

The Lost Eraser

Story by Sung Yee-shui



The Lost Eraser

Characters



Tom



Simon



Kitty



Henry



Miss LI



Aunt

Tom, a student in Class 2C, lost his eraser today.

Tom cried to the class teacher, "Miss LI, my new eraser has disappeared and I had nothing to correct my mistakes in the language test just now!"



Miss LI said, "Have you checked carefully? Take a look in the desk corners, inside your school bag ..."



"I've looked for it several times ... it's really not here."
Tom insisted.



"Are you sure you brought it to school today?" Miss LI asked Tom to think it over clearly.

"I brought it with me and showed it to everyone. It's a new sushi-shaped eraser that my aunt gave me. They all said it's cute ... oh, right, someone must have taken it!" Tom suddenly realised.

"We can't say that with no evidence. Let me get to class and ask them," Miss LI said.





After recess, Miss LI told the class, "Tom has lost a new eraser which looks like a sushi. It might have dropped on the floor, or someone in the class might have forgotten to return it to him after borrowing it. Now, everybody, let's help him find it. Check your desk top, school bag, the floor under the desk ... whoever finds it will be awarded a sticker."

The class was diligently looking for it. Suddenly, Kitty shouted, "It's here, inside Simon's school bag!" She pointed at Simon sitting right next to her.



Simon took out from his school bag a sushi-shaped eraser. His face turned red while stammering, "No ... I didn't take it ... and ... I ... I don't know ... why it's here ..."



Tom was angry and said, "The eraser is in your school bag, and you still insist you didn't take it?"



Simon defended himself with a raised voice, "I didn't! Someone ... someone else must have put it inside my school bag!"



Simon was a quiet boy in class. He was not considered naughty at all. He just didn't get along well with other kids.



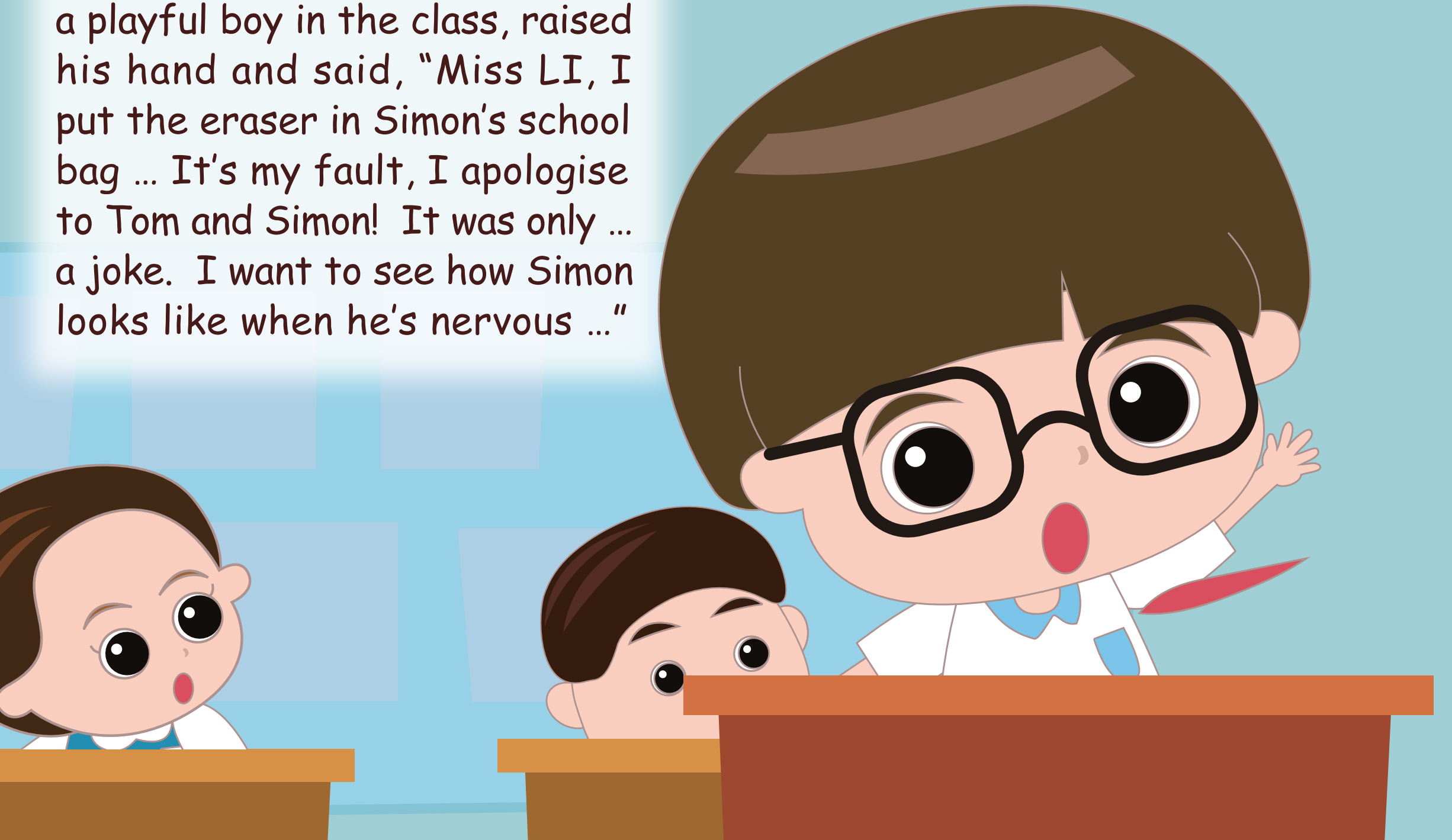
Even Miss LI didn't think he did it. She said, "Alright, since the eraser has been found, everybody can get prepared for class. But this is not over. If Simon really didn't take it, who then? Why did the eraser end up in Simon's school bag? I hope that those who know what happened are brave enough to stand up to tell the truth."



The class became silent. Miss LI continued, "This is actually a trivial matter. Perhaps someone did it out of carelessness, or it was a joke amongst yourselves. We have to find out the truth. No one should be blamed for things he didn't do. It wouldn't be fair. Let's straighten this out. Class 2C has been a good class with unity and don't let this get in the way!"




Before Miss LI finished, Henry, a playful boy in the class, raised his hand and said, "Miss LI, I put the eraser in Simon's school bag ... It's my fault, I apologise to Tom and Simon! It was only ... a joke. I want to see how Simon looks like when he's nervous ..."



The class was surprised and soon burst into laughter. Simon could not help laughing either.

Pleased with Henry's honest confession, Miss LI also made sure that Henry understood his joke was slightly too much. It had created misunderstandings and made other people feel unhappy.



The illustration depicts a classroom setting. On the left, a female teacher with short black hair and large black-rimmed glasses is shown from the waist up. She is wearing a light green short-sleeved shirt and a brown skirt. She has a surprised or excited expression with her mouth open. In the center, there is a wooden bookshelf filled with various books of different colors (blue, red, yellow, white). On the right, a young boy with short brown hair and large black-rimmed glasses is shown from the waist up. He is wearing a white short-sleeved shirt with a blue collar and a blue pocket. He has a wide, happy smile. The background is a light blue wall with four rectangular windows at the top, each showing a bright blue sky. The overall style is a clean, cartoonish illustration with bold outlines and flat colors.

Miss LI said, "Henry, you have to do something nice to make up for your mischief! During tomorrow's recess, you are going to tidy up the bookshelves! Don't mess up the books!"

"Yes, Miss LI!" Henry answered assertively.

Ever since the incident,
Simon and Henry became
good friends. Now Simon
plays more often with his
classmates and has
turned into a more
cheerful boy.



Co-organiser



公民教育委員會

Committee on the Promotion of Civic Education



Supporting Organisations



教育局
Education Bureau



香港兒童文藝協會



香港學校圖書館主任協會
Hong Kong Teacher-Librarians' Association