HS B5L5 Information Please

Chris C., SLHS

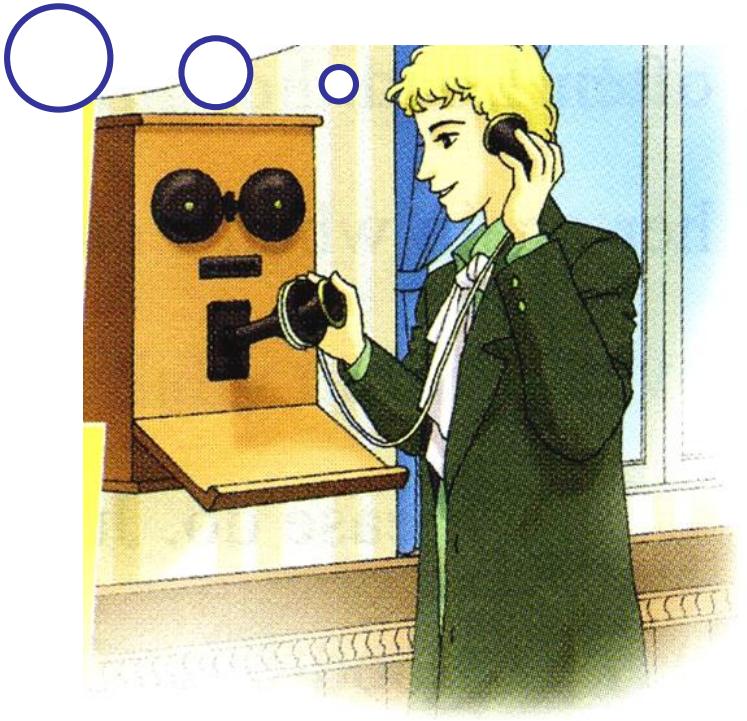
Source: Far East English Reader

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A College Student's Recollection



- to recall / past tense



Where and How the Telephone



- 1st telephone
- polished oak case
- a shiny receiver
- fastened to the wall
- on the lower stair landing

The Boy and the Magical Telephone



- to reach the telephone
- to lift up to speak to …
- used to listen with fascination

The Boy and the Information Please



- Inside the device
- Knowledgeable
- A genie-in-the-receiver

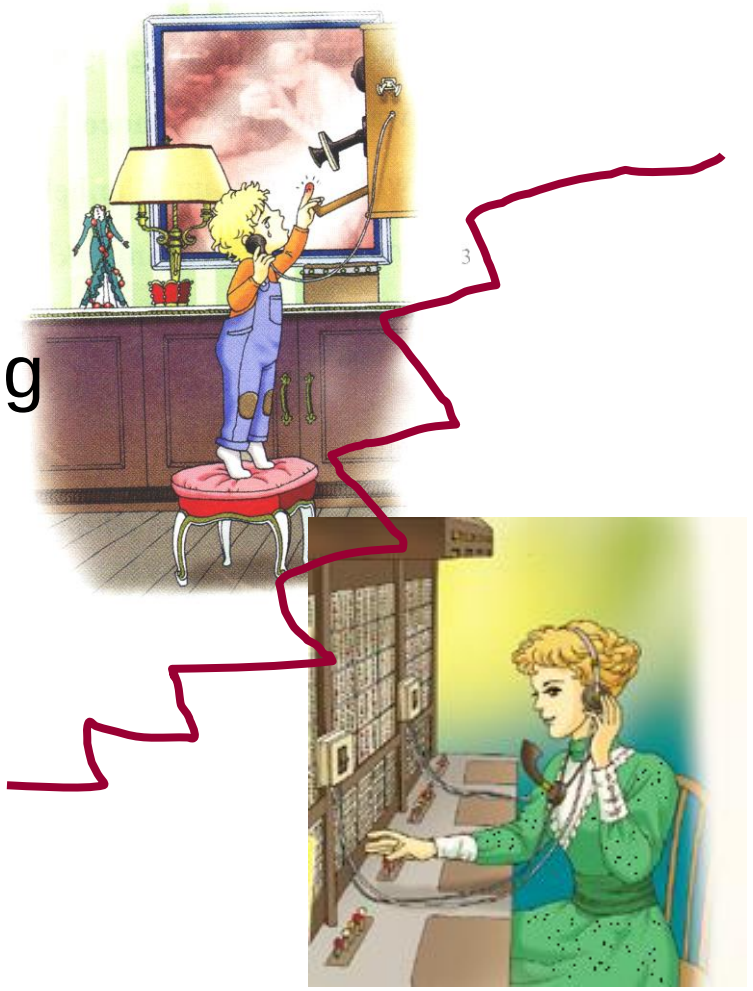
→ Call number enquiry

→ Time information

- …

The Boy's First Personal Experience

- to whack… with a hammer
- to offer sympathy
- to suck the throbbing finger
- to drag footstool to the landing
- to climb up
- to unhook the receiver
- to hold it to the ear
- to say … to the mouthpiece above the head



Their First Dialogue

- to offer sympathy

→an audience/wailing

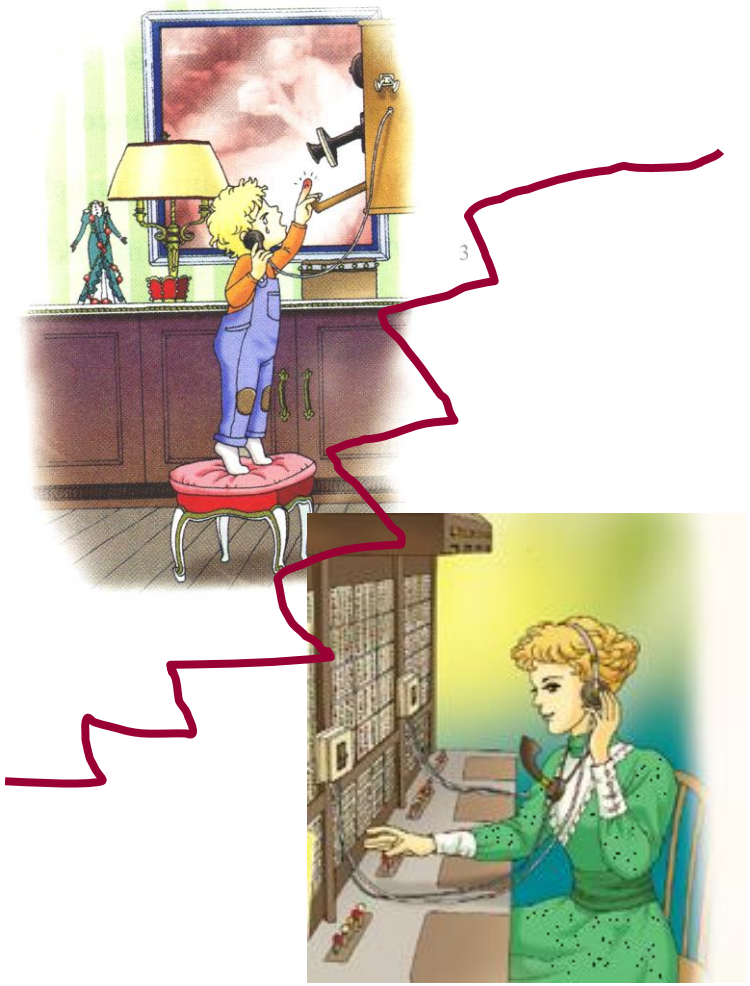
- to understand the situation

→ Mother? Bleeding?

- to blubber
- to provide a treatment

→Icebox? Chip off? Finger?

- to admonish



Brief Examples of the Following Experiences

- to help me with

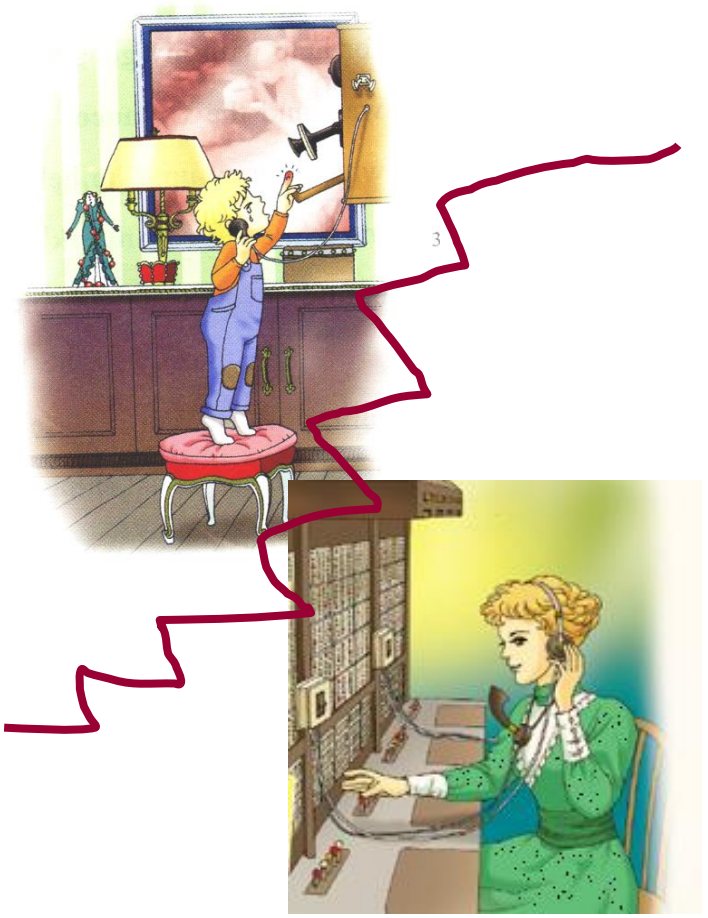
→geography

(Philadelphia, Orinoco)

→arithmetic

- To teach me

→pet chipmunk



The Extended (Detailed) Example

- Sad story of Petey (canary)
- Grown-ups' consolation

→ To soothe a child

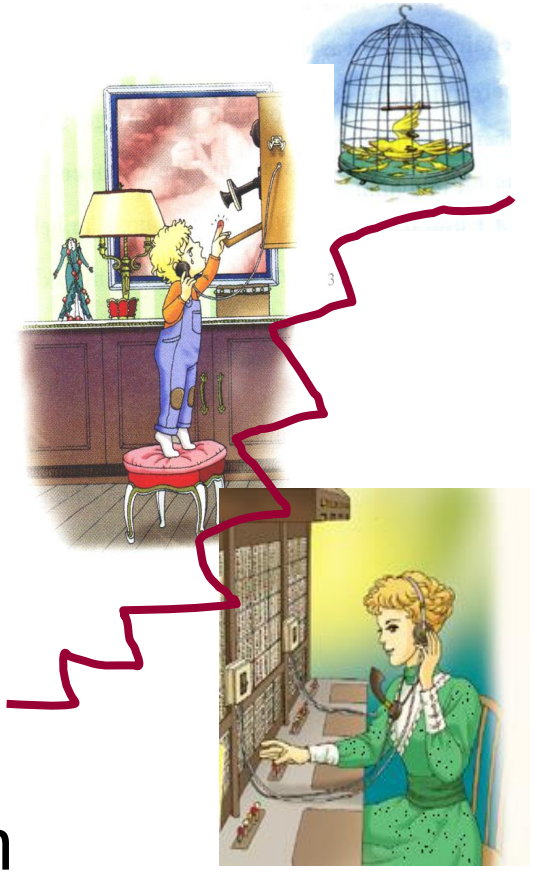
→ Unconsoled

- A child's doubt

→ Beautiful thing vs. die awfully

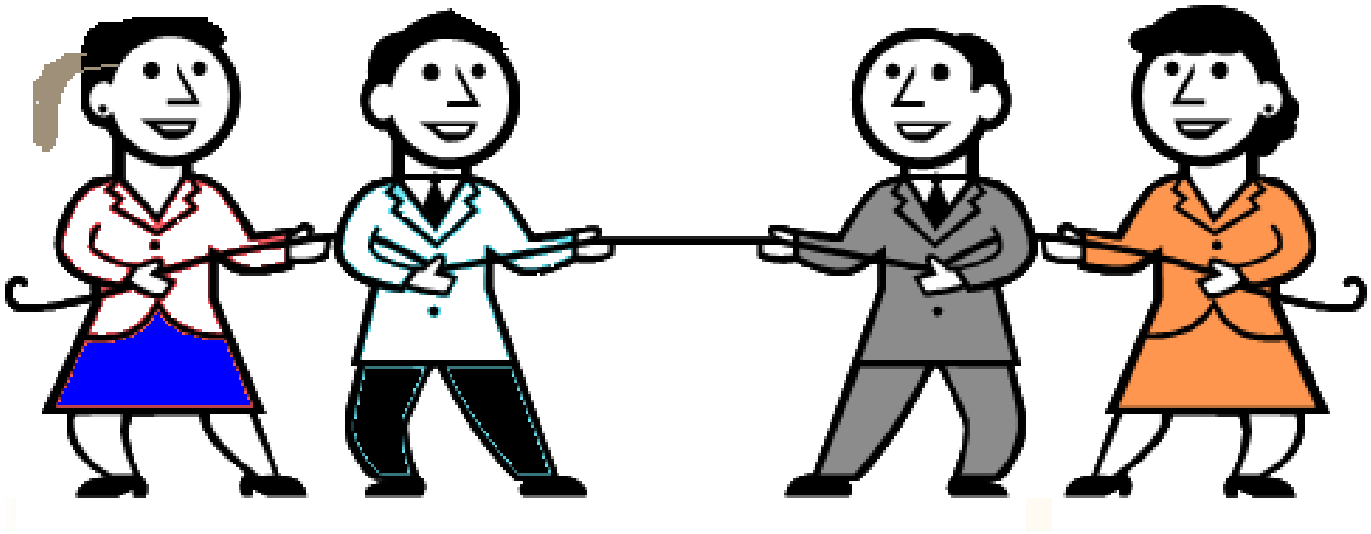
(a heap of feathers feet up)

- The ever-changing world
- There are other worlds to sing in

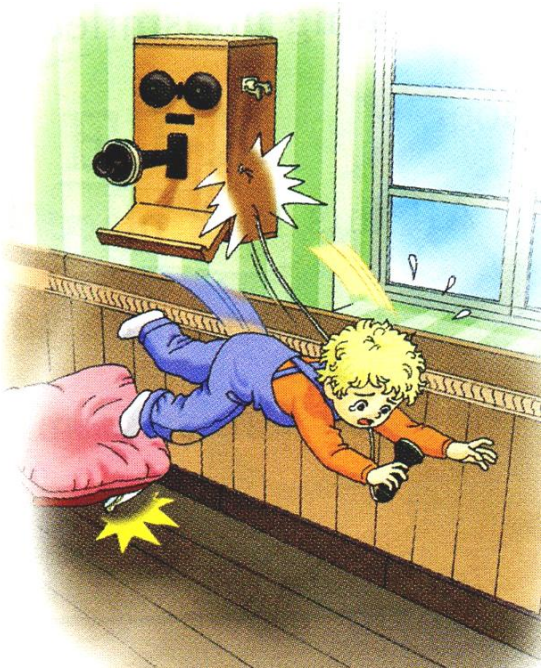


Complex & Conflict

- Beautiful things vs. Unable last permanently
- Grow-ups' consolation vs. Child's thoughts
- Ever-changing world vs. Other worlds to sing in



The Extended (Detailed) Example



- To take a unholy joke
- To jump off the stairs
- To be scared & fall off
- To pull out the receiver
- To send the repairman
- To fix the receiver
- To report to the Information

How the Repairmen Fixed the Phone

- To open the telephone box





→ exposing a maze of wires and coils

- To fiddle with the end of the receiver cord



- To tighten things with a screwdriver
- To jiggle the hook up and down several times



- To speak into the phone

End of the Relationship

- To move at the age of 9

→ From A small town in the Pacific Northwest (An old wooden oak box on the lower stair landing)

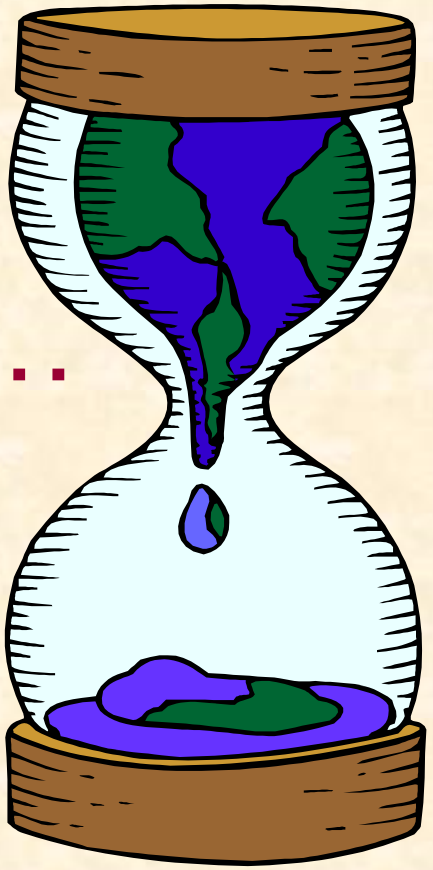
→ To Boston (A tall, skinny new phone in the hall)

- To miss the mentor acutely

In the Boy's Teens

- To keep the fresh childhood memories
- To have doubt and perplexity
- To recall the serene sense of security
- To appreciate for patient, understanding and kind act

A few years later …

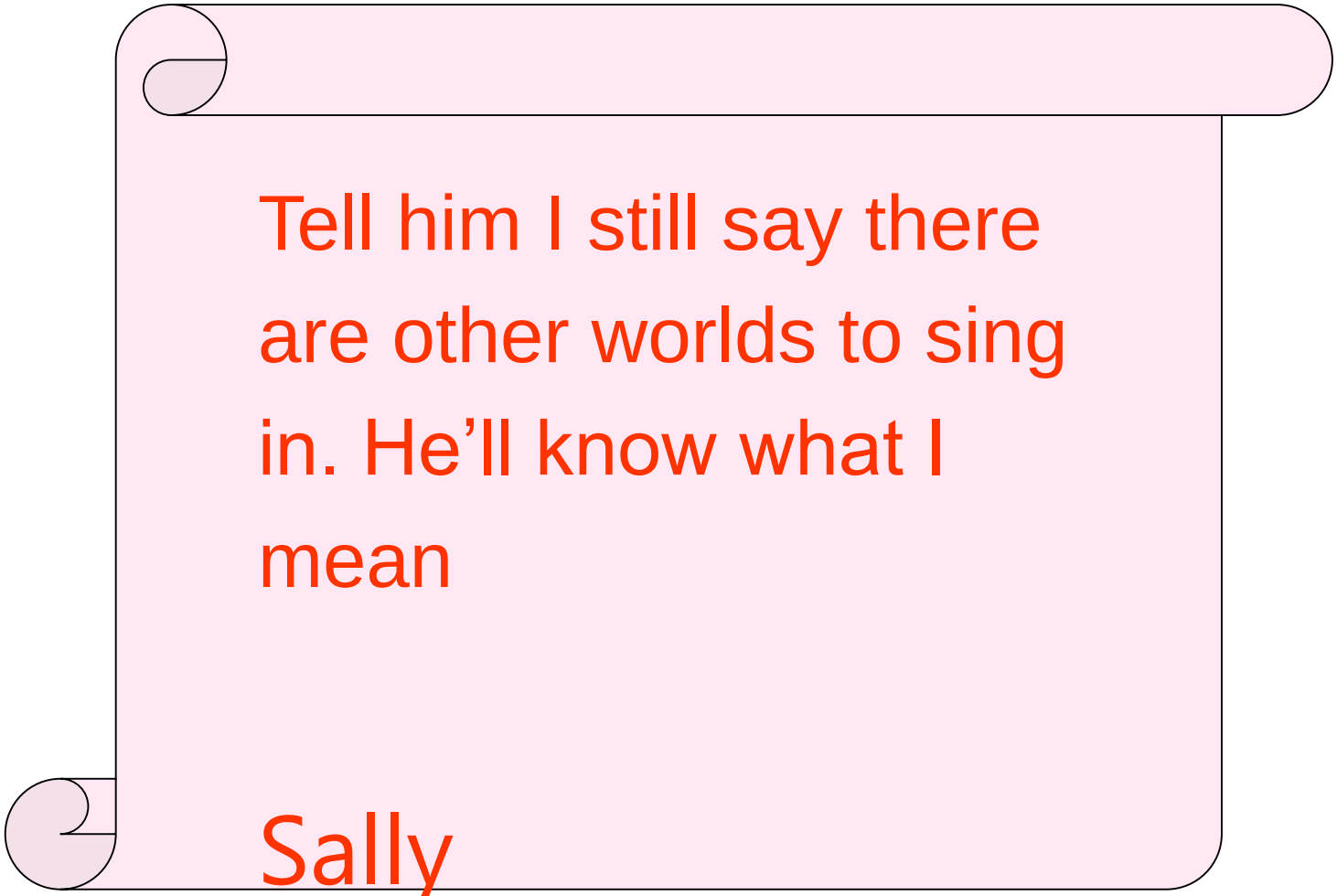


In the Time of College

- To stop in Seattle (way west to college)
- To have half an hour between connections
- To talk to the sister (mellowed) by phone
- To dial the hometown operator
- To talk about the past
- To express importance to each other
- To know real names



A Forever Goodbye Message



Activities

- Tell what information the telephone center or operators offer
- Tell one of the stories in your childhood that touched you and impressed you

