

109 學年度 語文競賽:高二英語文朗讀

Pay a debt of gratitude

A poor boy was selling goods from one door to another to pay for his studies. One day he found that he had only one dime left, and he was hungry. While approaching the next house, he decided to ask for a meal.

But when a young woman answered his knocking, he only dared to ask for a glass of water. The woman looked at him and understood that probably the boy was hungry. So, she brought him a large glass of milk. He drank it and then asked how much he owed her. The woman replied: “You don’t owe me anything. Mother taught us never to accept pay for a kindness.” “Then I thank you from the bottom of my heart.”— he said and felt stronger not only physically, but his faith in God had grown as well. The boy’s name was Howard Kelly.

As time passed by, the kind woman became old and seriously ill. Local doctors could not help her. Therefore, she was sent to a big city, where her rare disease would be studied by specialists. Dr. Howard Kelly was called in for the consultation. When he saw the woman in the hospital, he immediately recognized her, who once showed kindness to him when he was in need. The doctor was determined to do his best to help her recover from her illness. And he made it!

A few days later, the woman received a bill for her treatment. She was worried that the amount to pay would be so considerable that it might take the rest of her life to pay for it. Slowly and hesitantly, she opened the bill. Looking at the bill, she noticed words written on the side of the bill: “Already paid in full with a glass of milk”. The woman smiled and felt relaxed with tears in her eyes.