



The following poems were composed by Teachers Exchange Program participants at the Mid-Year Conference for Chinese Teachers in January 2009. The teachers wrote the poems in a demonstration class during which they learned about “enabling constraints,” a teaching technique in which the teacher provides a set of rules for an assignment, but does not further stipulate students’ work. The I-Poem provided a framework for the participants to write a poem about themselves. The participants then divided into small groups and wrote poems using the same guidelines from the perspective of characters in Greek myths that they had read prior to the conference.

INDIVIDUAL POEMS

I am a Chinese but in America

by Wang Yu

I am a Chinese but in America
I wonder what I am like in American peoples’ eyes
I hear different languages around me
I see various human races living under one roof
I want to make as many friends as possible here
I am a Chinese but in America

I pretend that all of us are just in one big family
I feel their kindness when we chat
I touch their backs when we hug
I worry that I don’t have enough time to enjoy holidays with my new friends
I am a Chinese but in America

I understand what differences exist between us
I say that we need to be open to everything
I try to share the knowledge of my country with everyone
I hope we could get along with and remember each other forever
I am a Chinese but in America

I am an exchange teacher and a friend to my kids

by Li Yuehui

I am an exchange teacher and a friend to my kids
I wonder if my work is helpful to them
I hear their wonderful Chinese in class
I see the eagerness towards Chinese in their eyes
I want to improve through my hard work
I am an exchange teacher and a friend to my kids

I pretend their longing for Chinese is mine



I feel their happiness when they succeed
I touch their shoulders when they tend to drop
I worry that they will lose interest in Chinese
I am an exchange teacher and a friend to my kids

I understand how difficult Chinese is to the kids
I say that you have to be perseverant
I try to help each of them
I hope my kids will pay a visit to China
I am an exchange teacher and a friend to my kids

I am a daughter and a mother

by Jin Xuemei

I am a daughter and a mother
I wonder if I can be as good as both of the characters
I hear happy voices
I see excited families
I want to enjoy them all my life
I am a daughter and a mother

I pretend to be them when I can't understand them well
I feel what they are feeling
I touch them by hugging them when they are worrying
I worry that they do not enjoy themselves
I am a daughter and a mother

I understand what makes us powerful
I say that love is the most important
I try to show my love even when I am upset
I hope we can enjoy the happiness everyday
I am a daughter and a mother

I am patient and optimistic

by Wang Junfang

I am patient and optimistic
I wonder how time flies
I hear the laughter of family get-togethers
I see the light in my little house
I want to hug the people thousands of miles away
I am patient and optimistic

I pretend to be as independent as you think
I feel the warmth of desire burning



I touch the deepest loneliness of the lonely person
I worry how I can make life more meaningful
I am patient and optimistic

I understand that life brings sadness as well as happiness
I say that tomorrow is another day
I try to share my happiness with people
I hope for the moment that my family gets together again
I am patient and optimistic

I am both a son and a father

by Ni Jintao

I am a son of a sixty-year-old man and a father of a three-year-old boy
I wonder if I ever make my father and son proud of me
I hear their caring remarks when I am in low spirits
I see their smiling faces when I feel miserable
I want them to be happy every day
I am both a son and a father

I pretend I can solve all the problems encountered
I feel their joy when I look happy
I touch their arms when they are discouraged
I worry that I will let them down
I am both a son and a father

I understand how difficult it is to be a father when I am a father
I say to myself I need to do better
I try to remember every moment of joy of being a father and a son
I hope I will be something they are proud of
I am both a son and a father

I am a mother of my kids

by Zou Renli

I am a mother of my kids
I wonder if my contributions help them in their life
I hear creative stories from them though sometimes childish
I see how sad they are when they are hurt
I want them to make their marks and feel happy
I am a mother of my kids

I pretend not to show my disappointment when seeing their failure and still give them encouragement
I feel their excitement when they succeed



I touch their face when they are smiling
I worry that they might be hurt and depressed
I am a mother of my kids

I understand it is not easy to be a good mother
I say a good mother is just like a mirror and example
I try all I can to give them all I want to
I hope my care and love will be great wealth and treasure to my kids all their life
I am a mother of my kids

I am a mom of a two and a half-year-old boy

by Cao Wenjuan

I am a mom of a two-and-a-half-year-old boy
I wonder if he is growing well enough everyday
I hear his sweet voice on the phone
I see his adorable face in my dream
I want him to know he means everything to me
I am a mom of a two-and-a-half-year-old boy

I pretend that I don't miss him that much
I feel that actually is not true
I touch his little heart with all my love
I worry he will be spoiled because mom is away
I am a mom of a two-and-a-half-year-old boy

I understood what motherhood is only when I became a mom
I say baby will grow well day by day
I try not to worry about my boy
I hope you will enjoy yourselves everyday though mom is away
I am a mom of a two-and-a-half-year-old boy

I am a daughter and a mother

by Zhang Fang

I am a daughter and a mother
I wonder how I can be a good daughter and a good mother
I hear my son is calling me beyond the ocean
I see my mom is cooking for my son everyday
I want to help my mom with daily work
I am a daughter and a mother

I pretend to be good at taking care of myself
I feel my mother can always see me
I touch my son's tender face



I worry if he is well without me
I am a daughter and a mother

I understand both of you are so important to me
I say you are the treasure of my time in the world
I try to be a better daughter and mother
I hope I can be with you for ever
I am a daughter and a mother

I am a teacher and a father

by Han Bangsheng

I am a teacher and a father
I wonder which one I could do better
I hear joyful laughter from my students
I see sunny faces of my kids
I want to be good at both
I am a teacher and a father

I pretend to be an actor
I feel much is expected to be an instructor
I touch young souls I meet
I worry whether what I do could be a treat
I am a teacher and a father

I understand family and work are important
I say sometimes work comes first
I try everyday to be better
I hope I can both work and rest
I am a teacher and a father

I am a teacher and a father

by He Yeming

I am a teacher and a father
I wonder if I can be helpful and trustworthy to you
I hear your praise for teachers and parents
I see how lovely, cute and smart you are in my eyes
I want all of you to be happy and successful
I am a teacher and a father

I pretend that I am Mr. Everything
I feel hurt when you are hurt because you are beloved as the most important part of my life
I touch your hands when you are glad and sad
I worry that you are worried and depressed



I am a teacher and a father

I understand what you want to do
I say you can do everything you like
I try to help and support you all the time
I hope you smile all the time
I am a teacher and a father

I am a teacher and also a mother

by Cao Xiaoning

I am a teacher and also a mother
I wonder what other jobs I can do if I was not a teacher
I hear the voice from my heart
I see the wonderful world that I want to see
I want to travel around the world if I can
I am a teacher and also a mother

I pretend I am a high school student
I feel what they feel
I touch the young tender hearts
I worry I cannot make them interested in class
I am a teacher and also a mother

I understand that life is complicated
I say you can never make everything perfect
I try to impress my students with what I know
I hope my students can achieve their dreams someday
I am a teacher and also a mother

I am a daughter and a wife

I am a daughter and a wife
I wonder if I make both mummy and hubby happy
I hear sweet calls from the underworld
I see how happy my mummy is with me
I want them to live in harmony
I am a daughter and a wife

I pretend I'm fully content with my life
I feel the sadness of them when I leave either of them
I touch their hands and promise I will be back soon
I worry they miss me so much
I am a daughter and a wife



I understand I have responsibility
I say that I love both of them
I try to remember every moment to be cherished
I hope that they are both happy and smile all the way
I am a daughter and a wife

I am energetic and confident

by Baoping Wang

I am energetic and confident
I wonder if I can be a good teacher
I hear teacher is the best job in the world
I see the kids' smiles from their holy faces
I want to be a good teacher
I am energetic and confident

I pretend that I am not exhausted throughout a series of lessons
I feel all the kids love me so much
I touch their hearts by heart-to-heart with greatest efforts
I worry they feel boring in my lessons
I am energetic and confident

I understand teaching is a true art
I say nothing can beat a man with a belief
I try to be a good teacher
I hope I am accepted as a good teacher
I am energetic and confident

I am a wanderer and a watcher

I am a wanderer and a watcher
I wonder how people live their life in America
I hear people speak English in an amazing way
I see their life is so colorful and enjoyable
I want to be part of them
I am a wanderer and a watcher

I pretend that I am part of them
I feel the excitement when they are happy
I touch their hands when they tell me interesting things
I worry that they will come across hard times
I am a wanderer and a watcher

I am Atlanta, a girl hunter

I am Atlanta, a girl hunter



I wonder if I can find my true love
I hear bangles blowing in the distance
I see many heroes getting ready for the race
I want to marry the male hero
I am Atlanta, a girl hunter

I pretend to care nothing about love
I feel a thorn in my inner heart if I can't find it
I touch my lover's heart with a fatal game
I worry I will lose my love eventually in the race
I cry over my own triumph
I am Atlanta, a girl hunter

I understand love is a cruel race
I say true love will win at last
I dream of the day I become the beautiful bride
I try to forget my battered past
I hope my life has a new start
I am Atlanta, a girl hunter

I am the most beautiful girl in the world

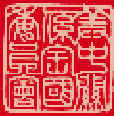
I am the most beautiful girl in the world
I wonder who could be my white horse prince
I hear sweet praise from the handsome young guys all over the world
I see people admiring me going and coming
I want a true love of my own
I am the most beautiful girl in the world

I pretend to be on top of the world
I feel longing desire inside
I touch the tender heart of my own
I worry no one in the world deserves my beauty
I am the most beautiful girl in the world

I understand I will take long to seek my true love
I say you will get true love if you pay true love
I try not to hurt others' hearts
I hope for a happy ending of love

I am a loving father of an adventurous boy named Phaeton

I am a father of an adventurous boy named Phaeton
I wonder if my son can handle the sun chariot
I hear the boy pleading to drive



I see all the potential dangers ahead during the journey
I want him to pick up something else other than the chariot
I am a loving father of an adventurous boy named Phaeton

I pretend my son is strong enough
I feel his eagerness to have a try
I touch his head to wish him good luck
I worry that maybe it is a terribly wrong decision
I am a loving father of an adventurous boy named Phaeton

I understand why Zeus had to destroy the chariot
I say my love blinded my eyes
I am a loving father of an adventurous boy named Phaeton

I am an excellent and strong-willed weaver

I am an excellent and strong-willed weaver
I wonder whether anyone else is better than I am
I hear a lot of complaints from far away
I see my gorgeous weavings and others' envies
I want to prove myself in a competition with Athena
I am an excellent and strong-willed weaver

I pretend not to know the power of gods and goddesses
I feel proud of myself and my skills
I touch the soul of weaving with my heart
I worry one day I will be too old to weave
I cry for the bad sides of gods and goddesses
I am an excellent and strong-willed weaver

I understand Athena is an immortal
I say "I am afraid of nobody, even you Athena"
I dream that nobody will surpass me in the future
I try to go beyond myself every day
I hope all girls in the world will love weaving
I am an excellent and strong-willed weaver