Laugho´s virus diary 14

Monday, Monday – let´s make it a fine day for us. I´m sitting here on my working place – outside there is bright sunshine, the birds are singing, the sky is blue, the trees and plants are growing so nicely and butterflies are dancing in the air – everything seems so wonderful and gorgeous and makes me feel great. But in the next moment I remember this cruel virus which keeps us all away from our former `normal `life.

As we can´t change this situation, and as all scientists and virologists say that we have to live with this virus - we have to make the best out of it. The best is to learn, to be active, to do things we like ( of course only if possible ),to be nice, friendly and social to our family and friends and to make it a wonderful Monday.

I present you another story for reading training. As you all know – reading is the key to a language – please use it.

The Art Contest

Once upon a time – not that long ago – in Southeast Asia, there lived a boy called Trang Quyn. He was thirteen years old and he was the cleverest person in the country of Vietnam. He wasn´t so clever by chance – he had worked very hard at it.

As soon as he started school, Trang had discovered that he really enjoyed reading and he could remember things much easier than other kids. His teachers were so delighted that it spurred him on to learn and memorize more. Soon he had learned the name of every insect and every type of plant in the rainforest, including size, colour and medical uses. Next he learned the History of Vietnam by heart. He was so super-fast at working things out too. He could solve word and picture puzzles in only a second or two, calculate the most complex arithmetic as fast as a computer, and solve the most difficult brainteasers over just a cup of green tea.

It wasn´t long before the news of the boy with the super-brain began to spread. Day by day curious people from everywhere visited him and challenged him with difficult questions. Trang now had to study day and night in order to exercise his brain with new problems.

One day a woman asked him: `How long is the Mekong River?` `Oh, that´s easy – it´s four thousand, three hundred and fifty kilometres,` the boy answered without even having to think. Up stepped a small child. `What is the capital city of Mexico?`he asked shyly. `Ah, that´s a trick question,` Trang said wagging his finger `it´s Mexico City.` `You´ll never guess this riddle,` piped up an old clever man. `I have streets but no pavements, I have cities but no buildings, I have forests but no trees, I have rivers but no water. What am I ?` - `Oh, you´ll have to do better than that,` said Trang, laughing. `That´s a map , of course.` And the surrounding people clapped and ooohed and aaahed with wonder and delight.

`I have a big problem,` announced a young farmer, `I cannot afford to pay workers to harvest my rice in the fields, so it rots. Can you invent a machine to help us?` `Leave it with me overnight,` said Trang. Next morning he presented the farmer a design for a harvesting machine, twice faster as human work.

Then one day, a man arrived in the village whom everybody knew to be a genius. He was famous for being an expert on many subjects and skills. This man said to Trang, `I can make a drawing of not just one wild animal, but two – in only a minute.` He picked up two paintbrushes, one in each hand, dipped them in paint, and drew with just a few masterly strokes - swish swish swish - the most amazing lion with his right hand and an incredible tiger with his left hand. `Now ,` the man said smugly to Trang `can you, with your super-brain, top that?` `Well I´m not sure,´ said Trang modestly, `but I will do my best.` He spread out his ten fingers, dipped them into the paint, and drew them all down the paper at the same time. `Worms,` he announced. `Ten wild animals in one second. I win.

What a clever boy indeed ! Not everybody can be a genius but everybody can learn and exercise and try hard to get better.

Believe me - you all have got so many talents - just find them and make them shine!

Have an active, wonderful day and stay healthy and fit - that´s it. ( Till Wednesday )

Yours Lacho ☺