

# 1

## Growing up



Level: 1



### Let's think!

1. How do you feel about your appearance?
2. Who do you run to when you are in trouble?

PLAYLIST



READ ALONG



### Text 1

It's ME.



**1** My nightmare still hasn't gone away. When I look in the mirror, I am stunned. I don't see myself. To be exact, it's me but in another form—a puffy face and cheeks peppered with unsightly pimples! I scream at the top of my lungs. I don't want to leave home ...

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**2** I'm ugly. I'm too big. But my bestie Yan doesn't get put off by my new look. She supports me by saying that she wishes she were tall like me. Her kind words brighten me up when I'm breaking down. She tells me to see myself as I want others to see me. I feel better about myself and my body when I am around Yan.

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**3** I used to obey every command Mum gave me—to be respectful and fulfil all family duties. I always tried to aim high and achieve what she wanted me to do. However, things are different this time. I'm desperately pleading with Mum to let me attend the Wonder Five concert. Last night, I asked for her permission, but she immediately said no and even grounded me just for asking. I find this unbearable. Therefore, I have decided to stand up for myself.

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**4** I'm not perfect. I hope that Mum can listen to me. I have to stop being hypercritical of myself and feeling inadequate all the time.

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I have a  
**TIGER MUM ...**



~210 words





## Text 2

## My Profile



Wing Sum Tang



## My village

1 I am a 13-year-old who lives in a traditional village. Right at the heart of the village, there is a one-of-a-kind ancestral hall. It is an important meeting place to worship our ancestors. It has distinctive architectural features. The village elders are in charge

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of the hall's conservation. I am proud of our village for its long-standing traditions. No matter how busy school life is, I keep a close relationship with my neighbours as I believe it is the core of living in a historical village.

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## My favourite traditional ceremony

2 In my village, there is a special ceremony for the birth of children in the clan. The villagers hold lively celebrations to welcome the newborns. For example, when the baby turns one month old, we hold a party where red boiled eggs and pickled ginger are served to friends and relatives. The colour red is considered lucky, and the eggs symbolise fertility and new life. Since the day I was born, I have never skipped any traditional activities, not even once!

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## A mama's kid

3 Some people say that I am studious and obedient. To gain Mum's recognition, I do whatever she asks (most of the time). But I just had a really intense argument with her. Wonder Five, the boy band which my besties and I adore, was touring in the city. Mum did not allow me to see them because I had to go to the poon choi banquet in the village that day. She also feared that my besties might be a bad influence on me. This drove me up the wall!



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~260 words

## Looking into Grammar

**Countable nouns** are things that can be counted separately. They can be singular or plural.

**Uncountable nouns** are usually a concept or something not easy to divide. They are not used with the articles *a* or *an*, and they take singular verbs.

✓ No matter how busy *school life* (~~*a school life*~~) is, I keep *a* close *relationship* (~~*relationship*~~) with my *neighbours* (~~*neighbour*~~) as I believe it is *the core* (~~*a core*~~) of living in *a* historical *village* (~~*village*~~).

? Underline the countable noun(s) and circle the uncountable noun(s) in paragraph 3 of Text 2.

Read Text 2 and answer questions 8–14. For multiple-choice questions, choose the best answer and blacken ONE circle only. (11 marks)

8. Read paragraph 1. Put a tick (✓) next to the statement that is correct about the ancestral hall. Tick TWO boxes only.

It is at the centre of the village.

It is protected by a charity.

It is open to the public.

It is a place to show respect to dead relatives in the clan.

9. According to paragraph 1, how does Wing Sum maintain a sense of community in the village?



10. Complete the table using the information in paragraph 2.

10 Pay attention to the *Wh*-words.

Special ceremony	
When is it usually held?	(i) _____
What does it celebrate?	(ii) _____

11. According to paragraphs 1–2, which of the following is TRUE?

- A. The architectural style of the ancestral hall is common.  
 B. The government does the conservation work of the hall.  
 C. Children who do not eat red boiled eggs will have bad luck.  
 D. The villagers believe that the eggs have a positive meaning.

A B C D

12. Read paragraph 3. Determine whether each of the following statements is a fact or an opinion.

The writer says ...	Fact	Opinion
(i) I rarely disobey Mum.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
(ii) I am not likely to be affected by my close friends.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
(iii) I would rather skip the banquet to go to the concert.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

13. Which of the following is closest in meaning to 'drove me up the wall' (line 23)?

- A. made me scared  
 B. made me very angry  
 C. made me feel trapped  
 D. pushed me against the wall

A B C D

14. Find words in paragraphs 2–3 to match the following definitions.

(i) \_\_\_\_\_ (v.) did not do or avoided doing something

(ii) \_\_\_\_\_ (adj.) spending a lot of time studying or reading

# Vocabulary

## GLOSSARY



A. Complete the biography below with the given words. Make sure your answers are grammatically correct.

**Adjective:** hypocritical    one-of-a-kind    respectful    studious

**Noun:** duty    permission    recognition

**Verb:** adore    fulfil    obey

## Lily's journey to becoming a doctor

Lily was a hardworking and (1) \_\_\_\_\_ young girl who (2) \_\_\_\_\_ learning and excelled in her studies. She always (3) \_\_\_\_\_ her parents and was (4) \_\_\_\_\_ to her teachers and elders.

Lily's parents recognised her potential and gave her (5) \_\_\_\_\_ to study at a famous university to (6) \_\_\_\_\_ her dream of becoming a doctor. They took on side jobs in order to pay for the high tuition fees. However, Lily soon found it difficult to meet the standards set by her (7) \_\_\_\_\_ professors.

Despite this, Lily continued to work hard. She was determined to become a doctor whose skill and knowledge is truly (8) \_\_\_\_\_ in the world.

As time passed by, Lily's hard work paid off. Her professors began to take notice and gave her their (9) \_\_\_\_\_.

Eventually, Lily graduated from university and became a well-respected doctor who performed her (10) \_\_\_\_\_ with great care and skill.



B. Look at the pictures. Write the correct words or phrases in the spaces provided.

**Teen problems**

academic struggles

body shaming

cyberbullying

high parental expectations

mood swings

overspending

risks of early dating

smartphone addiction



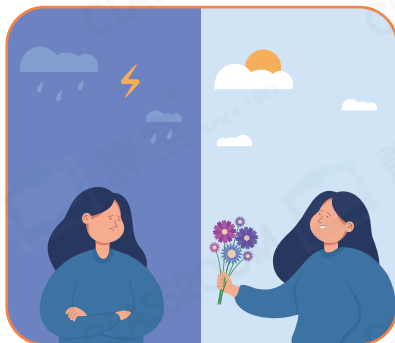
1. \_\_\_\_\_



2. \_\_\_\_\_



3. \_\_\_\_\_



4. \_\_\_\_\_



5. \_\_\_\_\_



6. \_\_\_\_\_



7. \_\_\_\_\_



8. \_\_\_\_\_

**Writing**

**My family**

Write a blog entry about your family and your relationship with them in about 150 words.