

S6 Supplementary Set Paper II (Part B)

Question 6 Learning English Through Short Stories

The following short story writing competition was advertised in the youth section of a local newspaper:

Win two film tickets by sending us a short story written from a first-person perspective about a day in the life of a superhero with ONE of the following powers:

- Time travel
- Invisibility
- Ability to read people's minds

Write a story to submit for the competition.

I am Chris Wong. I used to be a normal student like you, sitting in front of the desk and reading. It has never occurred to me that one day, I could do something great and make my friends and family feel proud and impressive.

One day, I went to school like everybody else does everyday, but this time was different. I had never dreamt that I would be the victim of a drunk driver who crashed his car. How unexpected that a guy could be drunk at seven o'clock in the morning, but what happened next was even more unexpected. His car charged on the road and knocked me out of the floor. Did someone tell me I flied almost 10 meters? In fact, no one told me, because after the accident, I woke up in the hospital. I found so many different messages and noises rumbling in my head, I began to feel that perhaps I could peep into people's minds – I could read people's minds!

When I was wondering what had happened to me, a guy with a pretty strange outfit appeared and looked at me.

“Do I know you?” I asked in response to his gaze.

“You must have heard about me, but you have never seen me or known about me,” the guy replied.

When I wanted to ask him what he was doing here, some brown smoke appeared under my bed, and I fell asleep very quickly.

When I woke up, I was in my room and the guy was still here. I started to feel afraid, and asked him what he wanted from me.

“In fact, I am a Demon,” he said with an air of overwhelming certainty and power, raising his tone and voice as he pronounced the word “Demon”.

I thought he was joking so I demanded him to prove that. Suddenly, he became a huge snake. My feet were trembling. I knelt down at once and I didn't know what I should do. I was taken aback, transfixed and tongue-tied.

“Don't be afraid, young man. Although I am a demon, sometimes I will do something nice, even interesting. Now I confer on you a power - you can read people's minds, but only for one day,” he said.

My eyes opened wide. I asked him why and why me; he didn't answer. “You're just a lucky kid,” said the demon and then he disappeared.

I was wondering whether someone was playing cat and mouse on me, and why everything changed so fast. It wasn't Fool's Day. I got out of my room, saw my mother and I tried to read her mind. I discovered that she made a cake and put it on the table in the kitchen. Then I knew I really could read people's minds.

Of course, I wouldn't give up this great chance to do whatever I wanted to do. I only had one day. The first thing I wanted to do was to make some money for myself, so I went to play the Q&A in the games store. With the ability to read people's minds, I won a lot of money very soon. I was not the kind of people who could plan for their own future, so I won some money enough for me to spend for a week. Then I left the store and headed for fun! In fact, I also didn't want to arouse people's attention and invite any people to question me, so I didn't win lots of money. I regretted a little, but what could I do? So I moved on.

I went to a games store and a restaurant and bought something to eat! I bought lots of things and ate a lot of junk food. After having fun, I thought whether I should use my power on something positive, perhaps helping people?

Maybe that would bring me in trouble, but people who had great power also had great responsibility, so should I help the others even though I knew this might put my life at risk?

At that critical moment, a news reporter showed up on TV and said a bank was controlled by some bad guys. They caught some people as human shell. They carried a bomb each. Only the code of the bomb could help all of them but only the host of the bad guys knew it. I couldn't read someone mind without seeing his face, so if I wanted to help them, I needed to get in that bank.

I knew it was dangerous but I thought it was time to do something to help those in need. As the Chinese saying goes, "Happiness is to help others!" I felt the urge and the courage to go to that bank and I saw there were so many police around the place. I could read their minds so I knew a secret exit I could use to let the victims out when they had a chance. Soon I got into the bank and I saw those bad guys. They pointed a gun at my face, but I was just a 17-year-old teen so they didn't think I could do anything to destroy their evil plan. They thought I was just a kid got lost. By then, I already knew the code of the bomb so I used my finger to show the other victims what the numbers were. Then I ran really fast out of the bank. I told the police to catch all the bad guys.

After that long day, I went back to my room at night, the demon showed up in my room again. He told me in fact he was an angel. He was helping God to do an experiment about what a normal human being would do when he had so special a power. He said although my action was a little bit childish, he was impressed.

I don't know what I should do next, but if I had that power again, I would use it to help people. It makes me feel good! (1014 words)