



GIA SƯ CHUNG CƯ

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Chuyên cung cấp giáo viên gia sư ngoại ngữ chất lượng

Mọi ngôn ngữ - Mọi lứa tuổi - Mọi trình độ

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"I want everyone to be absolutely clear how seriously I'm taking this," said Mrs Lowry. The twelve children stared at her silently and intently, their frightened expressions demonstrating that they did indeed recognise the gravity of the situation.

"We will not tolerate stealing in this school. It's quite simple. Whoever has taken Julie's purse must return it to me during the lunch break. If you do that, we won't say anything more about it. I shan't punish you, and I won't tell the head teacher or your parents. But if Julie's purse hasn't been returned by the end of lunch, then I'm afraid I'll have no choice but to go to Mr Jenkins, and you know what he'll do.

There's a school policy for situations like this and there's no getting out of it. That's right - he'll bring the police in. They'll come this afternoon, and they'll interview you all. They'll find out who took the purse, I'm sure of it, and whoever it is will be in very, very serious trouble. So, please, for your own good, if you took Julie's purse, bring it to me during the lunch break. I'll be in here, on my own, the whole time. Does everyone understand?"

"Yes, Mrs Lowry," said the group of nine-year-olds in chorus.

Lunch break came and went with no one handing in the purse to Mrs Lowry.

"This is a great shame," said Mrs Lowry sadly. "Before I go and talk to Mr Jenkins, I'm just going to ask you, Julie, one more time: are you absolutely one hundred per cent sure you brought your purse to school this morning?"

"Yes, Mrs Lowry."

"And when did you last see it?"

"During the break, at eleven o'clock. Just as I told you. I took out a pound coin to go and buy a can of Coke. When I came back with the change, it had gone."

"And Elizabeth, you saw Julie take the pound coin out of her purse, did you?" "Yes, Mrs Lowry," said the girl sitting next to Julie. "Julie's telling the truth. We went to the drinks machine together and when we came back, Julie's purse wasn't in her bag anymore. That's when we came to find you."

"I'll ask you all one more time. Does anyone know anything about the whereabouts of Julie's purse?" There was absolute silence in the classroom. "Then I shall go and get Mr Jenkins now."

Mrs Lowry had already opened the door and stepped into the corridor when a voice shouted: "Mrs Lowry!"

She immediately turned and came back into the room. "What is it?" she asked.

David, sitting right at the back of the class, was pointing excitedly at the radiator on the wall next to him. "Look, Mrs Lowry! Behind the radiator! I think it's Julie's purse!"

There did seem to be something colourful behind the radiator. Mrs Lowry ran to the wall, bent down and picked it up. "Is this your purse, Julie?" "Yes!" said Julie.

"Remind me how much was in it." "A five-pound note."

Mrs Lowry opened the purse. "Thank goodness for that," she said. "Julie, here you are. David, I'd like to talk to you outside, please. The rest of you just sit quietly until I return."

Mrs Lowry and David stood silently outside the door. She looked at him sadly. "I'm waiting, David," she said eventually. "What for, Mrs Lowry?" "For an explanation."

"What do you mean?" Tears were already beginning to well up in his eyes.

"I'm not stupid, David. Don't think I am. I want you to tell me exactly what you did and why you did it. If you do that, it'll go no further, I promise."

"I didn't do anything! I saw the purse and I called you in."

"I don't think your parents are going to believe that, are they? Do you want them to know you're a thief?"

"I'm not a thief! I'm not!" He wiped his eyes with his sleeve. "How can I make you believe me?"

1. The children's faces showed that they _____.
 - A. were going to remain silent for a long time.
 - B. were scared of having things stolen.
 - C. knew exactly what Mrs Lowry would do.
 - D. were aware how serious the theft was.
2. Mrs Lowry said that, if the purse wasn't returned, she would have to _____.
 - A. punish all of the children.
 - B. tell their parents.
 - C. tell the head teacher.
 - D. inform the police.
3. Mrs Lowry was confident that _____.
 - A. the purse would be returned during the lunch break.
 - B. she knew who had taken Julie's purse.
 - C. the police would be able to solve the crime.
 - D. the thief was really a good person.
4. After lunch, Mrs Lowry wanted to make certain that _____.
 - A. Julie's purse had been stolen.
 - B. Julie's purse was still missing.
 - C. Elizabeth hadn't taken the purse.
 - D. Julie's purse did have money in it.
5. Mrs Lowry showed she was relieved that _____.
 - A. it was actually Julie's purse.
 - B. Julie's money was still in the purse.
 - C. it was David who had found the purse.
 - D. Julie hadn't had more money in the purse.

6. In the corridor with David, Mrs Lowry _____
- A. asked David to explain why he was crying.
 - B. realised how sad he was about what had happened.
 - C. felt very sorry that David had to experience this.
 - D. was hoping that David would confess to the crime.
7. Mrs Lowry made it clear to David that _____
- A. she'd definitely tell his parents he was a thief.
 - B. she knew why he had stolen Julie's purse.
 - C. she would not tell anyone if he confessed.
 - D. his crying would not change anything.



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The first time I saw Ben was when his family moved in next door. It was a hot, sunny day and we'd heard that the new neighbours were arriving that day. Our old neighbours, the Sharpes, had moved out a couple of months before and, to be honest, we had not been sorry to see them go. They were an argumentative couple and once a month there would be one or other of them at the door, going on about noise, or our cat, or where Dad parked his car. We were all hoping that whoever moved in next would make a bit more of an effort to get on.

That morning, Mum and Dad were both busy on various projects of their own. With Mum, it was her ongoing attempt to turn herself into her idea of a traditional housewife, at least for a weekend. She was going through a baking phase so she spent hours in the kitchen making biscuits that were either too hard or too sweet for even my young taste. She had a successful career as a lawyer so she didn't take her domestic failure too badly. Dad was decorating one of the bedrooms. I was cycling up and down the street, looking for the removal van every time I reached the corner and turned back. I wanted

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to be the first to see it so that I could then be the one to dash inside with the news. Finally, a large green van with the words "Baxter's Removals" in gold lettering on the side turned into our street, followed by a blue car. I can't say that that was the moment when I first saw Ben, although I suppose I registered that there were people in the car. I was too busy dropping my bicycle by the side of the road and running into the house shouting, "They're here! They're here!"

Mum wiped her hands on a towel and said, "Yes, Katy. Let them settle in, though. We'll give them a few hours before we start bothering them, shall we?" I felt disappointed that her reaction wasn't more like my own. I ran back outside and down our garden path to the front gate. I stood on the gate, watching. By this time, the removal van and the car had both pulled up next door and two large workmen had begun to open up the back of the van. Inside were neatly packed items of furniture. The family had also got out of the car and were looking up at the house as if they'd never seen it before, although Dad said he'd seen them looking round when they were thinking of buying it. The man was tall and dark-skinned, while the woman was very beautiful and looked younger than my own mum. They were clearly enjoying the moment of arriving at a new place. A boy of about my own age stood between them, looking at me. He didn't smile.

They unlocked the door and went inside, the workmen following with the first of their belongings. I watched for a while as they came back and forth with boxes, banging them down noisily, occasionally pointing to tell each other where to put things. I had an odd feeling of being watched and something made me look up. At one of the windows stood the boy, looking down at me. I smiled and he disappeared into the room. I had had such high hopes, and now it seemed that it was going to take a lot of hard work to make friends. I sighed and watched the workmen a little longer. Just as I was thinking of going inside to see how Dad was getting on, I heard a small voice behind me.

"I'm Ben. Hello."

I turned to see the boy standing behind me.

1. According to the writer, the Sharpes _____
 - A. were very noisy neighbours.
 - B. often found things to complain about.
 - C. were sad to leave the street.
 - D. came round with helpful advice.
2. The writer says her mother _____
 - A. is annoyed that she has to work so much.
 - B. doesn't know what her child likes to eat.

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- C. tries to do something she isn't very good at.
D. thinks that more women should have careers.
3. Judging from the text, the word "dash" in paragraph 2 probably means _____.
A. run very quickly.
B. write something down.
C. make up a story.
D. become excited.
4. When the van finally arrives, the writer _____.
A. is eager to tell her family what is happening.
B. tries to follow it on her bicycle.
C. sees Ben for the first time.
D. falls over and hurts herself.
5. The writer's mother _____.
A. decides to go to meet the new neighbours.
B. feels as excited as the writer does.
C. tells her to go and help the neighbours move in.
D. suggests that she waits before going to introduce herself.
6. The family stand outside the house looking at it because _____.
A. they are not sure they're at the right house.
B. they are happy to be moving into a new house.
C. it's the first time they have seen it.
D. they are trying to decide whether to buy it or not.
7. The writer looks up to see the boy at the window because _____.
A. she hears a loud noise.
B. the workmen point in that direction.
C. she hears a voice from that direction.
D. she feels someone is looking at her.

Although Julie had been with Mrs Worthington just three days, she had already learnt that her boss was the kind of person one had to be careful with. Her changes of mood could be rapid, she definitely did not tolerate failure, laziness or poor work and she firmly believed that everyone's highest priority should be their work for the company. Julie was enjoying her job as Mrs Worthington's personal secretary, but she knew that today would be tough.

For several days, Julie had been experiencing toothache. At first, it was merely a minor annoyance that could be ignored. "It'll probably go away by itself," Julie told herself. "If not, I'll see the dentist when I'm more settled here at work. It's not that urgent."

It didn't disappear, however, and after an extremely uncomfortable night, Julie awoke to severe dental pain. "That's just what I need," she said to herself. "Maybe I can get a dentist's appointment for this evening, after work."

Julie called the dentist's. "I'm afraid the only time the dentist has available today is at 3.30 pm this afternoon," said the receptionist. Julie had to make an immediate decision. "I'll take it," she said.

The question was, how was Mrs Worthington going to react? Would she say, "Of course you can leave early, Julie. In fact, leave at lunchtime and don't come back until you're completely better."? Julie knew a far more likely response would be something along the lines of: "Well, that really is most inconvenient. Couldn't you have arranged to see the dentist in your own time? You have to think about the company as well, you know. We can't all take time off whenever we feel like it. We'd never get any work done if we all spent the day running around seeing doctors and dentists. Can't you change the time of your appointment?"

The pain was increasing in intensity, though, and Julie knew she had to see a dentist today. If the only solution was to leave work early and face Mrs Worthington's displeasure, then so be it.

"Here's your coffee, Mrs Worthington," said Julie, as she went into her boss's office for the first time that morning.

"Thank you, Julie," said Mrs Worthington, without looking up. "Don't forget I need those reports typed up by three o'clock at the latest. I've got a meeting with Mr Price this afternoon." "Yes, Mrs Worthington. I've nearly finished them. Uram... Sorry, Mrs Worthington, but I wonder if I could ask you something. It's quite important."

"What is it, Julie?" She looked up from the documents she'd been studying, and without giving Julie a chance to reply, said: "Oh my

goodness! What's happened to your face? It's all swollen on one side. Are you all right?"

"I've got really bad toothache, Mrs Worthington. I called the dentist and tried to make an appointment for this evening but the only time he can see me is at half past three and I know that would mean leaving early but I don't know what else ..."

"Stop!" said Mrs Worthington. "I quite understand. These things have to be dealt with or they only get worse, don't they? Get it sorted out, as quickly as possible."

"Thank you, Mrs Worthington."

"Do you think you can work this morning, Julie? If you can't, tell me and we'll find a solution. If you can, just finish those reports as quickly as you can and then go home. Have you taken anything for it, by the way?"

"No, I haven't. I think I'd better wait as the dentist will probably have to give me an anaesthetic and you have to be a bit careful, don't you? But, yes. I can definitely stay and finish the reports. It's not that bad."

"Well, it looks bad enough. I do appreciate it, Julie. I really do."

As Julie returned to her desk, she wondered if she hadn't misjudged Mrs Worthington. "I couldn't have asked for a more understanding person to work for – this morning, at least," she said to herself, and smiled, despite the pain.

1. Julie knows that Mrs Worthington _____.
 - A. thinks all of her staff are lazy and bad at their work.
 - B. is only in a good mood for a few minutes each day.
 - C. thinks that Julie is not hard-working enough.
 - D. wants Julie to put her work before everything else.
2. When Julie says "That's just what I need" (paragraph 3), she _____.
 - A. means the opposite of what she says.
 - B. is being optimistic about the situation.
 - C. is trying to pretend she is okay.
 - D. suggests she has found a solution.
3. Julie expects Mrs Worthington to respond by _____.
 - A. suggesting Julie sees a doctor instead.
 - B. allowing Julie to leave work early.
 - C. criticising Julie for being selfish.
 - D. telling Julie to stop complaining.
4. Mrs Worthington doesn't look at Julie because she is busy _____.
 - A. drinking a cup of coffee.
 - B. talking to Mr Price.

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- C. typing some reports.
D. looking at some documents.
5. Mrs Worthington interrupts Julie to _____.
A. give her permission to see the dentist.
B. tell her to leave the building immediately.
C. express her displeasure at what she said.
D. find out some more information from her.
6. Mrs Worthington asks Julie whether she _____.
A. can think of a solution to the problem.
B. has taken any medicine for the pain.
C. has already finished typing the reports.
D. can tell her what work has to be done.
7. When Julie leaves Mrs Worthington's office, she _____.
A. feels that she hadn't misjudged Mrs Worthington after all.
B. wonders why she'd misjudged Mrs Worthington so badly.
C. recognises some good qualities in Mrs Worthington.
D. wishes Mrs Worthington had been more understanding.

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