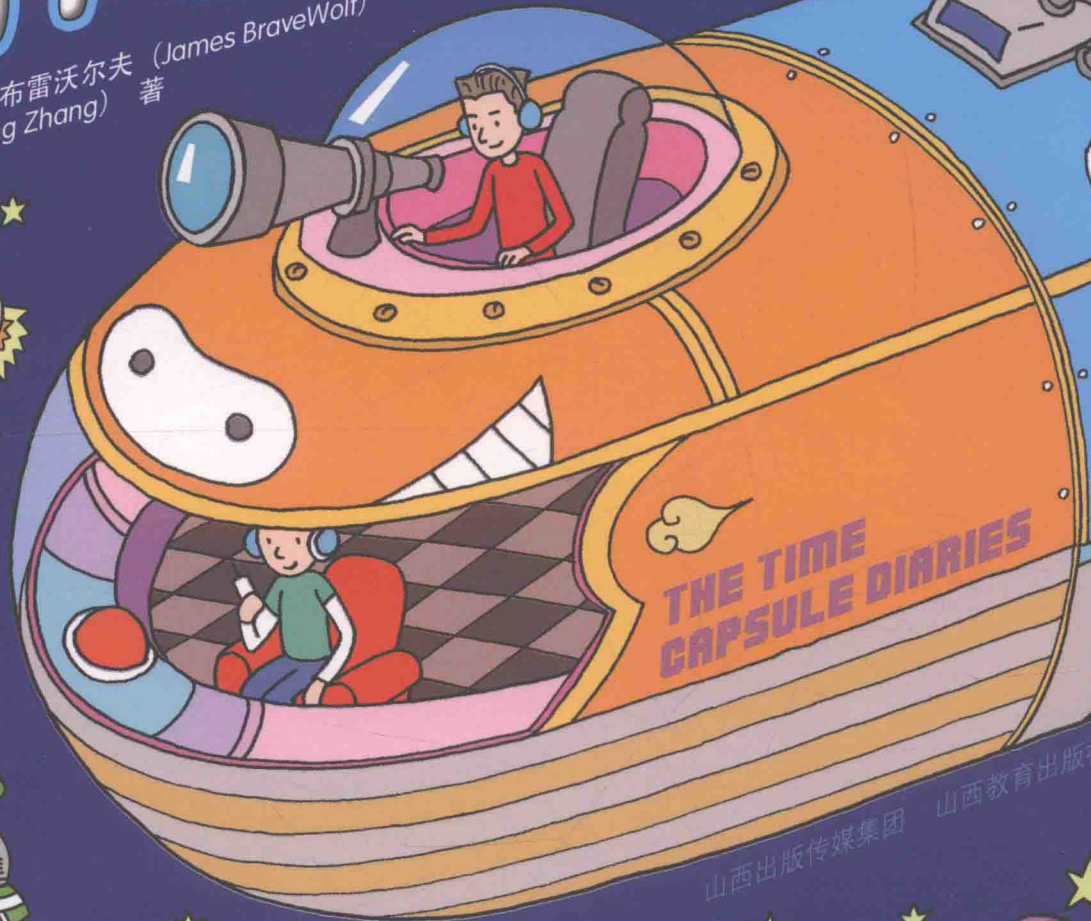


THE TIME
CAPSULE DIARIES

时间胶囊

[美] 詹姆斯·布雷沃尔夫 (James BraveWolf)
张艳红 (Yanhong Zhang) 著



山西出版传媒集团 山西教育出版社

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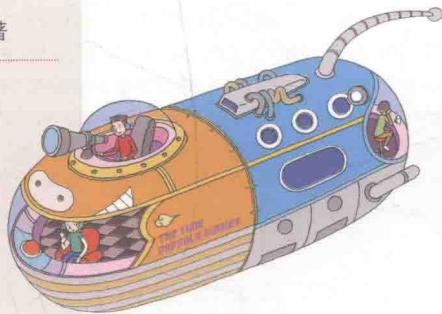
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Three children who are friends have been asked by their teacher to keep diaries of their fourth grade in elementary school. Their names are Jackie, Yanna and Ben. When they are finished, the diaries will be placed in a time capsule and buried beneath the playground of their school. The time capsule will not be opened until 100 years have passed.

For each month of the year the three children have written about one special day. It is their wish to show the children of the future, children from far lands, or perhaps from space, what it was like to be a child growing up in the United States of America.

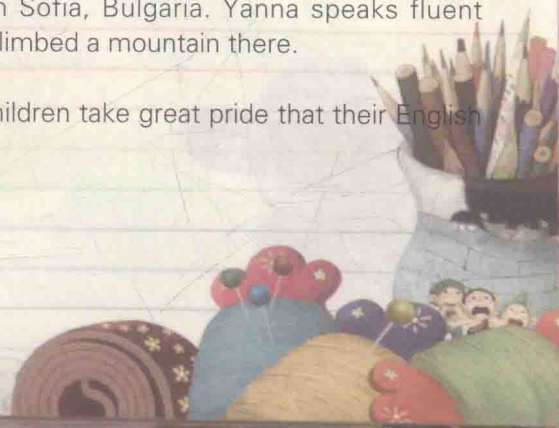
The children:

Jackie: Born in Beijing, China. Jackie loves turtles.

Ben: Born in the United States. Ben wants to be an architect on the moon.

Yanna: Born in Sofia, Bulgaria. Yanna speaks fluent Bulgarian and has climbed a mountain there.

All the three children take great pride that their English is perfect.



September

The First Day of School



Jackie



Ben



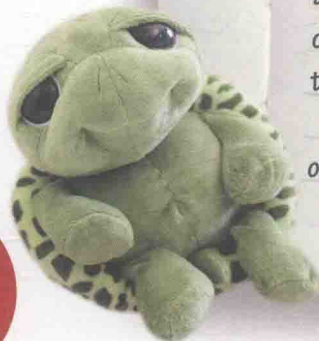
Yanna

On the night before my first day of school I want to make a wish. I wish for the other kids to like me. I want to wear the right clothes. I want to be like everyone else. My mother tells me I should not worry about my clothes, that what is important is that I am a good friend to my classmates, and that I try to learn as much as I can. I agree with my mother. But still, I do not want to look too different. I am happy to know that a good friend of mine is in my class again. Her name is Yanna. Yanna rhymes with banana in English, and sometimes I call her this. And sometimes she calls me Jackie Quack-y. In America everyone has a nickname, my mother said. And all the kids have their own favorite animals. Some have real ones, like dogs and cats. And all have stuffed animals, plushies that they treat as real. Yanna has monkeys and dogs! I have a stuffed turtle. I love turtles! Because I lived beside a river before I came to America, and I saw many turtles. They were my friends.

Yanna is a good friend to me; she doesn't care what I wear. She likes me for me. I think this is the best kind of friend. My mother says it is important to choose our friends wisely, because friendship is very important in life.

Now that summer is over, I will go to school and have Chinese classes on Saturdays. Sometimes I wish I did not have to study it. But my mother tells me that learning languages opens up another world. It is like going into space and finding a world and if you can speak their language think of how much you can find out! And imagine if talking turtles inhabit that world!!! Yes, amazing, turtles that could talk!

My mother said the more languages I learn, the happier I will be when I get older. Yes, if I could speak turtle's language, I would be very happy.



Ben's Diary



School is good. Summer is better. But now summer is over and the pool is closed. I went to the pool almost every day. And in the afternoon when it was too hot to be in the sun I built many things with my Lego's. And I wonder: will I be an architect when I grow up? But the world will be different when I grow up—my dad said this. So maybe I will build things on the moon, or on another planet. I had a dream once that I was flying in a space ship. My mother said that if I wanted to be a space architect I must learn many things in school like math and science. So this is why I am not sad to be starting school—even though I think swimming in the pool is better than sitting at school.





DATE

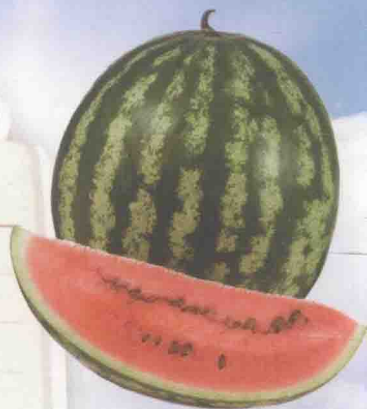
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I love school. But I love summer vacation best of all! I can eat watermelon every day. And there are cherries to eat, too. And I can run all day, and at night I play tennis with my dad, or ride my bike in the park just before it gets dark. In my neighborhood there are many things for kids to do. I think there are two great inventions in the world—sidewalks and monkey bars. With sidewalks you can ride your bike all over the neighborhood, not worrying about cars. And monkey bars are fabulous! I can jump to the third bar now, and I can sit on top of the bars and feel like I am on a cloud in the sky. I think the girls can do the monkey bars better than boys. My mom says it's good to be a girl! My mom is a scientist. One day I want to be a veterinarian and help take care of animals, especially gorillas and monkeys.

I am an only child, which means I get lots of attention—but also I miss having a brother or a sister. So, for me school is like having brothers and sisters. My friends Jackie and Ben are my sister and brother. And they are my classmates too! My dad tells me the most important thing to do in school is to be curious. To listen to and ask many questions. That is how I discover things.

I must go to sleep now. My bed is full of monkeys and dogs!

But it is hard to fall asleep before the first day of school! There are so many thoughts running in my head.



October

Halloween

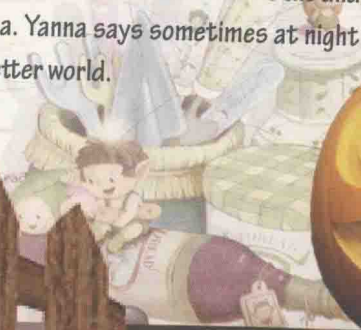
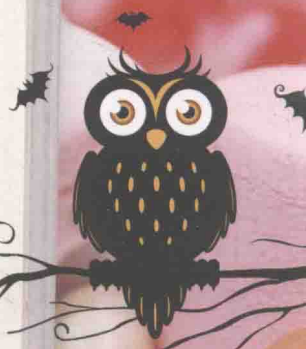






Everyone is talking about Halloween and what costumes they will wear. I will be a turtle! I love turtles—sea turtles and river turtles, big and small turtles. Once I learned that in the dinosaur age the turtles were as big as cars! My mother will make my costume by hand. She will make the shell and the costume and I will go trick or treating for candy at 6 pm, as soon as it gets dark outside. My friend Yanna loves Halloween, too. But she isn't really a fan of chocolate. She just likes to be in her costume. At the end of the night she says she counts her candies and puts them under her bed in a plastic pumpkin. I asked her why she put them under her bed. She told me, "My daddy is a candy monster, and will eat all if I don't hide it."

Halloween comes from Europe, I think. It was when the spirit world and our earth world become one. This happens on Halloween night. A door opens and ghosts can walk into our world. And the ghosts visit the places they once loved. And so people put on costumes so that the ghosts, in case they are angry, will not bother them. Yes, if you are in costume the real ghosts will think you are one of them. In China there are similar legends about ghosts, I think.

Yanna believes that when we die, we really don't die. She says we have a soul—something inside us that is the true us, that lives on after we die and flies to another better world. I like this idea. Yanna says sometimes at night when we dream we fly to that place, that better world.




Ben's Diary



I will be a planet for Halloween. My friends say it is a little dumb to dress up like a planet. They say it is better to be a robot or a monster. But it's okay for me. It will make people laugh and I will be happy to walk around, going from house-to-house looking like the planet Saturn. My mother will make me rings out of wire and cloth, and paint my costume orange and white. In school we will have a party and I will wear my costume there, too.

This month I have only been caught "dreaming" twice in class. My mother told me that it is okay to dream, just not too much. Dreaming means to imagine and create a world inside your mind. And my mother tells me that "dreaming" is like sunshine...you need both to grow. Recently I imagined I was able to fly between the planets without a spaceship, and without the need for air. I felt so free. I found out that there is no air in space. Or so that is what they think.



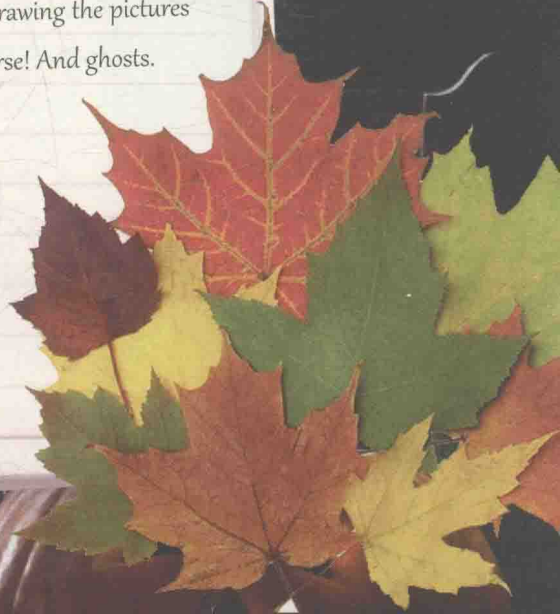
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I have been excited ever since I first dressed up for Halloween. It is a monkey costume with monkey feet and monkey head and monkey ears. It was too big for me. My dad always buys things too big for me—so I will grow into them, he says. He says it is a sad thing when something is too small.

Halloween is mysterious. The world is changing, getting ready for winter. The sun goes to sleep earlier, and then the wind comes and shakes the leaves down to the ground. But though it is sleep time, the air feels cool and the leaves have many colors, orange and brown and bright red.

I am sure that Jackie will be a turtle this year. Do you know that on her birthday her mother gave each of us a cupcake with a small toy turtle on top? I saved my turtle. Jackie and I are writing a comic book, drawing the pictures and making the characters talk. It is about turtles! Of course! And ghosts.



November

Thanksgiving



Jackie's Diary




Thanksgiving is very special to Americans. It is a time when the families come together. In America families can live very far apart. And so they travel to one place where they all gather and make a big dinner. It is called Thanksgiving because people give thanks for the past year and like Chinese New Year they hope the next year will be special, too. It is time to be with family. Americans are very busy and sometimes they don't see their families. So this day is special, when you eat and talk and see your family. Most Americans still eat turkey on this day, with special vegetables and mashed potatoes. And there are also many cakes, pies and cookies for dessert. Pumpkin pie and pecan pie are popular. But because many Americans come from many places in the world, Thanksgiving has changed. My friend Yanna has a kind of Bulgarian- American Thanksgiving. Her mom cooks many delicious Bulgarian food, like things with yogurt and feta cheese, and then adds these dishes to the traditional American food. My mom does the same, adding Chinese food. I think this makes the American Thanksgiving even more special. There is a Thanksgiving Day parade in New York City. It is a big one. Everyone gets up very early in the morning, before the sun is awake. And they dress up and there are bands playing music and dancing, and floats. Floats are these big moving stages. On top of the float they create many pretty scenes. Things from movies, books or fantasy characters. But what is the most interesting for me are the giant helium balloons in the shapes of cartoon characters—like Snoopy!

I wish they had another kind of giant balloon—yes, a turtle! Imagine a super turtle that could fly over the skyscrapers.



Ben's Diary



There are football games on the television during Thanksgiving. They are very popular. I like to play football with my friends at school, but not in the same way they do on television. I don't think my mother would let me play football for real. It is too dangerous she thinks—especially for the head. My grandfather says he played football because his head was as hard as a coconut. My grandfather makes me laugh on Thanksgiving. They come from far away to eat a lot of food with us. My grandmother makes pies—apple pies and cherry pies. But my favorite is chocolate cream pie. There are always lots of dessert—and they last for many days. I am not so interested in the turkey or potatoes and the squash and beans my mother cooks. I like the pies and the cookies. I forgot to mention the cookies. How could I forget the cookies!!!

DATE

NO.

Thanksgiving is my mom's favorite holiday. She likes the fact that the weather is becoming cold. She likes cold. She grew up near mountains in Bulgaria, and she can ski. She can really ski. She taught me how to ski when I was two and a half. On Thanksgiving we cook American things but also Bulgarian dishes. Special bread with eggplant in a yogurt sauce my mom makes is soft and warm when you break it open. This year we will eat Korean seaweed chips. They are very healthy—green and very fragile, almost like the wings of a butterfly. You must hold them very gentle before you eat them. We always try one new thing each Thanksgiving. And these Korean seaweed chips will be new. And we will have lasagna, a big salad, mashed potatoes and spinach. The table will be full of food and we will become so fat that we will not be able to move. That is when we go out for a walk in the park.

