**109學年度第一學期『英語文競賽』八年級說故事**

【編目：02】

**【The Hardy Tin Soldier】堅定的錫兵**

 As the birthday present was opened, the tin soldier heard a childlike shout. He

and twenty-four other tin soldiers were a gift to a little boy. However, not all of them were complete. One of the soldiers had only one leg.

 After playing, the boy put his soldiers away near the other toys. The soldier saw a beautiful dancer wearing a paper dress in a toy castle.

 Her leg was lifted so high that it seemed she also had only one leg. The tin soldier fell in love with her at once.

 One day, the boy placed the tin soldier to guard an open window. A strong wind pulled the soldier out. He tumbled to the sidewalk. Although the boy and his mother searched, they couldn't find him.

 The soldier was alone and covered by dirt. Later, other children picked him up. They put him in a paper boat in a small stream, which flowed into a lake.

 Suddenly, a fish jumped and swallowed him. He was nervous, but the thought of seeing the dancer again helped him to stay strong.

 The soldier was deep inside the fish.
Then sunlight burst in. He saw steam coming from a teapot he recognized. He was back in the boy’s kitchen!

 The soldier looked upon the dancer with joy. Suddenly, a cat struck the soldier and he fell into a pan in the oven. He watched the dancer sadly as he melted away.

 Then a strong wind blew the dancer inside with him. She burned up in a flash. Later, when the little boy looked, all he found inside was a tiny tin heart.