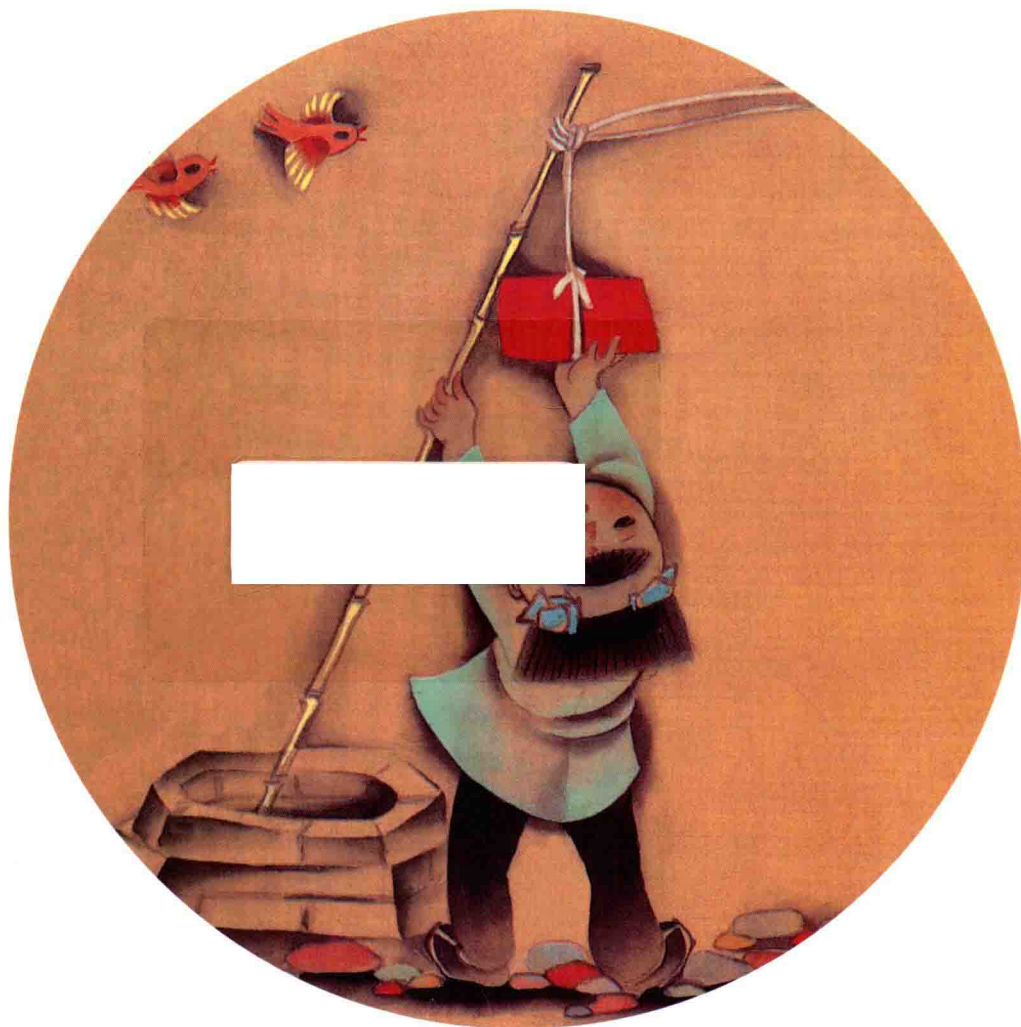


|中国古代智童故事|
STORIES OF YOUNG WISDOM

文长取物

Wenchang Attains His Prize



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Edited by
Zhao Zhenwan

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Wenchang

Attains His Prize

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前言



中国有很多古老美丽的故事和传说，这些故事都充满了纯真的思想和深邃的人文气息，因此便构成了中华民族的精神象征之一，这些故事更巩固了中国人的同源意识。

在这套“幼学启蒙丛书”中，内容涵盖了大家所熟悉的民俗故事、神话故事、节日故事、名胜传说与古代名医、贤哲、名相、名将、帝王、智童、科学家、智谋、诗书故事等等，总计八十册。为了让孩子们了解祖先们活动的广阔天地和历代的政治变迁、科学发展与文学艺术上的成就，我们运用最精炼的文字与生动的插画，将其一一呈现给中国儿童，并使得这些久远的历史人物，轻松地进入儿童的思想领域，与他们的血脉相连接。

身为中国人，对中华民族的认知，就好像一个做儿女的，应该了解他的大家庭一样，如此他才会对这个家庭有感情、有责任。我们希望这套书的出版，能够引导孩子在人生记忆力最好的时候，去了解祖国历史的脉络、认同中华民族的生活轨迹与精神内涵，从而拥有高瞻远瞩的智慧，成为一个心胸开阔、人格健全的人。

“幼学启蒙丛书”，是为中国儿童编辑的，为这一套丛书撰稿和绘图的儿童文学工作者，都以传统文学和艺术观点来诠释中国古老的神话、传说和历史，我们希望这套丛书能为每一个中国家庭，每一个中国儿童所喜爱。

赵镇琬

Preface

China is a beautiful treasure-house of ancient tales and folklore. Here are stories filled with sincere reflection echoing the vast and deep spirit of our culture and civilization. These represent the best of Chinese culture—tales that uphold a people's sense of their common origin.

This collection of *First Books for Early Learning* offers stories familiar to all of us. Drawn from folklore and mythology, along with the origins of special days in the traditional calendar and of famous places, these eighty books also recall ancient physicians, philosophers and thinkers, figures famed for statecraft, generals, royalty, prodigies and scientists, remembered through tales of wisdom and great poetry.

To give Chinese children all over the world an understanding of their ancestors' lives, and the changes through the different ages of China's history, scientific development and achievements in arts and literature, we have brought together concise language with most vivid illustrations. These ancient historical figures also give inspiration and ideas to children to connect with their own roots.

As Chinese, we know Chinese history well as a son or a daughter knows his or her family. Only with such knowledge can one possess a depth of passion and a sense of responsibility. It is our wish that this collection will guide children at an early age to learn from the history of our nation and to identify with the social progress and philosophical spirit of the Chinese people. We hope our children will develop wider horizons of wisdom to become open-minded yet with a rooted outlook on life.

First Books for Early Learning was originally compiled in Chinese for the children of China. The writers and artists who contributed to this collection have used the perspective of traditional literature and arts to interpret Chinese mythology, legends and history. We hope this collection will be enjoyed by Chinese people—and, now in translation, also by people all over the world—and all children who want to learn more about China.

Zhao Zhenwan



徐文长是明朝人。他从小就喜欢动脑筋，大家都夸他是个聪明的孩子。

Xu Wenchang lived during the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644). Even as a small child he had always liked to solve problems. Everyone said he was a clever child.

一天，徐文长的伯父把几个年纪相仿的孩子领到一座又矮又长的竹桥旁边，说：“孩子们，我这里有两只水桶，装上半桶水以后，谁能提着桶过桥而不使桥面贴水，我就送给他一包礼物！”

One day, Xu Wenchang's uncle led Wenchang and a few boys of his age to a long low bridge, saying to them, "Children, I have two buckets here. I am going to fill both buckets halfway with water. Whoever can take the two buckets across the bridge and not let the bridge sink to touch the surface of the water will win a gift from me."





孩子们一听都乐了，但仔细看看这座桥，又都怔住了。原来，这座桥的桥身很软，一个孩子拿三五斤东西过桥，还能勉强使桥面不贴水。但要提着两半桶水过桥，桥身弯下去一定会碰到水面。

The children were all excited. But with one look at the bridge, their excitement vanished. The bridge was made of bamboo and very flexible. One boy could possibly carry things up to three kilograms over the bridge maybe, without touching the water. Carrying two big buckets half full of water over that bridge would surely make it sag and touch the water.

这时，有个胆子大的孩子冲了出来，提起两只水桶，莽莽撞撞地上了桥。才跑了几步，桥面就浸入水中，这孩子的鞋底也被浸湿了。

Then, a brave boy broke away from the group and picked up the two buckets. Without thinking he stepped onto the bridge. After only a few steps, the bridge sagged and dipped into the water. The boy's shoes got wet.





徐文长见大家一声不响地看着那个大孩子愣神儿，站出来说：“我来试试看！”

Xu Wenchang saw everyone had grown silent, just looking at the boy. He took a step forward and said, “Let me try.”



