

第 35 回ちびっ子イングリッシュコンテスト英語暗唱部門 課題文

対象 : 小学 3～6 年生

An Apple, an Idea

When you throw a ball into the air, do you wonder why it always comes back down? Why doesn't it keep going up?

One man did more than wonder. He was Sir Isaac Newton. There is a story that says Newton was sitting under an apple tree when an apple struck him on the head. He wondered why the apple fell down instead of up. Was there a force that no one could see, pulling the apple to the ground?

Actually, it was Newton's observation of the motions of the planets that contributed most importantly to his great discovery: the *Law of Universal Gravitation*. This 'natural law' helps explain why the Earth, the Moon, and the planets don't bump into each other. It explains why things feel light or heavy and what makes them fall to the ground. What Newton decided was that everything has gravity. And every object's gravity has a pull on everything else around it. Heavy things pull harder than light ones.

Newton worked out many other things, too. Did you know that white light is actually made of seven colours? These are the colours that make up a rainbow. Newton discovered this.

Newton was one of the greatest scientists who ever lived. He died in 1727 and was buried in Westminster Abbey in London. He was the first scientist to be honoured in this way. (229 words)

Adapted from *My First Britannica, People in History*.