



CLASSWORK SEPT.- 28-2020

Interpreting the source

What do you think Confucius is trying to express in each of the quotations below? In your pairs, discuss the questions under each quotation and write your answers in the spaces provided.

- **“Let the ruler be a ruler, the subject a subject, the father a father, the son a son. Truly if the ruler be not a ruler, the subject not a subject, the father not a father, the son not a son, then even if there be grain, would I get to eat it?”**

1. What is Confucius saying would happen if rulers were not rulers, and subjects not subjects and so on?
2. What comment is Confucius making here about the concept of hierarchy in Chinese society?

- **“A man should not be ignorant of the age of his father and mother. It is a matter, on the one hand, for rejoicing and, on the other, for anxiety.”**

1. In Chinese society, why might one be ‘anxious’ about their parents getting older?

- **“Make it your guiding principle to do your best for others and to be trustworthy in what you say. Do not accept as friend anyone who is not as good as you. When you make a mistake do not be afraid of mending your ways.”**

1. What do you think Confucius means when he says, “do not accept as friend anyone who is not as good as you”?