by the mentioning of Wei Boyang's name. The legendary Alchemist he had been searching for had eventually appeared before him. He calmed himself down and replied, "Yes, it seems I am indeed from another time. I am Professor Cornelius, a scientist determined to explore the history of gunpowder."

As Wei Boyang leaned forward, the candlelight shone brightly in his face. "Gunpowder, you say? Tell me, what do you want to know, Professor Cornelius?" Cornelius took a deep breath, then explained his quest to uncover the true origins of gunpowder with great enthusiasm. He believed that Wei Boyang held the key to solving the mystery. Wei Boyang's eyes sparkled with excitement. "Ah, memories of my experiments," he said. "Never thought they'd captivate someone from the future. Very well, I'll assist you, Professor Cornelius."

Their adventure began in Wei Boyang's old lab. Countless hours were spent on ancient texts, mysterious writings, and experimenting with gunpowder. Cornelius, a researcher of modern science, combined with Wei Boyang's wisdom, created an unstoppable partnership beyond time and knowledge.

However, little did they know, their quest had captured the attention of a secretive group of bandits. Driven by a desire for power, they believed that the duo's knowledge of gunpowder would grant them unimaginable abilities, allowing them to conquer the world.

Just as Cornelius and Wei Boyang were working on enhancing the experiment, a deafening crash broke the silence. The lab door burst open, revealing the figures of the bandits, their eyes sparkling with aggression. Despite their vigorous threat, the two companions refused to surrender to them. Without any hesitation, the hunters sprung toward Cornelius and Wei Boyang. Yet, motivated by their determination, the duos fought back with fearless courage. They instantly grabbed containers of explosives, turning them into walls of protection, which briefly blocked the enemies' path.

In the chaos, Cornelius and Wei Boyang found an escape route through a hidden passage. They rushed through the passage, hoping for a chance to escape. However, the hunters had already caught sight of them, and went after them, their footsteps echoing in the darkness.

Finally, they reached the end of the passage and locked the door behind them, and relished the chance to breathe in fresh air. Understanding the importance of protecting their secrets, Cornelius and Wei Boyang decided to go hiding temporarily. The companions were determined to defend their knowledge and continue their research. They knew that the fate of the past and future relied on their actions.

Months passed, Cornelius deepened his wisdom of gunpowder and Wei Boyang, the one who founded it. Cornelius and Wei Boyang moved on, combining ancient alchemy and modern science. Their passion for bringing gunpowder to practical benefit, as well as the constant threat of the thieves, had created an unbreakable bond between them.

And as the moon rose, casting an ethereal glow, the shadows of the past awaited with anticipation for the future. Under the auspiciousness of this great harmony, one is left to wonder whether humanity is truly responsible enough to behold such great powers.

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Professor Cornelius, sitting in his comfortable home back in his time, decided to document his surreal journey through history. He sat down and picked up his fountain pen,

*“A black canvas filled the sky..”*

## Fireworks to Missiles

*Wellington College International School Shanghai, Chen, Zhuzhu – 11*

Xingqiu was just an ordinary boy living in a war-torn city. He slept in a straw bed, attended lessons on various subjects, and ran into his room when the enemy soldiers came. Every once in a while, he would get up to some sorts of mischief, and it would be his mischievousness that would lead him to create what we no know as the missile.

It was December. Snow was pattering mercilessly onto the brick road, the white clouds leering down upon the silent city. Xingqiu watched from the window of his study room as his tutor spat out phrases in Japanese for him to repeat. This was Xingqiu's least and last favorite lesson of the day, and his teacher knew it. Maybe that was why he glared at him with such loathing while reading out obscure phrases in a foreign language.

After the teacher had finally released him from class, Xingqiu skipped down the hall, impersonating the gallop of the carriage horses and pressing his ears to every door crossing his path. As boys of his age often did, he lost interest in the game after the first few doors and did a few cartwheels through the hallway before passing the door to the inventor's room. He peered in, entranced by the sheer amount of objects and possibilities. Inventing was his passion, and he tried to enter the room every day, but would always fail miserably when he was distracted by the whims of his fourteen-year-old brain. Approaching the door to his father's study, Xingqiu heard hushed voices behind the closed door. His father was head of cavalry of the Chinese army, and often brought Xingqiu to the royal stables to admire the new horses that the mares had given to the army. They were beautiful things and the future of the kingdom, especially in such a time when the army would go to war almost every day.

As Xingqiu leaned closer to hear, he could just make out the conversation:

"But sir, how could you dream of that? The kingdom is fine and we have recently won the war against the Wei kingdom. Everything's perfect!

"I cannot ignore the will of the gods, advisor. If they say that we cannot win until we have a weapon capable of mass destruction, then we will try to make one. After all, isn't war about who has the fastest cavalry, the best weapons? In order to win, we will have to make the weapon the gods have showed me in my dreams. I am sure that is not too much for you?"

"N-no sir," the advisor stuttered. "N-not at all."

"Good. Then I will expect you to bring it to me by sundown." The conviction in his father's voice was almost tangible through the closed door.

Xingqiu could feel his heart beating out of his chest while his feet pounded against the floor. His mind kept wandering back to what his father had said: that the gods had reached out to him in a dream, telling him that to win he must have a weapon of mass destruction. But the thing that bothered him was how impatient his father had seemed: he rarely snapped at his employees and . What had he seen in his dream to rile him up like this?

His mind still wandering to the conversation he had overheard, Xingqiu entered the forge; the place where he could go to to lift his mind off of things. He wandered through the door, ignoring a shout of greeting from the forge-master, when his eyes fell onto his teacher's new invention: a firework. He

doubled backwards, snatching up the new invention. Although it was a phenomenon in ancient China, Xingqiu still had a better use for it. He could turn the thing of glitter and smoke into something of actual value: it could help the kingdom win the war and many more for years to come.

Xingqiu worked day and night, stopping occasionally for a sip of water or nibble of bread. Everyone passing by the forge would wonder what had gotten into the lively boy: no more traveling mind or feet, he was putting his full effort into the work. “So unlike him,” the passers-by thought.

After days of sketching out plan after plan, design after design, Xingqiu started official work. He cut off the sleeve of the firework, choosing instead to insert a few fins where the stick had been. The reasoning behind it, he reckoned, was so the missile would climb steeply into the air, similar to the sort of “airplanes” the children always made out of bamboo sticks. They would launch them in the air, laughing and shrieking as they played. Although it was just a childish game, Xingqiu could use inspiration from that to help his kingdom survive and come up on top. So, after lots of trial, error and perseverance, he emerged from the forge with a missile in his hand. He brought it into the town square during the night, unsure of where to throw it but certain that he would need to test it first in order to bring it up in front of his father and the emperor. Then, a thought occurred to him. He would hand it to his father’s advisor first to give to his father, who would then launch it at the Wei kingdom. And if it didn’t work, he could always improve it.

The ship was reaching the city wall, the captain holding Xingqiu’s fragile invention in his enormous hand. He launched it into the air.

It was ten metres away from touchdown.. nine.. eight. As the it neared the ground, Xingqiu’s knuckles grew white from clutching the railing. His body was rigid and white. The railing felt like ice under his hand.

It reached the ground.

Everything seemed to be happening in slow motion: screams rising from the crowd in the distance, a cloud resembling an orange, venomous mushroom blossoming from the point of impact. It worked.. and although it was considered a win for the kingdom, Xingqiu couldn’t help but think how this invention would impact the world for centuries to come.

# Yingyang

*Wellington College International School Shanghai, Lu, Hedy – 10*

“Why?!”

“Because you really can’t live forever!”

“Impossible, you are just jealous of me!” Now who’s speaking is an elder of The Taoism he is a kind and powerful man from the taoism and he is called Zhouduyi.

Although he is kind and warm hearted, his greatest and worst fear of all his life is death, this fear got worse as he already stepped in his 70’s, and this made him having nightmares every night and not concentrating on what he is doing. One day he was practicing taichichuan, he suddenly felt like there is rocks pulling his legs back and someone choking his throat, by the time the students found him, he already fainted and was lying on the ground.

After this, his fear of death became worse, he always needs someone to beside him, so they can rescue him if he dies.

This man is a high priest from Taoism, he is very important, because his fear of death, and fear of accidents, he did go and pray the gods, this made everyone at the temple nervous and worried.

But as time moves on, he is annoyed and frustrated by this fear of death, he made a wise decision.

To find the way of living forever!

From that day, he started locking himself in his room, diving in the ocean of medical books.

But after a month or so, he didn’t find anything that can make him live forever, in fact, because of his funny time management, he made himself worse in health and he looks like a panda with dark circles. He made another big decision that might change his life, to sail the the world to find the medicine that could save him from dying. The is two ending that can be caused fr9m this decision. the good ending, he really did live forever, the bad ending, he died in this journey.

He prepared the things he need for the journey, horses, food, fit bodyguards, and doctors. Although it is a dangerous journey, he still took everything that he can carry.

By the first light of sun lit the temple, he and his pack started the journey full of mystery and surprise.

The journey was so long, and so boring, masters in the pack collect medicines and taste them, but gained nothing.

What Zhouduyi do every day is just eat sleep and meditate, he cared about but what the searchers find every day.

On a windy and dark day, Zhouduyi was meditating on the deck as usual. He suddenly felt dizzy and a strong power went into his body, he opened his eyes, seeing that there is a strange shape on the deck, he was scared, he closed his eyes and tried to calm down. when he opened his eyes again, the pattern was gone, he stood up, surprisingly he didn’t feel like he is going to collapse, instead, he felt unpredictable power in him.

The surprised and overjoyed man dashed back to his room in the pond he sees his shadow a young man that looks about 40 years old. He thought he was just tired so he went to bed straight away.

The night quickly passed, from that day he has been trying the meditate method to be young again, and every time, it worked.

He thought this was magic, but after days and days, he thinks that this a key to the answer of living forever. He started to try and create things in the other world and stay longer in that world, as he extend the time, he began to see other people other than him self in the world, he tried to catch them, but he can't feel them, they are spirits. He tried to walk around and talk to these spirits, they had lots of fun.

Zhoudunyi discovered that this is a brilliant way of keeping young.

He immediately called on all the people on the ship to have a meeting about the mysterious world.

He decided to return to China and work harder on this world. Zhouunyi named this world and the real world, the "yin"and "yang" .

Sooner, he can use this technique to save people that is in danger.

This technique soon became popular, and Zhouunyi was honored by los of people. But tragedy still appears, Zhouunyi accidentally died when he is in the yin world, so he was trapped there, forever but this invention is still popular today, named yin yang bagua.

# Xiaolongbao

*Wellington College International School Shanghai, Tseng, Melody – 10*

In the faraway lands of Nanxiang, there is a little village called Mingo. Mingo was a small place, with still many improvements to be made. It was a coastal village, so people loved to visit the beach and eat seafood. And there lived a teenage girl named Yu Ming. Yu Ming had a heart of battle, longing to be on the battlefield. She was a strong and optimistic girl, despite having many hardships in life. One of which being money. The Ming family didn't have a stable job, only living off selling Mantous in a little stall on the far end of the village.

One day Yu Ming snuck off again to watch the army practice, she eavesdropped that they were talking about their night shifts. They were sending people to guard the north, east and west of the land. But not the south, as they are organizing an alliance with the Zhang empire. Yu Ming was interested in this decision, so she decided to sneak closer to the chief to heard what they are talking about when she heard slight chattering around the corner. She peeked carefully thinking that she had been spotted, but saw something that made her jaw drop. It was soldiers from the enemy empire! What were they doing here? She thought. Every atom of her body urged to charge right in and attack them, but she pushed that thought away and kept watching. She saw that the sneaky soldiers had sneaked out! Without hesitation, she decided to inform emperor wang.

She raced through the busy streets, ignoring the many judgmental stares she was getting. She ran until her legs were practically shaking, knowing that if the qin empire was in fact one step ahead of them. She ran up to the palace door, practicing what she was gonna say, expecting the worse. The two palace guards stopped her in her tracks and asked her who she was and why she was here. She explained what she had just saw and how important the matter was, but the guards didn't believe her one bit. She continued to explain helplessly, until when the guards finally gave up, and let her in. She rushed up and barged into the meeting room, exclaiming breathlessly about what she saw. She begged for the councils to listen, and seeing her so desperate, the councils decided to send some people to eavesdrop on the qin empire to see if they were actually planning an attack.

A few hours later, a group of soilders rushed back proving that Yu Ming was in fact right and were planning an attack by dawn! The emperor called the government to take the villagers to safety, and the chief of the army to prepare for the attack. Not long after, the two empires were slaying their enemies on the battlefield. Swinging their swords, trying their best to hold on to their dear lives. Fortunately, the battle was won but several were killed or injured. When Yu Ming got back, Emperor Wang couldn't have thanked her more. He decided to make Yu Ming the New chief of the army.

Over in the Qin Empire, emperor Qin was absolutely furious with what happened in the fight. He demanded to know who and why someone has found out about this attack. He sent two of his best men on the case. And soon enough, the men had tracked down that is was Yu Ming and her exact location. Unknowingly, Yu Ming was in ultimate danger. The next day, Yu Ming was on a little stroll in the park, when she saw two weird looking people whispering in the distance. Little did she know, these people were whispering about her...

Yu Ming didn't think much about them and just kept going with her walk, when the two people suddenly came up and asked her to follow them. She was confused to why this was, but she had a bad feeling about

this. The two men said that where they were taking her could potentially make her filthy rich. Yu Ming hesitated, but decided to follow them for the family. The strange men took her into an alleyway, and pulled out swords. They explained how they were from the Qin empire and how they tracked her down to get revenge. Yu Ming tried to fight back, but it was no use, it was two to one.

Back in the village, word got out of what happened to Yu Ming. Her family was devastated, as she was still young and had a full life ahead of her. In honor of her sacrifice, they made a dish called the Xiao Long Bao. Wrapped like a gift present on the outside, and stuffed with pork and soup on the inside to represent the blood and effort she put in.



# The Dumpling

*Wellington College International School Shanghai, Yang, Alina – 10*

Shatter!

Looking out her broken window, YiJin almost fainted.

'They are gone, again. I better get going soon.' disappointedly whispers YiJin.

With the cold wind flowing from her window, YiJin dragged herself out of her house, but while walking, she heard a voice. So in seconds she hid behind a tree, eavesdropping.

'I can see you! Come out.' Said the voice.

'Oh, I'm so sorry, I'll leave now...' awkwardly replied YiJin. Her face flushed.

'Wait who even are you?!' YiJin looked down at the short figure with red eyes.'

'Hey! Don't make me see red! This isn't funny!'

'But you already, see red. Your eyes... are red.'

'It's an idiom stupid! Anyway, I came here to investigate because a monster called the crimson monster will come here and completely DESTROY this place!'

'Wait, before continuing, can I look at your other eye?'

'No! My village said it's dangerous!'

Not caring, the creature leaped and took a look at her eye.

'Oh! I understand! You're—'

Suddenly, an old woman's voice called out to YiJin. Having to go, YiJin promised to visit the creature next time.

Later in the night while YiJin was grounded in the shed for basically nothing, she searched through the shelves for entertainment. She hated the shed since it was dark and boring. No one even gave food to her. But while looking, a box of matches stood in the shelf.

'Matches... mom loved them. She even wanted to see it light the sky.' Recalled YiJin.

'Imagine if I could make the same thing to bring her back.'

The next morning, YiJin decided to work on her invention, but decided to go get help from the creature first.

Soon she found the creature's cave.

'Crimson LAST question please!' The voice sounded like the creature.

YiJin stopped. She hid behind something and eavesdropped.

'Last one! Her name was YiJin.'

What?! Such a sentence made YiJin almost faint. How could such be her mother?! But thinking back, the creature said the monster would feed her to... her daughter! HER!

YiJin felt a great sense of accomplishment, so while silently celebrating she waited for her mom to leave.

After waiting for what felt like hours, YiJin burst in the cave's end.

She explained her idea, and then the creature gave her materials and instructions. It felt weird having the village not bother her everyday anymore, ever since the window incident, but it didn't bother her. So after one long week, it was done.

While walking to the village square with her 'fireworks', YiJin's heart started beating rapidly. With butterflies in her stomach. But there was no more time to waste.

Once arrived, she mentally prepared herself and finally spoke.

'Hello?'

'Care to explain where you've been this week?' Coldly asked the village chief.

'I wanted to show my invention, called the fireworks. Light it and it'll burst in the sky—'

'We don't care. You know, our village was in an even better state before your red eye destroyed it! It was only through our work this village can barely stand on two feet!'

'I'm sorry, I was so young—'

'SHUT UP! You killed your mother! We hate you! We all wished YOU died instead!'

'Chief that's too much...' appeared a villager.

'Are you on her side?'

Speechless, YiJin stood there, tears spilling out. It was snowing, and as tears fell from her face the tears turned into little crystals into the snow.

Suddenly, she looked to her left, and an unexpected guest arrived.

'To correct you, it's a crimson eye, not a red eye! You should go learn color theory!' Corrected the creature.

'It's you!'

'Sorry, but there's no time! The monster is coming now! So, villagers, get out now! Me and HER, will solve this problem ourselves!'

Soon somehow in seconds there wasn't a sight of anyone except YiJin and the creature.

'It's coming' said YiJin.

'I know, how would I have saved you otherwise?'

'Alright, I see fire! You go sort your mom out and I'll release the fireworks when the time comes!'  
Instructed the creature.

Immediately YiJin raced to her mom. The sight of destruction made YiJin nauseous, but there was no time to lose.

'Mom?!'

'YiJin?! What are you doing here?! Stay away! You'll get hurt!'

The sight made her uneasy.

'Why are you doing this?!'

'Im doing this for your sake! Remember when you were mistreated?! Now they'll get a taste of their own medicine!'

'No! This isn't right! Even though they mistreated me violence isn't the answer!'

'Well, what if I told you it is? By hurting them they can feel all the pain they've caused you!'

'No! This isn't you! This isn't the mother I know! You aren't her!'

Immediately she stopped. How could she say that?

'How ungrateful! How dare you say I'm wrong after doing all of this for you!'

'I can't believe your so blinded by revenge... if you were me would you think this is acceptable?!'

'Of course. This is my only wish.'

'That is not your wish, and I bet I can prove you wrong.'

Suddenly, hundreds, and millions of diverse hue burst in the night sky, with the color racing and filling the scene. It blinded YiJin, and shocked her mother. For minutes which felt like centuries, the two gazed at the sight, and made YiJin think to herself. Why is it so special to her next to her mother?

'I never thought you'd remember... you have good memory! I can't believe I couldn't recognize my own wish... YiJin, you are truly amazing!'

While the village was being rebuilt, the creature turned YiJin's mother back to human. Revealing the creature was the monster's employer. In the meantime, YiJin worked on her fireworks, and the village eventually forgave her. So now every night when she slept, a sense of accomplishment filled her. Shatter!

YiJin quickly rose from her bed and looking out the window, a bright beam from her mother's smile shone through the frame.

## New Tales of China's Inventions

*Wellington College International School Shanghai, Yang, Madeline – 10*

In the year 1832, Wang Xi Ruo and his father were harvesting potatoes in a small, Chinese village. The sun proudly shone onto the ground, glowing in the sky.

“Dad, the weather is too hot,” Wang Xi Ruo complained. “Let’s go back.”

Back at their little straw house, Wang Xi Ruo’s father cooked lunch, since his mother left them after a terrible accident. Mountains surrounded them, and a stream flowed through their village.

Life was great.

As they were relaxing in the sunlight, their dog came running towards them, barking loudly as if he was demanding Wang Xi Ruo to stroke him. Wang Xi Ruo, who loved the dog a lot, stroked him.

The next day, the dog started barking again. But this time, it sounded louder, more desperate.

Wang Xi Ruo stroked him again.

The dog kept barking.

“Maybe he’s trying to tell me something,” Wang Xi Ruo thought, slightly worried.

In the distance, shadows appeared, approaching the village.

“The people said that they are here to capture your father!” Wang Xi Ruo’s best friend, Zhao Lun Hao exclaimed.

“What! Why?”

“I don’t know. Apparently, he committed a crime.”

“Impossible!”

“They must have been mistaken.”

The mysterious group of people walked towards Wang Xi Ruo and his father.

“Hello, you must be Wang Xi Ruo and the one beside you must be your father. Am I right?”

“Yes,” they replied.

“There were seven people killed in the village and everyone said that your father was the murderer.”

“But he didn’t—”

“Do you have evidence that he didn’t do it?”

“No,” Wang Xi Ruo answered honestly.

“He will be executed in two weeks.”

In his room, Wang Xi Ruo paced as the clock ticked. Tick. Tock. Time was creeping away.

Suddenly, he heard someone knocking on the door, but who was it? He answered the door. The person stood outside was a young man who looked slightly more mature than him.

“Who are you?”

“I’m your father’s friend.”

Wang Xi Ruo knew that his father didn’t have friends; it was highly suspicious. He didn’t know why, but something told him to trust the young man.

“I have heard of your father’s terrible fate. I will try to help you the best I can,” the man promised.

“Thank you for willing to help my father.”

“Hmm, I think I’ll have a word with the police officer,” suggested the man thoughtfully. “Come on, let’s go.”

Wang Xi Ruo followed the man. It seemed that he had a plan.

“Excuse me, policemen. There isn’t any proof that Wang Xi Ruo’s father was the culprit except for eyewitnesses. Is that really enough proof?” The man spoke confidently and persuasively.

“You do have a point there,” the policeman agreed, “but he would still get arrested if you don’t provide strong evidence.”

“Can we look at the crime scene?” asked Wang Xi Ruo.

The policeman shrugged. At the crime scene, they observed the surroundings carefully. Part of the floor was slightly burnt, and the furniture was completely destroyed. The roof was sinking in and the room smelled strongly of gunpowder.

“It might’ve been a hand grenade,” Wang Xi Ruo noticed.

“There is also a hole in the door,” the policeman explained.

“Only a skinny person can fit in that hole,” Wang Xi Ruo thought. This worried him, since his best friend was a skinny person.

Only 10 days left. Still no progress. Wang Xi Ruo had dark circles under his eyes. He was extremely exhausted; he looked like he hadn’t slept in days.

“I have information. Apparently, gunpowder was stolen from the military. It is very likely that the person who stole it is the culprit,” reported the policeman. “After some investigation, we saw that there was indeed a hole in the door and the damage was created by an axe.” “We have also eliminated most of the suspects. The only suspects that are remaining is your father, Zhao Lun Hao, and another villager.”

There was no way that the culprit was his father or his friend... Right? Wang Xi Ruo stared blankly into space. He forgot something, something important. What was it?

The next day, he decided to visit his best friend. They had afternoon tea and chatted about the problem. There was an odd smell in the room. Wang Xi Ruo glanced around. Hanging on the side of the wall, was an axe.

“Why do you have an axe?” Wang Xi Ruo questioned.

“I borrowed the axe from your father. I just forgot to return it.”

“Have you perhaps done anything with the axe?”

“Uh, no! I was just chopping down some trees, that’s all.”

Wang Xi Ruo took the axe and ran back home. Pieces of the puzzle finally came together. He knew everything that had happened.

He knew the culprit’s identity.

“I should tell the man my theory,” he thought.

Without interrupting him, the man listened closely to every word until he finished.

“Go for it.”

The next day, Wang Xi Ruo told his friend to come with him and sprinted towards the policeman.

“I know who the culprit is. Someone, had borrowed an axe from my father. Then, they made a hole in the door. They used the hand grenade and murdered the villagers,” Wang Xi Ruo explained.

There was a moment of silence.

“THE CULPRIT IS YOU!” Wang Xi Ruo pointed at Zhao Lun Hao, furious at what he had done.

“No! I didn’t do anything!” Zhao Lun Hao yelled.

“You do smell strongly of gunpowder, and you had an axe when the murder happened. None of the others had axes,” the policeman added.

Zhao Lun Hao sighed.

“Fine, I did it. I was jealous of your father’s money,” Zhao Lun Hao admitted.

“You’re under arrest.”

Wang Xi Ruo reunited with his father. He had solved the mystery!

“Thank you for helping me!” Wang Xi Ruo thanked the man.

He smiled back at him.

“Bye for now.”

“What do you mean—“

In a blink of an eye, the man disappeared.

# China's Inventions

*Wellington College International School Shanghai, Zhong, Ianna – 10*

In 2737 the warm morning sun, the same rooster woke up all of the villagers including Shen Nong at the same time every morning – It was all very normal. Until this very day when Shen Nong saw the villagers crying over their friend's body ,and said to them “As the emperor I will ask the gods to take away my immortality and eat every herb on these mountains until I found a cure for you!”

After that Shen Nong asked the gods to remove his immortality, The god asked him if he was sure about his decision Shen Nong didn't hesitate and said yes. With his immortality removed , Shen Nong packed a lot of food , water and slowly made his way up the mountain swiftly and confidently .The mountain was ragged and uneven some of the herbs grew on the steep side of the mountain Shen Nong would use some vines to climb on the steep side of it. Sometimes Shen Nong regretted his decision but then thought about the villagers counting their lives on him and because he is the emperor so he should take the weight of the responsibility on his shoulders.

Like a bee he started walking all over the mountains collecting the herbs and recording the information all about the herbs. Once in a while he would get a deadly herb but after that he gets a cure a few minutes later. He wrote all his discoveries in a book that was passed down generation to generation in that village. He would always think about the happy faces in his empire getting cured and getting their family members back before death got them. Every time he ate a disgusting herb, he swallows it down even if he wanted to vomit it out.

As the days went by Shen Nong would stare down at his empire and continue picking herbs ,he would grow weak at times .One day he ate a deadly herb and grabbed a random plant and ate it he stomach stopped hurting.After he recovered from shock he recorded that plant as a cure and found lots of those leaves on a tree and grew them down at the farms in case of another sickness.The villagers were grateful for the plant and wanted to know the plant's name , Shen Nong thought for a while and called it cha.

Shen Nong traveled far and wide over mountains and rivers. Shen Nong became famous as his people told their family members out of China about his amazing discovery of herbs and tea. Soon after that less people got sick and more people drank tea everyday as their daily life. Slowly foreign countries started to want to find out all about tea ,until one day a terrible thing happened.

A Scottish Botanical called Robert Fortune learned how to say and write Chinese and succeeded to blend in with the Chinese people . He went in a place where foreigners weren't aloud to go in and found out all the Chinese people knew about tea and more. He returned to U.S.A and told all the secrets about tea to the king and queen.

The story of tea is very long as it was kept as a secret to all the other countries and cities. Even through if was not known for a while tea is now a famous drink and lots of other countries drink more tea than China does. Isn't that amazing tea turned from a secret to a world famous drink? Lots of people think about that, even through people stole their secret China is glad that tea is imported all around the world from China so they can sell a enormous amounts of tea for money.

Tea is and will always be one of China's most famous and useful inventions forever on the world.