



I Can

A Full English translation is available.

我會曉

Author: Higo Wu **Illustrator:** Heidi Huang **Publisher:** Linking Publishing

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BFT2.0 Translator: Michelle Kuo

I Can (Guá ē-hiáu) is a joyful Taiwanese-language picture book that invites adults and children to read, play, and laugh together. Through rhythmic, repetitive yet delightfully varied sentences, it celebrates three favorite childhood activities—drawing, singing, and dancing. Each lively scene bursts with animals children love or often encounter—whales breaching in the sea, butterflies flitting through the air, elegant egrets, mischievous monkeys, and more. Each scene is brought to life with playful adjectives and action-packed verbs. The musical text is irresistible to read aloud.

Beloved illustrator Heidi Huang, known for capturing the magic of childhood, fills the pages with her fresh, gentle style. A charming cast of recurring animals—cats, dogs, pigs, geese—and bright-eyed children make every page a delight to explore.

So open the book and join the fun. Will you draw? Sing? Dance? Or maybe...play clapping games with a cheeky little monkey?



Author **Higo Wu**

Higo Wu is an author of several picture books, including *Grandma's Orchard* and *Going to the Market with Grandpa* (both in Taiwanese), as well as *Mama Is a Cloud*, *The Glowing Tree*, *Through Their Eyes* and *The Song of Little Stone* which has already been translated into English and published overseas. He also wrote the essay collection *Waiting for the Rain to Stop*, *Walking in the Rain*, a thoughtful meditation on picture books and the art of storytelling. Wu delights in sharing stories with readers of all ages—laughing, crying, and exchanging the most heartfelt of gifts through the magic of words.



Illustrator **Heidi Huang**

Born in 1982 in Taipei, Heidi Huang is a freelance creator. She loves nature, animals, making things by hand, and living a free-spirited life—but above all, she loves to draw. Now living in the mountains of Changbin, Taitung, she has illustrated and published picture books including *The Vanished Star*, *Wobbly Rabbit*, *The Woodpecker Girl*, *The Cat Hotel*, *Child*, and *Meow Meow*.

Sparking Curiosity and Confidence in Every Child: An Interview with Higo Wu

by Shannon Ho

From critic to author, from Mandarin to Taiwanese writing, Higo Wu transforms rich observations of life into gentle, poetic picture books. In *I Can*, he explores the meaning of “mother tongue” through a childlike lens, with a narrative that begins in childhood and resonates with both young readers and adults.

Do you imagine children as you write? Does mastering new abilities naturally bring them joy?

Higo Wu: Children live in the moment. I love watching them fully absorbed in something, their faces lit with focus and joy. Heidi’s illustrations captured that beautifully. I hope *I Can* leaves a lingering feeling—one that naturally inspires children to keep exploring what they

enjoy, not because an adult tells them to, but because the book sparks that curiosity.

Did the theme “I Can...” come first, or did it emerge during the writing process?

Higo Wu: Often, a story begins with a mix of images and phrases. The voice in my head just started with “I can...”—so that became the title.

Adults often link the phrase “I can” with skill or mastery. But ask a child, “What can you do? What do you love to do?” and the answer comes instantly: “I can!” A raised arm or a quick twirl is already a dance. Their drawings might be hard for adults to interpret, but the child will say with

confidence: “I can draw.”

I chose drawing, singing, and dancing as the framework for this story—moving from stillness to motion, from silence to sound—to create a joyful sense of growth and expansion.

There are many animal characters in the book. Was there a reason for that?

Higo Wu: I intentionally chose familiar animals like cats, dogs, and pigs—creatures children see in everyday life. Even the squirrel, often found in city parks, became a key figure after Heidi asked whether it could use its tail like a paintbrush. That image stuck—its long tail felt perfect for painting.

I wanted these animals to be close to children’s lived experience, helping them connect the story to real life. For example, Taiwan is known for its butterflies, so I hope that this line pops into a child’s mind the next time they see a butterfly: *The butterflies dance without a sound. They float and spin and twirl around.* As for whales, though not common, they still feel connected to us as island dwellers. Plus, whales carry a certain sense of wonder.

What do you hope *I Can* offers to readers?

Higo Wu: I wanted the language to be simple enough that even adults who don’t speak Taiwanese fluently could guess its meaning. I remember reading *From Head to Toe* by Eric Carle to my niece. After enough repetition, she could move along with the book’s rhythm. I hope *I Can* works in a similar way.


We often gift children translated classics from abroad. I hope *I Can* becomes one of those timeless books people remember from childhood. If, 50 years from now, someone says, “I grew up reading *I Can*, and now I read it to my own children,” that would mean everything to me. My wish was to write something pure—something that stays in a child’s heart.

This interview has been edited for the purposes of this booklet.

Shannon Ho is currently the Editor-in-Chief of The Shannon in the Box, moderator of the Facebook group Picture Books & Lit Chats, and host of the podcast Neoma’s Solo Party (neomapodcast). She previously worked in picture book marketing and planning for over a decade at companies including Commonwealth Parenting, Pace Books, and Global Kids Publishing.

I can dance.



A child's drawing on a textured, light-colored background. On the left, a white egret with a long neck and a pointed beak stands on a blue patch of ground. On the right, a girl with brown hair in a ponytail with a pink bow, wearing a blue dress, is dancing on the same blue patch. The background is filled with vertical brushstrokes in yellow, pink, and light blue. Scattered throughout are small, simple drawings of flowers, stars, and other objects. The text "The egret joins in, dancing with me." is written in the center of the page.

The egret joins in,
dancing with me.

We all can dance.
We all wish to join you and dance.

