

Read the Chinese story and answer the following questions.

### **Waiting for More Hares to Dash Dead against the Stump**

1. In ancient China, there was a young farmer whose family had made a living out of farming for many generations. Farmers used to sow in spring and harvest in autumn, and began to work at sunrise and finished at sunset. In good harvest years, they could have enough food to eat and enough clothing to wear. However, when there was a famine due to crop failure, they had to suffer from hunger. Life as a farmer was very tough, so the young farmer had always dreamed of having unexpected blessings.

2. One day, a big fat hare jumped out of the grass while the young farmer was working in the fields. It ran past him in a panic and accidentally bumped into a tree stump. Its neck was seriously broken and it was finally dead. The young farmer grabbed the hare and noticed that its eyes were severely infected. He said happily to himself, "Poor blind hare, I got you with no effort!"

3. When the farmer looked up, he realised that some hunters were hunting for animals near his fields. "Let's go to the other side. There won't be any animals here!" yelled the hunters. The farmer hid the hare at once. After the hunters left the place, the farmer took the hare home excitedly and cooked a delicious meal for himself.

4. That night the farmer thought, "My luck comes at last! I need not work hard now. All I have to do is wait every day by the stump to pick up the hare that runs into it. How wonderful it will be!" Becoming too lazy to work hard to change his life, the farmer relied on his luck from then on. He abandoned his fields, put away all his farming tools, stayed by the tree stump and wished to get other hares.

5. Waiting at the tree stump with no hares for months, the farmer went back to his fields with much disappointment. When he looked at the fields, he could not believe his eyes because all his fields were overgrown with weeds. Many people learnt about this young farmer and laughed at him for being unrealistic. The farmer learnt a lesson that if he wanted to achieve his goals, he had to work hard as miracles did not always take place.

