



Assignment

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Date: __ / __ / __

Name: _____

Max Marks: 10

MAKING A MARK ON STONE

(1) Long ago, in a small town in China, lived a girl named Hyu Sui. When Hyu was of a suitable age, her mother sent her to school. But, you see Hyu was not like other little girls. She was terribly lazy. She hated school, and she hated, hated, hated work of any kind. Before long, Hyu's teacher had had enough, and sent her back home with a note. It said, "Hyu Sui is very, very lazy, and does not work at all. Instead, she spends all her time making faces at the trees, the other students, and the monkeys that live around the school. I really cannot have it. I can teach her nothing if she does not want to learn."

(2) Hyu Sui's mother was unhappy, and she asked her daughter why she did not wish to learn. But Hyu merely shrugged, and said, "It is too difficult." Hyu Sui's mother did not lose heart, and decided to send her daughter to a school for music and art. But here too, her teacher sent her back with a note: "I can teach her nothing if she does not want to learn." And again, Hyu said, "It is too difficult". Hyu's mother sent her to different schools after that. Schools for gardening, astronomy, cooking, mathematics, tailoring and for the martial arts, but from each of these came a note, "I can teach her nothing if she does not want to learn." And each time she would reply, "It is really too difficult."

(3) Finally her mother lost her temper and said, "If learning is too difficult for you, let us see if you can fetch the water from the well every day. Perhaps that will not be too difficult."

(4) And so Hyu went every day to the well to fetch water. But this was not a pleasant task, and before long, she began to be sorry that she had been lazy. "If only I had been hardworking," she would say, "but it's much too late now." And so every day, she would fetch the water from the well. Time passed, and every day Hyu grew more and more regretful. But, one day, as she was drawing the water, she saw a strange sight.

(5) For by the side of the well, where she stood everyday, was the imprint of a small foot. Hyu Sui soon realised what had happened. "Why, that's my foot" she exclaimed. "Everyday, as I go back and forth from the well, my foot has pressed against the rock so many times that it has made a dent even in this hard stone!" Soon, Hyu began to think. "If my foot, which is much weaker than my mind, could make a mark in stone just by trying again and again, surely I could gain knowledge by trying as well?"

(6) And so Hyu ran home and told her mother that she would like to go back to school. Her mother was delighted, and back to school went Hyu Sui. And soon she found that the lesson the well had taught her was true, for the more she tried, the easier learning became! Before long, Hyu Sui had become a scholar; she had attended schools for gardening and for astronomy, schools for cooking and for mathematics, schools for tailoring and for the martial arts. Whenever anyone asked her the secret to her wisdom, she would smile and say, "No one can teach him who does not wish to learn, and if at first you cannot make a mark upon the stone, rub it again and again."

A. Complete the following summary of the above story by writing the missing words in the blanks.

Sui Hyu (a) _____ from other girls in that she was (b) _____ and had great 'c) _____ for any work. Once she was (d) _____ back home from school. Her mother, although unhappy at her daughter's (e) _____ to learn, did not lose her heart. She sent her (f) _____ to one (g) _____ after the other. But the girl refused to

learn anything. Quite upset, the mother put Hyu to (h) _____ water from the well. The work was so (i) _____ that Hyu did not like it either and began to (j) _____ her folly. As the time passed by, the marks made in the stone by Hyu's feet during her repeated visits to the well, taught her the lesson that completely changed her life.

B. On the basis of your reading of the story, complete the following statements as briefly as possible. Write the correct answers in the blanks.

(a) Hyu's problem was that _____

(b) The lesson that marks in the stone taught Hyu was _____

(c) "Make a mark upon the stone" means _____

C. Find phrases in the passage (paras indicated) which mean the same as the following. Write the correct answers in the blanks.

(a) to and from (Para 5) _____

(b) very soon (Para 6) _____

