**A Lump in the Throat**

Mr. Thrain’s class strained to hold their hands high so they would be picked to read their report. It was Henry’s time to read. “Please read your paper to the class,” said Mr. Thrain. Henry felt a lump in his throat and his heart throb. He could not help thinking about what a strict critic Mr. Thrain could be. Henry began to read.

“China is in the East. It has a rich heritage. In the past, China was ruled by dynasties. China has many farms. The people grow crops like rice and wheat. Rice grows well when the land is wet. An animal represents each year in China. I was born in the year of the rabbit.” Henry finished reading. The class sprang to their feet and clapped.

“That was great, Henry,” said Mr. Thrain. “Maybe one day you will take a trip to China.”

**Sprout!**

Jin wanted to plant a shrub in the backyard, but she did not know how. She went to ask her sister, but she did not tell. “Read this book. It will help,” her sister said. Jin spent the night reading.

The next day, Jin went in the back. She dug a hole in the mud and planted seeds. She sprinkled water on the seeds and left. Then she had to wait. After a few days, Jin went in the yard and there was a sprout! It was tiny and green. Jin let the sprout have water and sun for three weeks. It was hard to wait, but Jin knew she had to. Later that spring, Jin went to check on the sprout. It had grown so big! Jin was overjoyed!