

All the works here are dedicated to pupils at Dunraven,
Corpus Christi, St. Thomas, Conway Primary School and
Stepping Stones, One world Nursery.

All the students whom I have taught over the past two
years.

Who is currently too young to be told this information.
Whom I felt profound guilt.

"Hey, Children! Who is ready for some fun and exciting
Mandarin lesson?!"

Kids, I'm sorry; by the time you read this all, I
probably wouldn't even be in the same country with you
all anymore. I will likely get deported and prohibited by
the country cause they caught me trying to get a fake
marriage to get a visa to stay.

Which year is it now? 2029? What is your daily life like?
Is it live up to what we all expected?!

I hope you can all forgive me by now and pardon all of my
potential faults in the past.

For a start, I'm very sorry I lied; I have never had a
girlfriend called- Iona. In fact, I spend most of my
spare time messing around with mature, middle-aged men.

Second, I'm sorry I was not even a qualified teacher;
Mandarin teaching was in high demand, and there was
insufficient supply; plus, your government was cutting
down the education funding. That was how all of this
happened and why most teachers were part-time, so
sometimes you would have a different one each semester.
What was even worse? I had no teaching experience

beforehand, and I only got the job because I slept with someone.

Third, sorry, while you guys asked me what China is like, I could never really answer you well; I meant, how could I explain dictatorship and communism to the age of ten? Even though I could simplify it, what makes me entitled to teach you about this subject? Overall, I got paid 25pound/ per hour to be there with only one mission: teaching you Mandarin, keeping it fun and entertaining so you can all keep the growing interest in it in the future.

Hopefully, got more involved in it cause your parent was right, China was growing, and it was inevitable. Therefore, rather than become its enemy, better off starting to learn their language and befriending it.

It was all too heavy for me to explain to your little naïve, pure soul that accompanies all of this inevitable growth power. My country was losing its sovereignty, and my colleague next door, her father, was in a "re-education" camp.

But it was not your fault nor mine or your parents, we were all doing what we needed to do to survive at the time, but still, I feel gutted that we could have done more to leave a better future for you all.

Remember, 10 years ago, you all used to sit in the classroom and wonder why you needed to learn Mandarin and what is it for? I could not answer you back then, but I guess you get the answer to know by now.

And how interesting is the life that 30 years ago, I was actually the same, being forced to sit in the classroom to learn English, wondering what this is all for.....

To Those Whom It May Concern

Your sincere,
Teacher Keng

这里的所有作品献给 Dunraven、Corpus Christi、St. Thomas、Conway Primary School 和 Stepping Stones, One world Nursery 的学生们。

所有我过去两年教过的所有学生。那些目前谁还太年轻，不合适被告知这些信息的你们。我对其深感愧疚。

“嘿，同学们！谁准备好来上有趣又刺激的普通话课了？！”

孩子们，对不起；当你读到这一封信的时候，我可能已经和你们不在同一个国境内。我很有可能会被该国驱逐出境和禁止入境，因为当局抓到我试图通过假结婚，来获得居留签证。

现在是哪一年？2029 年？你的日常生活是什么样的？是否达到了我们当初的预想呢？！我希望至少你们现在能原谅我，原谅我过去所有可能的潜在错误。

首先，我很抱歉我撒了谎；我从来没有一个女朋友叫 - Iona。
事实上，我大部分的闲暇时间，都花在和成熟的中年男人搅和。

第二，对不起，我甚至没有合法的教师资格；普通话教学需求旺盛，供给不足；另外，你们的政府当时正在削减教育经费。这就是所有这一切发生的缘由，也是为什么大多数老师都是兼职的，所以时常你每个学期都会有不同的老师。更糟糕的是什么呢？我过去也没有教学经验，我透过性作为手段，意外地取得了这份工作。

第三，对不起，当年你们问我中国是什么样的，我一直无法很好地回答你们；我是说，我怎么能把独裁和共产主义解释给一个十岁学童呢？即使我可以简化它，又是什么让我有权教你们这些主题？总的来说，我受聘每小时 25 英镑，就只有一个任务：教你们普通话，让它充满乐趣和娱乐性，这样你们就可能在未来保持对它日益增长的兴趣。

期待能更多地参与其中，因为当年您的父母是对的，中国当时正在崛起，这几乎是不可避免的。因此整个世界决定，与其成为它的敌人，不如开始学习他们的语言并与它成为朋友。

然而对我来说，这一切都太沉重了，无法向当时你们幼小的天真、纯洁的灵魂解释，伴随着这些几乎不可避免的驱动力。我的国家正在失去其主权，而我隔壁的同事，她的父亲，正被关进“再教育”营。

当然这不是你们的错，可也不是我的错，更也不是你父母的错，“我们”当时都在做我们需要做的事情，只求生存，但我仍然感到很沮丧，我还是相信我们本可以做更多的事情，来为你们所有人留下更美好的未来。

还记得，10年前，你们都曾经坐在教室里想知道，到底为什么要学习普通话？那时我无法回答你，但我想你现在已经找到答案了。

生命是多么地有趣呀？想30年前啊，我其实也是一样的，被迫坐在教室里学习英语，想知道这一切都是为了什么……

真诚的，
Keng 老师

致可能关注它的人们