**Three Word Primer in English Rhyme**

**Man on earth, Good at birth. The same nature Varies on nurture.**

**With no education, There’d be aberration. To teach well, You deeply dwell.**

**Then Mencius’ mother Chose her neighbor. At Mencius'sloth, She cut th’cloth.**

**Dough by name Fulfilled his aim. His five sons Became famous ones.**

**What's a father? A good teacher .What's a teacher? A strict preacher.**

**An unschooled child Will grow wild. A young loafer, An old loser!**

**No jade crude Shows craft good. Unless you learn, Brute you'll turn.**

**Son of man, Mature you can. Teacher or peer, Hold them dear.**

**Hsiang, at nine, Warmed bedding fine. Follow this one, This filial son.**

**Aged four years, Rong proffered pears. Bear in mind: Fraternally be kind.**

**Stress piety more Than your lore. Learn some numeracy, Know some literacy.**

**One to ten, A hundred then,**

**One thousand more, Ten thousand afore.**

**Tri-vitals, of worth: Man, heaven, earth；**

**Tri-lights, a boon: Sun, stars, moon.**

**Three Tenets always: Subject Lord obeys;**

**Child Father reveres; Wife Man endears.**

**Spring and summer, Autumn and winter.**

**These four seasons Cycle with reasons.**

**South, north, west, 'N east, we quest.**

**These four ways Upon center gaze.**

**Water, fire, behold, Earth, wood, gold.**

**These five materials Accord to numerals.**

**The Ten Trunks Are great chunks.**

**The Twelve Wings Are good things.**

**The Ecliptic line, The Zodiacal Sign.**

**And the Equator Circling the center.**

**Nowhere is hotter Than the equator.**

**China, the greatest, Lies in Northeast.**

**Temperature fitting you, There's frosty dew.**

**Right, plateaus stand；Left, seas expand.**

**Long and River, Clara and Phora.**

**These rivers four All along outpour.**

**Arch, Flora, Tower, Scale, and Ever!**

**These high mountains Are five chieftains.**

**Officials and farmers, Merchants and workers,**

**These four great, Maintain the State**

**Grace, justice, courtesy, Wisdom, and fidelity.**

**Good order derive From Constants Five.**

**Earth makes good Grass and wood.**

**These plants command Water and land.**

**Fishes and birds, Worms and herds.**

**These creatures cry, Run or fly.**

**Rice, sorghum, beans, Wheat, millet, corns.**

**These crops main Our life sustain.**

**Horses, sheep, cows, Chickens, dogs, sows.**

**These six breeds A husbandman feeds.**

**Say anger, gladness, Say fear, sadness,**

**Hate, greed, love. Seven feelings above.**

**Green, red, yellow, Black'n white follow.**

**Five colors vie, Wakening the eye.**

**Sour, bitter, sweet, Hot 'n salty meet.**

**These tastes five Make palates alive.**

**Muttony, burnt, balmy, Fishy, and moldy,**

**These smells five Make noses alive.**

**Gourd, leather, clay Wood we play,**

**Stone, metal, bamboo, And strings, too.**

**Level, and bounce, Fall, and in-nounce.**

**These four tones For tuned phones.**

**Grand, great-grand, great-great-grand Father,**

**myself, and Children, and grandchildren**

**All are kinsmen.**

**Now great-grand, and His son, great-great-grand.**

**There're generations nine, A genealogical line.**

**Father loves son; Man-wife is one.**

**Brothers are bland, Hand in hand.**

**Senior to young, The ethical rung.**

**Lord loves subjects, And enjoys respects.**

**This you remember For every member.**

**This you obey For every day.**

**Cuts and completes, Merits and feats,**

**And linen, too, For funeral blue.**

**Old characters, behold Seals, lesser 'n bold,**

**Square and cursive, Five scripts successive!**

**To learn widely**

**Is seldom easy.**

**To study some,**

**Informed you become.**

**Rituals, calligraphy, shooting,**

**Music, mathematics, driving.**

**These six arts**

**Need devoted hearts.**

**Calligraphy's the one**

**Neglected by none.**

**Words already learned,**

**Motivations are concerned.**

**While you teach,**

**Do deeply reach.**

**Go with explanation,**

**And guide punctuation.**

**Now to learn,**

**Make a turn.**

**From school nooks**

**To *Four Books*.**

***Analects*-the lections,**

**Has twenty sections.**

**Confucius and disciples**

**Gave off sparkles.**

***Mencius*, the sutras,**

**Has seven chapters.**

**These are counsels**

**Of virtues'n morals.**

***The Golden Mean*,**

**Great it's been.**

**Kong Jih, the scholar,**

**Is its author.**

***Great Learning*, great,**

**Tsengcius did create:**

**From personal perfection**

**To national progression.**

***Piety learned* ahead,**

***Four Books* fully-read,**

***Six Classics* now,**

**You should plough.**

***History, Changes, Odes,***

**Books of altitudes.**

***Spring’ n Fall, Rituals,***

**Books for perusals.**

***Book of Ranges,***

***Book of Changes,***

***Book of Retreat,***

**Detailed and great.**

**Canons, duties, plans,**

**Edicts, and bans,**

**And imperial mandates,**

**Are H*istory*’s aggregates.**

**Th’Prince of Chough**

**Did *Rituals* bestow.**

**Regimen he designed**

**And government defined.**

**The Days supplied**

***Rituals* well clarified,**

**And paraphrased adages**

**Of those sages.**

**The *Psalms*, say,**

**The *Chants*, say,**

**And those airs**

**Of various affairs.**

**When Poems perished,**

***Spring 'n* *Fall* flourished,**

**Flogging what's lewd,**

**Praising what's good.**

**Companion authors three:**

**Tsuo Qiu-ming, and he**

**Who was Gongyang,**

**And another, Goo Liang.**

**Classics well read,**

**Study sophists ahead.**

**Make a list,**

**Get the gist.**

**Five sophists then**

**Were great men:**

**Hsun, Wenchong, Yang**

**Lao and Tsuang.**

**After finishing these,**

**Read histories please.**

**Do study genealogy,**

**And know causality.**

**The legendary Fooshee, Shennong and Huangdee**

**Were great forefathers, Esteemed Three Rulers.**

**Yao and You-yuh, Called Grandees Two.**

**They demised throne, A heyday known.**

**Hsiah, Shang, Chough, Three dynasties, lo.**

**Yuh, Tang, Wuh, Three kings true.**

**Yuh, heredity begun, Throned his son.**

**Four centuries passed, Seeing Hsiah's last.**

**The Conqueror Tang Founded Kingdom Shang.**

**Six centuries' elapse Ere Chow's collapse.**

**Wuh of Chough Triumphed over Chow.**

**Eight centuries' gain, Chough's longest reign.**

**Chough moved east, And controlled least.**

**There arose militance; Valued was eloquence.**

**Spring 'n Fall began, Warring States then.**

**Five Lords strived! Seven Powers thrived!**

**Emperor the First, Other states burst.**

**Generations but two, Arose Han'n Chuh.**

**Liu Bang almighty ran; Arose Great Han.**

**Hsiao Ping was bayed; So Wang Mang swayed.**

**With Guang Wuh began The Eastern Han.**

**Th'four hundredth year, Hanhsian died drear.**

**Shuh, Woo, Weigh Struggled their way.**

**Three kingdoms reared; Two Jins appeared.**

**Song, Chih, Liang, And Chen sprang.**

**Each Southern king, Seated in Nanking.**

**Northern Weigh, pressed, Divided, east'n west.**

**Yuhwen founded Chough, Chih followed though.**

**Suih, so grand, United the land.**

**It did bloom Before its doom.**

**Li Yuan's uprising now Swept Suih enow.**

**Th'Tang Empire rose At Suih's close.**

**Three century's gains Made twenty reigns.**

**There arose Liang That replaced Tang.**

**Thus started Liang, Jin and Tang,**

**Han and Chough; Five you know.**

**Then Song, aglow, Succeeded to Chough.**

**Reigns counted eighteen, Then invasions keen.**

**Liao and Jin Both broke in.**

**The Mongol throng Wiped out Song.**

**The territory vast Exceeded all past.**

**Ninety years elapsed；The empire collapsed.**

**Eighth by name Won his fame.**

**By founding Ming, Seated in Nanking**

**Chengtsuh from Nanking Moved to Peking.**

**Sixteen emperors past, Chongchen the last.**

**The eunuch power Made all cower.**

**King of Spurt Did Ming subvert.**

**History is here, Until this year. You know all: Rise and fall.**

**Read history vast, First to last. *History Book* begun, *Han Annals* anon.**

***Next Eastern Han*, *Three Kingdoms* then. Consult the authorized With *Mirrors* beside.**

**As past's explored, Check every record. You'll know how Then became now.**

**Read and think, And pieces link. From early morning, To late evening.**

**Confucius of yore, Studied, studied more. From Tuo learned, As he yearned.**

**Chao Puh of Song, Read *Analects* long. This premier crack, Was never slack.**

**Using cattail tips, And bamboo slips. None they possessed, Persisting with zest.**

**Head strung high! Needled his thigh! Not pushed, they Kept working away.**

**With fireworms bright, With snow white. Poor, having none, They studied on.**

**Carrying fuel now, Book on cow, They, making time, Employed their prime.**

**Twenty seven, Quan Hadn't studied then. This man now Read hard enow.**

**This man, behold, Started when old. You’d make time Even ere prime.**

**Liang, Wizard True, At eighty two, Passed Grand Test, Beating the rest.**

**His great success Did all impress. While you're young, Make wills strong.**

**Ying, so great, Versified at eight. Mih rhymed even Then at seven.**

**They, so clever, Praised with wonder. Like them, begin Now to win.**

**Cai could discern An ill-tuned zithern. Hsieh could prose, Or poems compose.**

**These girls above Did smart prove. Man thou art, Devote thy heart!**

**Now Yan, behold, Seven years old. Proofread did he, Such a prodigy.**

**Young as he, An official already. To be well-done, Follow this one.**

**Dogs thieves bite; Cocks dawning invite. Unless you learn, Useless you'll turn.**

**Silkworms silk educe；Bees honey produce. From them learn, Or receive spurn.**

**Learn while young; Act while strong. Benefit each one Under the sun.**

**Carve your name And parents’ fame. Ancestors you glorify; Offspring you dignify.**

**For children hold Silver and gold? My only bequest: Learn your best.**

**Good is diligence; Poor is negligence. Trials you breast, Work with zest.**