



The Premiere of Ta-Yi's New Video

A Full English translation is available.

大易的首映會

Author: Ching-Yen Liu **Illustrator:** Ballboss **Publisher:** CommonWealth Education

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Ta-Yi is slow at everything: waking up, eating, and even taking tests. In art class, while his classmates finish their drawings with ease, Ta-Yi's sketchbook stays blank.

But at home, he works in his own way and in his own time. Over weekends and one long summer, with a camera in hand, he sets out to make his very first film. With his family's patient support and his own courage to explore, he brings his idea to life. When it's finished, he invites his classmates—and readers—to a dreamy premiere.

This picture book celebrates moving at one's own pace, reminding children that every step—and every pause—has meaning. It reveals the richness of children's inner worlds and shows how adults can nurture them by honoring each person's unique rhythms.



Author **Ching-Yen Liu**

Ching-Yen Liu is a popular writer who has published dozens of children's books and myriad stories for young readers. Liu has also hosted children's reading programs on television, continually sowing the seeds of reading through myriad forms and media.



Illustrator **Ballboss**

Originally a theatre director, Ballboss became involved in illustration by a twist of fate while living in the United Kingdom. He founded the cross-disciplinary art brand "Ballboss & Stories." In 2019 and 2022, he was three times selected for the Bologna Children's Book Fair Illustrators Exhibition in Italy, and was also invited to participate in the Taiwanese Presidential Office's permanent exhibition "Power to the People." Ballboss continues to create works driven by storytelling, spanning illustration, theatre, contemporary creative culture, and cross-disciplinary curation.

Every Child Grows at Their Own Pace: The World Is Richer When We Honor a Child's Rhythms

by Fu Kuo

The story's protagonist, Ta-Yi, is a child who always moves more slowly than others. Whether getting out of bed, eating, or doing homework, his rhythm is always different—especially “slow.” During the math test, Ta-Yi is only halfway done, while all the other children have turned in their exams. During gym class, other kids chase the basketball while Ta-Yi spaces out, staring at the hoop. And finally, in art class, while his classmates' projects are already finished, Ta-Yi's sketchbook remains blank.

Yet this little boy is not idle. Ta-Yi has learned a technique from his art teacher that makes drawings appear to move. At night, he begins “stroke after stroke, page after page,” as the writer

puts it. One of the loveliest moments occurs when he keeps drawing “until the only sound left in the house was his dad's deep snoring.” The scene captures the complete absorption of creation, a quiet joy utterly distinct from any competitive school setting.

In the morning, Ta-Yi shows his drawings to his family. His mother smiles and says, “It feels like we're watching a tiny movie!” His father adds, “This is how a movie is made.” Significantly, this is the first time we meet the parents in the story. We don't see the scenes one might expect—teasing him about his slow eating or wondering how he might fit in better with his classmates at gym. Instead, they focus on what he has accomplished,

describing his artwork with enthusiasm. The way they speak to Ta-Yi helps parents understand how to talk to our children. Eventually, he will spend his summer sketching ideas, borrowing books from the library, experimenting with playdough and his camera, and completing an animated video.

What makes this book so touching is the way it delicately portrays a child's unique traits. Ta-Yi's slowness is not a flaw; actually, it may very well be his superpower, granting him keen powers of observation and a rich imagination. He can transform his patience and focus into a creative piece of work that is uniquely his own.

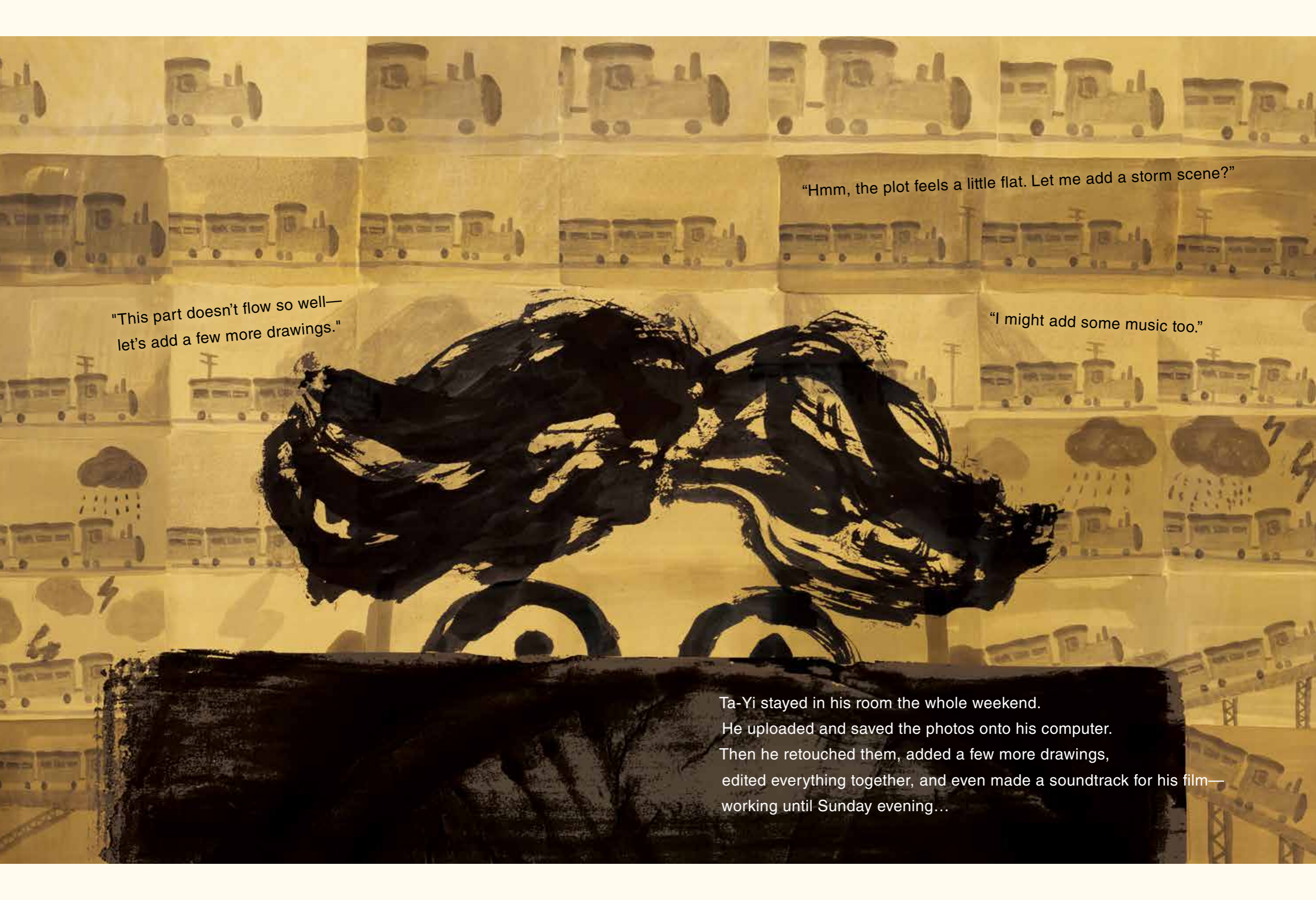
Ballboss's poetic, subtle ink illustrations echo this spirit. The intentionally open spaces and muted colors capture the subtle emotions of Ta-Yi's inner world while giving readers room to reflect and imagine. Every illustration seems to say that every movement a child makes—and every moment of hesitation as well—carries its own singular value. Through these images, readers do more than follow a story; they experience the child's unique sense of movement, learning to observe and appreciate it with greater care.

This book is ideal for shared reading between parents and children, but it also

invites adults to savor it on their own. It encourages us to reconsider how we accompany children and to celebrate the quiet, steady growth of a child. Creativity and achievement are not always about rushing to the finish line—rather, we can move forward in a way that is authentically our own. The world is richer when we honor each child's tempo. When adults meet children with patience and encouragement, children are free to move at their own pace, developing confidence and a deep sense of accomplishment. This book invites us into the richness of a child's inner world and shows how adults can nurture it by teaching that true success lies in honoring one's own rhythms.

The Premiere of Ta-Yi's New Video blends storytelling with educational significance, intertwining art and life. Through Ta-Yi's story, it reminds parents that speed or immediate results are not the measure of a child's worth. Every child has a light that is worth waiting for, worth trusting, and worth appreciating.

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.



"This part doesn't flow so well—
let's add a few more drawings."

"Hmm, the plot feels a little flat. Let me add a storm scene?"

"I might add some music too."

Ta-Yi stayed in his room the whole weekend. He uploaded and saved the photos onto his computer. Then he retouched them, added a few more drawings, edited everything together, and even made a soundtrack for his film—working until Sunday evening...

The clip on the computer screen lasted only a dozen seconds.
Everything happened in a flash.
But the whole family sat staring, wide-eyed.

Papa pushed up his glasses and nodded.
“Not bad, not bad at all. You can make a
film now!”



“It’s so interesting!” Mama laughed.
“You’re a little film director, aren’t you?”

Can you make one with my little model train?