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第005篇 [ 談迷信]

命題大意：略談中西迷信，選出其中之一編成一故事。

寫作大意：略述中國迷信。以講吉利話編出一故事。

ASSIGNMENT, 4/17/2002,

[Write a list of superstitions. Choose one and make up a story that explains how it all came about.]

WRITING : 4/24/2002

I don't know many superstitions of the western world. The most popular one known to the world is: "black Friday the thirteenth", ...Others are:  
(to be added by fellow writers in the class)

I do know a lot of superstitions famous in China, some of which are common and some are different from district to district largely rooted to the dialects and local culture. Everybody like to hear lucky words and lucky sayings like wealthy, longevity, prosperity. Most people hate to hear sayings such as death, poverty, sickness, sorrow, losing, ghosts and the like. The pronunciation of "eight" is similar to "prosperous" in Hong Kong and "four" is similar to "death" in Taiwan. In Hong Kong people pay high prices to buy car license plates composed of many "eights".

In Taiwan the "fourth floor" of a high-rise apartment or a commercial building is usually sold at a much cheaper price.

Here is a story about a grandpa who deliberately wanted to create a lucky atmosphere on a New Years Day but despaired by obtaining an adversary result. The grandpa on the New Year's Eve midnight purposely scattered big coins on the floor, easily to be seen by his grandson, hoping he would shout up the next morning: "Grandpa, I found some big money here!" Then the grandpa would be preparedly to say "Oh, really? That's certainly good luck to all of us!". The scene did happen on New Years Day morning when

the grandpa heard the boy shout, "I have found big money here..." The grandfather was prepared to answer " Good luck for us all !" When unexpectedly the boy added: "What poor soul had bad luck who lost his money!" . The grandpa suddenly turned to alarm.

COMMENTS: by teacher Priewe

1. Don't begin a sentence with "so".

2.The story idea is good, because it offers the writer a chance of ending that carry a reliable moral. The child learns compassion for the "Poor soul" . Grandpa gets a lesson that money isn't quite as important as he thinks it is.