



# What's There To Be Afraid Of?

A Full English translation is available.

這有什麼好怕的？

**Author:** Lo I-chun **Illustrator:** Mori Chiang **Publisher:** Commonwealth Education

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38 pages | 19 x 26 cm **Volume:** 1 (Three-book series; each stands alone.)

**BFT2.0 Translator:** Leona Chen

A boy thinks ants are terrifying. So he decides to turn their story into a play—in which he becomes a mighty dinosaur, fiercely defeating them. But as the story unfolds, will their relationship change?

This gentle, thought-provoking picture book asks: What troubles you in everyday life? What brings you joy? What makes you afraid—and what does that fear feel like? Could it be telling you something?

Through warm, open-ended conversations, readers learn that fear is not something to erase, but a feeling to acknowledge, explore, and gently accompany—helping us be kinder to ourselves and to others.



Author **Lo I-chun**

A writer and educator, Lo I-chun has published nine books on education and parenting. This marks her debut picture book. She is the founder of Home Page Reading Library, where she has long led children's and youth reading groups. She also runs an independent bookstore at Taoyuan's 77 Arts Village to promote reading culture. With extensive experience as a host, she was nominated for the 59th Golden Bell Awards in the Podcast – Youth Program category.



Illustrator **Mori Chiang**

Based in France, picture book illustrator and artist Mori Chiang is known for his warm and delicate style. In 2022, he was selected by Taiwan's Ministry of Culture for a picture book illustration residency in Paris. His work has earned prestigious international recognition, including selection for the Bologna Illustrators Exhibition (Italy), the World Illustration Awards (UK), the 3x3 International Illustration Awards (USA), and the Japan JIA Illustration Awards. He is currently focused on visual storytelling as a form of personal healing and as a source of companionship for others.

# An Inventive Picture Book That Opens a Window into Children's Fears and Feelings

by Fu Kuo

Is there something you're afraid of? Maybe it's a pitch-dark room, buzzing insects, or the screech of nails on a chalkboard. Or maybe it's something tiny and a little silly—so much so that you'd feel embarrassed saying it out loud. Like...ants? *What's There to Be Afraid Of?*, a picture book by author Lo I-chun and illustrator Mori Chiang, begins with a fear just like that—tiny, trivial, and easily dismissed—and invites readers to look deeper into the emotional world that children inhabit, where every fear, no matter how small, carries weight and meaning.

The story centers around a little boy who is terrified of ants. It's not the kind of fear that makes sense to everyone, and when he finally builds up the courage to share his secret with his classmates, he's met with laughter and mockery. "What's there to be afraid of?" they ask.

It's a line that might sound familiar—something we've heard before, or even said ourselves, whether to a child, a friend, or quietly to our own hearts. The book reminds us how quickly we judge whether someone's fear is "reasonable," forgetting that emotions don't need to be rational to be real.

In the story, the boy doesn't simply back down. He tries to help his classmates understand where his fear comes from. He talks about the ants' strength, their overwhelming numbers, and their relentless movement. He even channels his fear into a class performance, where he takes the stage as a mighty dinosaur, bravely fending off the ants. Through this act of storytelling and play, he begins to reclaim his narrative—translating his feelings into something creative, and slowly, rewriting the fear that once loomed over him.

What makes this book so compelling is that it doesn't try to "fix" fear. It doesn't rush to provide solutions or cures. Instead, it asks readers—both children and adults—to pause and look closely at fear itself. Fear can be irrational. It can change shapes. It can make us feel out of control. But it can also spark creativity, empathy, and deeper self-understanding. The book reminds us that fear is not a problem to be erased, but a feeling to be acknowledged, explored, and gently accompanied.

The collaboration between writer Lo I-chun and France-based picture book artist Mori Chiang results in a book that is both emotionally nuanced and visually striking. Lo's writing strikes a balance between humor and insight, making the exploration of feelings engaging rather than heavy. Chiang's illustrations—dominated by reds and blues blended with grayscale tones—create a bold,

expressive visual language that deepens the story's emotional undercurrents without overwhelming them.

There's no preaching in these pages—but there's plenty of room for reflection and conversation. After reading, you may find yourself asking: What have I been afraid of? Have I ever said it out loud? How have I responded to the fears of others? As Lo I-chun writes in the book's afterword, "When we are willing to face fear through stories, it becomes a starting point for understanding the many sides of ourselves."

*Fu Kuo is a graduate of the Department of Japanese Literature at National Taiwan University. Deeply fascinated by the endless charm of children's literature, she has worked as a bookstore clerk and children's book editor. Her translations include The King of Bread Bundle series.*



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HYAH!

Hiss—

HELP!



Whew!

I've finally finished.

