

SHIN LING GOES SKATING

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It was a very cold day when Shin Ling woke up that morning. The days were getting colder because New Year's Day was coming soon. Shin Ling loved this time of year. She always loved to play in the snow. She also loved to ice skate, and today was to be her first lesson with her new teacher. She was so excited she forgot to make her bed.

She got dressed very quickly and ran down the stairs to eat her breakfast. Her mother was waiting for her. She had a hot bowl of rice, steamed bread, pickled vegetables, and a fried egg waiting for her on the table. Shin Ling ate quickly, and then she went to the closet to put on all her winter clothes.

She then asked her mother, "Is it time to go yet?"

Shin Ling was ready to go. She had on her best skating outfit and her skates were draped around her neck. She had on her jacket and her hat. She also had on her scarf and mittens.

Her mother laughed, "No, you don't need to be dressed yet. It's two hours before we have to go to the lesson."

Her mother told her to take off all her winter clothes, go up to her room and make her bed before they could leave.

Shin Ling slowly took off her jacket, scarf, mittens, hat, and skates. Then she went up the stairs to her room to make her bed. She did not like to make her bed. She thought it was silly to make her bed since she would just mess it up again later when she went to sleep.

She finished her work, then went down to see her mother in the kitchen. Her mom had on her coat and was ready to leave.

She said to Shin Ling, “Come on, we’ll go early so you can meet your new teacher.”

Shin Ling was excited. She put on her coat, her mittens, her scarf, her hat, and put her skates around her neck.

She smiled and said, “Ready!”

Shin Ling and her mother had to walk in the cold to where the bus would pick them up. Shin Ling did not even feel the cold. The trip to the ice rink would take about an hour.

When they climbed aboard the bus, Shin Ling sat next to the window and watched the people walking on the side of the road. The air was so cold the breath of the people came out in front of them. She watched the buildings go by, the traffic and the people going from place to place. She did not care about them. She was going to her first lesson, and that was all she could think about.

The bus turned a corner and there in front of them was the Ice Palace. They had gone there two weeks before to register for her lessons. She knew exactly where they were.

The bus came to a stop. Shin Ling almost knocked her mother down as she pushed her way to the door of the bus.

Shin Ling ran to the entrance of the Ice Palace and waited for her mother to catch up.

The Ice Palace is a very famous place in her city. All the most famous skaters from her country take lessons there. The very best coaches in her country work there. She had shown the coaches that she had talent the last time she was there. They had invited her to come to take special lessons. They said she was very good.

When they went inside, Shin Ling went to the side of the ice rink. She looked out onto the ice and admired the grace and skill of the skaters as they moved across the ice.

Boys and girls were skating and some of them were skating together. It was a beautiful sight for Shin Ling. This is what she had been dreaming about since she was eight years old.

Her mother took her by the hand and took her to the office. The lady behind the desk was very nice. She asked Shin Ling her name, her age and the number of years she had been skating.

Shin Ling replied, “My name is Wang, Shin Ling, I’m 10 years old, and I have been skating all my life.”

The lady laughed, then said, “OK Shin Ling, are you ready for your first class here at the Ice Palace?”

“OH YES!” Shin Ling said with a big smile on her face. “I can hardly wait!”

Shin Ling and her mother followed the nice lady to the dressing room.

“Take off your winter clothes and put on your skates. You can start a little early so you can get warmed up before your class. You can go out onto the ice as soon as you are ready,” the nice lady told Shin Ling.

“Mom, I’m going to be skating on the big ice rink. I think I’m scared,” Shin Ling told her mother.

“Don’t worry Shin Ling, you’ll do just fine. You are a wonderful skater,” her mother responded.

“But the other skaters are SO good, and I’m shy. I can’t skate as well as they can,” Shin Ling said to her mother with tears in her eyes.

Her mother looked into her face, and said, “Shin Ling, you are here because they say you can be a good skater. Those boys and girls were not always this good. They came here just like you to learn. Now they have had many years of training. Yes, they are better than you, so just watch them and learn from them. They’re nice children. They’ll help you.”

Shin Ling smiled. “OK mommy, I’ll do my best!”

Shin Ling finished putting on her skates, and then she walked slowly to the

entrance of the ice rink with her mother right beside her. She looked out onto the large rink, took a big breath, and pushed off onto the ice. The smooth ice felt so good under her skates. She skated slowly at first, looking at all the other skaters and how easy they made it look.

She thought to herself, “Someday I’ll be as good as these other skaters. Someday I’ll be the best!”

VOCABULARY (*Match the word to its definition*)

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| 1. woke up _____ | a. opening, doorway |
| 2. lesson _____ | b. clutter, not neat |
| 3. outfit _____ | c. well-known |
| 4. kitchen _____ | d. to end sleep, get up |
| 5. mess _____ | e. sign in, record, place to write name |
| 6. breathe _____ | f. afraid, frightened |
| 7. register _____ | g. costume, clothes |
| 8. famous _____ | h. training period, class |
| 9. entrance _____ | i. place to prepare food, |
| 10. scared _____ | j. inhale, exhale |

TRUE / FALSE

- | | |
|---|-------|
| 1. Shin Ling loved to skate. | T / F |
| 2. Shin Ling's mother was angry with her. | T / F |
| 3. The name of the skating rink is the Ice Paladium. | T / F |
| 4. Shin Ling was the best skater on the ice. | T / F |
| 5. The bus got lost on the way to the ice skating rink. | T / F |
| 6. It was a very hot day. | T / F |
| 7. Shin Ling was wearing a lot of winter clothes. | T / F |
| 8. The lady in the office was not nice. | T / F |
| 9. The best coaches in the country were there. | T / F |
| 10. Shin Ling was asked to join the lessons. | T / F |

MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. What did Shin Ling love to do? ____
 - a) ice skate
 - b) rollerblade
 - c) skateboard
 - d) swim

2. Who took Shin Ling to the ice skating rink? ____
 - a) her grandmother
 - b) her father
 - c) her mother
 - d) her brother

3. How did Shin Ling get to the ice skating rink? ____
 - a) on her bicycle
 - b) in her mother's car
 - c) on the subway
 - d) on a bus

4. Why was she nervous to go onto the ice? ____
 - a) she thought the kids would laugh at her
 - b) she was shy
 - c) she did not know how to skate
 - d) her mother yelled at her

COMPREHENSION: *(Write a complete sentence to answer the question.)*

1. What was the name of the ice skating rink?

2. How did Shin Ling and her mother get to the ice rink?

3. What did Shin Ling have for breakfast?

4. What did Shin Ling have around her neck?

5. What was the weather like on that day?

6. What was the lady in the office like?

7. Why was Shin Ling afraid to go out onto the ice?

8. How old was Shin Ling in the story?

9. What did Shin Ling forget to do when she went downstairs in the morning?

10. What was Shin Ling wearing when she left her house?
