

## 高雄市 108 年度國民中學英語文競賽【英語朗讀文章第三篇】

### **The Sandals That Saved My Life**

My time in junior high was the most difficult in my life. I had no friends except for one girl. She once told me that we would be “friends forever.”

I believed her with all my heart, and I took her as the only friend in my life. However, she often spent time with her other friends at school and rarely talked to me if we met in the halls of our school.

One day, we met online in a chat room. I was so happy that I invited her to see a movie. After a long pause, she replied, “No, I don’t want to see a movie with you. I don’t like you anymore. I never want to be your friend.” Then, she signed off.

I was so surprised that my only friend would do this to me. After several minutes, I went to my mom and started to cry. She comforted me and said it would all be OK. I didn’t sleep that night because I felt so alone.

The next morning, my mom said she had a doctor’s appointment and would be back later. I sat on my bed and thought about what to do. Then I had an idea: I would kill myself. That way, no one would have to

pretend to be my friend, and other things that bothered me—like my grades—wouldn't matter anymore. I decided to take pills, so I put them on the table by my bed.

When I was ready to take pills, the phone rang. It was my mom. She wanted to know my shoe size because she had found a cute pair of sandals for me. Then she said the words that I needed to hear, "I love you." I put down the phone and wondered how I almost forgot that my family loved me.

When my mom came home, I didn't tell her about the pills. I never told anyone about it and never blamed anyone but myself.

My mom's phone call made me realize that committing suicide was not the answer. I just needed to hear "I love you," to remember that my family were always there for me.

True friends, like family, care for you and are there whenever you need them. I am very lucky to have my mom as a true friend.