

MEP Student Project – Chinese Literature

Task 1 – A Little Poem

Answer: Chicken and Egg

Task 2 - Translation of 鸡和蛋 – Chicken and Egg

One, two, three, the chicken lays an egg,
Three, two, one, the egg hatches a chicken.
So is it that chickens exist first and then eggs,
Or do eggs come before chickens?
Of course there has to first be a chicken for there to be an egg.
Chickens can lay eggs, for sure,
But eggs don't necessarily always hatch chickens (successfully).

Task 3 – Short Story

Answer: 一个硬币 – A coin

Task 4 - Translation of 一个硬币 - A Coin

Two young men went to look for work together.

A coin was lying on the ground. The first young man walked passed it without even looking at it. The other young man picked it up excitedly.

Seeing this, the first young man thought to himself: he's actually bothering to pick up a single coin; there's no hope for this guy's future.

The second young man looked at his friend and thought to himself: he's just letting money slip away; there's no hope for this guy's future.

The two men walked into a company. It was very small, work there was tiring and the wages were low. The first young man walked out very unhappy with the company, but the second young man happily stayed.

Two years later, the two met again on the street. The second young man had already become a manager, but the second man was still looking for a job. The first man said: 'How come you have made your fortune so quickly?'

His friend replied, 'Because unlike you, I didn't walk past the coin as if I were some gentleman. If you don't even want free money, how can you make a fortune?'

Task 5 - Translation of 登鶴雀樓- Climbing White Stork Tower

The last bit of sun presses upon the mountains,
the Yellow River rushes on, into the ocean.
If you wish to see the entire view of a thousand miles,
climb to a higher level of the tower.

Task 7 – A glance at the four great novels

You may have noticed that in the video all the titles are written in Traditional characters. The table of answers shows the titles in Simplified as well.

	中文	English
1	水滸傳 (Traditional) or 水浒传 Shuǐ hǔ zhuàn	Water Margin (Outlaws of the Marsh)
2	三國演義 (Traditional) or 三国演义 Sān guó yǎn yì	Romance of the Three Kingdoms
3	西遊記 (Traditional) or 西游记 Xī yóu jì	Journey to the West
4	紅樓夢 (Traditional) or 红楼梦 Hóng lóu mèng	Dream of the Red Chamber