

# Mini Sagas

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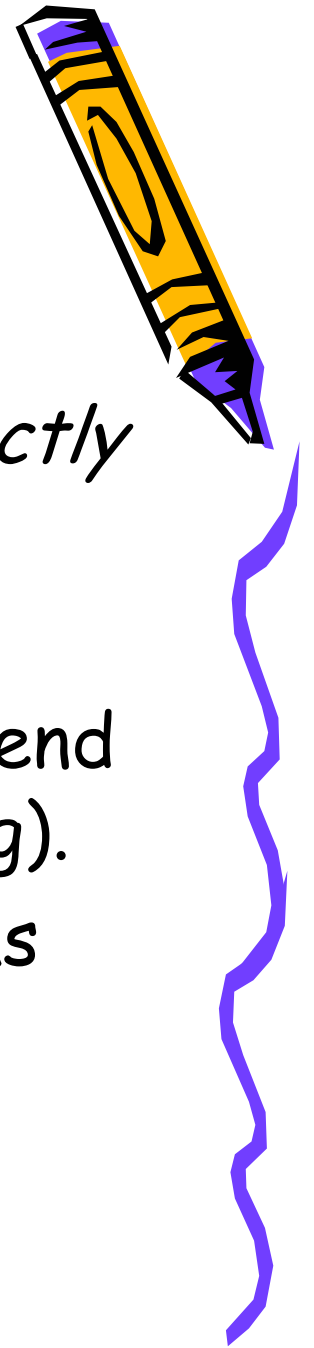
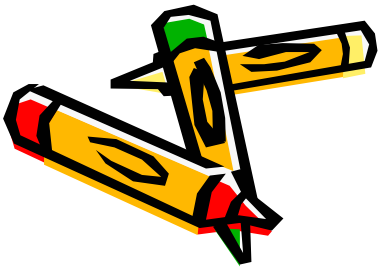
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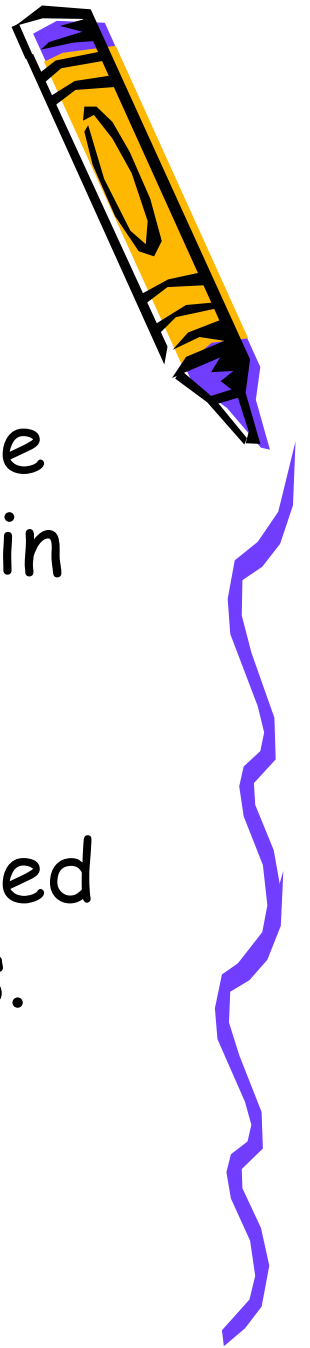
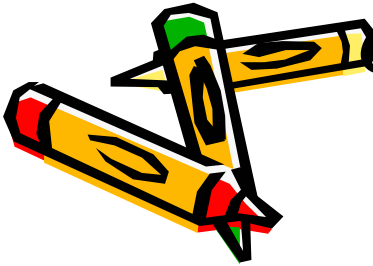
# What are 'mini sagas'?

- A mini saga is piece of writing with *exactly* 50 words (not including the title)
- It has to tell a story.
- It has to have a beginning, middle, and end (it cannot be a description of something).
- The title of a mini saga can be as long as 15 words.



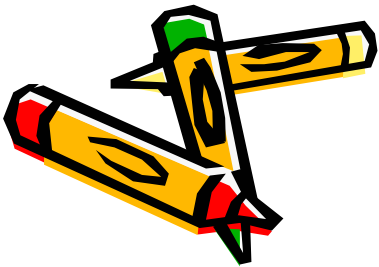
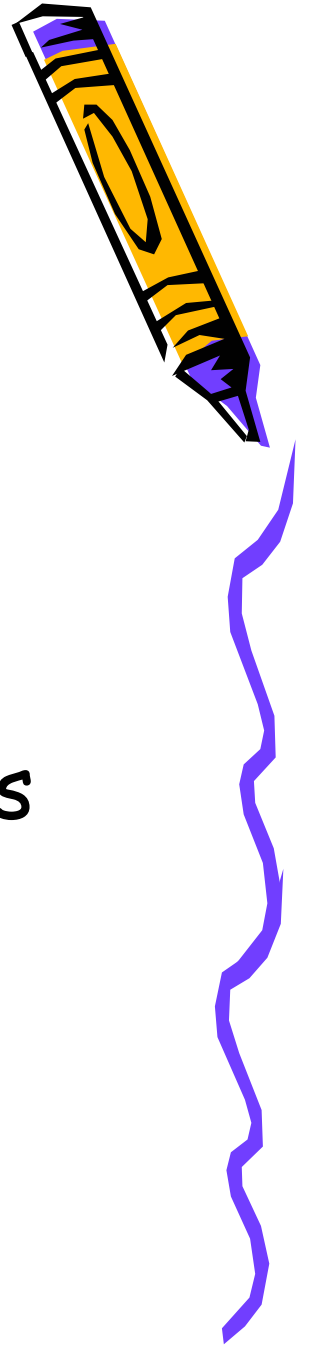
# Origin of mini sagas

- The name is an oxymoron: sagas are actually long tales that originated in medieval times by Norse and Icelandic people.
- In 1982 The Daily Telegraph started a writing competition of mini sagas.
- Today they can be used in ESL classes.



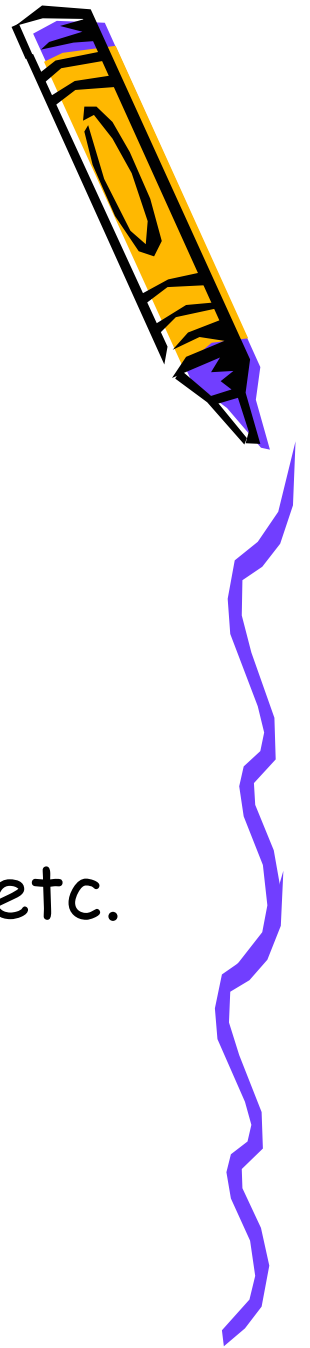
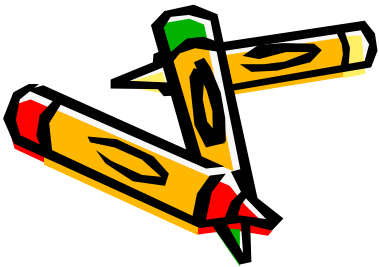
# The uses of mini sagas

- Summarize reading passages
- Exchange folk tales or personal stories
- Develop skills for writing abstracts
- Condense a short film or book



# Why use mini sagas

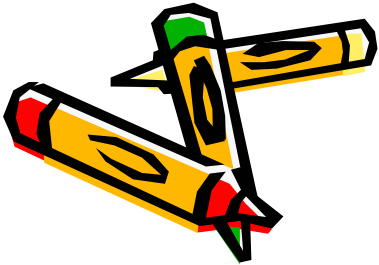
- Easy to read
- Challenging to write
- Helps accuracy
  - Forces students to use different grammar structures and vocabulary, etc.
- Motivating activity



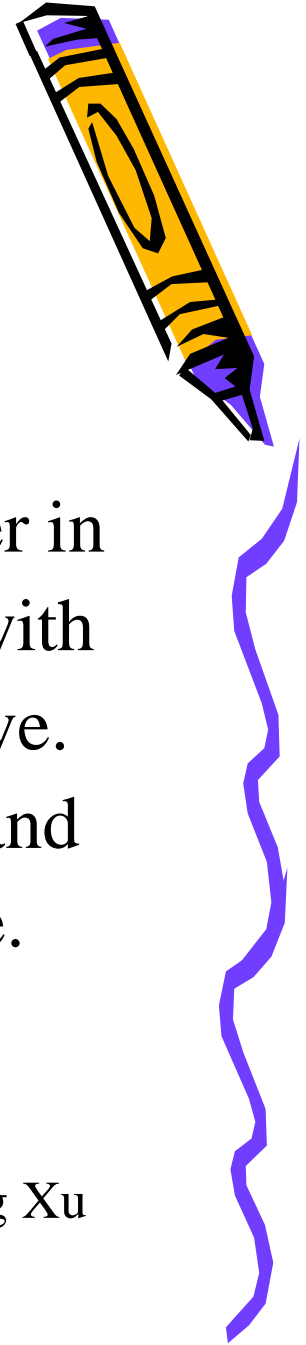
# Smart Guy!

"I have saved two dollars today," Fred said to his wife, excited and breathing deeply as he arrived home. "I followed the bus back and earned two dollars for us."  
"You stupid fool! You should have followed a taxi! Don't you realized that you could have earned twenty dollars instead."

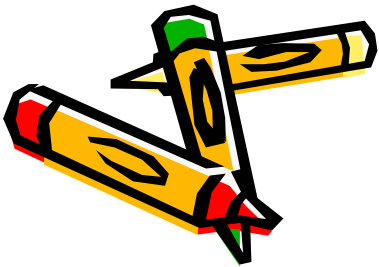
Adapted from *Target English*



# Wealth, Success and Love



A couple invited three hungry strangers to dinner in their house. But they said that only one can go with them. Their names were wealth, success, and love. Father wanted success, Mother wanted wealth, and Daughter wanted love. Finally, they invited love. And wealth and success went with love too.

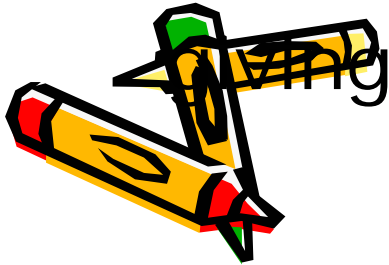


Written by: Zhiying Liu, Chunyan Wang and Jing Xu

# A Fifty-Word Summary of Ray Brown's (1990) Article: Contemporary Heroes and Heroines

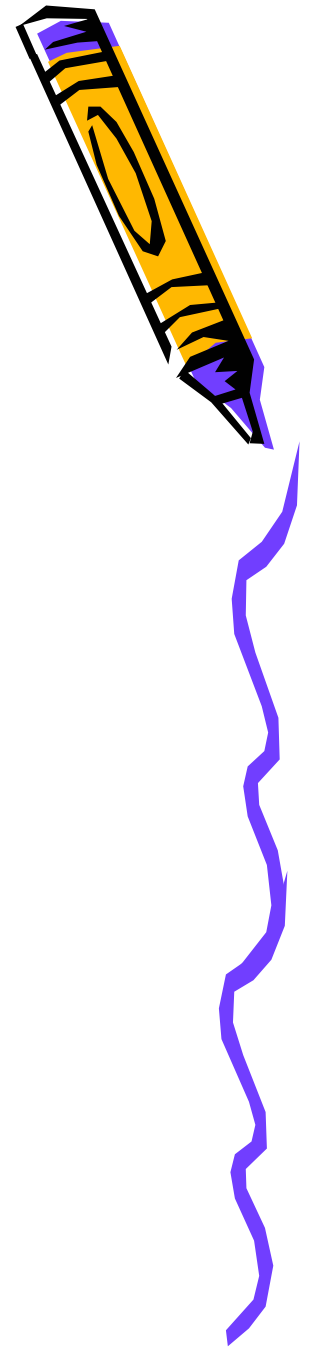
In ancient and modern societies, heroes serve to perpetuate society's goals. They define our world by defining ourselves. Thus, they reflect our culture and diversity. Nowadays, media effect how heroes are created but also confused us between heroes and celebrities. However, still heroes mean the highest selfless giving to others.

Abdussalam Alawini & Tae-woo Kim



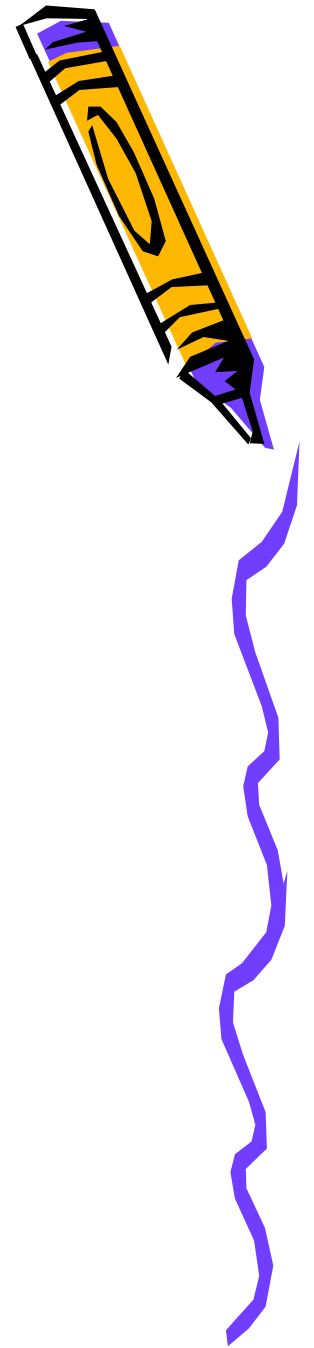
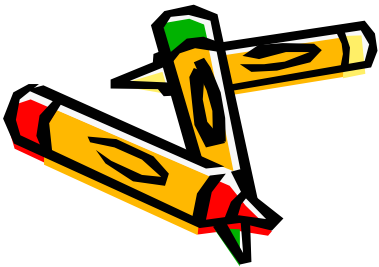
# Tips on how to use sagas in class

- Explain what a saga is
- Provide examples
- Work individually, in pairs, or groups
- Monitor students
  - Check for grammar/vocabulary/spelling
  - Check to see if students are following instructions
  - Offer suggestions



# Now you try it....

- Get into groups or pairs
- Choose a topic
  - A story
  - A folktale/fable
  - A personal experience
  - A movie/book



# Check List

- Does the story have a beginning, middle, and ending?
- Does it have exactly fifty words? (count them!)
- If it is too long, which words are necessary? Which ones unnecessary?
- Does it contain the original meaning?
- Does it have an appropriate title?

