

Living Gold on the Roof

Text Type: Journal entry
Suggested finishing time: 15 mins



Listen!

Let's Think!

1. Have you ever stayed in another city for months?
2. If given a chance to do so, where will you go?

26th June

Four months have passed since I came here to live with my grandparents. I can still remember what Grandpa said then: 'Sharon, while you're here, live like a local girl and learn how to make a living like I do—by herding!' I hope I haven't disappointed him. Watching him make plans about simple things like where to find food for sheep is electrifying enough for a city girl like me.

- 10 This morning, he showed me some grasses he collected from the Tibetan Plateau. The trip to the Tibetan Plateau is often described as the world's most challenging hike, with the temperature there below freezing even in June. 'What else can you find there except some weeds and soil?' I thought to myself. As if he could read my mind, he picked up a few strange-looking
- 15 things among the grasses from the table, and told me that those were caterpillar fungi, also known as 'winter worm, summer grass'. They are indeed dead bodies of ghost moth larvae, infected by a kind of fungus. Useless as they appear, they turn out to be a valuable herb, to my surprise! By selling this small bag, Grandpa
- 20 said he could make enough money for building a new house, as the market price of it is actually way higher than that of gold! I hysterically told Grandpa that I would love to help him find more caterpillar fungi the next morning, but what Grandpa said next shattered my dream of becoming rich overnight: the number of caterpillar fungi which
- 25 could be found these years has dropped drastically due to overharvesting and climate change.

- Following the local recipe, Grandpa then made me some soup with those caterpillar fungi. I was shocked as he could have sold them for a piece of gold! Maybe that's how Grandpa lives by his motto: family comes before anything
- 30 else. Drinking Grandpa's soup, I was reminded of Mum's chicken soup. How their soups energised me! I hope, in the remaining six months here in Tibet, I'll learn to embrace and follow this motto, just as Grandpa has done!

~340 words

More to Take Away

Tibet is an autonomous region in China, covering a substantial part of the Tibetan Plateau. The plateau has been nicknamed 'the roof of the world'.

Looking into Grammar

Wh-word + to-infinitive can be used as the object of a verb.

- ✗ I didn't know how should I answer (✓ how I should answer / how to answer) the question.

- ? Underline TWO similarly structured clauses in paragraph 1.




Part A Multiple Choice Questions

Answer the following questions based on the information provided in the journal entry. Choose the best answer by blackening the appropriate circle.

1. Sharon's grandpa is _____.

- A. a herder
- B. a cleaner
- C. a fungus collector
- D. an explorer

 2. Read line 15. The word 'those' refers to _____.

- A. the strange-looking things
- B. weeds and soil
- C. the dead bodies of caterpillars
- D. grasses that grow in summer

2 Pay attention to what comes before or after the pronoun.

3. Which of the following is NOT true about caterpillar fungi?

- A. They are high-priced.
- B. They are edible.
- C. They are easy to find.
- D. They are harvested too often.

 4. Sharon's grandpa thinks _____.

- A. finding food for sheep is exciting
- B. one's family is the most important
- C. Sharon has been living too much like a city girl
- D. there is nothing on Tibetan Plateau except weeds and soil

4 Locate keywords in the journal entry. Decide which option matches what Grandpa said.

5. In line 29, the word 'motto' means _____.

- A. an ancient tradition
- B. a Tibetan value that is crucial to the locals
- C. a long-pursued goal
- D. a short sentence that states a belief

6. Read the last paragraph. Sharon feels _____.

- A. sad and moved
- B. warm and touched
- C. stressed and heartbroken
- D. embarrassed and sorry

Self-evaluation Checklist (✓/x)


- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| 1. I understood most of the information provided in the passage. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. I guessed the meaning of unknown words or phrases correctly. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. I managed to answer questions by drawing inferences. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. I identified and understood the writer's / characters' feelings. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. I could identify and summarise the main idea of the passage. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. The two reading strategies taught in this module enabled me to read more effectively. | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Part B Pre-HKDSE Questions


Answer the following questions based on the information provided in the journal entry. For question 5, answer in a complete sentence.

1. Look for words in the journal entry that are similar in meaning to the following:

- | | | |
|---|-------|-----------|
| (i) very exciting (<i>adj.</i>) | _____ | (para. 1) |
| (ii) worth a lot of money (<i>adj.</i>) | _____ | (para. 2) |
| (iii) severely and suddenly (<i>adv.</i>) | _____ | (para. 2) |
| (iv) accept enthusiastically (<i>v.</i>) | _____ | (para. 3) |

 2. Look at the following pronouns and answer what they refer to in the journal entry.

Pronoun	Line	Reference
They	line 17	(i)
that	line 21	(ii)
their	line 31	(iii)

 3. In each line, there is a wrong word. Underline it and write a word that expresses the correct idea in the right-hand column.

3 Replace the wrong words with words of the same parts of speech.

- | | |
|--|-------|
| (i) Sharon arrived in Tibet in the month of June. She | _____ |
| (ii) will have stayed there for five months by the time | _____ |
| (iii) she leaves. Sharon once said seriously that she wanted to get rich overnight by gathering caterpillar fungi. | _____ |

4. Which of the following has Sharon learnt about during her stay in Tibet? Mark your answer with a tick (✓) in each appropriate box if it is mentioned or a cross (✗) if it is not.

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| (i) The Tibetan way of life | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (ii) How to make chicken soup with caterpillar fungi | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (iii) Giving priority to family | <input type="checkbox"/> |

5. What made Sharon realise that her dream of becoming rich overnight was actually unrealistic?

5 Pay attention to what Sharon's grandpa told her.

Part C Vocabulary Bank

Label the photos below with the names of Chinese ingredients from the word box.

dried abalone

bird's nest

dried scallop

ginseng

turtle shell

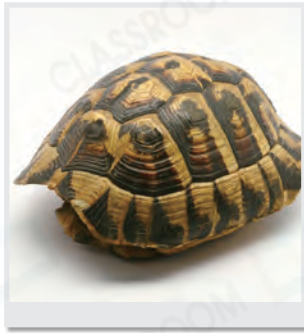
sea cucumber

red date

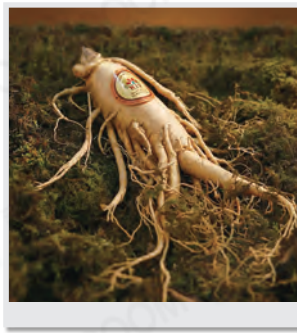
snow fungus



1. _____



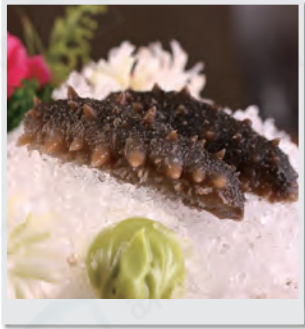
2. _____



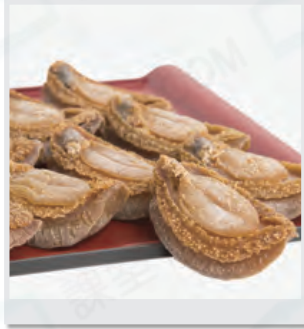
3. _____



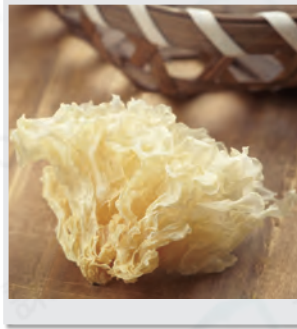
4. _____



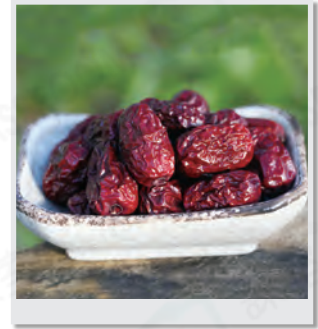
5. _____



6. _____



7. _____



8. _____

Let's Discuss!

1. Do you know of any other rare, precious ingredients?
2. Do you agree that 'cruel foods' like shark fins and foie gras should be banned?

Word Craft

Foie gras (Refer to the same page.)

Many English words that we use in everyday life were taken from French. These words are known as loanwords.

e.g. café
menu
omelette
bon appétit