Listen to Your Parents
Introduction

We hope you enjoy these stories in Kayah. The stories are about listening to your parents. Each story has been edited and an English translation has been added. Students can practice reading and also learn English. Teachers can use the questions in the stories to challenge their students to analyze the story’s meaning.

Kayah Li Literacy Dept.

2011
စာရေးသူ: ကြီးမားသူ
အလုံးတော်: ကြီးမားသူ

vi ကျိုင်းရှင် သည် အသံသောစာမျက်နှာ
စာရေးသူ: unknown
အလုံးတော်: ကြီးမားသူ

စာရေးသူ: မော်ရုံမီး
အလုံးတော်: ကြီးမားသူ
အလုံးတော်: ကြီးမားသူ

စာရေးသူ: Mae Ree Maw
အလုံးတော်: ကြီးမားသူ
အလုံးတော်: ကြီးမားသူ

အလုံးတော်: So Sya Phae
Mother and Father
Mother gets pregnant and it's difficult. She has to rest from her work.
When the child is born, it must nurse and mother sings sweet songs.
After the child is grown, they have a duty to get knowledge.
So that they can be equal with their friends, mother prepares nice things.
Father seeks to feed us, his sweat falling onto his feet.
So that the child will be happy, carry them and they will dance.
So that they can get knowledge, father tries to make money each week.
For a child to grow up, it's a lot of work for the parents.
Reflection Questions:

1. In this poem, how do the parents help their children?

2. What kinds of things do your parents do to help you?

3. What are some ways that we can show our parents that we appreciate all they do for us everyday?
Grandparent's glory is truly their grandchildren, and children's glory is truly their parents.

Listen to your father's words. He is the one who gave you to become a person. And regarding your mother who is old, don't cause her trouble.
The Stubborn Little Snake
Long ago, there was a baby snake and his mother. They lived in a fallen tree.
One day, the mother said to her child, "I need to go find food for you so don't go anywhere. Also, whatever you see, don't eat it," she gave her child these warnings and then left.
After his mother left, the baby snake couldn’t stand to stay in his hole. He wondered what it was like outside and he wanted to go out and see so he went to take a peek.
When he went outside, a person saw him, caught him and put the baby snake inside his bag and went back home.
Having arrived home, he put him into a large basket.
When he was in the basket, he remembered his mother's words.
As he thought of his mother's words, a person threw something to eat into the basket, a mouse for him to eat. The little snake remembered that his mother told him not to eat anything.
The mouse ran around in the basket, and chewed a hole to get out. After making the hole, the little snake happily slid outside.
The little snake didn't obey his mother's first warning and so he experienced difficulty but having obeyed the second time, he then experienced happiness.
Reflection Questions:

1. Why did the baby snake disobey his mother?

2. What happened when he went outside his hole?

3. How do you think his mother felt?
4. The mother snake gave the baby snake two commands. What were they? Which command did the baby snake obey?

5. What happened when he obeyed?

6. Have you ever disobeyed your parents and had a bad experience?
Wise Sayings:

Kayah Proverb on obeying parents:

If you don't obey your mother's words, you will receive a switch on your back. If you don't obey your father's words, you will bear a stick at your side.
Listen to Your Mother or Trouble Will Follow
Long ago, there was a mother and her five chicks.
Her children were very obedient to their mother
If their mother clucked, they ran back to her.
Among the group of chicks, there was one black colored chick. He was less obedient than his brothers and sisters.
If his mother called, he didn't listen. He would pretend not to hear.
One day, as an eagle flew by, the mother hen clucked and the black chick's brothers and sisters scurried back under her wings.
But the little black chick was pretending not to hear. Suddenly the eagle swooped down and grabbed him.
He cried out, "cheep, cheep," but there was no one brave enough to be able to help him so he was about to become the eagle's lunch.
As the eagle flew off into the sky holding the chick, a big wind came and the eagle lost his grip on the black chick and the chick fell to the ground.
The little black chick was not hurt and he quickly ran and hid again under his mother's wings.
From that time on, the little chick obeyed his mother. Whenever his mother clucked, he came back very quickly.
Reflection Questions:

What happened to the chick who did not listen to his mother?

What if the big wind did not come at that time?

There is a proverb that says, "He who obeys instructions guards his life (will live), but he who is contemptuous of his ways (doesn’t pay attention to how he lives) will die. (Proverb)

Do you think that this proverb is true?
Listen to those who help you with advice and receive their instruction. If you do that, you will be a wise person.