

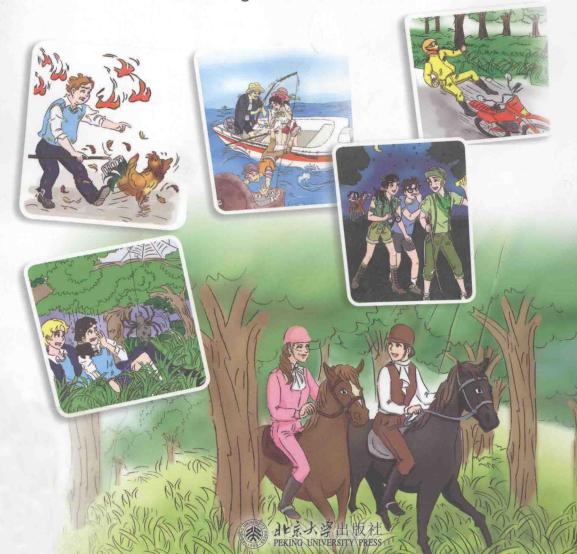
ADVENTURES OF DINGDING AND DAMIEN

丁丁迪米质瞳记

〔澳〕 Tim Gourdon

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著

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著作责任者:〔澳〕Tim Gourdon 〔澳〕Xiaokang Zhou(周晓康) 著

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电子信箱: fd@pup.pku.edu.cn

我在退休以后的十余年中,一度返老为童,因种种机遇,去一些中小学校与学生一起听老师讲英语课,为出版社编写供中小学生使用的英语教材,参加教育部有关《全日制义务教育英语课程标准》的编制和审订工作。作为大学教师,对中小学英语教学的特色竟然也能说上几句。从教学目标上看,中小学生应当通过英语学习和英语实践活动,逐步掌握英语知识和技能,提高英语实际运用能力。这个过程也是他们拓展视野、丰富生活经历、促进思维发展、锻炼意志、陶冶情操、发展个性和提高综合人文素养的过程。在教材编写上,应奉行思想性、科学性、趣味性、灵活性、开放性、发展性和拓展性等原则。

这些原则落实到小学阶段的学生,我们应该强调引导学生在课堂上 听说唱游做;对中学生要保证教材应当与学生水平相当,贴近学生生活, 话题具体、目的明确,有利于开展合作学习,有趣味性和一定的真实性, 等等。为实现这些目标和原则,除正规的英语教材外,我们还应该为学生提 供大量课外阅读的材料。这是我们以往教材出版工作中的一个薄弱环节。

当我读到《丁丁迪米历险记》的书稿,眼前突然一亮。这就是一本最能体现中国学生学习特点的课外读物,当然也可供海外华语或当地学生阅读。本书不少故事涉及澳大利亚的文化背景,使学生能了解英语国家中主流文化的一个重要侧面。本书不谈那种鬼怪离奇的虚幻情节,而是既现实又有趣的故事,散发出现代人的生活气息,易于为学生理解和消化,培养语感,拓展思维。

本书作者Tim,全名Timothy Edward Gourdon,在英国出生,后移民到澳大利亚,当过公务员,开过工厂,办过公司。Tim出身书香门第,父亲是具有法国血统的飞机工程师,目前英国伦敦的大不列颠博物馆仍收藏其在战争年代写的日记,加之Tim本人从小喜欢看书,在写作方面堪称自学成才,对写历险故事特别感兴趣,在创作和翻译诗歌与韵文方面也很有天赋。

本书的中文翻译和其他方面由Tim的夫人周晓康博士完成。周晓康博士曾在北京大学由我指导攻读英语系博士生课程,后在澳大利亚墨尔本大学获得语言学博士学位。她编写的《晓康歌谣学汉语》和《晓康歌谣学文化》在国内外广受欢迎,先后在国际上获得美国"月光"(Moonbeam)最佳国际少年图书奖、澳大利亚维多利亚政府的多元文化杰出贡献奖、澳大利亚新金山教育基金优秀教师奖,并在中国两次获得国家汉办的创新示范课奖。

北京大学出版社曾与周晓康博士长期合作,出版过《晓康歌谣学汉语》、《晓康歌谣学文化》和《晓康歌谣趣味故事》等著作。今又推出《丁丁迪米历险记》,出版前邀请北京部分中学生披览样稿,了解他们的反映,使本书的出版更臻完善、更能切合青少年学生的兴趣和需要。

谨向本书的作者、译者和出版者致以无限的敬意,并期待更多的佳 著问世。

胡壮麟 北京大学蓝旗菅寓所 2012年3月

Preface

Hu Zhuanglin

More than ten years after my retirement, I felt regenerated and young again, as I was able to sit in some English classes with primary and secondary school students listening to their teachers teach them English. I was also involved in writing and compiling English textbooks for primary and secondary students for some publishers, and participated in the editing and reviewing of The Standards of English Courses for Obligatory Day School Education for Ministry of Education. Therefore, as a university professor, I am also able to make a few remarks about the features and characteristics of English textbooks for primary and high school students. Regarding teaching objectives, primary and secondary students should, through learning English and engaging in practical English activities, master step by step the knowledge and skills of English, and improve their actual English competence. This process is also a part of broadening their vision, enriching their life experiences, enhancing their mental development, stimulating their brain power, modelling their personality and emotional development, as well as building up their all-round humanitarian qualities. In writing and compiling textbooks, we should follow a set of principles which should include ideological awareness and be scientific, fun, flexible, open, developmental and original.

When applying these principles to the teaching of students at primary level, the emphasis should be on engaging them in listening, speaking, singing, playing and doing hands-on work. To secondary students, we need to make sure that textbooks match their English level, relevant to their life with specific topics and clear goals, and suitable for cooperative learning, in an enjoyable and realistic way. In order to achieve these goals and principles, apart from formal English textbooks, we should also provide students with a numerous amount of after-school reading material, which has been a weak area in our textbook publication.

When I read the script of Adventures of Dingding and Damien, I was immediately captivated by it. This is indeed a reader most suitably written for Chinese students in China, though it is also suitable for overseas Chinese and English-speaking students. The stories in this book are mainly centered around Australian culture, and therefore can help students understand an important part of the mainstream culture of English-speaking countries. In this book there are no fantasy or fictitious plots about ghosts or monsters, but realistic and interesting stories, which reflect our modern life in this world. They are easy to understand and comprehend, and can help develop one's linguistic intuition and broaden one's mind and vision.

Preface

Tim, the author of this book, whose full name is Timothy Edward Gourdon, was born in England. He migrated to Australia with his parents in the 60s. He worked for the government as a public servant, and later on set up his own factory and established his own company. His father, half French and half English, was an aircraft engineer, whose diaries written during the Second World War are still kept in the British Museum. Tim enjoyed reading very much since young, and became self-taught in writing, with a particular interest in adventure stories. He is also talented in creative and rhyme writing as well as translation adaptation.

The stories in this book were translated into Chinese, together with their exercises, by Tim's wife, Dr. Xiaokang Zhou, who used to study Linguistics for her Ph. D. degree in The Department of English at Peking University under my supervision, and later obtained her Ph. D. degree in the University of Melbourne in Australia. Her books Dr. Zhou's Rhymes for Learning Chinese and Dr. Zhou's Rhymes for Learning Culture have been well received both at home and abroad, and won the Moonbeam International Children's Book Award in the United States. She has also received Victoria's Multicultural Award for Excellence 2009 in Australia, the Most Excellent Chinese Teacher of 2008 by the Golden Land Education Foundations, Australia, as well as the International Award for Excellence in Innovative Teaching of Chinese from the Office of Chinese Language Council International in China twice.

Peking University Press has had a long term cooperative business relationship with Dr. Xiaokang Zhou, having published some of her books such as Dr. Zhou's Rhymes for Learning Chinese and Dr. Zhou's Rhymes for Learning Culture. Now they are about to publish Adventures of Dingding and Damien, and before its publication, they invited some high school students to do a pre-reading and get their feedback, thus ensuring a high quality book which will match the interest and meet the needs of young students.

Here I would like to extend my deepest respect to the author, translator and publisher of this book, and look forward to their more excellent books to be published.

Lanqiying, Peking University
Mar, 2012
Translated by Xiaokang Zhou
Mount Eliza, Vic. Australia

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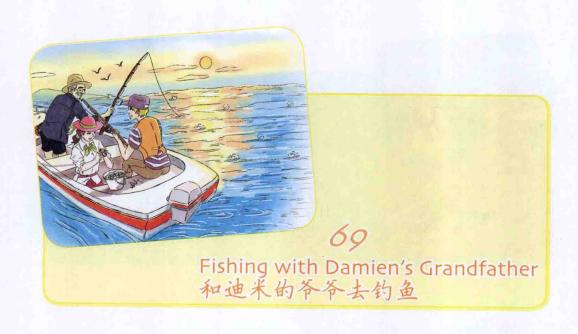
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Dingding and Damien's Friendship
丁丁和迪米的童年友情



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49 Robin Bumbledeen at The Wiggings' Farm 罗宾在威更斯果园

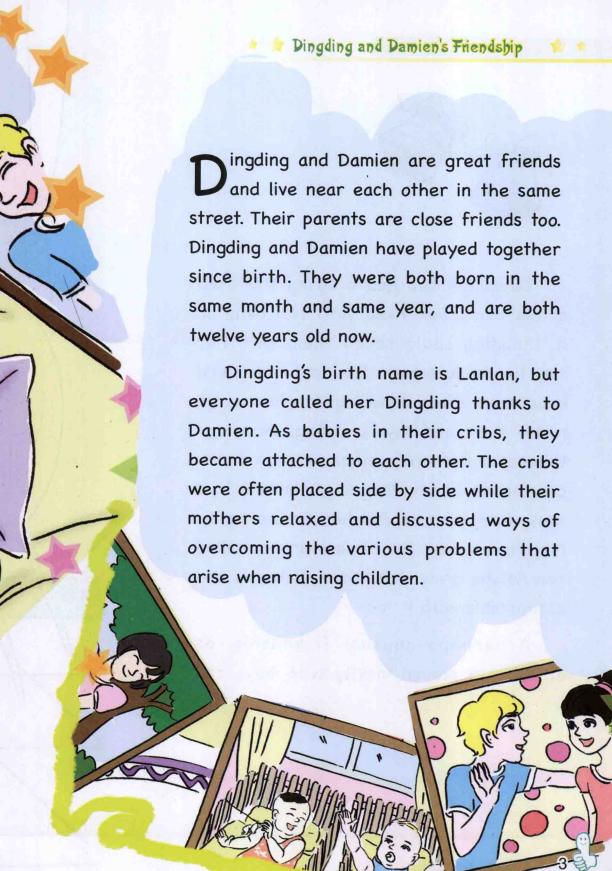






Dingding and Damien's Friendship





ADVENTURES OF DINGDING AND DAMIEN



Dingding's crib had a string stretched across above her head with two bells on it. Dingding could reach them with her tiny hands. Damien in the next crib could hear them often. Dingding's mother would rattle them and say "Dingding, Dingding!" Whenever Damien's mother put him in the crib, he would say "Dingding," thinking that they were going to visit her. So eventually, Dingding became the name everyone called her. As she grew older she was happy and comfortable with it too.

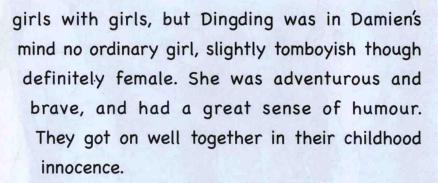
A perhaps unusual friendship, as other boys played mostly with boys and











Naturally they had some disagreements, like the time Damien saw Dingding walking home from school ahead of him near a large puddle of rainwater. This of course was irresistible to Damien who was on his skateboard. He got up as much speed as he could and raced, laughing loudly through the puddle, splashing Dingding all over with grimy water. Well! Damien may have had plenty of physical strength, but that was certainly no match for Dingding's verbal and mental power.

