

## 高雄市 108 年度國民中學英語文競賽【英語朗讀文章第二篇】

### **Umbrellas and Sea Salt**

There once was a woman who was constantly worried about her two sons. Both of the sons were peddlers, and they both had to work very hard to make a living. The older son sold umbrellas, and the younger one sold salt, which he made by drying out sea water in the sun.

One day, the woman woke up to see that the sky was clear and beautiful. But the wonderful weather only caused her to worry. “Oh dear, what will you do?” she said to her older son. “There is no rain today, and thus no one will buy your umbrellas. Oh dear, we shall be poor for sure.”

“Don’t worry, Mother,” said the son. “Soon the rainy season will be here. It will rain every day, and I’ll be able to sell more umbrellas than I can make!”

“Rain every day! Oh dear! What, then, will your younger brother do? Without the sun shining, how will he dry out his salt? He will have none to sell! Oh dear, we will be poor for sure.”

The younger brother, who overheard his mother’s words, tried to

reassure her. “Mother, don’t worry! The rainy season always ends, and when it does, people have used up all their salt and are very eager to buy some more. I’ll make plenty of money when the weather turns dry again.”

“Dry again! Oh dear, but what about your older brother! How will he sell his umbrellas?”

“Mother!” the two sons cried out at once. “Please! Can’t you see how ridiculous your worries are?”

“That’s right, Mother,” the younger son continued. “You should think in a more positive way. When it rains, ONE of us can make a lot of money. When it’s dry, the OTHER ONE of us can make a lot of money. So ONE of us is always making money! In fact, it’s a perfect arrangement! Someone is always making money no matter what the weather is like!”

“A perfect arrangement?” answered the mother. “Well, I never thought of it that way. It is quite perfect, isn’t it?”