

# Lessons from Within: Life, Love and Death

(Supplementary writing tasks for undergraduate  
students on English language programmes)



Tan Bee Tin

IELE Press, Assumption University

## Lessons from Within: Life, Love, and Death

*Supplementary writing tasks for undergraduate students on  
English language programmes*

Tan Bee Tin (Editor)

The following MA-ELT students contributed to the book:

Flora D. Floria (Flora)  
Nagabhenny T. Zacharias (Henry)  
Boramy Soe (Boramy)  
Aye Aye Oin  
Xiao Xia (Summer)  
Chinnachon Mangkhobhongsakul (Yui)  
Vannapak Thanysara (Pinky)  
Pratya Natandong (Tien)  
Kiatpong Mottayasinchan (Hung)  
Kamolthap Hongroonwattya (Fuu)  
Sr. Roselyn Myint

## **SAMPLE**

### **Lesson 4: What a shameful act! A newspaper report on a student's cheating**

#### **A. Think about This ....**

- Is all news you read in the paper true?
- Is all news reported accurately?
- Is all news reported?
- "The media is a very manipulative organization that has the power to influence our perceptions of social reality." Do you agree or disagree?
- What are the key features of news reports? How are they different from opinion pieces and editorials? For your homework, read the texts on language use in media and newspapers given in Resource File (D).

#### **B. Reading Text**

After hearing the news of exam paper stolen, many students from the college write a report on the news for the College newspaper. Read the news reports given below and find out:

- Is the information given accurate? Refer to the plot summary of the 'Three Students' given on page 16.
- How do the reports make you feel about the student who stole the exam paper and Mr. Soames who was in charge of the exam papers?

#### **Report 1: It's Cheating!**

Something bad happened in our town! One of the students at St. Luke's College tried to cheat the examination.

Gilchrist, the bad guy, went running yesterday afternoon. When he went past Mr Soames' (one of the teacher at St. Luke's College) window, he saw the exam papers on the writing table. Then he went to Mr Soames' office using Bannister's (Mr. Soames' assistant) key, which he found hanging on the door when he got there. He cunningly copied the papers so that he could know the questions beforehand.

It seemed that nobody would have noticed that crime. But Mr Soames, who discovered that somebody had messed up the exam papers he left on the writing desk,

took immediate action and contacted Mr Sherlock Holmes, the famous detective in this country. And Mr Holmes visited the crime scene and interviewed some people. As usual, Mr. Holmes successfully revealed the truth.

When Mr. Soames learned that Gilchrist copied the exam paper, he did not give any punishment. The bad guy himself decided that he would not to take the exam. And that's all. Gilchrist walked away easily. There should have been severe punishment for him or anybody who cheated on examinations!

## **Report 2: Stop Cheating and be Responsible**

What a shameful act! A student named Bannister from St. Luke's College tried to cheat one day ahead the exam. He broke into his professor's room and stole the question paper which were kept as confidential. Then he made several copies and gave them to his close friends.

When Mr. Soames, who was one of the servants at the college, warned Bannister, the bad student did not want to listen to him. In fact, he threatened Mr. Soames by saying that he could not guarantee the safety of Mr. Soames' family.

Fortunately, Mr. Watson, the detective hired by the headmaster, did his job well and found out the truth. He found out that Bannister was the one who stole the paper, and he also found out that Mr. Soames was threatened by this bad student. Mr. Watson recommended a severe punishment for Banister.

However, the headmaster of St. Luke's college did not listen to the detective's advice. He just asked Bennister to retake the exam and asked him not to cheat again. He then asked Mr. Soames to move to another college for the sake of Mr. Hoames and his family.

This case was very strange and unfair. Why did the headmaster give a light punishment to Bannister although his guilt was apparent? Why did the headmaster transfer the servant to another college? Was the headmaster afraid of Bannister? Why? To answer these questions, perhaps there should be further investigations conducted by the police.

..... (refer to the published book for more classroom activities)

### *Note:*

The texts in Section B are written by Flora Debora Floris based on the texts produced by various student-teachers during a demonstration lesson conducted by Pinky. The tasks in Section B and some of the tasks in Section C and D are designed with contribution from Flora Debora Floris. Section A, some tasks in Section C and Section D, Resource File (D) and the layout of the lesson are contributed and edited by the project coordinator, Tan Bee Tin.