

A Son's Gift

There was a boy living with his mother, brother, sister-in-law, and niece. One day, he got the chance to go and work abroad. He loved other languages and cultures, so he was very happy, and so was his entire family.

Days passed, then weeks, and finally months – almost a year had gone by and now it was time for Christmas. The family suddenly got a box in the mail; the boy had not forgotten them! He sent gifts for all of his family members.

His sister-in-law got a beautiful necklace, his brother an expensive watch, lots of toys for his little niece and a silk dress for his mother. Everyone loved their gifts except his mother.

Five years passed. Gifts on Christmas became a custom, and every Christmas there were gifts for everyone, but the boy's mother never smiled when she got her gift.

On the sixth Christmas after leaving, the boy again sent gifts for all the members of his family. Each one of them received gifts in a smaller box, however, except the mother whose box was bigger than usual.

She opened her box without excitement, but, upon seeing her gift, she was overjoyed! It seemed to everyone that she had just gotten all the happiness in the whole world. The family wondered what kind of gift this could be – what could make the mother so happy?

They all went closer to see. Was it gold, diamonds, or priceless art? But all they saw in the box was a single piece...of paper.

Puzzled, they took the paper from the smiling mother and read it aloud.

It said, "Dearest Mother, next week I am coming home."

(280 words)