

## The Heat is On

By Gwen Peh

“The freezing winter is finally over,” the tulips squeaked in glee.

“I was chilled to the stem during winter. Now, I see snow melting away,” sighed the daffodils in relief, pointing to the white, mushy ground with their leaves.

Days got warmer, to the delight of all the flowers in the garden. The flowers basked in the spring warmth. Around them, dew was evaporating.

Unfortunately, their joy did not last long. The sun rays that once felt nice to the touch became scorching to the point of being unbearable. The flowers turned brown and shriveled.

“This won’t do,” the daffodils muttered weakly, “We would die if this heat continues.”

“The easiest way is for me to provide shade from the sun for all of you, but there are too many of you!” groaned the big tree.

The flowers put their heads together to think of a solution.

“Let’s close our leaves when it’s hot!”

“How about storing water in our leaves like our friends, the cactuses?”

The flowers nodded in unison. These were great ideas!

However, it was challenging for the flowers to copy the ways of the cactuses; they had never done so before!

Though they struggled, they practised day and night.

Eventually, the flowers grew used to the rising heat. They were so confident that they wished for the hottest day to come so they could try out their new skills.

Their wish was granted and an extremely hot day came. The flowers stood firm, strong and resilient!

Now, all over the flowering world, other flowers wanted to learn the same. They sent their pollens over to learn the secret.

By adapting themselves, all the flowers on Earth did not need to suffer the increasing temperatures again.

(293 words)