

Ink-and-Wash Picture Books of Classic Chinese Stories

水墨中国经典幼儿故事

THE SNIPE AND THE CLAM

鹬蚌相争

Compiled and painted by Cui Yan



附中文拼音

China Intercontinental Press
New Times Press

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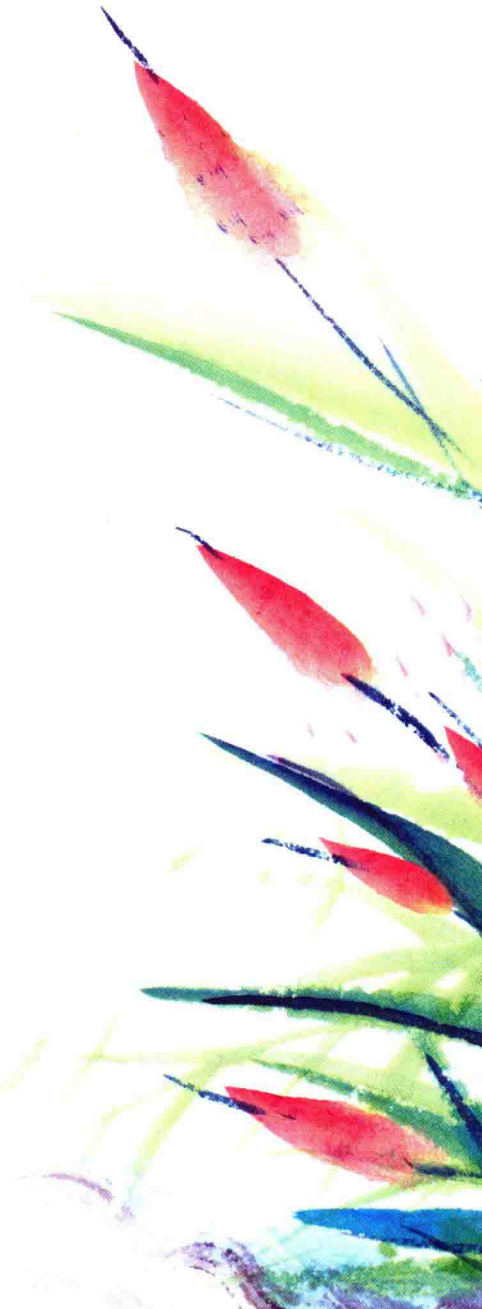
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Read classic children's stories
Enjoy traditional ink-and-wash paintings

The ink-and-wash painting technique is considered to be representative of traditional Chinese painting. Painters use a brush pen dipped in a mixture of ink and water, and paint on traditional paper. The basic ink-and-wash painting uses only water and ink, so there are only two colors, black and white. But more advanced ink-and-wash paintings like fine brushwork and bird-and-flower paintings use many colors. The ink is one of the most special elements in Chinese painting. Using different amounts of water, the ink can be diluted to varying gradations, from black to gray to white, a characteristic known as the “charm of ink”. This series of books portrays well-known Chinese children's stories in traditional ink-and-wash paintings.



One sunny morning, an old fisherman
sailed out in his small boat.





The water was calm. The fisherman cast his net far and wide, but time after time, he didn't catch anything.



It would soon be noon. Seeing his empty basket, the fisherman became nervous and took a sip of wine.

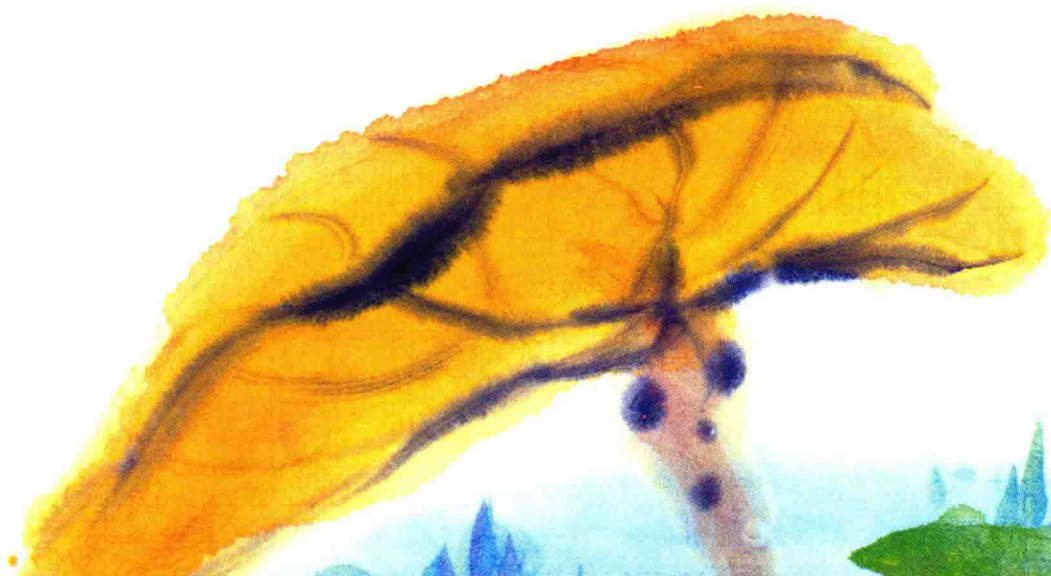


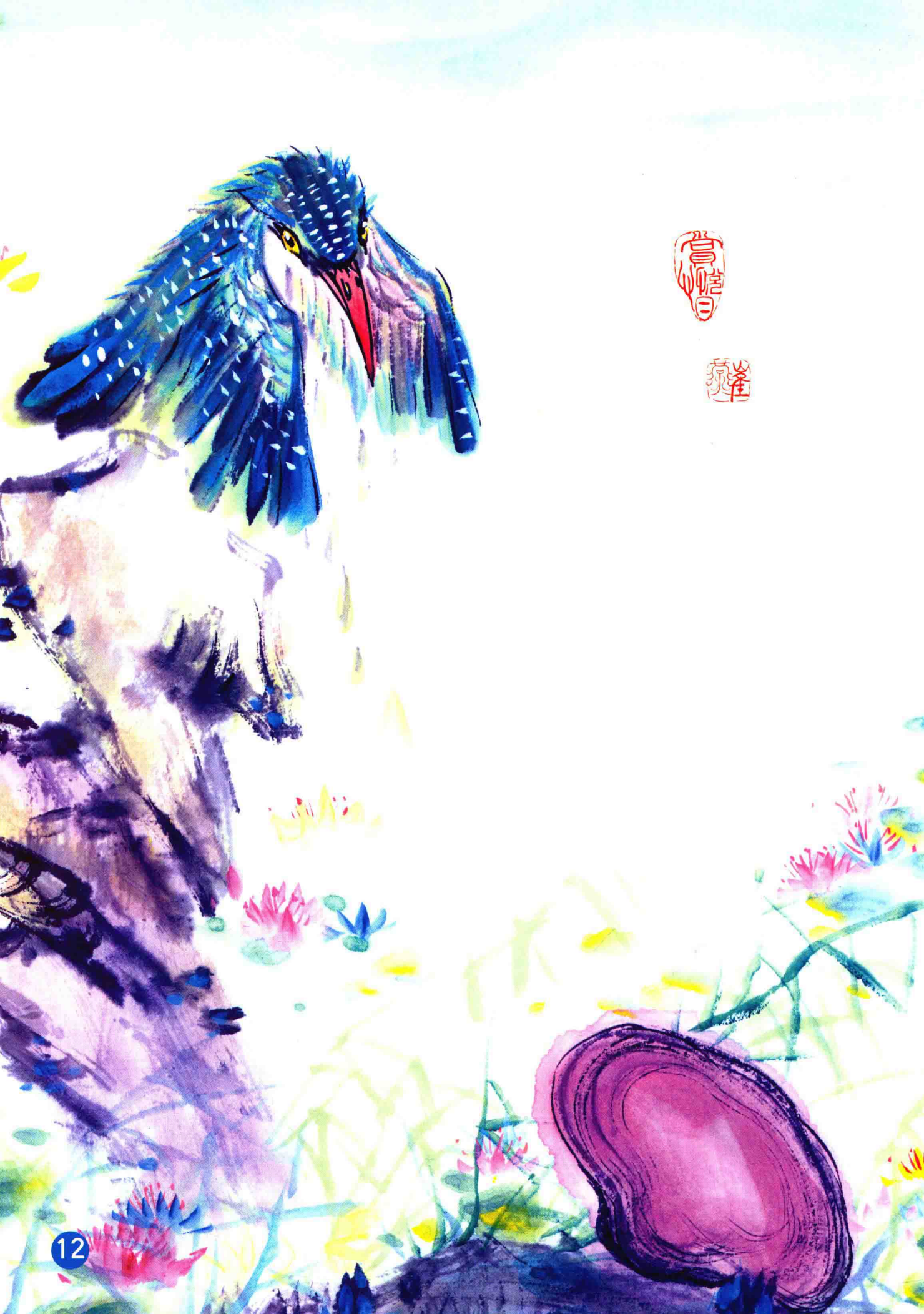


Close by, a beautiful kingfisher had caught a small fish. Standing proudly on the stalk of a lotus, it was looking forward to enjoying its lunch in peace and quiet.



Suddenly, a big snipe swooped down. It had a sharp beak and long legs. It dived and robbed the fish straight from the kingfisher's mouth.





The little kingfisher had opened its mouth out of fear, and now flew away with nothing to eat.

It was so sad, it cried.

Down below, a big clam crawled onto the bank. It opened its shell little by little, revealing its pink body and a giant pearl that glistened in the sun.





The little kingfisher's spirits were lifted. It continued fishing and, eventually, caught a really big fish.