

Jack had gone to the university to study history, but at the end of his first year, his history professor failed him in his examinations, and he was told that he would have to leave the university. However, his father decided that he would go to see the professor to urge him to let Jack continue his studies the following year.

'He's a good boy,' said Jack's father, 'and if you let him pass this time, I'm sure he'll improve a lot next year and pass the examinations at the end of it really well.'

'No, no, that's quite impossible!' replied the professor immediately. 'Do you know, last month I asked him when Napoleon had died, and he didn't know!'

'Please, sir, give him another chance,' said Jack's father. 'You see, I'm afraid we don't take any newspapers in our house, so none of us even knew that Napoleon was ill.'