

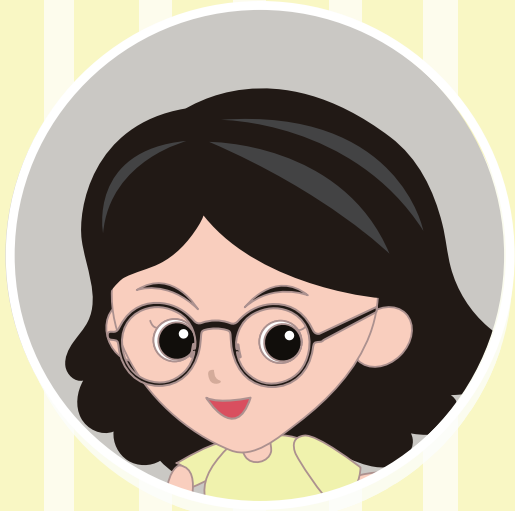
Class Monitor Election

Story by Pearl Poon



Class Monitor Election

Characters



Miss LI



Henry



Howard



Jenny



Tom

At the start of the new school term, Jenny, Tom and Howard decided to run for the class monitor election. The teacher Miss LI said all candidates could seek their classmates' support by giving a speech on stage during the election meeting the following day.



Jenny enjoyed dressing up. Once she knew that she was going on stage, she was determined to make herself look good so that she could give classmates a good impression. She was prepared to put on a glittering rainbow hair clip to attract everyone's attention.



Tom wanted very much to be the class monitor. He thought the monitor's badge and "privileges" were very prestigious! He thought, "I'm good at speaking. If I just bluff in my speech, I will be able to get the class to vote for me."



Therefore, Tom wrote an impressive speech in which he overstated the contribution he made for the class, such as collecting class homework for the teachers and maintaining discipline. But these were not all factually correct. Sometimes, he even forgot to bring his own homework!



As for Howard, he was the Chinese Subject Monitor. Apart from collecting the Chinese workbooks from classmates, he often took the initiative to help tidy up the bookshelves and decorate the poster board.



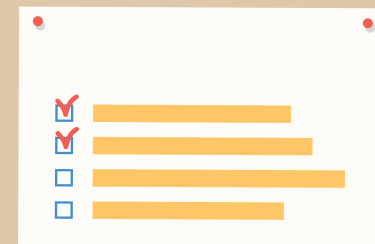
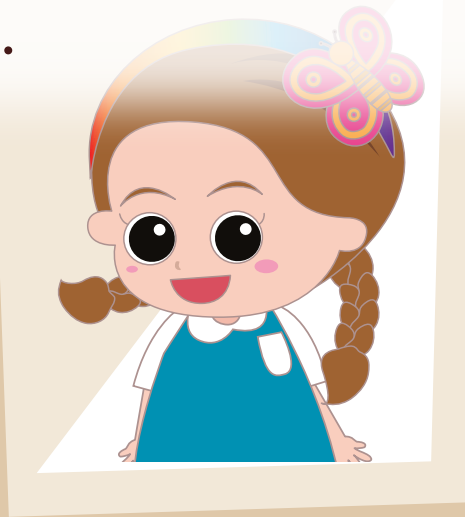
To prepare for the election, Howard spoke to a monitor of a senior class to learn more about the duties of the position. He learned that a monitor should assist the teachers in distributing worksheets, maintaining class discipline, helping classmates in need and so on. He was determined to try his best to bring these all into practice and set an example for the class.



On the day of the election meeting, Miss LI put up photographs and the particulars of the candidates on the poster board. The class gathered around to read in curiosity.



Quite a number of students said Jenny was the most photogenic and her photograph was the best looking one. Some responded that appearance should not be the focus in the election because it was the candidates' capability that mattered.





During recess, Tom went to the tuck shop. He boasted in front of Henry and a few other classmates sitting around that he was the best candidate for the monitor job. "I will do all that you expect from a monitor!" Tom said with confidence.

However, Henry said Tom was unreliable because he only bluffed and failed to do what he had promised. Just then, he even saw Tom jumping the queue for buying snacks. He wondered how Tom could be the monitor when he behaved this way!

Tom's face turned red. He was very angry with Henry. He turned to other classmates and said, "Don't listen to him. Let me treat you with candies and chips."

Henry said, "You want to use snacks to buy classmates' votes? This is not right!"

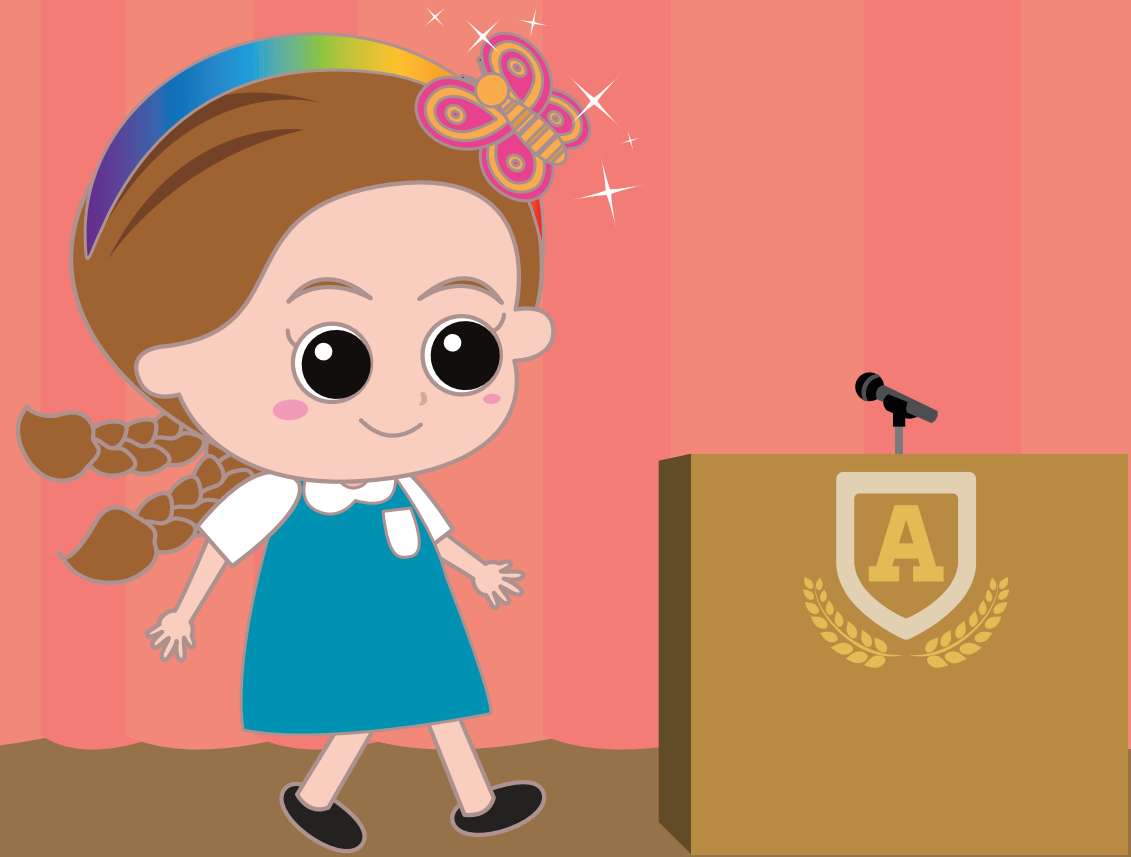


The class bell rang. All the classmates declined Tom's offer and flocked back to the classroom.



The election meeting began and the candidates took turns to speak.

Jenny stepped on stage appearing elegant and attractive. While looking around, her hair clip glittered and everyone said she looked like a little princess. However, she always lost her temper and demanded that her classmates listen to her. She was also not willing to help others. It seemed that Jenny was not suitable for the position.



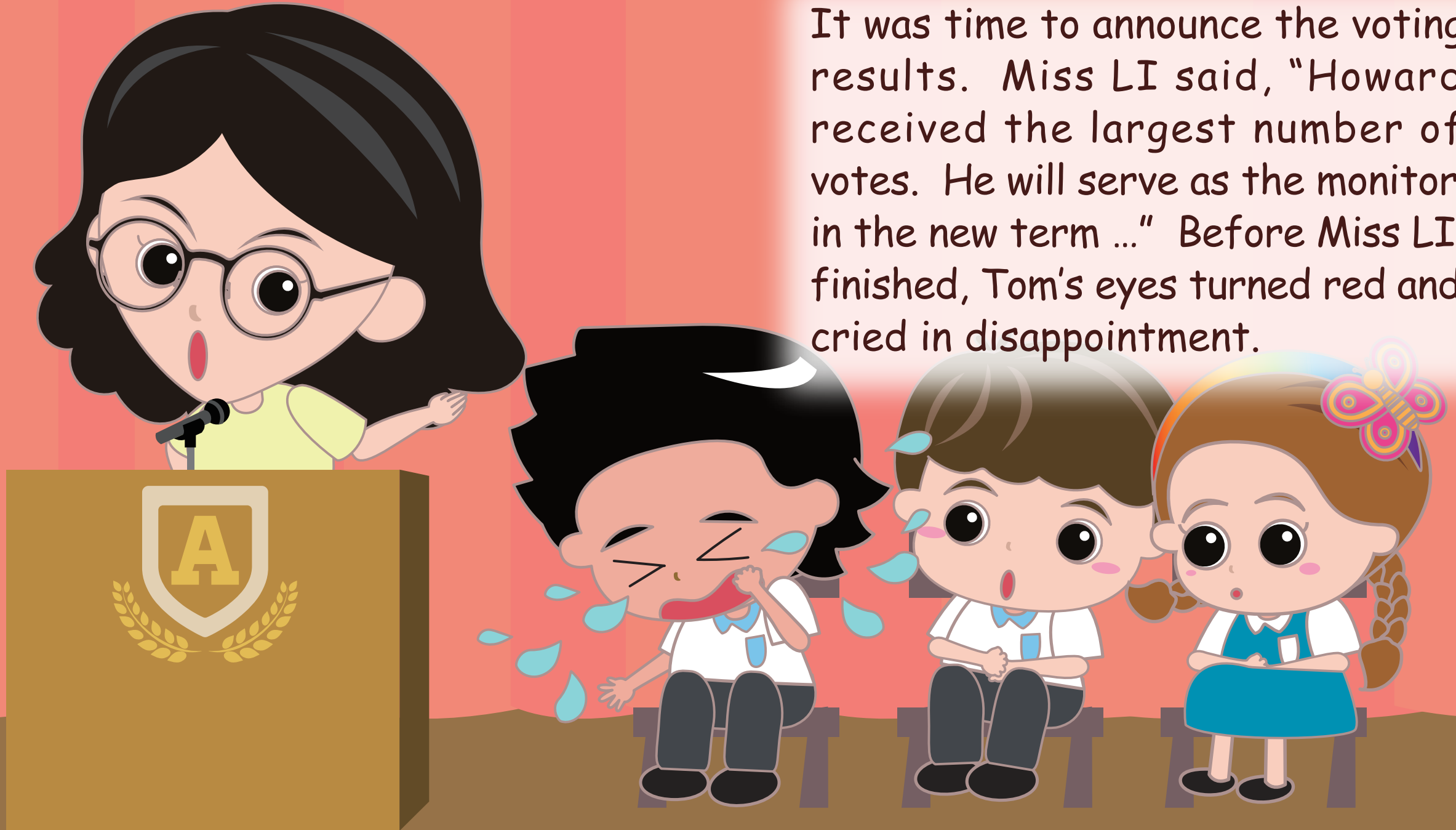
When Tom stood on the platform to speak, he was in a rush to deliver the speech he tried hard to memorise. When a classmate asked how he would help the teachers maintain order if he became the monitor, he just scratched his head and reluctantly said, "The best way is to jot down the names. Punishment is the most effective means!" The class was not satisfied with Tom's answer. They murmured, "Who wants a monitor like that?"



When it was Howard's turn, he told everyone how he would work hard to set a good example, to assist the teachers and classmates, to maintain the classroom order and cleanliness ... to let everyone have a good learning environment. All classmates nodded in agreement.



It was time to announce the voting results. Miss LI said, "Howard received the largest number of votes. He will serve as the monitor in the new term ..." Before Miss LI finished, Tom's eyes turned red and cried in disappointment.





Miss LI asked the students about Tom's reaction and learned that Tom very much wanted to be the monitor. He even treated his classmates with snacks in return for their votes. His classmates turned him down as it was not the right thing to do. They voted for Howard because he was competent and was ready to serve. Miss LI praised the class for acting in a just manner, "Fair elections should be based on capabilities. Any attempt to win by inappropriate means would be unacceptable!"

Tom lowered his head in shame and apologised to his teacher and the class. He also promised to do the best he could to assist the monitor in the new term.

Howard thanked everyone for their support and said, "Thank you everyone. I will definitely fulfill the duties of a monitor. Tom, let's work hard together!" The whole class clapped their hands.





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