

## Preface

This book is dedicated to all the students and teachers who study, teach and learn at Yongfu Elementary School. It is also the first school-based English textbook ever written by Yongfu's English teachers. It aims to help students learn about the attraction spots surrounding Yongfu from a cultural and historical perspective.

It dates back to Qing Dynasty to recount the history of Tainan City. Back then, two people played an important role in the early development of the city, Zheng Chenggong and Chen Yonghua. Zheng Chenggong drove back the Dutch and started constructing Tainan with Chen Yonghua by his side, who devoted his entire life to helping Zheng cultivate Taiwan, strengthen the army and educate the people. It is their contributions that brought about the political and economic status of Tainan in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Such achievements were inherited by successive governors who left behind for later generations a city full of historic relics, cultural heritages, legends and stories.

Such relics, heritages, legends and stories all lie scattered in the neighborhood of Yongfu. In fact, the history of Yongfu is closely related to the development of the 19<sup>th</sup>- and 20<sup>th</sup> - century Tainan. Situated in the center of various government institutions, Yongfu became the first choice for high-ranking officials who wished to have their children well-educated, thus making Yongfu renowned for both its intellectual education and academic performance.

In addition to being a renowned educational establishment, Yongfu is

also located in the vicinity of the museums, temples and shrines that relate to the history and culture of the city. We therefore embrace these cultural and historical treasures and make them the materials of our school-based English textbook. In the book students are led to learn about the people and places closely connected with the city's development, such as Chen Yonghua, Confucius Temple, Chihkan Tower and so on.

The book is designed in such a way that both beginners and advanced learners can easily get a knack of how to progress from vocabulary-building to reading comprehension. The dialogue section creates scenarios for students to practice as if they are on a reality show. Overall, students are encouraged to start from the beginning page to the last so that they can have a deeper insight into what makes Tainan so famous.

To summarize, the book is expected to add joy to the students' learning experiences, enabling them to truly appreciate the historical treasures that surround Yongfu. It is a textbook of history and culture as well as a useful tool book for English language skill-building. Students can build their communication skills by exchanging dialogues with their classmates. The vocabulary and reading articles in the book will enhance the students' word power to a certain extent. While life is short and art is long, we do hope that this book will lay a solid foundation for the students' future English exploration, taking them to a rich journey of discovery, understanding and self-fulfillment.

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