小学生の部　課題文

Belling the Cat

Some little mice lived in a large house. An old cat also lived in the same house. All the mice were very much afraid of the cat, so one night they all got together and had a meeting.

"What can we do about the cat?" they asked each other. At last an old mouse stood up. "I have a good idea," he said. "Let us tie a bell on the cat. This way, we will know when he is coming, because the bell will ring." "Good! Good!" all the mice cried. "Let us bell the cat at once. Hurrah! We need not fear the cat anymore." They were so happy that they danced around the room.

Then suddenly a young mouse asked the old mouse, "Will you tie a bell on the cat?" "No, I can't. I'm too old," he said. The young mouse asked another mouse the same question. "No, no, because I can't run fast," he replied.

Then all the mice said together. "We cannot do it! Then one by one they stole away to their holes.

George Washington and His Hatchet

When George Washington was a little boy, his father gave him a bright new hatchet. George wanted to cut things with it. He ran into the garden, and there he saw a small cherry tree. "It will be fun to cut down the tree," he thought. He began to cut it with his hatchet. The tree was very small. It didn't take long to cut it down.

Soon after that, his father came home. He saw the fallen cherry tree and was shocked. It was his favorite tree. "Who cut down my fine cherry tree?" he cried. "I loved it very much." He was very angry and came into the house. "Someone cut down my fine cherry tree. I will punish the one who did it," he said.

Little George came right to his father. "Father!" he said. "I will tell you the truth. I cut down the tree with my hatchet. I am very sorry." His father was very surprised, but soon he forgot his anger. "George," he said, taking the little boy in his arms. "George, I am very glad that you told me the truth. You are an honest boy. I am proud of you!"

As you know, George Washington became the first President of the United States of America.

Cinderella

Cinderella was a very pretty and kind girl. Her mother and two sisters did not like her, though. They made Cinderella work hard every day.

One day there was a party at the King's palace. The two sisters and their mother went to the party, but Cinderella was not allowed to go. Cinderella cried in the kitchen. Suddenly she heard a voice. "Don't cry, Cinderella! I will give you some beautiful clothes and glass slippers. You can go to the party, but you must come back by twelve o'clock." It was the voice of a good fairy.

At the party the Prince saw Cinderella. "She is very beautiful," he said. He danced with her. Suddenly, the clock struck twelve. "Oh, it's time to hurry home!" Cinderella said to herself. She ran out of the palace so fast that she left one of her glass slippers behind.

The Prince still did not know Cinderella's name, but he found her slipper. He said to his men, "Go into every house in the city and find the owner of this slipper." They came to Cinderella's house. Her sisters tried to put on the slipper, but they couldn't. Then Cinderella tried it, and she could put it on. "Oh, this is the girl!" said the men.

Soon after that, the Prince married Cinderella, and they lived together happily ever after.