

# The Alligator Who Loved His Vegetables

A Full English translation is available.

愛吃青菜的鱷魚

**Author:** Tom Liu (Liu Chen-Kuo) **Illustrator:** Tom Liu (Liu Chen-Kuo) **Publisher:** Hsin Yi Publications

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36 pages | 20 x 21 cm **Volume:** 1 (Two-book series; each stands alone.)

**Awards:** Hsin-Yi Picture Book Illustration Recommendation Award

**Rights sold:** Japanese, Korean, Simplified Chinese

**Adaptation:** IP-related children's masks, placemats, tableware sets

**BFT2.0 Translator:** Anne Lee

When a kind farmer discovers an adorable baby alligator without a family, he takes it in as his own. Together they plant vegetables, nurture their garden, and enjoy fresh greens every day. As the little alligator grows big and strong, his love for vegetables keeps him healthy and full of energy.

One day, a sickness sweeps through the village—but the alligator stays well. His healthy habits have made him resistant to disease, and soon he becomes a role model for the village's children. By the story's end, readers join the characters as brave little green superheroes, drawing strength from the power of vegetables. Bursting with vibrant color and playful detail, the illustrations by a celebrated artist fill every page with humor, warmth, and joy—making this a story that children will want to return to again and again.



Author **Tom Liu** (Liu Chen-Kuo)

Born in Taipei in 1966, Liu Chen-Kuo leads a humble, orderly life and has a particular interest in simple and essential forms. His major works include *It's Raining*, *The Scariest Day of My Life*, *Granny Lin's Peach Tree*, *Calder the Artist*, *Kung Fu Frog River Lake*, *The One-Sided Painter*, *Who Wants to Play Hide and Seek?*, and *Knock! Knock! Here Comes The Dinosaur!* He has received numerous awards, including the Taipei International Book Exhibition "Exhibition Award," the White Raven Award from the International Youth Library in Germany, the Golden Tripod Award for Best Illustration, the Feng Zikai Children's Picture Book Award, the "Good Books for All" Annual Best Youth Literature Award, and the Hsin Yi Children's Literature Award. He has also been selected for the Bologna Illustrators Exhibition in Italy.

# Eating Vegetables with an Alligator

by Cheng Ming-Chin

Once upon a time, a little alligator named Alligator crossed paths with a kind farmer. From that day on, they began a unique and heartwarming life together—planting vegetables side by side, tending their garden, and enjoying fresh greens every day. With the help of a friendly doctor character, the story gently explains the health benefits of eating vegetables, encouraging children to enjoy nutritious foods that help their bodies fight harmful bacteria. By the end, readers and characters alike become brave little green superheroes—promoting wellness and strength, one vegetable at a time.

For young children who are still growing and developing, their hearts are filled with innocence and curiosity. To them, everything around them—whether animals large or small, plants, or even everyday objects—can become a friend. In the picture book *The Alligator Who*

*Loved His Vegetables*, the alligator isn't just a scaly creature from the swamp; he becomes the farmer's best friend and companion. Their bond shows children that friendships can come in all shapes and sizes, and that even a fearsome-looking animal like an alligator can be warm and kind.

This book showcases Liu Chen-Kuo's exceptional artistic talent. He skillfully uses curving, dynamic lines to illustrate the landscape. Rolling hills, fertile farmlands, and lively, colorful vegetables fill each page with life. Liu's artwork bursts with energy and creativity, employing repetition, directional line movement, and playful exaggeration to achieve a whimsical visual style.

Curvy lines portray the vast fields and soft, rich soil. Rows of tiny green sprouts and oversized vegetables dominate the pages, drawing the reader's

eye and creating a joyful, almost magical atmosphere. The enormous alligator, now fully grown, carries the farmer on his back. Both are dressed in colorful accessories—scarves, gloves, and socks in bright, cheerful patterns. This imaginative touch makes for a dazzling, unforgettable image that delights the eyes.

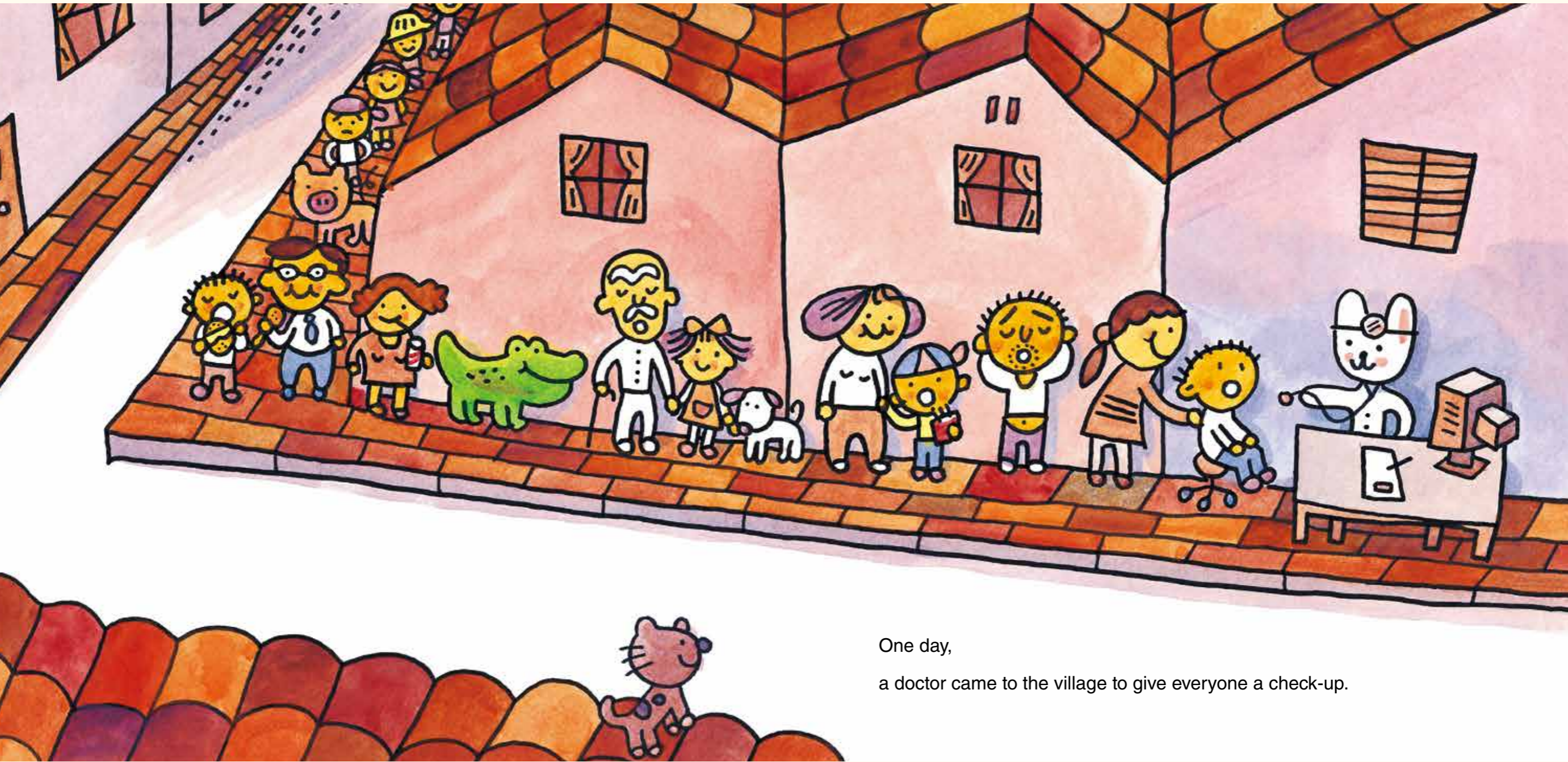
For both the alligator and the farmer, the characters are reminiscent of children's drawings—simple, expressive, and brimming with innocence. Their playful gestures and authentic expressions inject the book with a strong sense of humor and warmth. Liu's vibrant use of color, especially the bright shades of green, brings out the lush vitality of the countryside. Layered mountain ridges, rows of seedlings, and the abundance of growing vegetables vividly showcase the thriving life of the farm.

In the story's whimsical conclusion, tiny green elves soar into the sky to battle mischievous germs. In their dreams, children transform into mighty green superheroes, each wearing a cape and flying freely across the night sky. These

whimsical and energetic images leave a lasting impression on young readers' imaginations, inspiring them to embrace the strength that comes from eating healthy.

*This afterword has been edited for the purposes of this booklet.*

*Cheng Ming-Chin, affectionately known as the "Picture Book Grandpa," is a key figure in children's art education in Taiwan. Born in Taipei, he graduated from the Art Department of Taipei Normal School and taught elementary school art for 25 years. He also worked as an editorial consultant for ECHO Magazine of Things, Lion Art, Benesse Magazine, and others. A passionate advocate for children's aesthetics, he co-founded the Children's Art Education Research Society. With over 40 published picture books, he received the Hsin-Yi Special Contribution Award in 1992 and is often called the "Godfather of Taiwanese Picture Books." He believes that maintaining childlike innocence is essential to truly understanding beauty.*



One day,  
a doctor came to the village to give everyone a check-up.

Some people's tummies made funny rumbling sounds.  
Some children had trouble pooping!

But the little alligator's tummy wasn't bloated at all—  
and it didn't make any strange sounds!



It turns out that the little alligator's belly was full of tiny green elves.

They chased away the bad germs—all because he loved eating his greens!

