**Learning and Teaching Materials on**

**Promoting Positive Values and Attitudes through**

**English Sayings of Wisdom**

“Promoting Positive Values and Attitudes through English Sayings of Wisdom” is a cross-curricular campaign that connects English Language education with values education. Sayings of wisdom (SOW), which include proverbs, quotes, maxims and adages, usually provoke thinking, share insights and experience, and explore meaning in life. In this connection, four sets of learning and teaching materials, each of which centring around an inspirational English saying of wisdom, are developed to support thecampaign.

**Aims**

The learning and teaching materials aim to:

* promote positive values and attitudes that echo with the themes of My Pledge to Act (MPA), i.e. be grateful, cherish what we have, be proactive and be optimistic;
* enhance students’ reading and writing skills through appreciation and production of literary texts which carry inspirational messages; and
* develop students’ media literacy skills through different multimodal resources (e.g. posters, movies).

**Content**

The four sets of learning and teaching materials are based on four selected SOW for different year levels. Inspirational texts of different text types, suggested reading and writing activities and teaching steps are provided to illustrate the meaning and use of the SOW, cultivate positive values and attitudes and introduce the relevant language items.

Learning Task 1 - The Early Bird Catches the Worm (S1-S2)

Students learn the SOW “The early bird catches the worm.” and understand the positive values and attitudes behind (e.g. being proactive, diligent, persevering) through viewing a poster and reading an article about two Hong Kong athletes. Students are guided to write a reflection or story on how the spirit of “The early bird catches the worm.” influences their life.

Learning Task 2 - Count Your Blessings (S3-S4)

Students read a reflective essay and are inspired to view an unpleasant experience from a different perspective and understand that they can choose to replace negative thoughts with positive ones. In the learning activities, students learn the structure of a reflective essay and the relevant language items before writing their own essay on “Count your blessings.” about their personal experience.

Learning Task 3 - A Friend in Need is a Friend Indeed (S4-S5)

Students learn the importance of cherishing the people around them through reading a fable about two friends in danger. They explore how the “Show, don’t tell” technique adds variety and colour to story writing and are guided to apply the technique in writing a fable or story about human relationship.

Learning Task 4 - Every Cloud Has a Silver Lining (S4-S5)

Students explore positive values and attitudes (e.g. perseverance, respect for others, care for others, kindness) through viewing a poster and watching the movie *Wonder*, which depicts how a kid with facial deformity gets through the unpleasant situations in his school life. Students are introduced to different filmic elements and are guided to write a reflective essay on their experiences in overcoming hardship and challenges.

**Using the learning and teaching materials in the English lessons**

Tying in with the modules and topics in the school-based English Language curriculum, the learning materials and teaching ideas can be used to raise students’ awareness of text structures and language items when introducing the various SOW in the English lessons. Teachers are encouraged to select and adapt the materials to suit their students’ needs, interests and abilities. Posters, games and videos on other SOW are available on the website of the Education Bureau (<http://www.edb.gov.hk/sow>) to provide additional resources in support of the promotion of positive values and attitudes in the English classroom.