

12 Animal Trail in Oxford



Catalogue 2018-2019

Year of Dog and Year of Pig

12 Animal Trail in Oxford

Can you find all the 12 animals of the Eastern Zodiac in Oxford? This map shows you some places to look. Some are real; some are statues. We think you can find them all. Remember, Jade Rabbit was very good at disguise! Silly Billy may look like a Ram, or perhaps like a Unicorn! Five colour Dog turned into a handsome man with a face like a dog! Read about all the animals with Snowflake Books Animal Signs series.

鼠 (shǔ) Mouse/Rat: Jiazi-Year Rat. You can see a traditional Chinese styled mouse painting in the Jameel Study Centre in the Ashmolean Museum.

牛 (niú) Ox/Cow/Water buffalo: The name “Oxford” means a ford suitable for cattle, and dates back to Saxon times. An attractive example is on the cast iron railings of Osney Bridge, built in 1899 where Botley road crosses the River Thames. In Chinese mythology the ox symbolises hard work and a kind nature.

虎 (hǔ) Tiger: In Chinese legend the reformed tiger became the Protector of Little Children. Children’s clothes were often decorated with tiger images to give protection against evil spirits. In the Pitt-Rivers Museum see if you can find the children’s “Tiger Hat” of the Miao people from Guizhou Province!

兔 (tù) Rabbit/Hare: Alice in Wonderland is always associated with Oxford, and with the White Rabbit. If you go to the Story Museum you will find a large figure of a White Rabbit. Have a look around the museum. The author, pen name Lewis Carroll, lived at nearby Christchurch. You may also find a rabbit in the Ashmolean Museum when you are looking for the little mouse.

龙 (lóng) Dragon: Chinese Dragons are symbols of power and status, and of gods, so dragon images are found on temples and palaces and on clothes of important people. You can find splendid robes decorated with dragons in the China Rooms of the Ashmolean Museum.

蛇 (shé) Snake: The coat of arms of Green Templeton College which teaches medicine includes the ancient symbol for healing – a snake coiled around a staff. In Greek mythology this was the symbol of Asclepius, demi-god of medicine. Because snakes shed their skins they were thought to represent rebirth and long life. In Taiwan snakes were worshipped as the daughters of the Land Gods who cared for the farmers and countryside, perhaps because they kill rodents.



马 (mǎ) Horse: In the Tang period in China people were very skilled in training horses for war and entertainment with their mysterious “dancing horses”. The earthenware statuettes of Tang Horses are unusually naturalistic and are highly valued. You can see some of the beautiful Tang horses in the China Room in the Ashmolean Museum.

羊 (yáng) Goat/Sheep/Ram: The legend of the one-horned goat corresponds with another mythical Chinese creature: the kylin. For centuries China was famous for its blue and white porcelain. This fine example shows the one horned goat and is nearly 700 years old! It can usually be found on the second floor of the Ashmolean Museum in the China display in Room 38.

猴 (hóu) Monkey: The Monkey King is so important in Chinese and Buddhist legend that the Ashmolean Museum had a whole exhibition of monkeys! Unfortunately this is now ended, but you are sure to see many images of the Monkey King in the China rooms.

鸡 (jī) Rooster: Standing at the crossroads in the centre of Oxford you will see Carfax Tower, remains of the 12th century church of St Martin. On top is a weather vane or weathercock in the shape of a cockerel. Many centuries ago Pope Nicholas ruled that all churches must use cockerels as weather vanes in memory of St Peter. High up, the cockerel is the first thing to catch the rising sun. We like to link that with the mythical Chinese Rooster who persuaded the reluctant sun to rise and warm the earth.

狗 (gǒu) Dog: Several East Asian countries share a Buddhist tradition and common mythical animals. Large statues of the Lion-Dog guarded palaces in China, but you can find an attractive figurine in the Japan Room 37 in the Ashmolean Museum.

猪 (zhū) Pig: The pig is a symbol of happiness and good luck in Chinese legend and in Europe. The Pitt Rivers Museum has a display of “Luck and Protection” charms and there you can find a little pig, who actually doesn’t look very happy!

Now you know all the animals of the Chinese years and zodiac!





Grand Animal Race Game

Box Size: 212 x 299 x 35mm

Contents: story colouring book; games map; lucky red bag with 1 dice and 12 counters; instruction and penalty board, original greeting card.

Book: ISBN 9781908350664; A4 210 x 297 x 10 mm; 40 pages

Map: A1 594 x 841 mm

Greeting card: 130 x 180mm

Prices: box £14.99; book £7.99.

My Eastern Adventure Box

Begin by writing your name into this special colouring story book and it will carry you straight into the mythical world of old China to take part in its most famous story: **THE GREAT ANIMAL RACE.**

Along the journey you will see the beauty of the traditional Chinese landscape and recognise famous mythical animals which bring blessings and good luck. What's more, as you colour the animals and read the story, you will learn to speak basic greetings in Mandarin and learn to count too!

Every copy of this unique colouring story book is **HANDMADE** and bound in a **TRADITIONAL CHINESE STYLE**, which serves as an ideal introductory fun book to Chinese legends, art and culture. Interestingly every page is decorated by hand with the traditional Chinese personal seals of the artists and author. In ancient China, red seals represented the sole identity of a respectful person and only Emperors could use the largest seal in the nation to symbolise absolute control of the entire empire. Scholars liked to use their own seals to identify their books with themselves. With all the red seals in the colouring book, the illustrators and Snowflake Books are with you throughout the whole adventure. Every seal is **ORIGINAL**, not a copy! You will find the traditional red ink might be still fresh!



Special Features of the books

Elegant English text

Colour coded key words

Parallel Chinese translation
Pinyin for pronunciation

Beautiful original artists' drawings

Pinyin and Chinese translation

List of key words

Audio CD or
QRcode

3 Formats: softcover,
hardcover, animated
ebook

* A great way for children to share a rich and wise way of life from another country.

* Snowflake stories are modern versions of ancient Chinese legends, hundreds, even thousands, of years old, yet with characters which everyone will recognise and identify with today.

* These fascinating stories also explain the meanings behind many modern Chinese festivals and ideas, such as the Chinese New Year celebrations or the magical and beautiful Sky Lantern Festival.

* Beautifully illustrated with original artwork and told in simple English, these books can be read by and to children simply as English stories; but they can also be used to introduce children to the Chinese language (Mandarin) if desired.

* The complete stories are told both in English and Mandarin. Many titles also have a Pinyin text which is used even by Chinese children to learn the pronunciation of Chinese characters. And to make sure, you can listen to the CDs (included with many titles) with the stories and keywords spoken in English and in Chinese.

* Snowflake Books can be found or ordered from most bookshops. They can also conveniently be ordered from our online shop www.snowflakebooks.co.uk using PayPal.



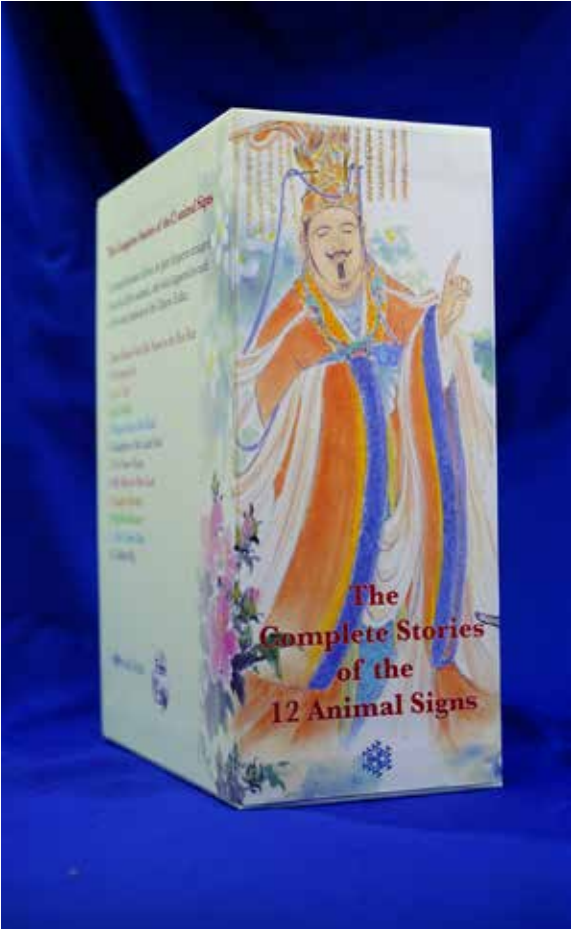
Stories of Animal Signs Series

Everyone knows that Chinese give animal names to their years. There are 12 animals and when the twelfth year is over (Year of Pig) the cycle starts again with Year of Mouse. All Chinese children learn the famous legend of how the years got their names; and there are wonderful stories about each animal. Western children can now share these lovely and amusing stories with our series of 12 Animal Sign books. Chinese believe that the animal year you are born in will influence your character.

BOOK DETAILS

Category: picture story book; age 5+
Languages: English and Simplified Chinese with Pinyin.
Feature: illustrated Chinese legends; Chinese-English-Pinyin vocabulary.
Format: 279x216; 32 pages; all full colour pages; hardcover and softcover.
Includes CD OR QR code.
Prices: hardcover £12.99; softcover £6.99.

NOTE in keeping with modern practice our latest editions include a QR code instead of a CD. The code gives access to an e-book version for six months.

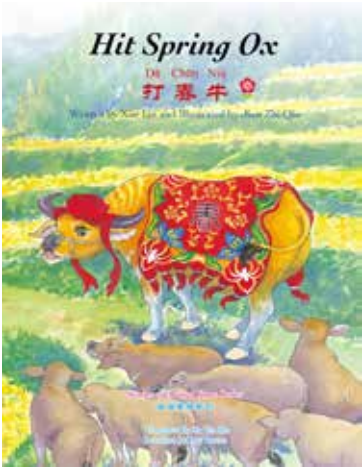


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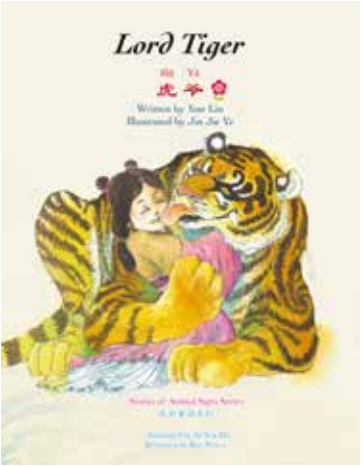
How Mouse gave his Name to the First Year

“Tells how the mythical Jade Emperor holds a special race to name the years, and how the clever little mouse beats all the other animals.”
New edition May 2014, with CD
Hard cover ISBN 978-1-908350-21-3
Soft cover ISBN 978-1-908350-47-3



Hit Spring Ox

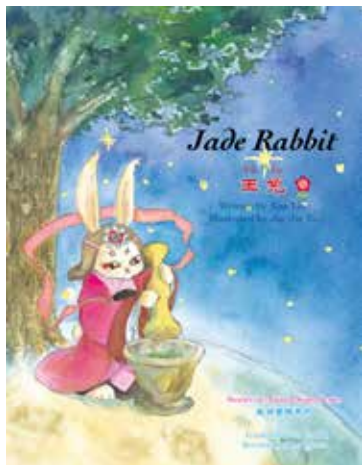
“The kind Ox disobeys the heavenly Jade Emperor and teaches humans how to grow rice. He is remembered with affection by the Chinese people.”
First edition May 2017, with QRcode
Hard cover ISBN 978-1-908350-58-9
Soft cover ISBN 978-1-908350-63-3



Lord Tiger

“Tiger is a very bad tiger, but he really wants to be good. Wise Doctor Wu shows him he has healing powers, and now Tiger is called ‘Guardian of Children’.”
First edition May 2017, with QRcode
Hard cover ISBN 978-1-908350-57-2
Soft cover ISBN 978-1-908350-62-6





Jade Rabbit

“Jade Rabbit’s kindness to an old man is rewarded when the Moon Lady teaches her to make magic medicine. In China, Jade Rabbit is revered for her healing powers.”

First edition May 2017, with QRcode

Hard cover ISBN 978-1-908350-59-6

Soft cover ISBN 978-1-908350-64-0



Five Flower Horse

“Why does the fastest animal only come seventh in the special animal race? A sympathetic story of a horse who follows his dream to be the emperor’s best dancing horse.”

Published May 2014, with CD

Hard cover ISBN 978-1-908350-31-2

Soft cover ISBN 978-1-908350-48-0



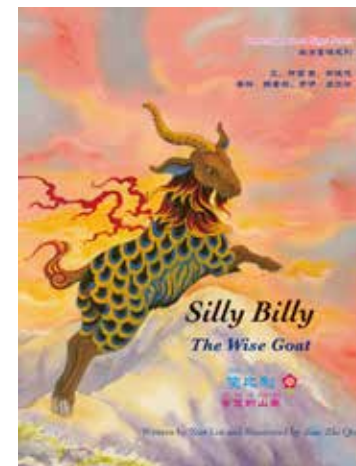
Dragon Raises His Head

“Dragon takes pity on the starving people and brings them rain. He is punished by the legendary Jade Emperor, but is rescued by a little child’s cleverness.”

First edition May 2017, with QRcode

Hard cover ISBN 978-1-908350-42-8

Soft cover ISBN 978-1-908350-65-7



Silly Billy: the wise goat

"They call him Silly Billy, but he believes in himself and becomes the wisest goat of all and teaches his friends how to stand up to the greedy wolf."

Published May 2014, with CD

Hard cover ISBN 978-1-908350-36-7

Soft cover ISBN 978-1-908350-45-9



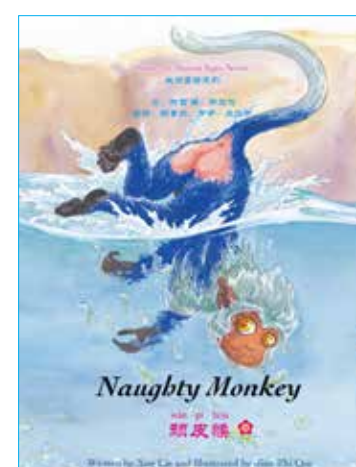
Daughters of the Land God

“A touching story of human prejudice that teaches us that if we are kind to animals they won’t hurt us.”

Published May 2014, with CD

Hard cover ISBN 978-1-908350-27-5

Soft cover ISBN 978-1-908350-46-6



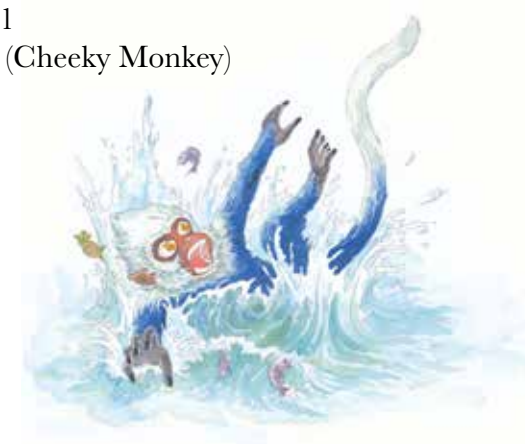
Naughty Monkey

“Monkey is a bad loser and can’t control his temper, but Buddha teaches him how to behave and to study, and Monkey becomes one of the Buddha’s trusted followers.”

Published May 2014, with CD

Hard cover ISBN 978-1-908350-38-1

Soft cover ISBN 978-1-908350-44-2 (Cheeky Monkey)



Chinese Festival Series

Traditional Chinese life has many colourful festivals throughout the year, especially in Taiwan where they are great tourist attractions. Best known of course is the Chinese New Year, but there are lots of others. They have their origins in farming practice and so are based on the Lunar Calendar. Each festival has its own fascinating legendary story.

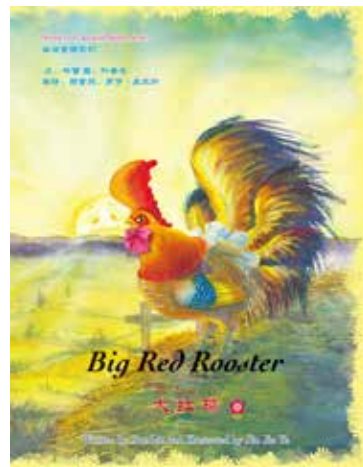
BOOK DETAILS

Category: picture story book; age 7 to adult.

Languages: English; Simplified Chinese with Pinyin.

Feature: Farming and festivals illustrated; Chinese-English-Pinyin vocabulary.

Format: 210x210; 32 or 64 pages; all pages in full colour; hardcover and softcover; CD.



Big Red Rooster

“Rooster is not respected by his friends, but when the sun is afraid to shine and the world is dark and cold, Rooster becomes a hero.”

Published 2015, with CD

Hard cover ISBN 978-1-908350-37-4

Soft cover ISBN 978-1-908350-43-5



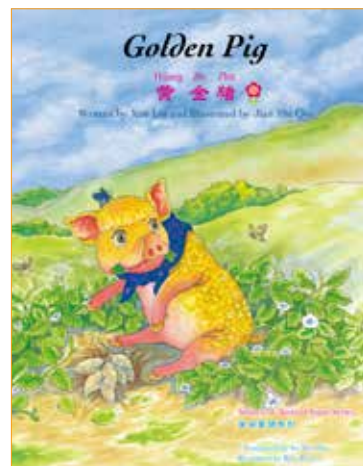
Five Colour Dog

“Five Colour Dog’s loyalty to the Mountain Princess, Little Lotus, is rewarded when the princess’s tears turn him into a handsome human who marries the princess.”

First edition May 2017, with QRcode

Hard cover ISBN 978-1-908350-55-8

Soft cover ISBN 978-1-908350-60-2



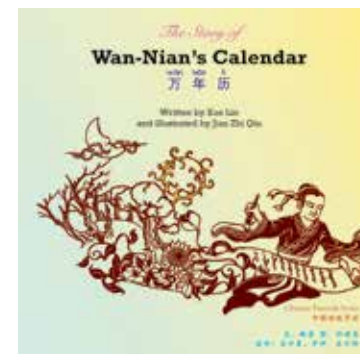
Golden Pig

“Golden Pig is easily distracted and sometimes eats too much, but she always manages to do the right thing in the end.”

First edition May 2017, with QRcode

Hard cover ISBN 978-1-908350-56-5

Soft cover ISBN 978-1-908350-61-9



The Story of

Wan-Nian's Calendar

“How and why the legendary Wan-Nian designed the Lunar Calendar to help farmers plan their crops with the seasons.”

Published May 2014, with CD

Hard cover ISBN 978-1-908350-29-9 GBP 12.99

Soft cover ISBN 978-1-908350-49-7 GBP 6.99



The Story of

Pingxi Sky Lanterns

“Sky Lanterns Festival is the most beautiful Chinese festival. The story of a brave little girl, Cherry Blossom, and how it all began.”

Published 2015, with CD

Hard cover ISBN 978-1-908350-34-3 GBP 12.99

Soft cover ISBN 978-1-908350-51-0 GBP 6.99



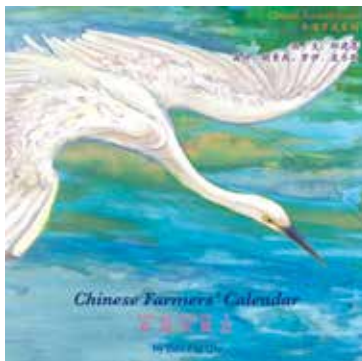
The Story of The New Year Beast

“This exciting legend explains why Chinese celebrate the New Year with firecrackers and drums. Every Chinese child loves this scary story about the brave villagers and the monster.”

Published 2014, with CD

Hard cover ISBN 978-1-908350-26-8 GBP 14.99

Soft cover ISBN 978-1-908350-54-1 GBP 7.99



Chinese Farmers' Calendar

“A little boy discovers the 24 stages of the traditional Chinese farming year, which are the origins of many modern festivals.”

Published 2014, with CD

Hard cover ISBN 978-1-908350-23-7 GBP 14.99

Soft cover ISBN 978-1-908350-52-7 GBP 7.99



The Story of Tusu Elixir

“The emperors sought an elixir of eternal life, but kind Dr Sun's legendary elixir brings only health and good will at New Year.”

Published 2015, with CD

Hard cover ISBN 978-1-908350-35-0 GBP 12.99

Soft cover ISBN 978-1-908350-50-3 GBP 6.99



The Dragon Princess

“This magical fable was written down several centuries ago and is considered to be one of the foundations of modern Chinese literature. It also shows the importance of the mythical dragon culture and the belief that dragon kings controlled the rivers and floods which have been so significant in Chinese history.”

First edition May 2014, with CD

Hard cover ISBN 978-1-908350-24-4 GBP 14.99

Soft cover ISBN 978-1-908350-53-4 GBP 7.99

Legends of Animal Signs Series

The Chinese have many animal stories which are used to illustrate human situations and are favourites for Chinese children. Here are some more stories about two of the Zodiac animals.

BOOK DETAILS

Category: picture story book; age 7 to adult.

Languages: English; Simplified Chinese.

Feature: Traditional animal stories illustrated; Chinese-English-Pinyin vocabulary.

Format: 150x190; 32 or 64 pages; all pages in full colour; hardcover.



Nine Sons of The Dragon

“This charming story shows that every child has a special talent. It is also a guide to the different dragon statues on Chinese buildings.”

New edition May 2014; GBP 8.99

ISBN 978-1-908350-25-1



Horse Tales Stories of Chinese Horses

“Four sympathetic traditional stories about the bond between humans and horses.”

Published May, 2014; GBP 8.99

ISBN 978-1-908350-32-9



Dragon Tales Stories of Chinese Dragons

“Three amusing stories about Chinese Dragons. In China, unlike in the west, dragons were traditionally worshipped as gods.”

Published May, 2014; GBP 8.99

ISBN 978-1-908350-30-5

Chinese Wisdom Series

Chinese people have many wise and perceptive sayings which are used in everyday conversation but may seem obscure to Westerners. These stories explain the meanings behind some of these sayings. Because of the importance of dragon culture, many sayings relate to dragons: and to horses which are thought to have the wise and noble qualities of dragons on earth.

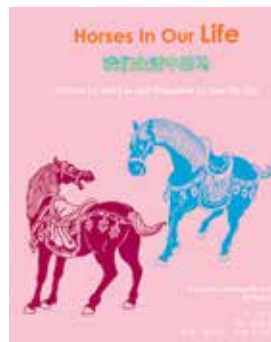
BOOK DETAILS

Category: picture story book; age 7 to adult.
 Languages: English; Simplified Chinese.
 Feature: Paper-cut illustrations; Chinese-English-Pinyin vocabulary.
 Format: 150x190; 32 or 64 pages; all pages in full colour; hardcover.



Horses In Our Life

“Horses were venerated as wise and noble animals in China. Here are the curious meanings behind many Chinese sayings about horses.”
 Published May 2014; GBP 8.99
 ISBN 978-1-908350-19-0



Dragons In Our Life

“Explains the legendary stories and curious meanings behind many popular wise Chinese sayings based on dragons.”
 New edition May 2014; GBP 8.99
 ISBN 978-1-908350-20-6



Animal Wisdom: the Chinese Zodiac

Here are twelve more amusing stories about the twelve zodiac animals. Each story contains a good lesson for life.
 Published May 2014; GBP 9.99
 ISBN 978-1-908350-22-0



Animal Wisdom: Dragons

Explains the legendary stories and curious meanings behind many popular wise Chinese sayings based on dragons.
 New edition May 2014; GBP 9.99
 ISBN 978-1-908350-28-2



Animal Wisdom: Horses

Five charming horse stories from China that amusingly highlight the follies and the strengths of human character.
 Published May 2014; GBP 8.99
 ISBN 978-1-908350-18-3



MANDARIN FUN CLUBS FOR SCHOOLS AND PARENTS

Snowflake Books are experienced in providing popular fun events with a Chinese theme for children in schools, museums and clubs within 50 miles of Oxford.

We offer interactive story readings and animations, games, craft activities, traditional **Dragon Dancing** -- very popular with children! -- introductions to useful words and expressions in Mandarin, and opportunities for links with schools in Taiwan.

Events are themed around the Chinese Lunar Calendar and the many traditional Festivals which take place throughout the year. We are able to incorporate aspects of the ongoing diversity learning that you have taking place within the classroom, tailored to suit the needs and age range of your class.

We offer a choice of One-off Sessions for special events or a Longer Course of 8 weekly sessions. Mandarin Fun Clubs can take place in school or as After School Clubs in evenings to suit your school.

If you would like more information please contact one of our friendly staff on info@snowflakebooks.co.uk

Meanwhile maybe you would like to sample the flavour of our events on this short two-minute video.



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PRIVATE CUSTOMERS

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Any bookshop will order for you if the book you want is not in stock. It will be very helpful for the bookshop if you provide the ISBN reference number of the book, or even better show them this catalogue.

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A number of bookshops sell our books online, including Blackwell's and Foyles' and Waterstones' online shops.

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What We Do

We make beautiful picture story books that are based on old Chinese legends, specially re-written in English for young children.

The stories are warm and sympathetic and aim to introduce traditional Chinese life and wisdom to Western children.

The stories are also written in Chinese or Mandarin which is the form of Chinese taught in British schools. Special features help to introduce children easily to the Chinese language.

Please note: while many titles have a pinyin text, not all do. Please check the book details if you are looking for this feature. Some titles are also available in Traditional Chinese editions on request.



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