

Media Coverage - "A New Year Reunion"

傳媒報導 - 《團圓》

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BETWEEN THE LINES

Life isn't fair so read it and weep

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A New Year's Reunion by Yu Liqiong is one of my favourite books and my daughter's, as well.

It is the story of Maomao, a little girl in China spending Lunar New Year with her parents and friends.

Her father is a migrant worker who returns home only once a year.

The book is beautifully written and illustrated. There's probably enough material for a feature-length animated film! The first time I read it, I fought unsuccessfully to hold back tears when I finished.

I introduced the original Chinese version of this story to my daughter shortly before she turned two. I wondered if she would see the parent-child love in the story and relate that to her own life.

I had expected that my daughter would at least point out the illustration of Maomao riding on her father's shoulders, because she had recently done the same thing with her own father; we even had a photograph of that incident (almost identical to the illustration in the



We shouldn't be afraid to introduce stories that aren't candy-coated or seen through rose-coloured glasses

book) that my daughter had seen several times.

Instead, she became fixated on the two illustrations showing Maomao with her father at the barber shop. My daughter had just had her hair cut recently, hence her interest in that visit to the barber.

I continued to read *A New Year's Reunion* to my daughter, and she continued to flip back to those pages whenever I tried to move the story along. I concluded that perhaps she was a little too young for this storybook and put it away on the bookshelf, planning to bring it back out when she was older.

Then one day, many months later, as my husband walked out our front door with luggage in hand to go on a business trip, my daughter blurted out, "Papa's leaving, just like Maomao."

She got it! All this time she had got it.

Incidents like this make me even more passionate about sharing my love for books with my children. A reader takes away so many new and different things every time he reads a story. We still read *A New Year's Reunion* every Lunar New Year, and my daughter and I have since had

many engaging discussions about all aspects of this wonderful book.

With younger children it's fun to use *A New Year's Reunion* to learn about the winter season and Lunar New Year traditions.

With older children, parent and child can explore the theme of separation and absence, or relate the Chinese migrant worker to domestic helpers in Hong Kong who leave children behind in their home country.

As parents, we shouldn't be afraid to introduce stories that aren't candy-coated or seen through rose-coloured glasses. A child should be encouraged not only to share laughter over happy, silly stories but also to talk about why some stories are not enjoyable for him to hear or make him feel sad.

For me, it's nice to just experience a great storybook with my daughter, even if it touches upon deeper or heavier themes that she has yet to fully grasp.

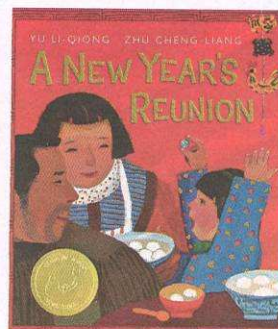
In addition to *A New Year's Reunion*, two other great children's books that also bring tears for their meaningful message and accompanying illustrations are *The Giving Tree* by Shel Silverstein and *I Love You Forever* by Robert Munsch.

A New Year's Reunion was originally published in Chinese as *Tuan Yuan*, and won the first prize at the 2009 Feng Zikai Chinese Children's Picture Book Awards.

The English version, published by Candlewick Press, was released late last year and promptly recognised as one of *The New York Times Book Review's* 10 Best Illustrated Children's Books of 2011.

Annie Ho is a board governor of Bring Me A Book Hong Kong, a non-profit organisation devoted to improving children's literacy through reading aloud to them and providing easy access to the best children's books for underserved communities across Hong Kong.

A read-aloud session in English and Putonghua will be held today to launch sales of the English-language *Reunion*, from 2.30pm-3.30pm at The Commercial Press, shop 115, 1/F, Olympian City 1, 11 Hoi Fai Road, Kowloon. Annie Ho will read the story in Putonghua.



A New Year's Reunion is a great book to read and discuss with your child

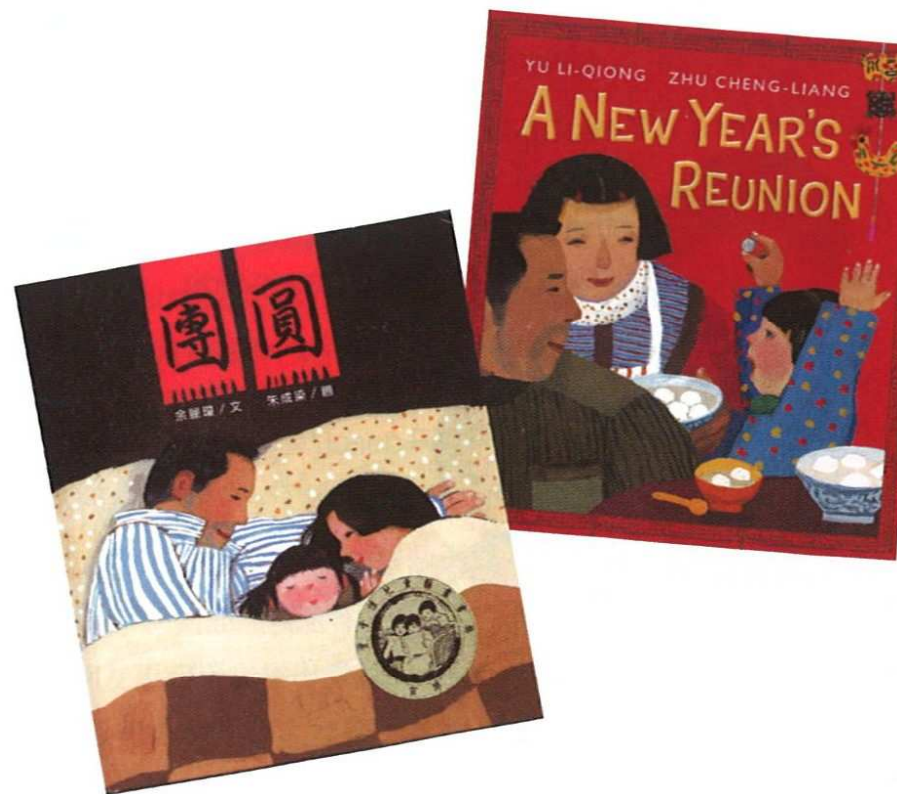
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Children's Picture Book Receives Double Recognition 原創童書再獲獎

Originally written in Chinese, *A New Year's Reunion* in English has been selected as one of the The New York Times 10 Best Illustrated Children's Books of 2011. In fact, the original Chinese version of the book was the inaugural Feng Zikai Chinese Children's Picture Book Grand Prize Award Winner. The story is appealing for parents and children alike – it's a must-have on your bookshelf!

曾獲第一屆「豐子愷兒童圖畫書獎」首獎的原創華文兒童圖畫書《團圓》最近在海外再獲殊榮：其英文版入選《紐約時報》2011年最佳兒童圖畫書Top 10！可見「豐子愷兒童圖畫書獎」真是眼光獨到！《團圓》所講的是一個富有人情味、帶有中國傳統文化的感人故事，十分適合家長與小朋友共讀。

Feng Zikai Chinese Children's Picture Book Award website 「豐子愷兒童圖畫書獎」網站：
www.fengzikaibookaward.org



Info: ① Available at major department stores and toy shops ② For places where to buy, visit www.thinqhongkong.com ③ Available at Commercial Press/Blooming Club

親子時間 Parents

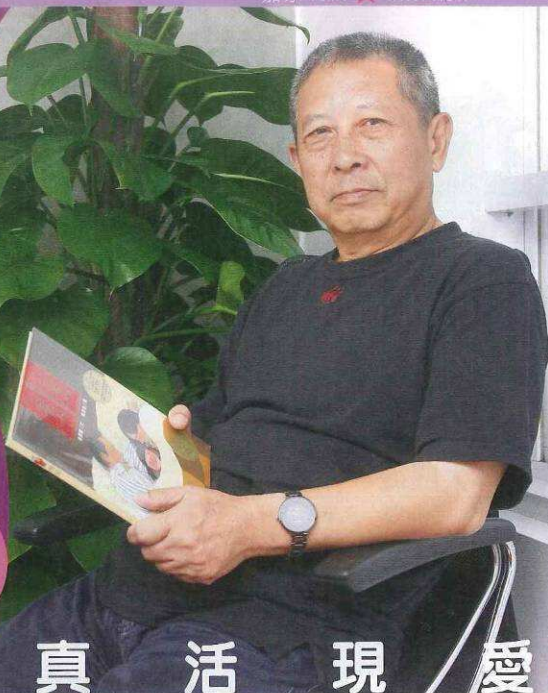
嘉家Talk ☆ Interview

近年專注兒童繪本創作的中國畫家朱成梁與作家余麗瓊創作的兒童繪本《團圓》獲第一屆「豐子愷兒童圖書獎」的「最佳兒童圖書首獎」。朱成梁畫筆下生動的圖畫陪伴着內地以至香港兒童成長，從每幅充滿感情和愛的插圖中，感染小朋友，令他們愛上閱讀。

中國畫家

朱成梁

畫出童真 活現愛



1. 朱成梁給記者的感覺是充滿歡樂的。
2. 朱成梁笑言只要讓自己單純一點就自然快樂。
3. 朱成梁表示繪畫兒童圖書時，必須站在兒童角度出發。

一塊黑板 激發繪畫興趣

出生於上海的朱成梁從小愛繪畫，他相信這與先天資質和後天培養也有關，3歲時收到爸爸送的黑板如獲至寶，常常也在黑板上塗鴉，隨便地畫，刷去再畫，樂此不疲。小學時參加青少年中心的繪畫班開始學繪畫；他說，當時畫班的老師讓他們愛畫甚麼便畫甚麼，對孩子來說一點壓力也沒有，更能提升對繪畫興趣，不像今天的孩子，年紀輕輕學繪畫已要應付相關考試，令繪畫的意義變成為考試而遠超於興趣。

72 兒童快報 Whiz-kids

當畫家孩子不愛繪畫

雖然朱成梁從小愛繪畫，但他的兒子並沒遺傳到父親的藝術細胞，天份反而在語言學上。朱成梁的兒子今年28歲，「孩子年幼時，也希望他能像自己一樣富有繪畫資質及喜愛繪畫。」朱成梁除了在家中給孩子繪畫的機會外，亦作主為孩子報讀繪畫課程，孩子上了幾課後告訴父親不喜歡繪畫，也不喜歡上繪畫班。當孩子說出內心感受，父親要承認孩子的興趣及資質不是在繪畫上，所以他也尊重孩子的意願，沒有再要求他上繪畫班。雖然孩子不愛繪畫，但愛聽父親說故事，朱成梁在兒子童年時，常常會用他的畫作來給孩子說故事。

文：馮蕙

了解孩子興趣與所長

「培養孩子的興趣，也要他們喜歡這種興趣，要孩子從痛苦中培養出興趣是不應該呢！」朱成梁說，每個人也有其特質，每個人也要認識自己，父母也要認識孩子，就算父母喜歡繪畫，孩子不一定是喜歡繪畫，他的兒子對繪畫沒興趣，但對語言學的資質不錯，亦對這方面有興趣，朱成梁就讓他年幼時加入英語組，從小在語言學中發揮潛質，現在看見兒子教英語教得很開心，朱成梁也感到欣慰。



一家人也喜歡旅行，拉近親子關係又能增廣見聞。

從兒童角度出發

朱成梁近年致力繪畫兒童圖書，他笑言每個人也有童年，而且大家也不會忘記自己的童年歲月，所以當他繪畫兒童繪本時，除了回想自己的童年時，亦會讓自己站在兒童角度出發。朱成梁說，隨着時代變遷，今天的小朋友與當年他的童年時代截然不同，科技發達令今天的孩子有更寬更廣的眼光。「回想童年時，自己動手做玩具、製作風箏、在風箏上繪畫，擁有一張較好質素的紙來繪畫已樂透半天，今天的孩子非常幸福。」現今很多插畫師也會用電腦輔助繪畫，而朱成梁的作品仍是用畫筆繪畫出來；他說，無論透過畫筆或電腦繪畫，效果也是同樣好，但他認為用畫筆繪畫的感覺真實一點。



朱成梁的兒子年幼時多鬼馬！

已退休的朱成梁盡情享受天倫之樂。

快樂之道

天天快樂是朱成梁對自己及家人的期望。朱成梁說，城市人面對着不同的壓力，要天天快樂實在不是易事；但對他來說，不要考慮太多事情，讓自己單純一點，就自然快樂。

朱成梁重視親子溝通，在孩子幼時會透過畫作給他說故事。



感動推介

團圓

朱成梁與作家余麗瓊創作的兒童繪本《團圓》榮獲由書伴我行(香港)基金會推動及協辦的第一屆「豐子愷兒童圖書獎」之「最佳兒童圖書首獎」。故事講述中國人對家的情感，外出打工的爸爸在春節回家的幾天裏，與女兒的相處點滴和父女之間的感情。



場地提供：Novotel Century Hong Kong

Whiz-kids 兒童快報 73

讓兒童看自己的圖畫書

家長挑選兒童讀物時，總面對英多中少的困難，不少優質的中文兒童讀物，只是翻譯外國的作品，要找原創作品實在不易。去年首辦的「豐子愷兒童圖畫書獎」，就是全球首個為華文原創兒童圖書獎，提倡和鼓勵創作兒童圖畫書的風氣。 文：讀書人書店（電話：27397932）

這個書獎以中國畫家、作家豐子愷命名，豐子愷關懷兒童，反對讓兒童穿大人的衣服，反對讓兒童變成「小大人」，當然也反對兒童看大人的書。他從日常生活取材，以童心、詩心為自己的孩子創作了有趣的故事，成為中文兒童圖畫書的典範。

榮獲「最佳兒童圖書首獎」的圖畫書《團圓》，由內地女作家余麗瓊、畫家朱成梁創作，從一個小女孩的角度講述了打工爸爸回家過年的故事，父親因為蓋房子經常出差，每年只能回家一次，女兒吃到爸爸藏在湯丸裏的好運幣，建立起女兒對他的重溫 and 信賴。好運幣險些丟失，女兒傷心極了，幸好回家後找到它原來就在棉襪內，女兒喜極而泣，短暫後爸爸又要離家，女兒把好運幣轉交爸爸，代表守望和眷戀，離別的擁抱看得讀者熱淚盈眶。過年與團圓的濃濃親情，是本地孩子也要植根的一種文化精神。

《一園青菜成了精》和《躲貓貓大王》分別獲得「評審推薦圖畫創作獎」和「評審推薦文字創作獎」。前者屬童謠類的作品，巧妙地蘊藏了青菜的特性，充滿智慧的幽默。後者以「躲貓貓」遊戲，描述人的情感與智商無關，甚至比常人更加真誠。「躲貓貓大王」小勇的爺爺去世了，爸爸來接他時，他躲起來了，不僅把身體躲起來，更把對爺爺的情感隱藏起來。

「豐子愷兒童圖畫書獎」隔年舉行，去年首屆徵集了300多部兩岸三地的中文原創兒童圖畫書，有12部作品入圍最後的角逐，按內容、文字、圖畫、創意及啟發性等，選出「最佳兒童圖畫書首獎」。

優秀兒童圖畫書獎

書名：想要不一樣
作者：童嘉

想要不一樣的心情，大家都有過。比如說不想穿制服、不想做一樣的功課。只是想要生活裏多一點創意，多愛自己一點點而已，這樣有什麼不對嗎？作者以俏皮幽默的畫面，呈現出許多突破整齊畫一、想要與眾不同的點子，不覺令人莞爾，也代表許多「想要不一樣」的孩子反映出他們真實的心聲。

豐子愷簡介

中國傑出畫家及作家，是中國漫畫的開拓者，被譽為「隨筆大師」。他的隨筆持有一種獨特的人生態度，崇尚簡陋生活的工農，崇尚天真純潔的兒童，他憧憬「天下如一家，人們如親族，互相親愛、互相幫助、共樂其生活，那時陌路就變成家庭」的大同社會。

躲貓貓大王

荷花鎮的早市

一園青菜成了精

優秀兒童圖畫書獎

書名：荷花鎮的早市
作者：周翔

豐子愷擅長以簡潔水墨畫風寫市井小民生活，作者以這繪本記錄記憶中的家鄉及市井文化，通過在大都市生活的小男孩陽陽的視角，描繪詩意盎然的鄉景色和樸素溫暖的鄉人情。

第一屆得獎書籍及入圍作品詳情：
www.fengzikaiaward.org

Chinese writers begin to see the big picture

Andrea Li
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For decades, Chinese-language children's picture books were mostly translations of Western works. But that's changing as Chinese writers and illustrators begin to create quality works of their own that are fuelling a new and fast-evolving industry.

"There is still a dearth of original Chinese-language children's picture books. But a growing number of publishers, writers and illustrators, particularly in China, are seeing this shortage as an opportunity," says Sandra Lee, a US-based expert in child education and a former judge for the Feng Zikai Chinese Children's Picture Book Awards.

Set up by the Chen Yet-Sen Family Foundation in 2008, the independent award aims to promote production and distribution of quality Chinese children's picture books.

It is named after prominent mainland illustrator, the late Feng Zikai, and recognises the achievements of both writers and illustrators of children's picture books. The illustrator/writer of the winning book receives a top prize of US\$20,000 and is guaranteed a print run of 3,000 copies.

The discrepancy in standards of English and Chinese-language book markets is due in part to cultural differences. Chinese parents tend to think picture books are not as important because they lack a strong educational dimension, says Lee Su Hwei, founder of child literacy charity Bring Me A Book Hong Kong and a board governor of the Feng Zikai award.

"Chinese parents have not traditionally placed any emphasis on picture books because there has been such a focus on rote learning in schools. In fact, parents in the past thought the more words the better," says Lee Su Hwei.

But that attitude has been shifting as parents realise that early literacy does not just mean being



Alice Choi's daughter, Nathalie, enjoys a picture book (above); award-winning Chinese picture books *A New Year's Reunion* (below), by Yu Liqiong, and *The Day Vegetables Became Goblins* (bottom), by Zhou Xiang



able to read the written word. It also encompasses other important processes such as stimulating creativity and nurturing an appetite for learning.

"Parents want to teach their kids to read, but we take the message further by telling them you can read to learn. Reading is about lifelong learning," Lee Su Hwei says.

The Feng Zikai award has changed the public perception of Chinese picture books. It has raised standards and encouraged the production of more books. "The talent is definitely there. It is a case of investing in it," Lee Su Hwei says.

A New Year's Reunion, written by Yu Liqiong with illustrations by Zhu Chengliang, has garnered notable success since it won the 2009 award. It has had three reprints and has been translated into English by British publisher Walker Books.

"I think the winner of the first Feng Zikai award helped set a standard for illustration and writing. This has been used as a guideline for others," says Sandra Lee.

Even so, she says Chinese writers and illustrators must be mindful not to overwhelm their young readers when incorporating cultural and language elements into children's literature. "Writers and illustrators sometimes forget to put themselves in the child's shoes, or make the assumption that they know best."

Sandra Lee is in Hong Kong to give talks for Bring Me A Book's summer reading campaign, Cuddle and Chuckle with Books, which is held in collaboration with the Hong Kong Public Libraries with activities held in 10 district libraries and other venues. The programme, which includes storytelling sessions, reading workshops, talks, and a touring exhibition of winning works in the 2009 Feng Zikai awards, is a step towards realising their dream of fostering a children's literary festival, says Pia Wong, executive director of Bring Me A Book Hong Kong.

"We aim to ignite a passion for reading among families in Hong Kong. ... Hopefully it will be passed on to future generations to come." familypost@scmp.com

Books

Chinese style

書中自有中國風

A Chinese saying goes: "You will find houses made of gold in a book", reflecting the belief of the Chinese that reading is vital to success. Books also play an important role in the process of educating children. In the last 3 to 4 years, China's book market has gradually opened up. A large number of parenting books from foreign countries have been introduced; some famous masterpieces have become hot topics for a while, while others are rejected as being too unfamiliar. Thus, some local original works, ranging from picture books to parenting guides, have appeared one after another. We will introduce you to the most outstanding ones among them, so that you will be in a position to know what kind of books Chinese children and Chinese parents read, and we also hope you will understand a little more about China through these books.

中國古語有云：書中自有黃金屋，足見中國人對讀書的重視。書本在教育孩子的過程中同樣擔當重要角色。近三四年，中國圖書市場逐步開放，外國親子類圖書亦被大量引入，當中有些名家巨著一時成為熱話，有些則遭遇「水土不服」。於是，從兒童繪本到育兒理論，一些本土原創作品都相繼出現。我們將為你介紹當中最出色的代表，讓大家了解中國的小朋友、中國的家長看甚麼書，亦希望你能從中多一點地了解中國。

Picture book 繪本

《團圓 Tuan Yuan》

文/余麗瓊 繪/朱成梁 Text/Yu Liqiong Illustration/Zhu Chengliang

Tuan Yuan (meaning "reunion" in English) contain a kind of emotion to which the Chinese attach great importance. Since it is the Lunar New Year at the moment, you may be especially affected by it. *Tuan Yuan* is one of the best Chinese original picture books in recent years, and the print run has recently reached 500,000 copies. This touching story replete with human emotions explores every little detail during Spring Festival when a migrant worker father and his daughter are at home together for 3 days. Only 30 pages or so, it appropriately integrates the traditional culture of a nation, connotations of modern life, and children's emotions. The author, Yu Liqiong, is a parenting magazine editor in Mainland China. In this book, her writing flows in a natural and simple way, and the expression of emotion is strong without being fierce. The book has won the "Best Children's Picture Books First Prize" of the first Feng Zikai Award for Children's Picture Book, and is due to be published in English by British Press Walker Books.

團圓，是中國人最重視的一種情感。時下正是農曆新年，你更能感受到這一點。《團圓》是近年最優秀的中國原創繪本之一，印數目前已達50萬本。這個充滿人情味的感人故事，講述外出打工的爸爸在春節回家的三天裡和女兒的相處點滴，薄薄30多頁就將民族傳統文化、現代生活內涵和兒童心理情感恰如其分地融合在一起。作者余麗瓊是內地的育兒雜誌編輯，在這書中，她的文字自然樸素，情感的表達把握得瀟灑而不烈。該書是第一屆丰子愷兒童圖書首獎「最佳兒童圖書首獎」作品，今年更將由英國出版社 British Press Walker Books 發行英文版。



原創繪本 傳承文化

當媽媽與孩子們翻看繪本圖書，有沒有嘗試回想自己小時候閱讀過的原創中文繪本，印象中或許只有《小蝌蚪找媽媽》、《拔蘿蔔》這些有過無數版本的小故事，然後，便是一大段的留白……至十多年前台灣繪本盛行，近年內地出版的繪本漸見佳作，才令繪本世界不再全是繙譯作品的天下。

《團圓》

作者：余麗瓊 繪者：朱成梁
出版：明天出版社

作者在書中沒有說出任何鄉愁，但從爸爸回家，小女孩被抱起，短短幾頁，一股很深的情感已經蘊藏其中。而隨着團聚、吃年夜飯、看熱鬧的街景，到爸爸又要回到工作崗位，小手緊握幸運幣給爸爸，聚聚合合，離離散散，道盡對下一次團圓的企盼。



《元宵燈》

作者：保冬妮 繪者：喻麗一
出版：重慶出版社

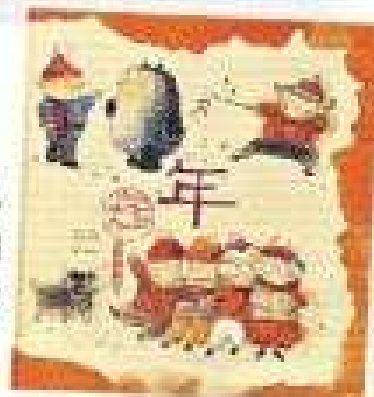
書中透過一件小事，向身為農民工家庭孩子的小主角，傳遞了愛心，也添加了很多富有寓意的元素，如象徵團圓喜慶的紅燈籠，隨着情節而轉變顏色的團圓等。《元宵燈》是「中國情系列」5冊繪本之一，以內地流動人口（兒童）作對象，系列圖書還包括描寫愛滋病孤兒，以及對逝去親人的思念等。



《年》

作者、繪者：熊亮 出版：明天出版社

年這個傳說中的怪物，在中國流傳已久，大家對他似乎耳熟能詳，卻又十分陌生，有關年的故事不勝枚舉，內容大多敘述他如何欺負人，但究竟他為甚麼要欺負人，除了年終歲末，其他日子裏他在做些甚麼？



+ Well Being

團圓的幸福

文、圖 蘇培健 stanley.oneearth@googlemail.com

早前新聞報道，珠三角一帶的工廠，由於工作時間長，工作環境欠佳，愈來愈少外來民工到珠三角工作。看到這個民工荒的報道，實在令我有點感觸。

為生活離鄉別井

很多人離鄉別井，走到城市，甚至遠走他國，為了有更高收入，被迫跟家人分離，一年甚至數年才能回家團圓，這是一種莫大痛苦。

我不知道，這種痛苦是否能夠以金錢補償；我也不知道，是否每個離鄉別井的民工都別無選擇。不過，肯定的是，每日向我們提供糧食的農業，就一直備受忽視，全球投資到農業的資金就不斷下降，在很多國家，農業都得不到重視，農業佔全球 GDP 的比重不斷下降，農村漸漸與「落後」掛鉤——這是另一種痛苦，痛在我們對最基本的忽視。

對城市的偏好或莫名膜拜，當然有一定經濟邏

輯，但城市生活的脆弱亦相當明顯，城市人太過受到保護，遇到危機，心靈未必承受得起。

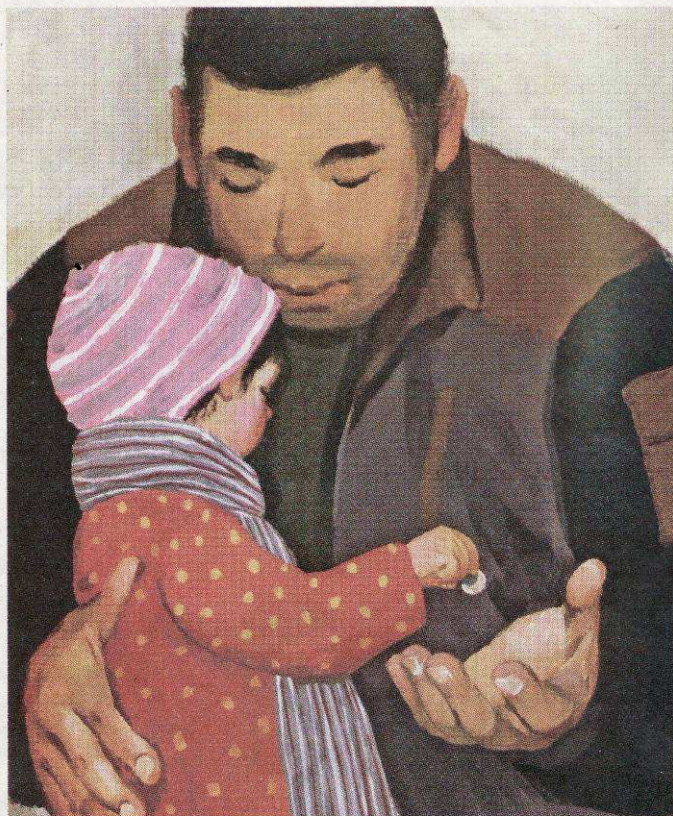
團聚分別構成人生

近期閱讀內地作家余麗瓊與繪畫家朱成梁合作的兒童繪本《團圓》，故事講述到外打工的爸爸，趁新春回家數天所發生的小節，最感動我的場景是這樣：爸爸將「好運幣」放在湯圓內送給女兒，雖然女兒因少見而對父親印象模糊，但收到禮物當然很开心；爸爸臨別時，女兒將暖暖的硬幣放回爸爸手心裏，說下次請再把它包在湯圓裏。這場景看似簡單，卻盛載久別欲重逢的深情。難怪該繪本去年得到第一屆豐子愷兒童圖畫書首獎。

朱成梁在書背說：「團聚，分別；再團聚，再分別……大大小小的團聚和分別構成了我們的人生。」

換了是我，要我一年只能跟家人團圓一次，對不起，我實在受不了。目前，因為工作關係需要經常外出，深感思念妻兒之苦。我想，如果農村生活不是那麼困苦，很多人寧願留在家鄉工作，不用遠走他方，更毋須一年只見家人一次，承受被迫分別的痛苦。

一個地方的發展水平，不能單看經濟數字，如 GDP 增長或股市樓市漲升，家人分離，農民農業受忽視等所帶來的社會代價，都要一一計算。



1a 各地蒐羅

女兒將父親送贈的「好運幣」交給父親，請他下次回來時，再把它包在湯圓裏。

(圖片摘自《團圓》)