

2022-2023 HT International Speech Festival Pieces
2022-2023 珩天文化國際英語朗誦節選材

Prose Reading Age 14-15
散文閱讀朗誦 14-15 歲組

The Twits

by Roald Dahl

Now for the monkeys. The four monkeys in the cage in the garden were all one family. They were Muggle-Wump and his wife and their two small children. But what on earth were Mr and Mrs Twit doing with monkeys in the garden?

Well in the old days, they had both worked in a circus as monkey trainers. They used to teach monkeys to do tricks and to dress up in human clothes and all the rest of that nonsense.

Today, although they were retired, Mr Twit still wanted to train monkeys. It was his dream that one day he would own the first GREAT UPSIDE DOWN MONKEY CIRCUS in the world.

That meant that the monkeys had to do everything upside down. They had to dance upside down (on their hands with their feet in the air). They had to play football upside down. They had to balance one on top of the other upside down, with Muggle-Wump at the bottom and the smallest baby monkey at the very top.

They even had to eat and drink upside down and that was not an easy thing to do because the food and water had to go up your throat instead of down. In fact, it is almost impossible, but the monkeys simply had to do it otherwise they got nothing.

All this sounds pretty silly to you and me. It sounds pretty silly to the monkeys, too. They absolutely hated having to do this upside down nonsense day after day. It made them giddy standing on their head for hours on end.

Sometimes the two small monkey children would faint with so much blood going to their heads. But Mr twit didn't care about that. He kept them practising for six hours every day and if they didn't do as they were told, Mrs Twit would soon come running with her beastly stick.