Lesson 4　Messages from *Winnie-the-Pooh*

Easy Version

Section 1

One of my favorite books is *Winnie-the-Pooh*. Today, I want to introduce the book. I have read this book many times since I was a child.

A. A. Milne wrote *Winnie-the-Pooh* in 1926. A. A. Milne was a British writer. The book is about Winnie-the-Pooh and his friends. Pooh spends his days in a forest with Christopher Robin, Piglet, Eeyore, and some other animals. Every character is special and interesting.

How did the writer make these characters? Milne had a son. The son’s name was Christopher Robin. Christopher Robin played with many stuffed animals. Christopher Robin and the stuffed animals became models for the characters in *Winnie-the-Pooh*. The book became popular around the world about 100 years ago. The book is still popular now.

Section 2

Recently I read *Winnie-the-Pooh* again. When I read the book, I found some new messages in the book.

For example, in one story, Pooh and Piglet find footsteps in the snow. Pooh and Piglet go after the footsteps around a tree. Pooh and Piglet think, “Whose footsteps are these?” Pooh and Piglet have been walking around the tree. Some time later, Pooh and Piglet learn that the footsteps are their own footsteps. So Pooh gets disappointed with himself. Pooh says to Christopher standing by Pooh, “I have been foolish, and I am a stupid bear.” Christopher answers, “You’re the best bear in all the world.”

Christopher probably wants to say, “Don’t worry. I like you as you are.” All the characters in *Winnie-the-Pooh* respect each other and accept others as they are.

Section 3

I also read *The House at Pooh Corner*. The book has heartwarming messages, too.

The last story is especially moving. Christopher tells Pooh that he cannot see Pooh for some time. He has to go to school. Christopher says, “Pooh, promise you will never forget about me. Promise you will not forget about me even when I’m a hundred years old.” Pooh asks, “How old will I be when you are a hundred years old?” Christopher answers, “You will be ninety-nine years old.” Then Pooh says, “I promise I will never forget you.” The conversation between Pooh and Christopher shows that true friendships last for a long time.

I noticed these messages for the first time when I read *Winnie-the-Pooh* and *The House at Pooh Corner* again. These two books have important messages for us, high school students.

Challenge The *Moomin* Series

The *Moomin* series was written by Tove Jansson. Tove Jansson was a Finnish illustrator and writer. The series has nine books.

The *Moomin* series is about the everyday lives of Moomintroll and other characters. Every character has an interesting personality. Moomintroll is kind and brave. Sniff is not brave and often cries. Little My is honest. Snufkin is quiet, and he likes freedom and music. Jansson’s friends and family became models for these characters.

We can see a fantasy world in the *Moomin* series. We can also find Jansson’s dark memory of World War Ⅱ in the series. For example, in Jansson’s first book, Moomintroll’s father goes somewhere. Everyone doesn’t know where he is. This episode shows the real situation during World WarⅡ. When people read the *Moomin* series, they can enjoy the stories. People can also learn about Jansson’s hope for peace.