

**My Alien English Teacher      by Kim Li (2D)    June 1, 2018**

It was the beginning of my S2 junior secondary school year in Buddhist Wong Fung Ling College. I felt my teachers were kind to me and my classmates were also nice to me.

Mr. Lai, one of my English teachers, kept staying in my mind. He was extremely fat, as fat as a huge potato! He was a thoughtful teacher --- when we were tired in our lessons, he would give us bars of chocolate to try injecting new energy into our mind.

Then a weird thing happened. One day when we were in Mr. Lai's English lesson, an aeroplane flying in the sky attracted our attention. Everyone in the class looked out of the windows, but the sunlight was too strong and hurt our eyes. We all turned away from the windows except Mr. Lai. He was still at one of the windows, looking directly at the sunlight! It seemed that the bright sunlight didn't hurt his eyes. That was incredible! Right at that moment, a seemingly crazy idea formed in my mind --- Mr. Lai wasn't a human! Of course I was not sure about this bold guess.

I quickly told Martin, my friend, about the whole thing and my wild guess. But he only laughed at me in such a hilarious way that I just looked like a silly crazy boy! This bold guess finally ended on a Friday night when I found out the truth.

That night, after I had finished my Boy Scout activities, I was on my way home. I wanted to check the time ... oh my watch wasn't on my wrist! It was a gift from my grandfather. He passed away some years ago, and it was the only thing I had from him. I was sure I had left it in the classroom. So, I had to go back to school.

I felt afraid. The school was so dark and silent. I shivered. "Where am I going? Why am I walking up these stairs?" I thought. My heart beat faster and faster. Something terrible seemed to be at the top of the stairs. I sensed it, but what? I desperately wanted to run away and return home, but I couldn't!

When I got to the third floor, I noticed something --- some dim light was in the computer room. I crept to the door. Someone was working on a desktop. It was Mr. Lai!

The screen flickered, and suddenly a terrifying image appeared --- it was the face of an alien! Then Mr. Lai put his hands on his head. He was pulling out his hair. It started to fall apart. He was taking off his hair and his face!

Then a green, bald head surfaced. I realized it was identical to the typical image of an alien in sci-fi movies. This alien head had big red eyes, but it didn't have a nose! Its mouth and ears were very small / tiny.

At that time, I was astonished, and I was convinced that Mr. Lai was an alien. I looked very pale and

terrified. I could hear a ghost breathing behind me! Buddha, please save me! I regretted that I had come back to the school.

But I was overwhelmed by mixed feelings. I was particularly thrilled about the mystery over Mr. Lai's true identity. Curiosity killed the cat, but finally I decided that I would ask Mr. Lai about his alien mystery the next day at school. I quickly ran back home. I couldn't sleep for the whole night! I was thinking about how to ask Mr. Lai in a gentle way throughout the night. I feared that Mr. Lai might hurt me! Perhaps aliens didn't like other people to know their true identity.

The next day, at lunchtime, I took a deep breath and then started to look for Mr. Lai. All of a sudden, Mr. Lai was right in front of me on a corridor. "Mr. Lai!" I shouted at him. Mr. Lai was looking at me with a little terror. "Are you an alien?" I cried in astonishment. "What are you talking about?" Mr. Lai said with an embarrassed smile. "I've seen you taking off your human face, and I saw your real face as a green alien!" My courage recovered.

"You're right," Mr. Lai said softly. "I'm an alien from Mars. My mission here is to study humans. We just want to study Earth." "I'm sorry to have interrupted your mission," I replied, and continued to say, "I'm just curious about aliens." In my mind, I felt regret that I had been rude and silly to treat Mr. Lai as a monster alien!

"It's OK," Mr. Lai said. "In a sense, I'm glad that you know my true identity. We can be friends in secret! We just don't tell anyone else about our secret." I nodded, and said, "Yes, we can be friends!" "I can teach you lots of knowledge," said Mr. Lai. "Chocolate's great!" added Mr. Lai. "But be careful not to eat too much chocolate!" I replied with a big laughter.

From that day onwards, we have become the best friends in secret. I have tried to teach him speak some Mandarin, but he still thinks it is a barbarian language. Also, he has told me many funny things about Mars.

It is a cool thing that my English teacher is an alien, isn't it?