

Chapter Seven



1.) PRE-READING

Look at the picture above.

1. What do you see in this picture?
2. How does it make you feel?
3. Who is your role model? Why?
4. What are some challenges your family has faced?

My Mother

“Please come in,” said my mother. She welcomed her unexpected guests with a smile and led them into our home. She talked with them a little while and then went into the kitchen. A few minutes later there was fresh cooked rice, some side dishes, and some fruit. Nobody noticed that she changed out of her “house” clothes into some more formal attire. She always treated her guests with respect. There are a lot of role models in history. I used to try to find a good role model from lists of the greatest people. I didn’t realize I had my role model with me my whole life.

My mother was a tiny, shy, and humble lady. She wasn’t pretty, but she was always neat and clean and had a smile. She had three of her own children, and always opened her house to her friends, relatives, neighbors, and even strangers. She never got an education because in her generation girls weren’t allowed to go to school in Korean society. But she was a smart, kind woman. Everybody wanted to be her friend. She taught us that education is not everything in life. Instead it’s the spirit and love that comes from the bottom of one’s heart that’s the most important. To her this is more important than knowledge.

My father was an intelligent and educated man, but our mother’s advice was more real and practical. When we made mistakes she never raised her voice at us or got a red face. She listened to us first and then told us what was wrong, explaining how to avoid the same mistake next time. Whenever we needed her, she was there for us. We never saw her sleep. It seemed like she never went to bed. As soon as we woke up, she was already dressed and cooking in the kitchen. When we went to bed, she stayed up sewing or preparing food for the next morning.

I guess my mother never knew how to hate people. A few years after she married my father, she had a daughter. So, my father found a concubine because he wanted a son. This new woman gave him several sons, but my father and mother never divorced. It was acceptable in Korean society at that time for a man to have a mistress if his first wife couldn’t have a son. That was the culture in those days. So my mother accepted this situation as her destiny. She was patient, generous, and understanding. Instead of hating the concubine, my mother had sympathy for her and loved her. My mom was lonely without my father, but she never complained. She appreciated raising us, and focused on us as her priority. My father visited her once a month until he died in 1981.

In 1999, my mother passed away too. She was 83 years old. Now I feel awful that when I was a young girl, I hated my mom. I was embarrassed that my mom never had an education and that she lived like a single mother who had a part-time husband. And I was angry that we lost our father to a concubine. I blamed my mother for being weak and not getting a divorce. Now I am an adult woman and married with two daughters. I understand my mother’s wisdom in that she loved my father and the concubine. I also realize that her loving passion was demonstrated to us throughout her life. I miss my mom so much. I will remember her passion and love toward everyone and I will practice those qualities just as she did.

2.) VOCABULARY

Choose the vocabulary word which best completes the sentence.

concubine wisdom appreciated sympathy patient advice
generation role models formal attire unexpected humble destiny

1. Although he had a wife, the king also had two concubines.
2. The fortuneteller told her that her _____ with her family will be happy.
3. The doctor gave the patient some good _____ about her health.
4. People usually wear _____ at weddings.
5. The rain was _____ so we didn't bring an umbrella.
6. It's better to be _____ than proud.
7. Each _____ creates its own fashion and music.
8. Philosophers often have more _____ than the average person.
9. The student _____ the teacher's kind help.
10. The coach expressed _____ for his players because they lost the game.
11. Some popular sports players are _____ for young people.
12. The driving instructor told the driver to be careful and _____ while driving.

CONVEYING CONTRAST or ASSOCIATION

Match the vocabulary word with its corresponding antonym.

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. <u>E</u> Sympathy | A. Predict |
| 2. ___ Wisdom | B. Arrogant |
| 3. ___ Patient | C. Casual clothes |
| 4. ___ Appreciative | D. Foolishness |
| 5. ___ Formal attire | E. Unsympathetic |
| 6. ___ Humble | F. Anxious |
| 7. ___ Passion | G. Ungrateful |
| 8. ___ Unexpected | H. Indifference |

3.) COMPREHENSION

Find the incorrect word(s), cross it out, and write the correct one(s).

1. She welcomed her unexpected ^{guests} ~~students~~ with a smile.
2. She talked with them a while and then went into the garage.
3. My puppy was a tiny, shy, and humble lady.
4. Everyone wanted to be her neighbor.
5. She taught us that money is not everything in life.
6. My uncle was an intelligent and educated man.
7. We never saw her eat.
8. My mother accepted this situation as her responsibility.
9. I understand my mother's mistake in that she loved my father.
10. I blamed my mother for being strong.
11. Now I'm an adult student married with two daughters.
12. I will sing those qualities just as she did.

UNDERSTANDING PRONOUNS

What do these pronouns mean? Match the pronoun with its correct reference.

1. C She talked with *them* a little while. A. daughters
2. ___ There are a lot of *them* in history. B. my mother
3. ___ *She* was always neat and clean. C. ~~her~~ guests
4. ___ When we made *them*, she never yelled. D. role models
5. ___ *She* gave him several sons. E. my father
6. ___ *He* visited her once a month. F. mistakes
7. ___ I'm an adult with two of *them*. G. the concubine.

UNDERSTANDING CAUSE AND EFFECT

Complete each sentence. Write the letter of your answer on the line.

1. B She didn't have an education A. because we lost our father to a concubine.
2. ___ Everyone wanted to be her friend B. ~~because her generation didn't allow it.~~
3. ___ We never saw her sleep C. because she was smart and nice.
4. ___ He found a concubine D. because she cooked, cleaned, and sewed.
5. ___ My mom was lonely E. because he wanted a son.
6. ___ I was angry F. because she was without her husband.

English Lesson ~ Understanding Prefixes

Prefixes consists of one or more letters or syllables added to the beginning of a word to change its meaning or grammatical function. Understanding prefixes will greatly improve your English. Using the prefixes below as a guide, complete the words. More than one prefix might be correct. Use your dictionary if necessary.

dishonest = not honest inactive = not active preview = view before
rewrite = write again unhappy = not happy biology = study of life automatic = self-moving
anti-corruption = against corruption combination = mixture, grouping ex-wife = former wife

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|--------------------|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1) <u>re</u> apply | 6) ___ edible | 11) ___ vious | 16) ___ appear |
| 2) ___ like | 7) ___ approve | 12) ___ graph | 17) ___ mingle |
| 3) ___ correct | 8) ___ do | 13) ___ able | 18) ___ freeze |
| 4) ___ sphere | 9) ___ science | 14) ___ president | 19) ___ conscious |
| 5) ___ boyfriend | 10) ___ reply | 15) ___ munity | 20) ___ physics |

4. DISCUSSION

Discuss the following questions.

1. Describe the social conditions of your country many years ago.
2. Do you think the mother should have divorced her father?
3. Do you think the mother is strong and patient, or passive and weak?
4. Who is your role model? Why?
5. *Ask your own question.*

5. WRITING

Write about one of the topics below.

1. Describe your role model.
or
2. Write about a significant social development in your country.

