



作者／粘忘凡・繪者／孫心瑜

Knock, Knock, Knock! Can I Come In?

叩叩叩！我可以進來嗎？

Author: Wang-Fan Nien **Illustrator:** Hsin-Yu Sun **Publisher:** The Eastern Publishing

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Before leaving, Mother Sheep warns her seven little lambs, “Don’t let the Big Bad Wolf in!” when the big bad wolf at the door. The seven little lambs firmly reply, “NO! You’re the Big Bad Wolf. We won’t let you in!”

In another scene, the ugly duckling approaches a group of swans, hoping to make friends.

“Knock, knock, knock! Can I join you?” The swans reply “NO! You’re too ugly, and you’re not one of us.”

These rejected animals are then approached by a little crocodile and a little mouse. Through classic tales, the book encourages readers not to lose heart when faced with rejection—because while the world may not be perfect, there will always be someone who will welcome and accept you. With a little more tolerance, the world becomes a broader, kinder place.



Author **Wang-Fan Nien**

Wang-Fan Nien, dedicated to education, development of children’s website, and promoting children’s reading, has contributed to the production and voice acting of over 300 animated works. She established the Small Sweet Potato website for Yam Digital Technology. Her publications include: *Knock, Knock, Knock! Can I Come In?* *Little Mouse, Stop Playing Around!* *Little Crocodile, Don’t Be Angry!* and *Daddy, Wait for Me!*



Illustrator **Hsin-Yu Sun**

Hsin-Yu Sun is passionate about drawing, traveling, and food. She has designed stamps, explored the source of the Yangtze River, and lived in the United States, Canada, and Shanghai. Her journeys across Europe, Asia, and even Antarctica have inspired her to create travelogue picture books that capture the essence of her adventures.

Breaking the Circle, Crossing Boundaries, and Embracing a Diverse World

by Shan-Chung Yang

How are the concepts of “ethnicity” and “self” formed? At the start of this story, the classic fairy tale “The Seven Little Lambs” serves as a foundation. Following their mother’s instructions, the little lambs refuse to let the Big Bad Wolf into their home. Soon after, the ugly duckling is rejected by its beautiful siblings, and the turtle is excluded by the quick-footed rabbits for being too slow. The notions of “sameness” and “difference” take center stage here. The characters in these tales draw invisible circles, setting boundaries to distinguish between “companions” and “others.”

In real life, children often undergo a similar process of growth. While playing, they might say, “You’re not part of our group,” and in doing so, they learn to identify similarities and differences between themselves and others, gradually

shaping their sense of “self.”

However, this picture book offers more than just these simple observations. Readers will notice the use of dual narration throughout the story. While the Big Bad Wolf lingers quietly in the corner, observing from afar, the rejected animals come together to form their own circle. What is truly remarkable is how this circle gradually grows larger, welcoming animals with various personalities and traits and encouraging them to play together.

This evolution in the narrative invites readers to reconsider the meaning of “the other” and question the concept of exclusion. The illustrations break free from the visual boundaries of the circle, blending the inside and outside into a rich, expansive image. This suggests that small circles do not define the whole.

Rather than continuously drawing lines to separate one another, the story urges us to dissolve those boundaries and explore a broader, more inclusive world.

It is within this diverse world, filled with beings of different backgrounds and traits, that sparks of creativity flourish, giving rise to new ideas and fresh stories.

Through the repetition of its narrative, this work gradually introduces change, encouraging young readers to question conventional views of the world. It teaches that differences between individuals should no longer serve as a justification for exclusion. By letting go of the ingrained tendency to categorize and divide, and instead embracing the diverse forms of existence around us, we open up new opportunities for collaboration and mutual understanding.

While presented in a fairy-tale

context, this concept reflects real-world lessons on tolerance and acceptance of differences in ethnicity, culture, and individuality. In doing so, the story promotes the values of inclusivity and respect, which are essential for fostering a harmonious and diverse society.

Shan-Chung Yang, graduated from the Department of History at National Taiwan University, with experience as an intern teacher and literary event planner. a flat-handwriting enthusiast from a humid island, was born in the subtropical winter. She has a deep love for the trees and climate of temperate zones, as well as calendars that start on Sundays. Her life idol is the clumsy, ice-climbing Adélie penguin. A bear fanatic at heart, she dreams of being friends with big dogs.

No!

No!
Your neck is too long!
And you're from another country!
You can't come in!

Knock, knock, knock!
Can I come in?



No!

No!
Your teeth are too weird!
And you're from another country!
You can't come in!

Knock knock knock
can I come in?



No!
Your ears are too big!
And you're from another country!
You can't come in!

NO!



Knock, knock, knock! Can I come in?