

Choices

5D Charmaine Mok (19)

“The American Exchange Tour Programme is now open for application! You will regret if you don’t seize this golden opportunity, come on...” Our teacher, Miss Chan, was talking with an excited tone. I was lying on the desk and my eyes closed, “Should I take a risk? But I’m not as good as the others...” At the same time, a voice interrupted my thoughts. “Pssttt! Hey, are you okay?” My friend, Mary, asked quietly. “I’m fine,” I replied. “Are you interested in the Exchange Tour Programme?” “I am! I am! I am!” Mary was as excited as a pig in mud. “Hmmm. I’m not sure, Mary. There are tons of students out there who are better than me. I don’t want to bite off more than I can chew...” I replied sadly. “But Charmaine! As Miss Chan says, this is a golden opportunity. Have confidence in yourself, everyone has his strengths,” said Mary. “But...I don’t know if I could perform well or not,” I replied hesitantly. “Choices are the hinges of destiny! We both don’t know what our future will be, so why don’t we just give it a try? So what, are you in? Mary raised her eyebrows and reached out her hand. “You’re right. Why don’t I give it a try?” I took her hand and made up my mind.

“Miss Chan! May I have two application forms please?” Both of us came to Miss Chan when the lesson finished. “Of course, here you are. After you’ve handed in the form, you still need to go to an interview on 17th June. There are only five students who will be chosen!” Miss Chan winked at us.

In the blink of an eye, the interview date arrived. Mary and I arrived at the interview place on time. While we were waiting, Mary kept encouraging me. “No sweat, relax, Charmaine. I’m with you.” “Me too!” I smiled at her and said. “Number 27, Mary Shum, room one. Number 28, Charmaine Mok, room 2,” the helpers called. “Good luck!” We both said to each other.

Thirty minutes were gone. I came out and saw Mary waiting for me. She ran to me quickly “How was it! How was it!” said Mary. “Quite good! It’s not as horrible as I thought. I really hope we can go!” I said happily. “They will announce the winners the next day. No matter what, I’ll be here and support you,” said Mary. We left the place and went back home, waiting for tomorrow.

“Good morning class. The first thing I want to tell is, the school has picked the

winners of the Exchange Tour Programme. Let's give a big hand to the following five students. The first one is Mary Shum!" Miss Chan announced excitedly. "AHHHH! Congratulations, Mary!" I screamed and gave her a big hug. "Yeah!!! Thank you, Charmaine. Shuuu. Let's listen to the other four names," said Mary happily. "The other four students are Chris Wong, Ben Chan, Elsa Fung and Sandy Yau. Congratulations to all of you!" My smile slowly disappeared. There wasn't my name... "I'm sorry Charmaine," Mary tried to comfort me, but it didn't work at all. "I'm fine, Mary. I feel happy for you." I tried to pretend that I'm okay, but it was hard. I had a lump in my throat. Suddenly, a loud voice scared us, "Ohhhh! Sorry guys. There is something wrong with the winners list. The last student isn't Sandy Yau. She hasn't applied for the programme. The new winner is, Charmaine Mok." Mary and I were petrified for two seconds. "Omg! Charmaine! You're one of the winners too!" said Mary. "Could someone tell me I'm not dreaming?" "You are not!" Mary and I were terribly excited and we started to discuss where to go, what to buy, when to prepare...

"Be careful, Charmaine. Let me know when you arrive." "Mary, be friendly to others, remember?" Today is the day that we need to take a plane to America, and our families kept reminding us of lots of stuff. "I know, mom. It's time to check in. we have to go!" I told my mum, then Mary and I brought our luggage, and turned back our head, waving to our families.

Choices are the hinges of destiny. Mary said that. So I hope this choice I made could really lead me to a bright future. America, I'm coming!