



FROM: Chen

TO: Thomas

Hi Thomas,

It's always good to hear from you. And I'm so glad you're teaching kung fu at Reps. Your work is going to have a great impact on these children's lives.

It sounds like your student Phillip can be very difficult. It's hard to have students who challenge your authority. I'm sure, though, that your judgment in this matter will be good, as it always is. I know you will do what's right.

I was struck by your description of the boy's coughing. You wrote that he often starts coughing just before he begins acting silly and disruptive in class. Now it may be as you thought – the boy might only be doing this to get attention. But it could also be that he has real health issues. I'm sure that you've already looked into this, Thomas. And of course, I've never seen the boy so I can't judge his behavior or his health. I just bring up the coughing because it reminds me of me.

I also coughed whenever I tried to participate in sports as a boy. I'd start an activity, have these difficulties and then want to quit the sport. Then I got interested in kung fu. At first, I had the same problems with my breathing in my kung fu class. But I stayed with it. Around the same time, my mother brought me to the doctor. It turned out that I had asthma. I got treatment and I know that helped me. I also know that kung fu made my body stronger. And it made my breathing stronger, too. I think that the activity, along with the medical treatment, worked together to help me.

I hope that you are doing well. And I'll look forward to the next time I hear from you.

- Chen