

The 150th Joint-True Light Writing Competition
Moral Education for Children Series

The Bee Conductor

Synopsis

Beth was a nervous wreck before the Show and Tell. Ideas and thoughts were like a swarm of bees buzzing in her head! Mrs Ching came to her rescue. Then, a bigger challenge was ahead of her! With her hard work and Mrs Ching's support, could she make it?



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①
The •Bee Conductor



Beth liked **fencing**.

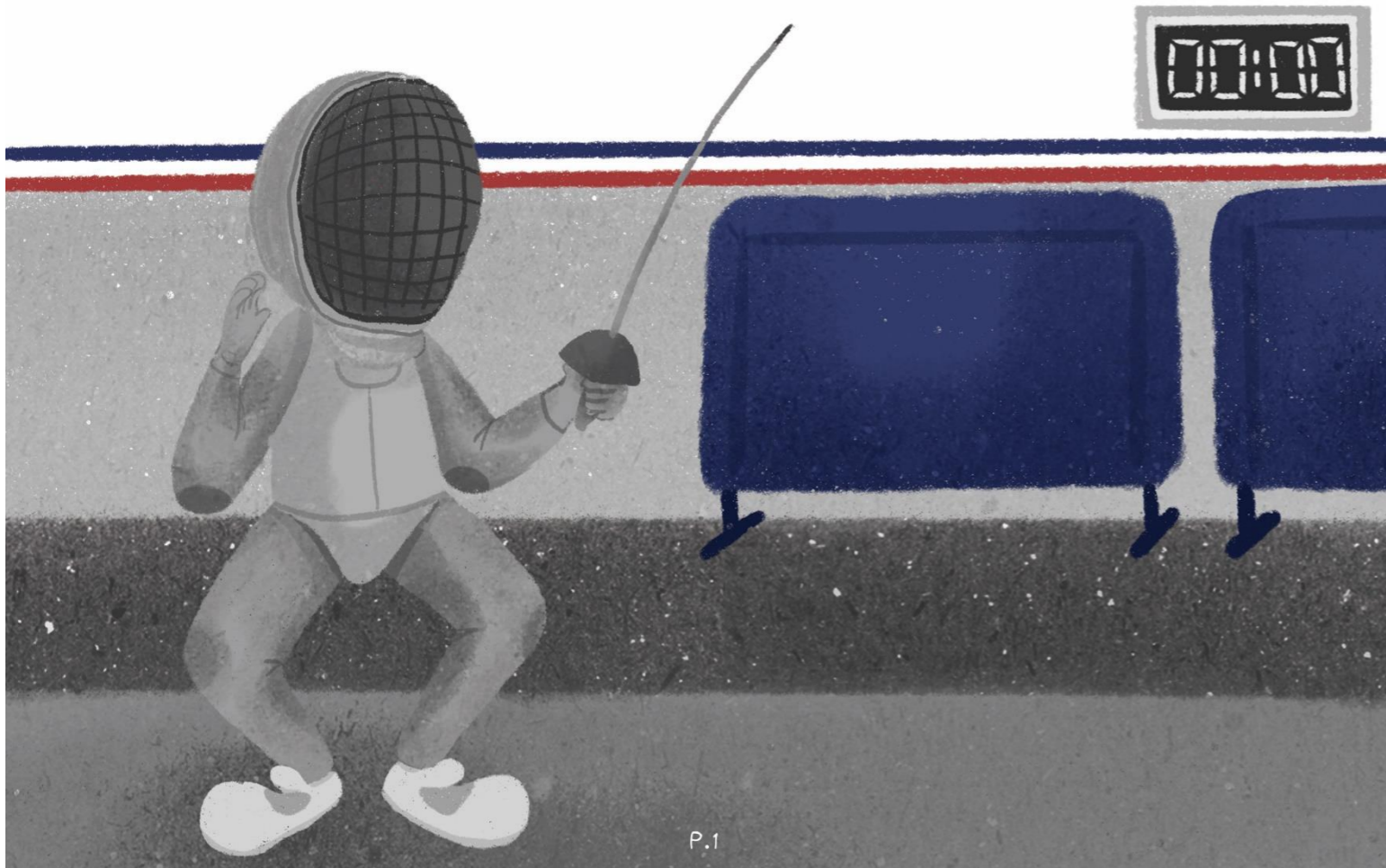
She practiced it every week.

Beth liked **maths**.

She solved problems every day.

Beth liked **thinking**.

She had new ideas in her head every second.



But talking in front of everybody,
this is it: her **biggest nightmare**.
She just couldn't bring herself to speak confidently.
Thoughts abounded in her mind,
but **nervousness** flooded her whenever she spoke.




“I… I… I… ..em… em… .em…”

Every time she had to speak in front of everybody,
she blushed, stuttered and stammered.


She was as stiff as an **ice statue**.



A young girl with brown hair in pigtails, wearing a white school shirt with a blue star emblem and a blue skirt, stands in a dark red environment. She has her hand to her chin in a thinking pose. Numerous cartoon bees with yellow and black stripes and large eyes are flying all around her. A large white thought bubble is positioned above her head, containing text.

In her head,
she did have a lot of ideas,
which were like bees buzzing everywhere.

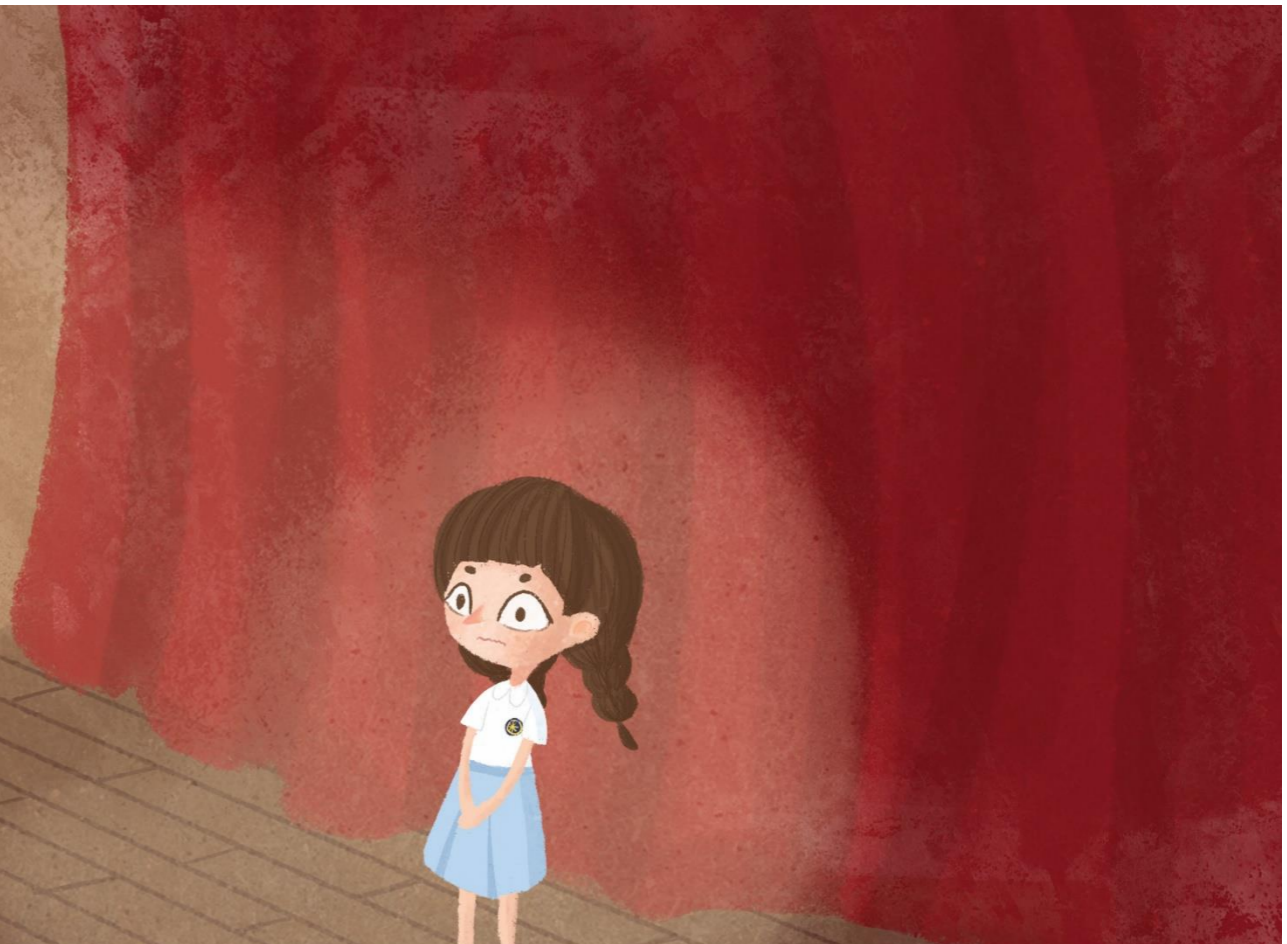
She asked them to quiet down.
She ordered them to get into lines.
She peered at every one of them.

The same young girl from the previous page is shown from the waist up, standing in a dark red environment. She is looking up at a large number of cartoon bees flying around her. She has her hands held out slightly, as if interacting with the bees. The background is a dark red wall with a brown floor.

However, they were still everywhere in her head
and she couldn't help but ask,

“Where should I start?”

Today it's her turn for "Show and Tell".



She used all her might to say the first word. It was so soft that everyone leaned forward to hear better. Some of them frowned. Some of them yawned. Right there, Beth knew she did not start well.

Tears welled up in her eyes, but she was holding them.

The bell went off, so she could not go on. While the others left the Hall for recess, Mrs Ching asked her to stay and said,

“I know you can do it. I used to be like you, scared of being laughed at, looking silly or being wrong. But all you need is **hard work**. Practice. **Never stop trying.**”



Mrs Ching was like a traffic conductor,
beckoning her bees of thoughts to the right directions.



She asked her the right questions.
She helped her think about what should be said first,
and what should be next.


Beth was truly grateful. She knew she must try harder.



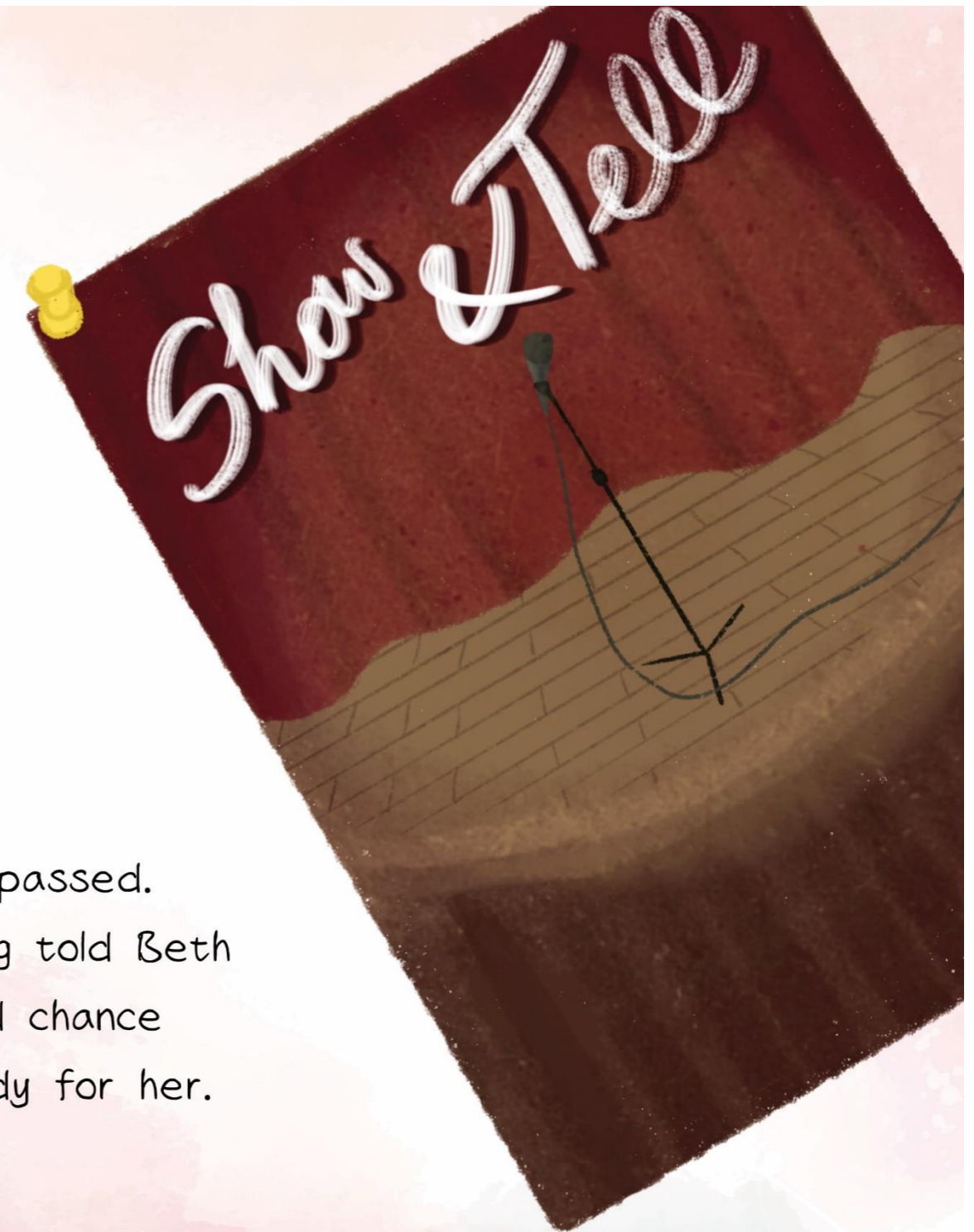
From that day onwards,
Mrs Ching invited Beth
to speak during class
as much as possible.

In the beginning,
Beth just **stood rooted** at her desk,
straining her lips to utter a word.



An illustration of a teacher, Mrs Ching, with long brown hair and glasses, wearing a pink cardigan and a yellow skirt. She is standing in front of a green chalkboard, giving a thumbs-up to a group of five students. The students are wearing white school uniforms with blue skirts or shorts. One girl in the center is holding a white paper. The scene is set in a classroom with a chalkboard in the background.

Over time,
encouraged by both Mrs Ching
and her classmates,
Beth began to
overcome her fear
little by little.



A week passed.
Mrs Ching told Beth
a second chance
was ready for her.

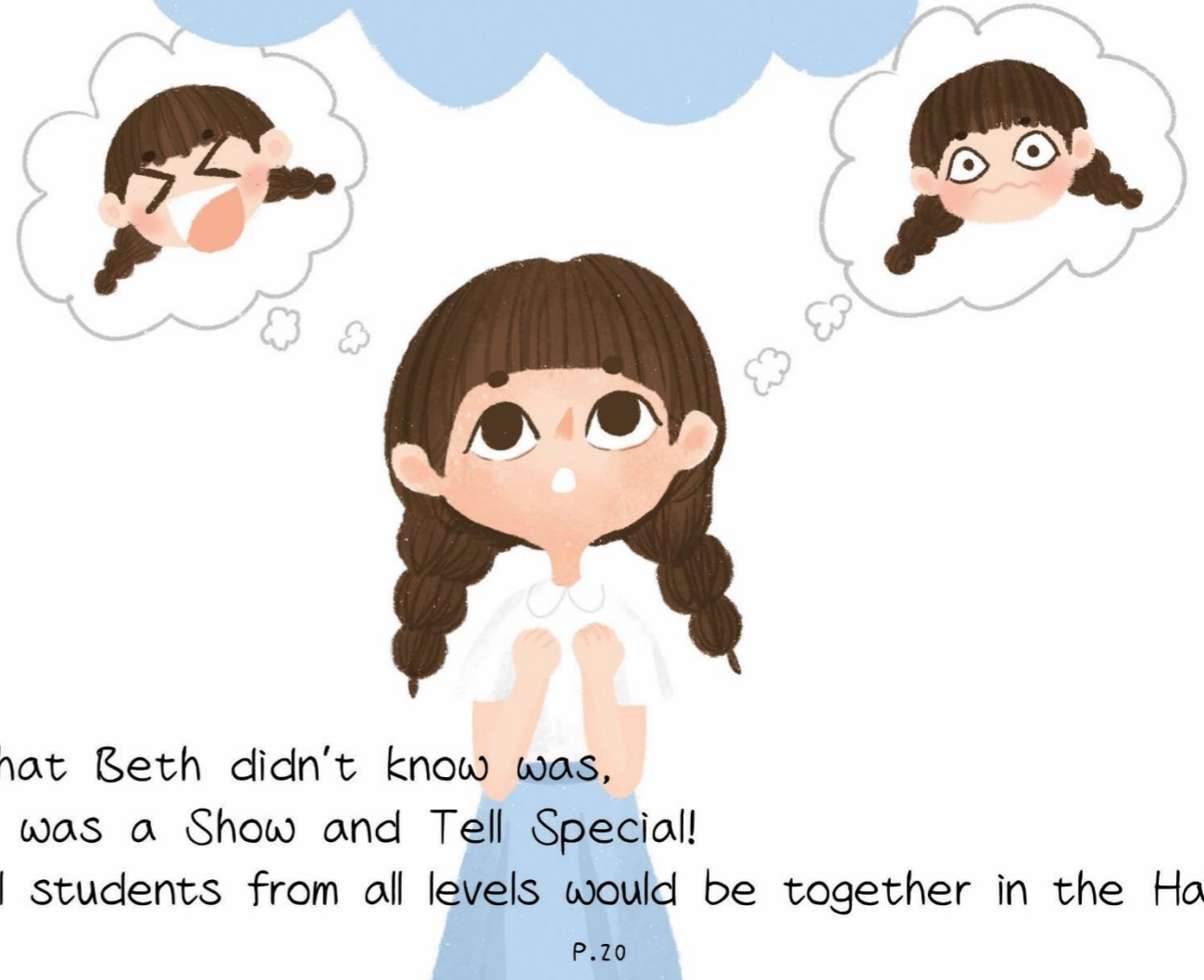
“Last time you couldn't finish.
Let's give it a second go!”

Show & Tell

“Hurray! I'm ready,
Mrs Ching.
I promise
I won't disappoint you!”



“I will have to speak to
ALL kids at school...!
I feel nervous,
but
I feel excited at the same time!”



What Beth didn't know was,
it was a Show and Tell Special!
All students from all levels would be together in the Hall.

The big day was finally here!
Beth plucked up her courage
and was the first person to speak.

Deep down the nervousness was still kicking in.
This time,
however, she knew she was ready to speak.



She greeted everyone. It was loud and clear.
When she spoke, she had a **twinkle in her eye**.

No one had to lean forward to hear better.
Nobody frowned and yawned.
Instead, they smiled and nodded.
Right there, Beth knew she did it well!



Right afterwards a younger schoolmate of Beth's came forward.

She gave Beth a lollipop and said,

“Sis Beth. You're so amazing up there just now.

Can I be like you one day?”

said the little girl with a big grin on her face.

This was the first time Beth had a little fan!

At this point she had so much joy surging from her heart,

but she knew she should not bounce

like a baby rabbit with excitement,

not in front of so many people.



Her eyes, though, were sparkling like two Christmas ornaments. She calmed down, and replied,

“Yes for sure!

You can do it too!”

More classmates came to Beth and congratulated her. The children had a wonderful afternoon that day. Of course, to Beth, it was truly one of the best days ever.



After-thought

Is there a thing
you fear doing?
How do you overcome it?

Why were Beth's ideas
in her head like bees?

Did Beth cry?
If you were her,
would you cry when you
could not do a job well
in class?

Last time when you were
in trouble, did you receive
any help from others?
How did you show your
gratitude?

Why did Beth finally
perform so well?

Can you guess why
Beth could not appear
to be too excited
after the little girl
gave her the compliment?

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Postscript

The 150th Joint-True Light Writing Competition was a success, receiving entries from students who used their words to express their immense gratitude to and precious memories in True Light.

With a history of a century and a half, perseverance is what drives the school to both preserve the traditional values and achieve new heights. The story of "The Bee Conductor" is adapted from an entry for the Writing Competition, telling a story of a True Light student who worked diligently with the tremendous support and timely advice from the teacher, which epitomizes the kind of teacher-student relationship commonly found in True Light schools. Indeed, assiduity and positivity are some of the very virtues True Light upholds.

A grateful heart is equally important for our children to grow. Appreciating others' kindness, never taking any benevolence for granted, our children will then learn how to treasure every single thing that God has arranged, and make the very best out of what they are endowed with.

While reading, remind your child to always remember to stay positive, stay grateful and stay true. There are no mountains too high to climb!

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Consultant: Mrs Sandra Hon - Principal, Kowloon True Light School

Original work: Chanel Zhang - Kowloon True Light School

Author: Mr Pak-ki Cheung - Assistant Principal, Kowloon True Light School

Illustrator: Ms Ching-fung Ng@tinymaple

Designer: Ms Connie Cheng - Kowloon True Light School

Audio Artists: Stephanie Yu, Jodie Leung - Kowloon True Light School

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