

Read the Chinese story and answer the following questions.

The Old Man Who Lost His Horse

1. There used to be an old man who raised horses for a living. Everyone called him Sai Weng. He lived with his son on the outskirts of the country. Both of them enjoyed riding horses.
2. One day, a horse escaped from Sai Weng's stable and ran across to the neighbouring country. When the neighbours learnt about the misfortune of Sai Weng, they all came to comfort him so that he would not feel too sad, "Alas, how unfortunate to lose such a fine horse!" Unexpectedly, Sai Weng was not sad at all. He simply smiled and said, "Although my horse is lost, it might be a good thing."
3. After a few months, the lost horse returned, together with a beautiful and strong female horse alongside him. When the neighbours heard about this, they ran to Sai Weng's house to congratulate him, "Congratulations, my old friend! You are so lucky to have your lost horse back and gain another nice one," exclaimed the old man's neighbours. However, Sai Weng frowned this time and said to everyone, "It might not be a good thing to have this horse."
4. Sai Weng's son liked riding horses very much. One day, he went out for a ride on the fine new horse. However, the new horse got frightened by a wild animal and threw him from her back. Having broken his leg badly, he was not able to walk again. The neighbours knew about the bad news and they came to Sai Weng's house again to comfort him. Unexpectedly, Sai Weng said to everyone calmly, "Although my son broke his leg, it might be a good thing." Everyone found it inexplicable. They thought Sai Weng must be too sad and confused.
5. Soon after, the emperor's army recruited all able-bodied young men to fight a war. As the enemies were very belligerent, most of the young men died on the battlefield. Sai Weng's son didn't join the army because of his injury. Therefore, his life was saved. Only then did the neighbours realise the wisdom implied in the words Sai Weng said.
6. What happens in life is hard to predict. A fortune can be a curse, whereas a misfortune can be a blessing. Therefore, don't be overjoyed by the fortune you get by chance, and don't be too proud when you encounter things that go well. Meanwhile, don't be too negative and pessimistic when you encounter frustrations and setbacks as they may turn out to be good and advantageous. They may be a blessing in disguise.

