Hi, everyone, I’m Yingjun and I’m from China. Today, I’m going to share with you the most famous Chinese romantic folktale, Butterfly Lovers. There is another name for this forktale, “Liangzhu”. The title is composed of the family names of the two main characters -- Shanbo Liang and Yingtai Zhu. Liang was a scholar from a poor family, while Zhu was the only daughter of a wealthy family.

The story happens in the Eastern Jin dynasty, at that time in China women were not allowed to go to school. Zhu tried her best to persuade her parents to send her to school, and finally was able to attend classes in disguise as a man. On her way to the school from her hometown, Zhu met Liang, and they became best friends. During the time studying at the same school, no one, not a single one, discovered Zhu’s true identity, including her closest friend Liang. Zhu soon found herself falling in love with him, but she could not express her feelings to him without revealing her secret. At the same time, Liang is really a bookworm and fails to notice the female characteristic from Zhu.

Time flies. three years later, Zhu’s family asked her to go back home. With sadness, Liang accompanies his “best brother” for 18 miles for farewell, and this famous scene in the story is called “18 miles farewell”. During the journey, Zhu tries very hard to hint Liang that she is actually a woman. For example, she compares them to a pair of [mandarin ducks](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mandarin_ducks) (a symbol of lovers in Chinese culture), but Liang does not catch her hints and does not even have the slightest suspicion. Zhu finally comes up with an idea and tells Liang “Liang, you know what? I want to act as a match maker, for you and my sister?” “Oh, you have a sister? you haven’t mentioned her before? How’s your sister?” (to audience), we all know that Zhu is the only daughter in the family and the sister is Zhu herself. But she continues to say, “Of course I do. My sister is …… Pretty and smart! And you two are a great match!” “Okay! I trust you! And I’m looking forward to seeing her!” “Exactly! And if I were you, I will stop by my residence soon and propose to marry her!” “Yeah, why not? It’s a deal then!” “Deal!”

Months later, when Liang visits Zhu, he finally realized that Zhu is actually a woman and there’s no such sister at all! They laughed and talked. They are very happy for their reunion. And they are so devoted to and passionate about each other and they make a vow to the effect of "till death do us part". But happy time is always very short. Because Zhu's parents announced to the public that she is going to marry Wencai Ma, a man from another rich family. At that time, parents’ announcement to the public is unchangeable. Liang is so heartbroken when he hears the news and his health becomes worse and worse until he becomes critically ill and dies soon after.

On the day of marriage, a strangely strong wind prevents the wedding procession from passing the bridge where Liang's grave was around. Zhu stopped everyone, walked closer, and showed her respects to the grave. Suddenly, lightning and thunder split open the grave. Unwilling to get married with anyone except for Liang, Zhu jumped into his grave without any hesitation. And then the grave got closed. Everyone was stunned, but they got even more surprised as the grave reopened: The grave is empty! Except that a pair of beautiful butterflies came out and flew away together.

Comments (0407):

1. Keep the story 5-7 min
2. Opening remarks: no self introduction, trim the title maybe.
3. Delete the sentence “The most dramatic part ……”
4. Add something in their studying.
5. Add something in their reunion.
6. Tone transfer from casual to serious in the last paragraph.
7. Rehearsal on 04/11 or 04/13
8. Play on 04/14 in front of 100+ person.

Comments (0413):

1. Dress casual but nothing distractive. (Jeans and shirts are good. Never shirts with logo or characters.)
2. Hold steady. No shaking. And take it easy.