

**朗讀組****1. The Lazy Donkey**

Once upon a time, there was a businessman named Tom. Tom traded salt, and he had a donkey. The donkey liked to play and did not like to work. One morning, Tom put four bags of salt onto the donkey's back before they went to a market. When they walked on a bridge, the donkey suddenly slipped and began to sink into the water. He shouted, "Help, master! Please help me!"

After Tom pulled the donkey out of the water, the donkey felt the sacks lighter than before, because some salt got dissolved. When Tom weighed the four sacks in the market, they weighed less. Tom was upset. For three days, the donkey did the same trick. Tom realized the donkey's plan to get into the water on purpose and was angry. He said, "You lazy donkey! You are going to pay for this." Tom decided to give the donkey a lesson.

The next day, Tom put four sacks of cotton on the donkey's back instead of salt. When they reached the bridge, the donkey fell as those three days before, but the cotton bags absorbed the water from the river and became heavier. The donkey was sinking and shouted, "Help me! Please help me! I'm dying!" Hearing that, Tom brought out his rope and threw it into the water. Tom said, "Hey little donkey, hold the rope quickly and climb up!" Tom saved the donkey successfully.

From then on, when Tom packed sacks of salt on the donkey's back every day, the donkey was happy to carry them because he knew he had a wise and kind master.