

BOOKS FROM TAIWAN
CHILDREN'S BOOKS



BOOKS FROM TAIWAN CHILDREN'S BOOKS

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MINISTRY OF CULTURE, REPUBLIC OF CHINA (TAIWAN) TRANSLATION GRANT PROGRAM

Books from Taiwan supports the translation of Taiwanese literature into foreign languages with the Translation Grant Program, administered by The Ministry of Culture of Taiwan. The grant is to encourage the publication of translations of Taiwan's literature, including fiction, non-fiction, picture books and comics, and help Taiwan's publishing industry to explore non-Chinese international markets.

- Applicant Eligibility: Foreign publishers (legal persons) legally registered in accordance with the laws and regulations of their respective countries, or foreign natural persons engaged in translation.
- Conditions:
 1. Works translated shall be original works (including fiction, non-fiction, picture books and comics) by Taiwanese writers (R.O.C. nationality) in traditional Chinese characters.
 2. Priority is given to works to be translated and published for the first time in a non-Chinese language market.
 3. Applicants are not limited to submitting only one project for funding in each application year; however, the same applicant can only receive funding for up to three projects in any given round of applications.
 4. Projects receiving funding shall have already obtained authorization for translation, and be published within two years starting from the year after application year (published before the end of October).
- Funding Items and Amount
 1. The subsidy includes a licensing fee for the rights holder of original work, and a translation fee and a production fee.
 2. The maximum funding available for any given project is NT\$ 500,000 (including income tax and remittance charges).
- Application Period: From September 1 to September 30 every year.
- Announcement of successful applications: Before December 15 every year.
- Application Method: Please apply via the online application system (http://booksfromtaiwan.tw/grant_index.php) after reading through the Translation Grant Application Guidelines (available online).

For full details of the Translation Grant Program, please visit

http://booksfromtaiwan.tw/grant_index.php

Or contact: books@moc.gov.tw

BOOKS FROM TAIWAN
CHILDREN'S BOOKS

GRANNY LIN'S PEACH TREE

林桃奶奶的桃子樹



LIU CHEN-KUO 劉鎮國 (湯姆牛)

- Category: Picture book
 - Publisher: Global Kids
 - Date: 8/2016
 - Rights contact:
Grace Chang
(Books from Taiwan)
booksfromtaiwan.rights
@gmail.com
 - Pages: 40
 - Size: 20.5 x 28.1 cm
-

Originally trained as a sculptor, Liu Chen-Kuo's books garnered several awards, such as the Golden Tripod Award for Best Illustration, and the Judge's Choice for the Feng Zikai Chinese Children's Picture Book Award. Liu Chen-Kuo has also been a featured illustrator at the Bologna Children's Book Fair. Look for his other titles, like *The Scariest Day of My Life*, and *Kung Fu*.



* 2017 Feng Zikai Chinese Children's Picture Book Award

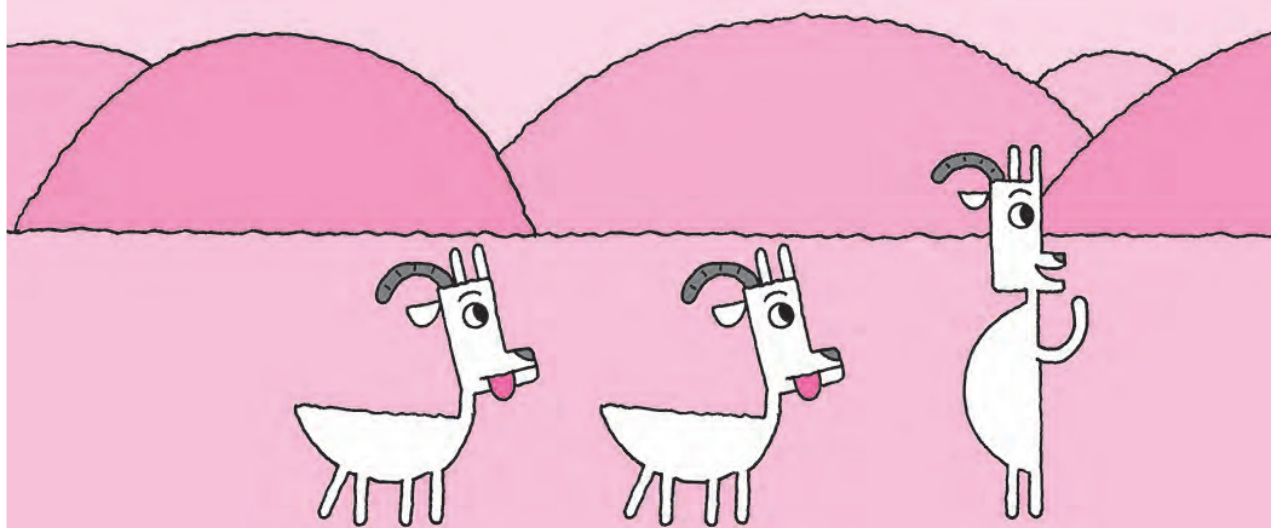
Kind-hearted Granny Lin has a beautiful peach tree growing in her front yard. After the blossoms fall and the fruit ripens, everyone wants a peach! She gives one to the squirrel, who tells the goats about it. The goats get three peaches, and they tell the tigers, who tell the elephants, and pheasants, and everyone else. All the animals in the land come running, and no one goes home hungry.

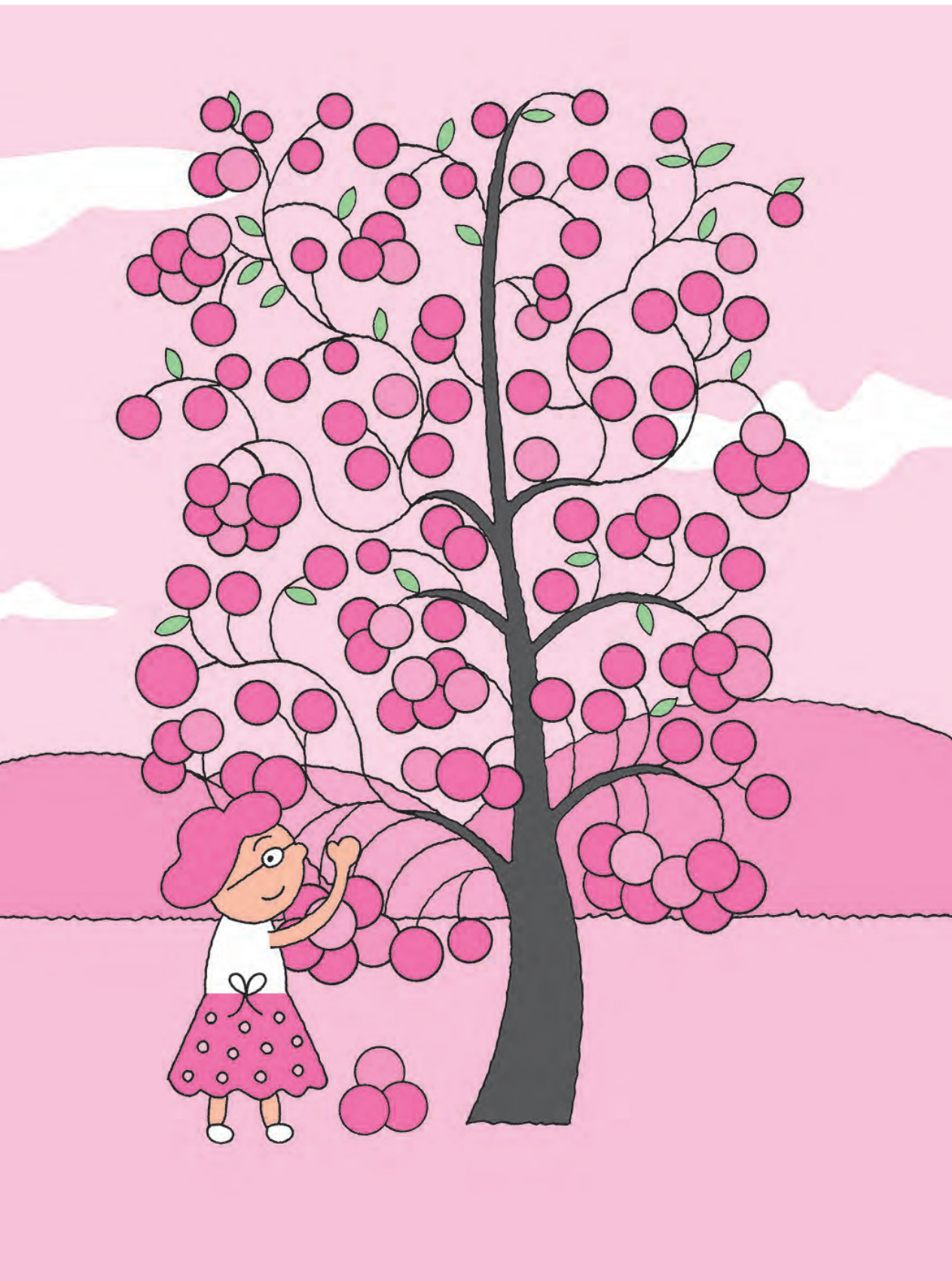
This simple story, strikingly illuminated in bright, pastel tones by the Japanese illustrator Gomi Taro and American illustrator Leo Lionni, combines entertainment and education in a tale of sharing and reward. The animals that eat the peaches carry the seeds to new homes, “paying it forward” until all the earth is in bloom.

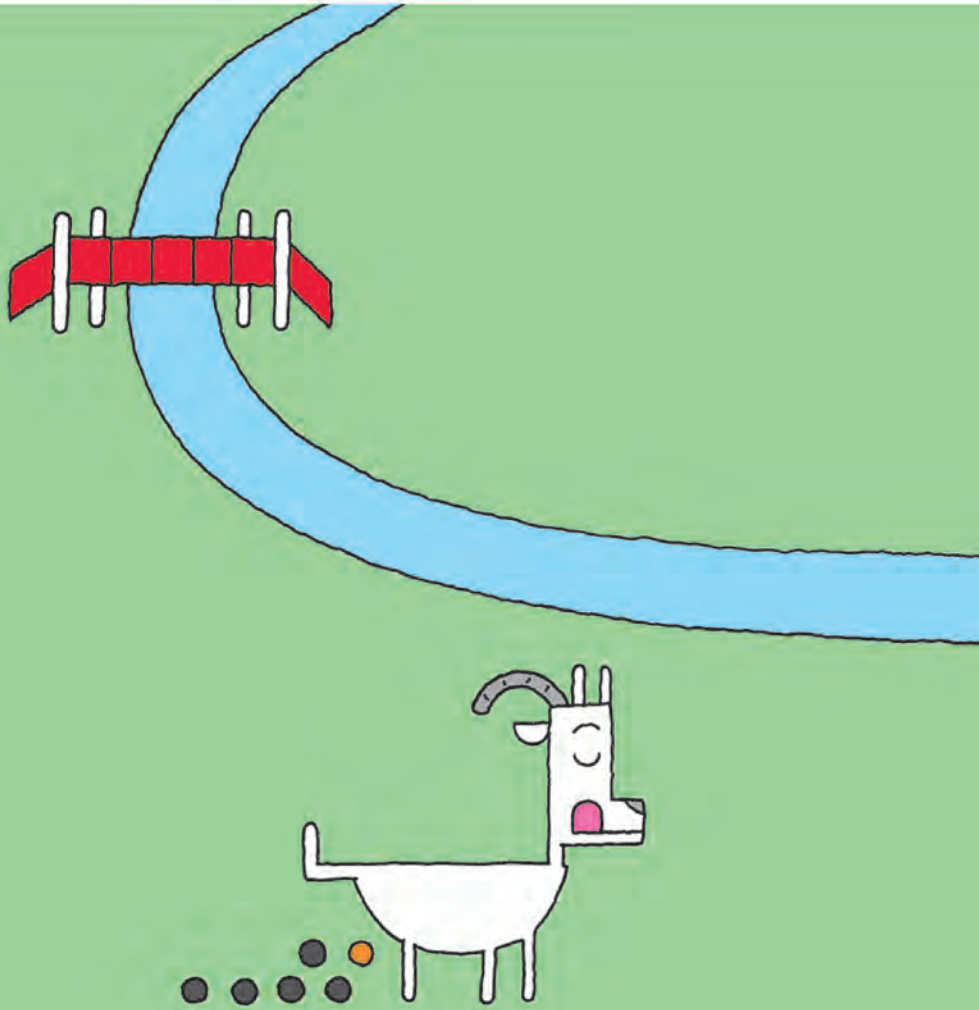
"Granny Lin," said the goats.

"Can we have some peaches?"

Granny Lin gave them each a big, juicy peach.

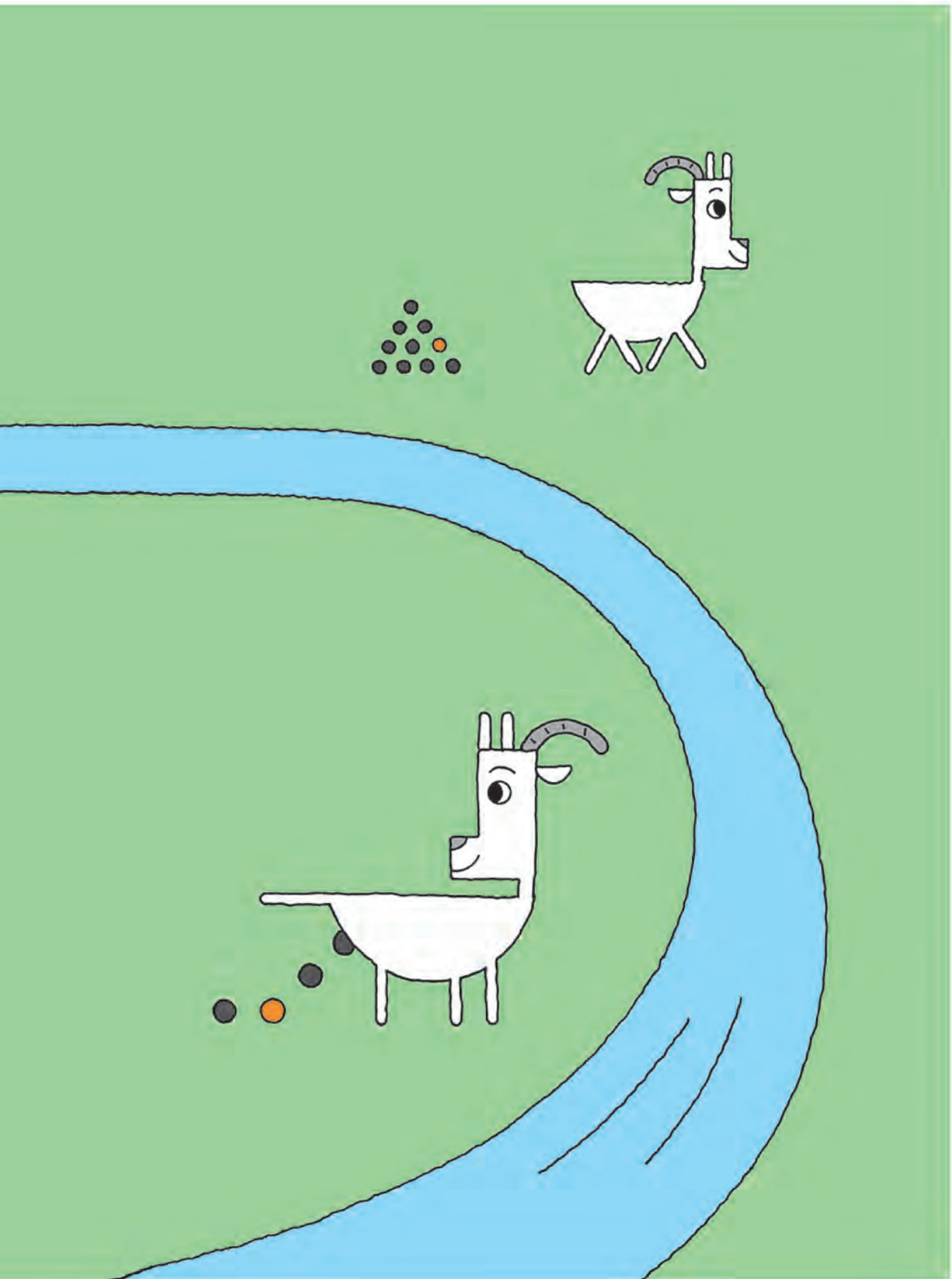






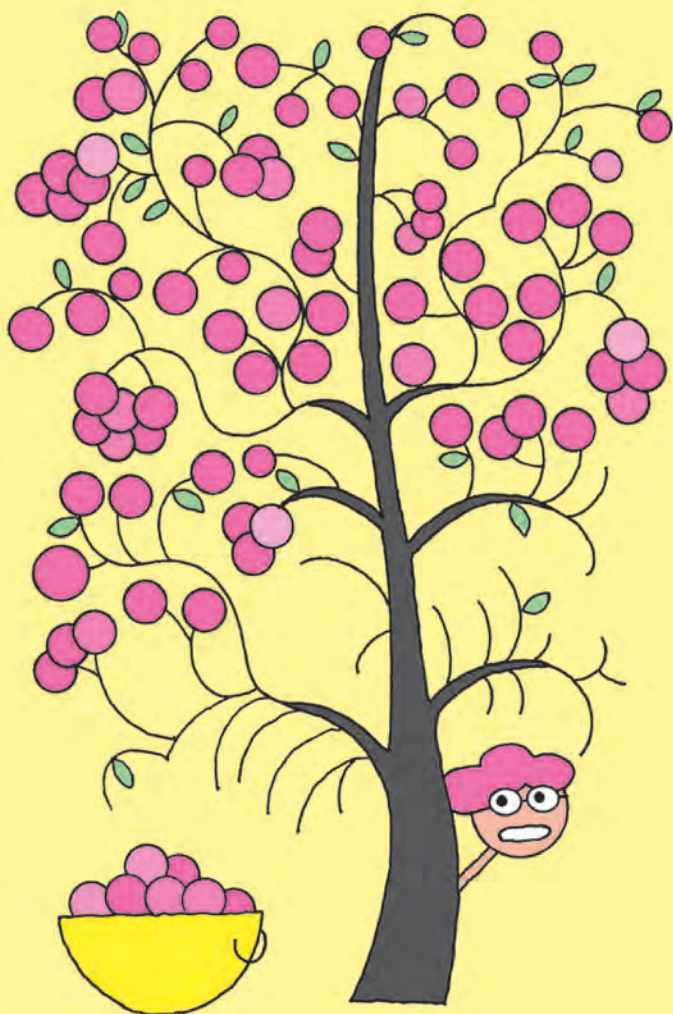
The goats chewed on their peaches slowly,
before going to stream to do a poo.

Then they carried on their way.
Before long, they met some tigers.



"Granny Lin, we want peaches too!"





PAPA MOUNTAIN

爸爸山



TSAO YI-HSIN
曹益欣

- Category: Picture Book
 - Publisher: Linking
 - Date: 7/2016
 - Rights contact:
Grace Chang
(Books from Taiwan)
booksfromtaiwan.rights
@gmail.com
 - Pages: 40
 - Length: 20 x 20 cm
-

Artist and illustrator Tsao Yi-Hsin is the author of several illustrated titles for children, including *Bride in the Forest*, *Who Will Chase Bubbles with Me?*, and *The Little Monster*.



Today it's time for an adventure: we're going to climb up Papa Mountain! Papa Mountain is the best mountain in the world. You can clamber up its shoulders, slide down its knees, make your way to its tufted peak, and look out over the scenery. And it will always catch you in its loving arms and carry you back to earth again.

In one of Taiwan's few children's titles to feature father and daughter, Tsao Yi-Hsin describes one of her best-loved memories from childhood. "I was a willful, monkey-like kid, always stuck to my father, climbing on him whenever he sat down on the couch." Doubtless, it is a story for loving fathers and daughters both.

Today, I'm an explorer.









I want to fly a plane far, far away.

The plane lands at the foot of a mountain.





LITTLE WHITE GOOSE WANTS A TAN

小白鵝想曬黑



TAI PERA

- Category: Picture Book
 - Publisher: Self-publishing
 - Date: 7/2016
 - Rights contact:
Grace Chang
(Books from Taiwan)
booksfromtaiwan.rights
@gmail.com
 - Pages: 26
 - Size: 21 x 14 x 1.7 cm
-

Tai Pera is an illustrator who has been bringing Taiwan and Italy together for many years. A frequent invitee of the Bologna Children's Book Fair and other landmark events, she has contributed work to children's titles, magazines, and newspapers in both countries. *Little White Goose Wants a Tan* was her first independently published children's book. A long-time resident of Italy, she now lives in Taiwan.



The little white goose is just so sick of being white! He envies Hippo, Horse, Boar, and all other animals who are such beautiful shades of tan, brown, and black. So he does whatever he can – goes to the beach, lies in a tanning booth, even rolls in the mud! But nothing works – he’s still so white. One day, though, he spies Mama Chicken in the oven, and boy, is she brown! An idea creeps into his mind....

Tai Pera brings a wry humor to this story of change and identity, which will set readers laughing even as they admire its beautiful lines and color patterns.

I don't want to be so pale...



I went to the seaside for a week,
but still no tan...



I used a sun bed,
but I'm still just as white...



THE HERO'S CUP

杯杯英雄



Author & Illustrator
TSAI
CHAO-LUN
蔡兆倫

- Category: Picture Book
 - Publisher: Taosheng
 - Date: 9/2016
 - Rights contact:
Grace Chang
(Books from Taiwan)
booksfromtaiwan.rights
@gmail.com
 - Pages: 40
 - Size: 25 x 27 cm
 - Rights sold: Simplified
Chinese (FLTRP)
-

Award-winning author Tsai Chao-Lun worked as an Illustrator for *Mandarin Daily News* before beginning his own literary career. Published works include *I Can't See* (Special Mention, 2016 Bologna Ragazzi Award for Disability), *I'm Not Going to Bed*, and *I See the Weather in the Smallest Things*. He has won several literary prizes, including the Golden Tripod, as well as special recognition from the Ministry of Culture of Taiwan, the National Museum of Taiwan Literature and the Taipei Book Fair.

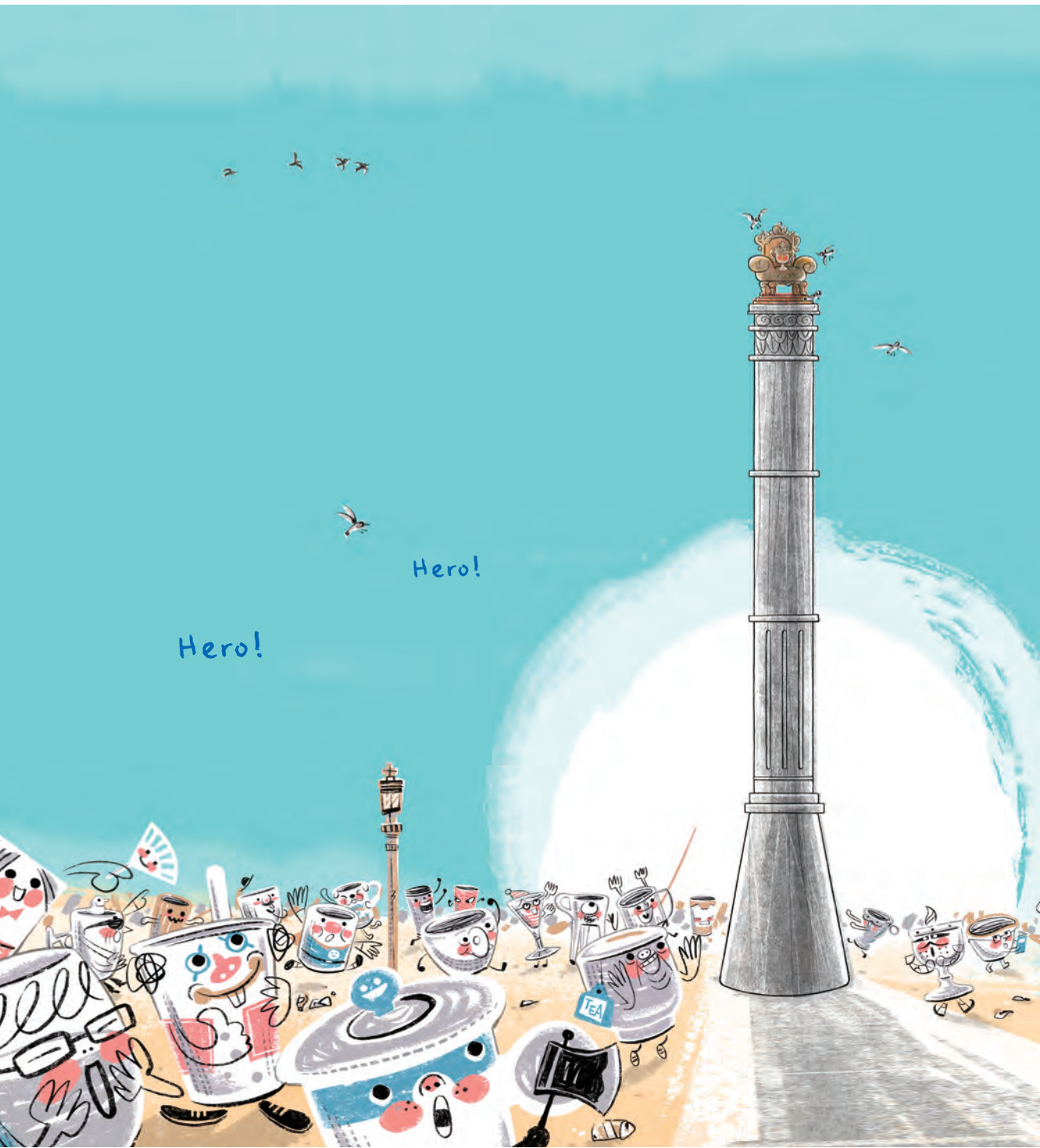


* 2017 Feng Zikai Chinese Children's Picture Book Award

The Kingdom of Cups has a legend: whoever can climb the great pillar in the center of the square will become the hero of the entire kingdom. To do so, of course, would take incredible strength, wisdom, and force of leadership. Yet everyone tries their luck, and the square is filled every day with cups and mugs jumping, climbing, running, and otherwise cavorting in this crowded common place.

Of course, such great crowds of mugs leave the square strewn with trash at the end of every day, and it's Bob the Janitor's job to sweep it all up. He sweeps, and sweeps, and sweeps some more, until finally he finds himself in a very high place....

This light-hearted story is both a celebration of the creative spirit and a lesson on the value of hard work and humility.



Hero!

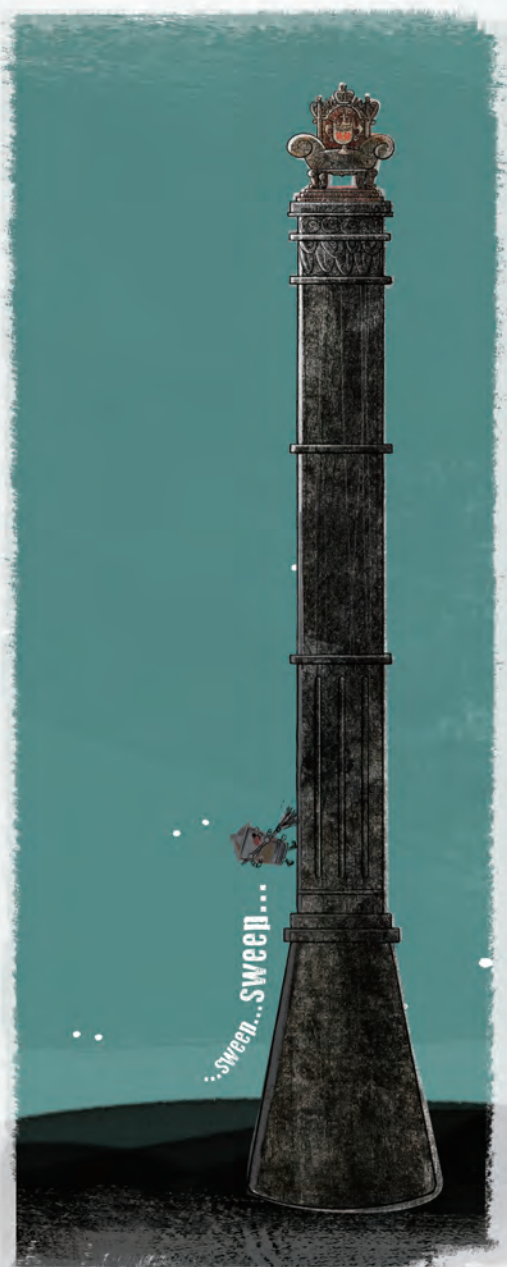
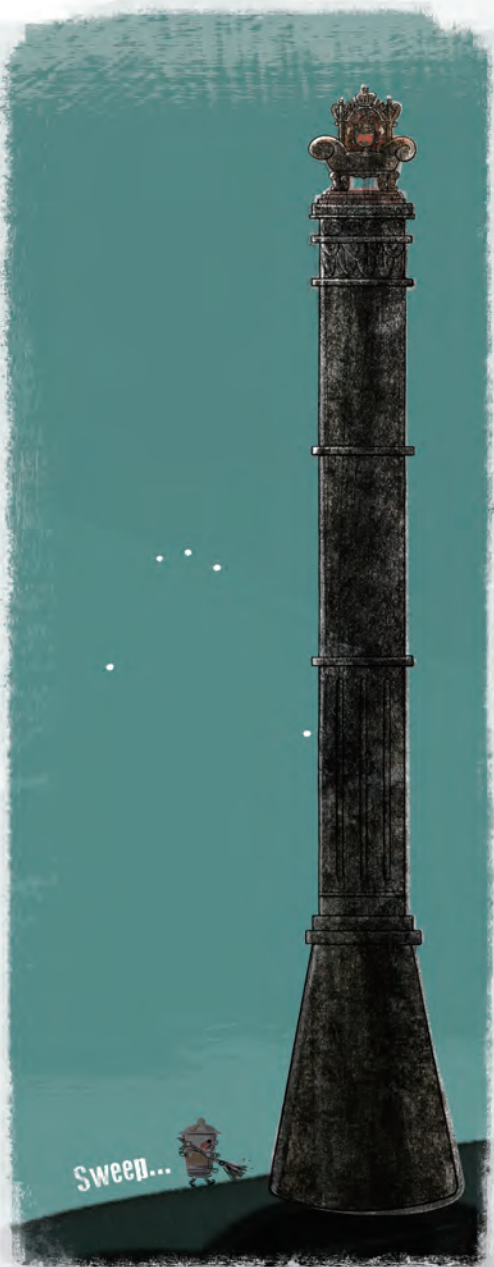


Every day, countless Cups crowd into the square.
Every day, they leave a huge pile of garbage.
Every day, Bob must keep sweeping,
and sweeping...





and sweeping...



SPECIALLY FOR YOU

爲了特別的你



HSU YU-JUNG

許育榮

- Category: Picture Book
 - Publisher: Artco Kids
 - Date: 2/2017
 - Rights contact:
Grace Chang
(Books from Taiwan)
booksfromtaiwan.rights
@gmail.com
 - Pages: 40
 - Size: 21.6 x 28 cm
-

Years of close contact with the great outdoors fundamentally informs Hsu's work as an illustrator. A civil engineer by trade, he has spent years interacting with the natural world, a journey that continues to inspire him to create worlds of images that blend the rational with the spiritual. Eventually, with financial support from the Cloud Gate Wanderer Project, he was able to spend a year-long art residency in Shanghai. His best-known illustrated titles include *Boundaries* and *I'm Lucky to be a Grey Wolf*.



Today is a very special day: Peter's birthday! Mom and Dad are going to great lengths to make sure it's as enjoyable as possible, even inviting all of Peter's animal friends to the party. But things get difficult as the guests get bigger. The rhinoceros can't get his rear end in the door, the giraffe can't stand up without hitting the ceiling, and there's no room at all for the elephant! But parties are about providing a good time for all, even if it means literally raising the roof!

Children will love riding along with whales, bears, and floating tortoises on this ridiculous adventure that's all about sharing joy and giving of oneself to others. Hsu Yu-Jung's thick, sharp lines invoke traditional Chinese woodcut aesthetics within their modern touch, lending a deep artistic sentiment to the lively images.

Peter's family has been very busy preparing for today.

Suddenly, the doorbell rings....

叮 DING

咚 DONG

叮 DING

咚 DONG

...

**"Finally, we're done,"
says Peter's father.**



"Who is it?" asks Peter.

Peter and his father open the door together.

“Please come in, you’re the first to arrive!”

Before long, the second and third guests appear.





Just then,
the doorbell rings, followed by a
"Ouch!" It's Rhino.

"What should we do?" says Peter.





THE CLOUDED LEOPARD'S ROOFTOPS

雲豹的屋頂



WANG
CHUEN-TZ
王春子

- Category: Picture book
 - Publisher: Yuan-Liou
 - Date: 8/2016
 - Rights contact:
Grace Chang
(Books from Taiwan)
booksfromtaiwan.rights
@gmail.com
 - Pages: 58
 - Size: 21 x 28.8 cm
-

Wang Chuen-Tz is a young freelance designer who began crafting children's books after her own son was born. She has published several collections of illustrations, including *Be Strong* and *What's Your Morning Like?*, as well as children's books like *Where's Mommy?*. Additionally, she has created covers for several well-known titles in other genres, such as *Wabi-Sabi: Foundational Japanese Aesthetics for Designers*.



See the city from high in the air, portrayed in lovingly imperfect color through the eyes of one very curious and very lost giraffe. Having heard his good friend Clouded Leopard had been driven out of the forest, Giraffe writes him a letter, asking where he's gone. "I live on rooftops in the city," Leopard replies. The city? What kind of place is that? Hoping to see his old friend again, Giraffe sets out for this strange place – where pigeons live in houses and bees duck around buildings and water towers.

Wang Chuen-Tz's explosive, unpredictable style achieves the studied imitation of a child's ever-expanding imagination. Her story of change and adaptation unfolds in a visual mosaic of the many-layered city, in which great heights and straight spaces splay out like flowers. *The Clouded Leopard's Rooftops* is truly an exciting new offering from one of Taiwan's most exciting young children's illustrators.

Giraffe has received a letter from his friend Clouded Leopard, who lives on a tropical island.

Dear Giraffe, the letter says, I'm doing very well. I've moved to a rooftop in the city.



“The city? What’s that? Clouded Leopard is so big and heavy, how can he live on a rooftop?”
Curiosity had got the better of Giraffe. This was something he had to see for himself.
He decided to go find Clouded Leopard.



Finally, he arrived in the city.

“Oh my!” Giraffe gasped.

“There are so many buildings and they all look alike. How am I going to find Clouded Leopard?”



CINDERELLA'S TIARA

拉拉的皇冠



WAHA HUANG

- Category: Picture Book
 - Publisher: Yes Creative
 - Date: 1/2017
 - Rights contact:
Grace Chang
(Books from Taiwan)
booksfromtaiwan.rights
@gmail.com
 - Pages: 46
 - Size: 19 x 26 cm
-

Cinderella's Tiara began as WaHa Huang's thesis project, which earned her a Master of Arts in Children's Book Illustration from England's Cambridge School of Art. She designs covers, and has contributed illustrations to newspapers, magazines, and curated events in three cities.



Cinderella the Gorilla has just received an invitation to participate in a beauty contest. That's absolutely perfect – she knows she's the most beautiful gorilla in the world. And the winner gets such a beautiful tiara! She knows she has to try her best for this one, so she takes yoga classes, practices her runway strut, and even hires a masseuse. But competition at the contest is fierce; what will happen in the end?

With her colorful, extravagant style, author and illustrator WaHa Huang hits the perfect pitch of silliness in this story about happiness and inner beauty. Young readers will come for the pictures and stay for the message – and also for the gorilla in a leotard.

Her name is Cinderella.

In her eyes, she's the most beautiful gorilla in the whole world.



At Monday's yoga class,
she copies her teacher's stretches.





At Tuesday's practice,
she focuses on singing and her salsa moves.





Wednesday is spent in the sun,
to get a healthy glow.
Cinderella imagines herself wearing the tiara.

ASLEEP ALL DAY LONG

一直一直躺著睡



CHEN PEI-HSIU 陳沛瑋

- Category: Picture Book
 - Publisher: Yes Creative
 - Date: 1/2017
 - Rights contact:
Grace Chang
(Books from Taiwan)
booksfromtaiwan.rights
@gmail.com
 - Pages: 40
 - Size: 19 x 26 cm
-

Short-listed for the 2015 Angoulême Prize for Young Talent, Chen Pei-Hsiu spent last year as a resident illustrator in the world's most famous residency for illustrators and cartoonists in Angoulême, France. Originally an archaeological illustrator at the Academia Sinica, Chen eventually went freelance, and has published work in magazines, newspapers, and in book form. Her most recent titles include *The Dentist* and *Moving the Village*.



Every morning, millions of alarm clocks ring out across the city. “Wake up! Wake up!” they cry, exhorting their masters to get out of bed and start the day. Yet there are some people who ignore the bell, and their hungry, bored cats and dogs, and just keep on sleeping – through breakfast, past lunch, and even far on into the evening. Only just as their friends and relatives get home from work do they finally rise for a meal.

Then, when the world is quiet, and even the cats have gone to sleep, they mix their paints or open their computers, and begin to work.

Rough lines and multitudinous colors capture the bustle and squeeze of city life to a tee, as Chen Pei-Hsiu tells the story of those who stay quiet while the urban landscape roars, and do their work when it is silent.







Brrrrriinnnnggg!



“Get up! You’re going to be late for work.”

“Just a bit longer, sleep is so nice.”

"Huh, you decide. I'm going!"





A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A LIGHTHOUSE

燈塔的一天



LIN
CHUAN-ZONG
林傳宗

- Category: Picture Book
 - Publisher: Pace
 - Date: 12/2016
 - Rights contact:
Grace Chang
(Books from Taiwan)
booksfromtaiwan.rights
@gmail.com
 - Pages: 44
 - Size: 21 x 28 cm
-

Lin Chuan-Zong was born in 1963, the son of a ship captain in the famous coastal city of Keelung. As a young boy, he commuted for an hour into the city every day to learn fine art, and eventually became the art editor for a children's magazine in Taipei. Even now, however, his love for the sea abides, and he expresses it in full force in his illustrations.



What is life like for a solitary lighthouse? In the early morning, its light fades as the sun rises, and as morning grows into noon, it stands silently as artists work and the old men fish on its promenade. The lighthouse stands under the mid-day sun as people run from it, and looks on while families walk and children play at its borders. Massive cargo ships dwarf it in size, but as evening comes on, they rely on its bright, single eye.

This visual tale without words provides colorful, sweeping ocean scenes of both stillness and action, size and space, and readers can find their own stories within.













THE THIEF

小偷



Author
WANG
SHU-FEN
王淑芬

Illustrator
HSU
CHIH-HUNG
徐至宏

The wildly creative and capable Wang Shu-Fen has taught art, hosted for television, and even acted as principal of a national elementary school. A gifted storyteller, she has written poems, essays, and stories for children, including *Chun-Wei Goes to Elementary School*, *An Idiot Like Me*, and over fifty other titles.



Illustrator Hsu Chih-Hung is a freelance illustrator who has contributed work to magazines and books. He is especially adept at crafty portrayals of old urban and suburban Taiwanese living spaces. His works include *Before Sunset*, *The Diary Blues*, and others.

-
- Category: Middle-Grade Fiction
 - Publisher: Yes Creative
 - Date: 3/2014
 - Rights contact: Grace Chang (Books from Taiwan) booksfromtaiwan.rights@gmail.com
 - Pages: 208
 - Length: 40,000 characters (approx. 26,000 words in English)
 - Rights sold: Korean (Danielstone)
-



One week, Ms. Wang’s fifth-grade classroom erupts in protest. “Teacher, I can’t find my gold pen!” “Where did my lunch money go?” “I just put money on my bus pass, and it disappeared!” A string of precious objects go missing, beginning with young Jade’s favorite gold pen, which is found soon after in her classmate Jannis’s desk. The head student is convinced Jannis stole the pen, and in the flurry of events that follow, groups form and tempers begin to rise.

Each individual chapter focuses on one student, so everyone has a chance to tell his or her story. But who is telling the truth? Who deserves to be right? Wang Shu-Fen weaves a web of hearsay reminiscent of Kurosawa’s *Rashomon*, in which everyone has a story that is complete, yet completely personal.

Former elementary school teacher Wang recreates for us the world of growing minds and hearts, whose society is no less complicated, nor any less fascinating than that of adults.

THE THIEF

Text by Wang Shu-Fen, illustrated by Hsu Chih-Hung
Translated by Anna Holmwood

2. JADE

Jade had been on the move ever since she could remember. And as anyone who's ever packed up their lives and moved can testify, something goes missing every time you do. After so many moves, many things had been lost and by now, little remained. Gone, bit by bit, until Jade was left with nothing. Not even a friend to call her own.

There was no time to get to know the other kids, or if she knew them to become close. No, Jade couldn't remember ever having had a friend.

But this time, Jade had a plan. And it was going to start with a pen.

As Jade's family started to pack up again for the umpteenth time to move to their umpteenth new apartment, Jade went to a drawer and took out a pen. Her aunt had picked it up for free from the shopping mall and had given it to her the last time they had been to visit. Her cousin couldn't care less for a cheap little thing like that, but Jade took it gladly. She tore open a new notebook, wrapped it along with the pen and placed it carefully in her bag. She was going to give them to the richest girl in her class the next day at school.

The plan went better than Jade could have hoped. The next day, the usually

somewhat snotty little princess smiled warmly and presented Jade with a shiny silver purse in return. "You're moving? What a shame we didn't get to spend more time together. And you'll miss my birthday party next weekend. What a pity."

A pity? Jade didn't think so. She was delighted. This present was perfect. She was going to invest it. This was only the start of her new game, which she was going to call the Grand Gift Swap.

The purse went to the class president of her new school, for which she received a box of colored pens. This Jade then gave to the most popular girl in the class, who to Jade's surprise, organized for a group of girls to club together and buy Jade a really big present. Jade opened the beautifully decorated box to reveal a stationery set which included the cutest pair of scissors, a stapler and a set of colored pens, including one in gold.

Jade was most satisfied. The gold pen came with her every day to school. She had only been at her new school for a month, but buoyed by her success, she began weaving elaborate stories, without thinking of the potential consequences. "I went to Disneyland Tokyo over the summer holidays. They had all kinds of colored pens there, gold, silver, cream, I bought one of

each! They're perfect for writing cards."

Her new classmates were friendly. There was only one girl called Snow who wasn't so nice. Snow was always interrogating her. Was she writing a detective story, or did she just want to prove she was smart in front of the others? Deep in her heart, Jade thought she might actually hate Snow.

Jade had just finished her description of her trip to Disneyland when Snow cut in: "What bus did you take? My aunt says they have special colored buses."

"Wake up!" Jade replied, "It was baking hot. We took a taxi straight to the entrance." She then paused, before adding, "Why would I have got all sweaty walking to the stop just to take a silly colored bus? Wake up."

Wake up. This was Jade's new favorite phrase. But maybe she was really saying it to herself. Should she be the one to wake up? And yet, was it really that bad to dream of a better life for herself? Everyone had the right to do that, to imagine for themselves the dignity and respect they deserved.

The Grand Gift Swap. The whole point of this game she had invented was to prove to herself that at all times she had at least one friend who would swap presents with her. Even if it was all fake. The power of the imagination was important, especially for a girl like Jade. She was always among strangers, so she had to imagine herself surrounded by camaraderie and glamor. These parting gifts were her way of pretending she had real friends.

Why did it have to be like this? Jade had given the question some thought. Why couldn't she be like other transfer students? Was it because she'd had to move too many times before?

Jade knew the answer.

Back in third grade, she took a liking to the class monitor. She always wore her hair in pigtails. Whenever Jade drew close, she could always catch a whiff of soap. She was clean and neat, and drew the cutest cartoons.

Like so many in her class, Jade gathered around the class monitor's desk after class, when she would field requests. The class monitor only had time to draw one picture a day, so they had to wait their turn. Over the course of some weeks, Jade built up a small collection of tiny pieces of paper, ripped from her notebook and decorated in the clean, precise lines of the class monitor's pen. When Jade brought the paper to her nose, she could still detect that same faint smell of soap.

But Jade didn't often have any blank paper to give her, so she saved up all her spare coins over the course of a week and bought a thin pink notebook with only ten sheets in it. When her turn came again, she offered the class monitor a sheet of pink paper. But the class monitor was very particular when it came to her drawing. It had to be just right. If she made a mistake, she would scrunch up the entire sheet of paper and throw it on the floor. Before long, Jade had torn out every last piece of paper from her notebook. The class monitor was drawing on the last one.

"I won't give away a drawing I'm not satisfied with," she said sweetly. "In case you take it home and put it in the bin."

"We wouldn't dare!" her classmates cried.

The girl raised her eyebrows proudly, lowered her head and got back to her drawing. "Amazing!" "So cute!" The praise was constant. Once finished, she presented

the drawing to Jade. Honored, Jade took it and walked back to her seat, along with the cover of her empty notebook. She was so happy she could explode.

But she didn't have any more money for paper. The next day, she asked Mei, who sat beside her, if she could have a piece from her powder blue notebook. "No, it's new," Mei replied, "and today's my turn for a picture."

But Jade desperately wanted another picture. Her parents never bought her books, so every day, once her homework was done, she laid out the pictures on her desk and made up her own stories. "How can such a sweet girl be so good at drawing?" she sighed. "And so generous that she just gives them away?"

Her turn was approaching again, and this time, she wanted a picture of a goddess. But still, she didn't have any paper.

When the day came, Jade sheepishly handed the class monitor an old calendar. "There weren't any nice notebooks in my local store," she apologized. "Could you draw on this instead?"

The girl looked up and her brow wrinkled. "I've never drawn on a calendar before. We always recycle ours." Jade waited. The girl's brow was still scrunched up, as if she had to think of what to draw, something to match the cheap paper. At that moment someone grabbed the class monitor's sleeve and pulled her up. "Come on, let's go outside." At that, the girls giggled and crowded out of the classroom.

Jade felt so ashamed. She had insulted the class monitor. It was as if she'd pulled a dirty piece of paper from the garbage and presented it to a goddess to draw on.

From that day on, Jade never asked

the girl to draw for her again. She didn't deserve it.

A few months later, Jade moved to yet another new school. This time, she decided not to tell her classmates what her parents really did, and whether consciously or not, led them to believe instead that her family was rich, always going abroad for holidays, that her drawers were stuffed with souvenirs from faraway lands. But she knew that the more she lied, the more she risked discovery, so she was on constant alert to say as little as possible and not to let people too close.

In her current class, the girl Jade worshipped was called Faye. Every time she got close, Jade could detect the aroma of flowers in Faye's hair. She smelled so good it made Jade dizzy. Jade was desperate to get Faye to notice her and like her. After school, Jade would pretend that she just happened to be passing by as Faye and Snow were chatting. She would add a few words, say anything to join in. And soon, that warm feeling returned.

Faye came from a good family. Her pencil case was beautiful and made out of something called leather, although Jade didn't know what that was. Faye used a pen decorated with the loveliest little pictures.

"Where did you get that?" Jade asked.

"I don't know, I forgot," Faye answered casually. "The Louvre in Paris I think."

Luckily, Jade too had a beautiful pen, a gold one. She could be Faye's equal. She was determined to become best of friends with Faye before she had to move again. She would go to Faye's house to play and Faye would show off all her nice things. But there was no way she was going let that meanie Snow come along.

Jade hoped and prayed that Snow would be the one to have to transfer to another school. Or that she might do something so bad that Faye would finally see that Snow was not that kind of girl you should be friends with, but Jade was as loyal as could be and would always stay by Faye's side. If she had to change schools again, Faye could always call her and complain. Jade sighed. A girl like Faye probably didn't have anything to complain about.

"Where's my Japanese pen?!"

Jade had only just finished telling Faye about it when she turned back and saw that her pen was gone. At that moment, Snow's voice sang above the rest, "Oh Jannis, how come you have the same kind of pen in your pencil case?"

Huh? Jannis wouldn't have stolen it from me, surely? Why would a boy steal my golden pen? But Faye had no such doubts. She was convinced of Jannis's guilt. He had Jade's "stolen goods". Had Jannis been mean to Faye in the past? That would never do!

In fact, Jade wasn't too concerned. The pen hadn't been stolen, after all. But she was happy to go along with whatever Faye said. That way Faye would know what a loyal friend she really was, and Jade wouldn't be left with nothing. No, she would still be able to call the class's sweetest-smelling goddess her friend. She wouldn't make the same mistake as last time when she betrayed the class monitor, nor would she let her first real, beautiful friendship slip away from her.

That's why a few days later, when Nathan cried out in class: "My five hundred yuan! It's gone!" she knew exactly what to do. She looked straight at Jannis and gave him a nasty look. That's what Faye would have wanted her to do.

3. NATHAN

"My prayers were answered?" Nathan couldn't believe his luck. He was so happy he could barely breathe. He'd gotten away with it! This was better than the time he found the secret coins, and even then, he'd been stuck on that level for days.

"God has taken pity on me," Nathan thought, "he knows how hard life is. He sent me an angel." He rolled across his bed, grabbed a comic from under his pillow and began reading. His father wasn't home; he was working the night shift and wouldn't be back until just before daybreak.

Nathan knew that calling his life hard was a bit of an exaggeration. But who didn't exaggerate from time to time? His father was the worst. "Kids these days are like little emperors. When I was young, we had to fend for ourselves."

And then Pa would start on his One Thousand and One Stories of My Terrible Childhood, about how he used to have to come home straight from school to help his parents with their deliveries, or how he wouldn't get to eat until late, and then have to start on his homework. And yet he was still at the top of his class for every test, his wall covered in certificates and awards. Are you sure you haven't been memorizing morality tales, Pa? Nathan would think to himself. All to teach your son a lesson. And, according to your logic, shouldn't you be successful by now? How come you're still just the manager of a warehouse? Or are you proof that there's no point in wasting all that energy on homework?

