



Mouse Mai-Mai is Looking for a Job

A Full English translation is available.

小鼠麥麥找工作

Author: Arwen Huang **Illustrator:** Arwen Huang **Publisher:** Taiwan Interminds Publishing

Date: 05/2024

Rights contact: bft.children.comics@moc.gov.tw

40 pages | 20.9 x 25.6 cm **Volume:** 1

Rights sold: Korean

BFT2.0 Translator: Michelle Kuo

Mai-Mai, a little mouse from a sunny town of blooming sunflowers, loves nothing more than gardening and drawing. One day, he boards a train and leaves his familiar home behind, setting off to find the perfect job. But the search isn't easy. On the dance floor, he stumbles out of step. As a teacher, he's scared to speak. And as a firefighter, his knees shake at the sight of real flames.

Each role brings new challenges, and slowly, Mai-Mai learns an important truth: it's okay to admit when something isn't the right fit. Recognizing your own limits takes courage—and so does trying again. Mai-Mai never stops searching, and his quiet persistence becomes the beating heart of this warm, bright, and uplifting story about self-discovery, resilience, and finding joy in what you love most.



Author **Arwen Huang**

Arwen Huang holds degrees from Taipei National University of the Arts and a master's degree in Children's Book Illustration from the Cambridge School of Art in the UK. She currently resides in Tokyo and has a love for theater and small animals. In 2021, her work was selected for the Bologna Children's Book Fair Illustrator Exhibition. Her picture books have been published internationally, including titles such as *Have You Seen Mr. Robinson?* and *Daddy, Wake Up!*

Mouse Mai-Mai is Looking for a Job: Not Every Job Will Be the Right Fit, But Every Try Counts

by Fu Kuo

When children don't yet know what they like or where their talents lie, that's the perfect time to start exploring. The picture book *Mouse Mai-Mai is Looking for a Job* tells a gentle, thoughtful story about trying, feeling lost, and eventually discovering oneself. Its main character, Mai-Mai, is a little mouse from a sunny town filled with blooming sunflowers. He loves painting and is skilled at growing flowers—but he wants to find out what else he might be good at.

The story begins with a simple question: *"I wonder if there's something new I could do?"* With curiosity in his heart, Mai-Mai hops on a train and leaves his familiar town behind. He sets off on a journey to find the perfect job. But things don't go as smoothly as he hoped. When he tries to be a dancer, he can't keep up with the rhythm. In a classroom, he's too shy to speak. And as a firefighter, he

trembles in fear when faced with real flames. Again and again, he encounters obstacles, and slowly, he learns to speak honestly to himself: *"I think...maybe I'm not quite right for this job."*

Being able to admit what you're not good at is itself a sign of growth. It takes courage to accept failure, let go, and try again. Mai-Mai doesn't give up, even after facing disappointment after disappointment. His perseverance is the emotional heart of this book. Every attempt, every misstep, is part of the path toward finding out who he really is. Eventually, he will discover the place where he truly belongs. When he does, his gift blooms, like a flower long waiting to open.

The book introduces children to a variety of jobs they might encounter in everyday life—dancer, teacher, firefighter, delivery worker—and does so

with simple, clear storytelling and vivid, engaging illustrations. These depictions gently help young readers understand the characteristics and challenges of different professions. Most importantly, they encourage curiosity about the future. This journey isn't just about finding a career; it's about sparking a deeper conversation between children and their inner selves.

Visually, the illustrations are bright, warm, and full of joyful energy. The pages are filled with charming animal characters that children will love. A particular highlight is the large fold-out page. Cleverly designed to give a sense of expanded space and movement, it helps young readers feel as though Mai-Mai's world is unfolding step by step, just as his journey of discovery is.

Perhaps the most touching motif in the story is the sunflower—a symbol of hope and light. It represents not only

Mai-Mai's hometown, but also becomes a quiet emotional thread that ties the beginning and end of the story together. In the final pages, Mai-Mai returns to his passion for flowers and painting, realizing that the gifts and joy he's always had are what suit him best. And when he offers his sunflowers to others, it feels like a gentle invitation—to every reader, young or old—to begin their own dream-seeking journey, wherever it may lead.

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.



So Mai-Mai begins learning from the lion teacher.



But he's shy, and the children have trouble hearing him when he speaks.



"I think this job might not be the best fit for you," the lion teacher says.



Wee-oo, wee-oo!

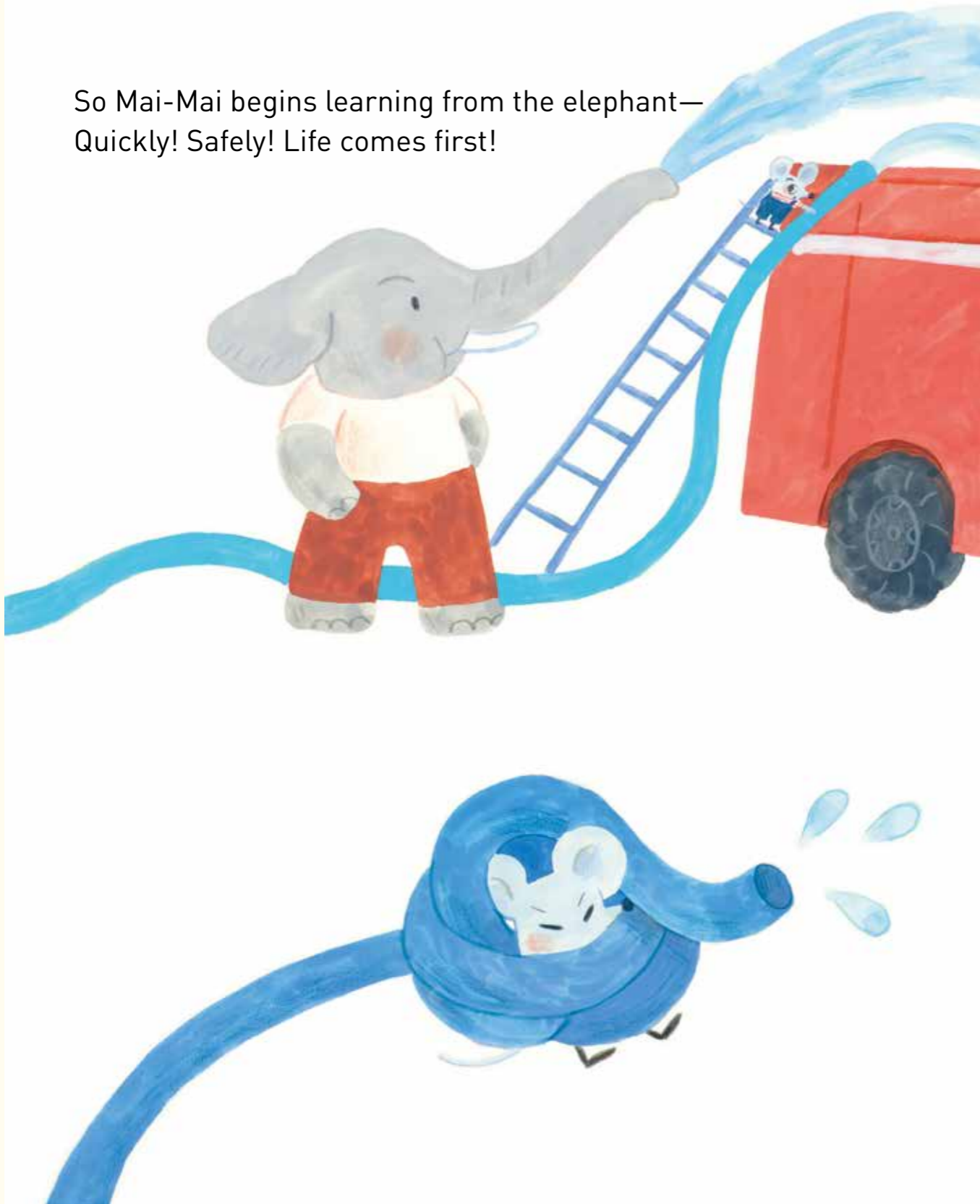
Wee-oo, wee-oo!

Wee-oo, wee-oo! Wee-oo, wee-oo!

“Excuse me! Coming through!”
With his long trunk, the elephant sprays
water and puts out the fire!

“I want a job like that too—a firefighter!”
Mai-Mai says.

So Mai-Mai begins learning from the elephant—
Quickly! Safely! Life comes first!



But when the flames blaze and roar,
he trembles with fear.

“I think this job might not be the
best fit for you,” the elephant says.

