# WORKSHEET 3B: A CONFUCIAN LETTER

The letter below might have been sent by a father to his son. It is filled with Confucian ideals. Pretend you are the child who has received this letter. Write a letter in response. Remember, your letter must also show your understanding and respect for the thoughts of Confucius.

Kaifeng, China

Four days after the Lunar Moon

Dear Eldest Son (Daughter):

The family is very proud of you. You (your husband) are the first member of our family to pass the Imperial examinations. You have a great future serving the emperor.

When your grandmother received the news of this success she walked to the family tomb to tell the ancestors about the honor you will bring the family. We hope that someday, as the family gains more and more prestige, we can build a special garden and pavillion for all the ancestors. Perhaps the emperor will stop there and write a poem or honor us with some calligraphy which we can engrave in stone and place within the temple grounds.

You have shown good sense and loyalty. You understand that it is important not to go to extremes, control your temper and treat others with respect. You must serve as a model for your children as the Emperor, princes and ministers serve as models for us.

I have arranged the marriage of your younger sisiter. Your sister has said nothing but she seems pleased. We look forward to welcoming you come for the ceremony next year. At that time your children will be able to honor the ancestors and continue to bring prosperity, health and good fortune to out family.

Your loving father,

Chin Tien

Dear Father:

Your loyal and loving child,