

PRAGMATICS SIG *Pragmatic*

Matters

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2010 The Year of the Tiger

A new year is upon us, ruled by the tiger, according to the Chinese zodiac. The tiger is a sign of courage. The tiger is a fighter that wards off the three main disasters of households: thieves, fire, and ghosts. Certainly courage is needed to face the challenges of the economic downturn of the past couple of years. Thievery in the form of greed has stolen away the livelihoods of many households around the world bringing the ghosts of want and insecurity. Here's hoping the tiger year will see a turnaround in the fortunes of the unfortunate.

Blues singer Ray Charles sang of economic hard times in his song *Busted*. Busted is a slang word for 'to be broke,' which itself is a slang word that means possessing no money.

"My bills are all due and the baby needs shoes and I'm busted....I went to my brother to ask for a loan 'cause I was busted. My brother said 'there ain't a thing I can do. My wife and my kids are all down with the flu. And I was just thinking about calling on you 'cause I'm busted.'"

Maybe we can take heart from the example of a famous tiger, Tigger, from the story of Winnie the Pooh and his friends. Tigger is good at finding his way home in fog and is confident in his abilities, which include bouncing, an activity which brings him a lot of fun as well as landing him in a lot of trouble sometimes.

Let's hope the tiger year bounces back household incomes that were lost in the fog, drives away the ghosts of worry and anxiety, and puts bounce back into everyone's step.

Happy New Year!

I look forward to hearing from you through your contributions to the newsletter.

Thanks very much.

Sybil Armstrong



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