

Open category – Junior: 1st runner up: Justin Leung

My name is Justin and I am nine years old, turning to be ten. I used to think that my parents were as lucky as I am when they were young and I didn't know that it was hard to earn money and raise a child until one day my mom told me about her childhood and history.

Over 40 years ago, the economic of Hong Kong was not prosperous and many people lived in poverty. The living conditions were harsh. As I think of my life now, I come to realize that there are so many differences between my mom's life with mine.

My mom also told me about her dream. She always wanted to learn to play the piano and wished to be a pianist one day. She had a few piano lessons before, no more than four, because she could not afford to pay for the lessons. How surprised I was when I heard that! I started my piano lessons at the age of four and from then on, I took it for granted. Sometimes, I saw mom tried to play a song or two on my piano and I noticed how hard it was for her. So I have decided to teach her to play the songs she likes. My mum thinks my idea is great.

I let mom choose a song that she likes and I show her how to play. Then, mum takes her turn to try. She starts up with struggles but also begins to feel the ways to strike the notes. Sitting by her side, I watch her closely. I help her whenever I have to. After two to three days, mom will be done with a page. For another week, mom can finish one whole song. We always spend our spare time to play on the piano in this way. I keep on encouraging mom for I know that it is very difficult for her to play swiftly like I do. By now, mom can play a few of her favourite songs (in simplified version). Although both of us know that mom will never become a real pianist anymore because she does not have enough time and energy as she is now a teacher and she works really hard every day, even on holidays, we are happy to see the progress and we enjoy the process. I am so impressed by my mom's perseverance.

She is a real piano lover and also my greatest fans too. When she takes a rest, she likes to listen to me play the piano. Even if she does not have formal piano training, she is able to pick my mistakes at times. I determine to use my time wisely, as what my mom always reminds me to do. I hope I can become what my mum wants to be...I want to make my mum's new dream come true!