

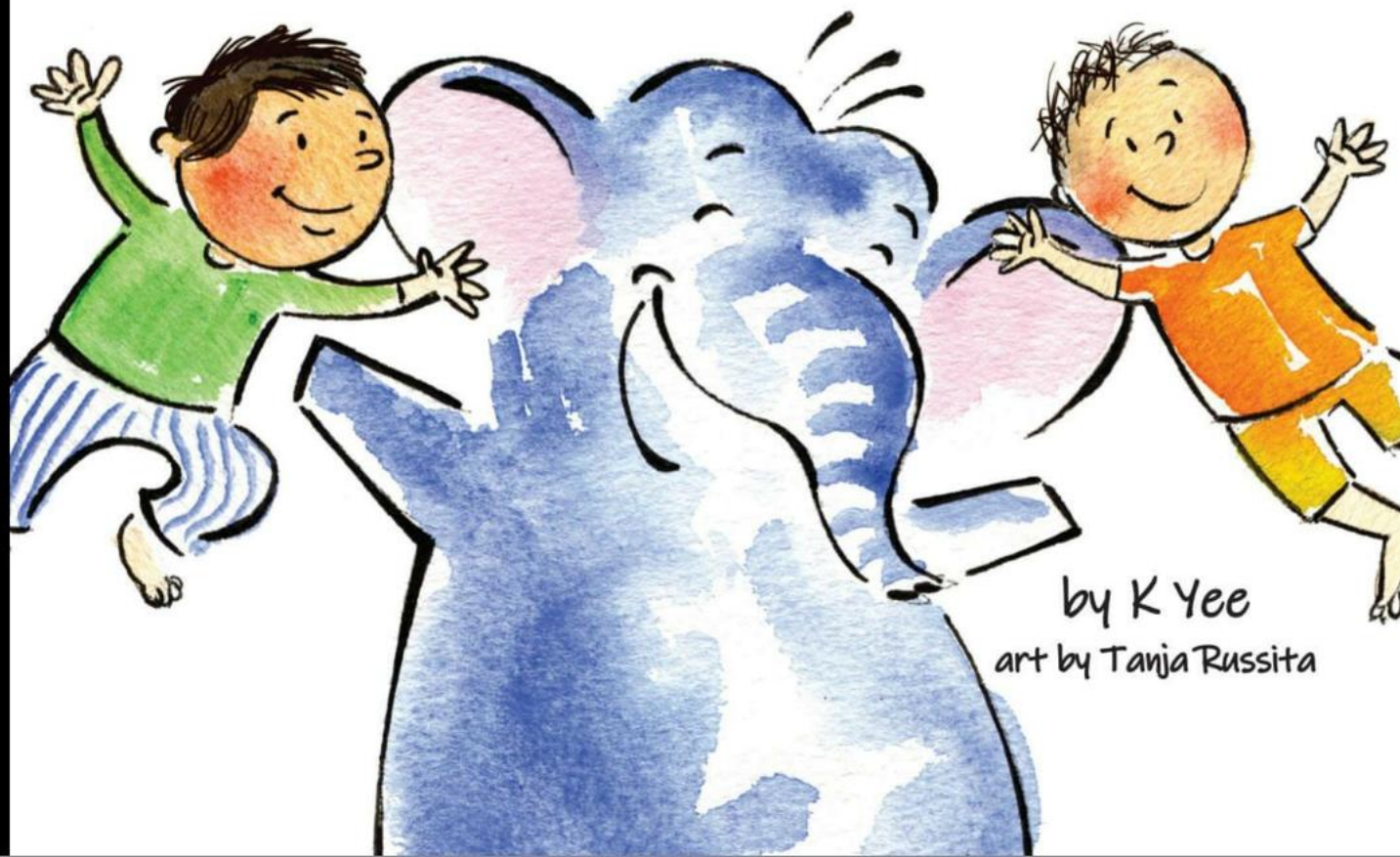
Cantonese for Kids: A Cantonese-English Book



Goh Goh and Dai Dai's

BIG DAY WITH ELEPHANT

哥哥弟弟和大笨象好開心的一天



by K Yee
art by Tanja Russita

Cantonese for Kids: A Cantonese-English Book



Goh Goh and Dai Dai's

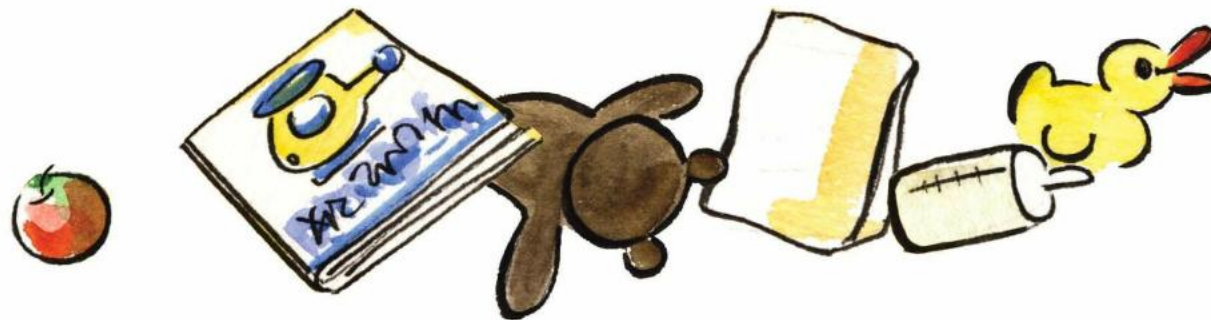
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Goh Goh, the **stuff** is everywhere!

哥哥, 啲嘢邊度都係!

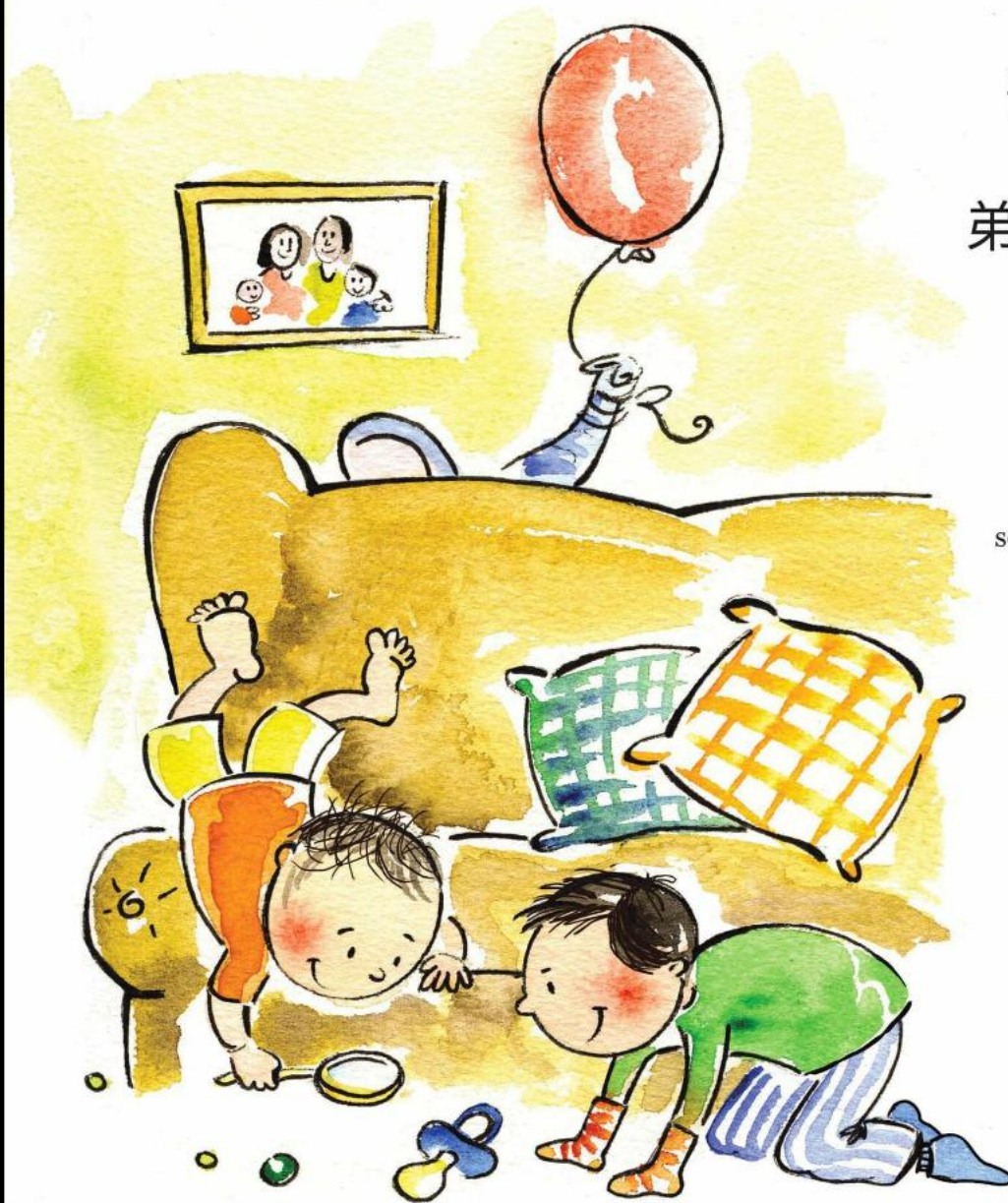
go1	go1	di1	je5	bin1	dou6	dou1	hai2
goh	goh	dee	yeh	bean	doh	doh	high



Dai Dai, who made it so **messy**?

弟弟, 邊個攞到咁撈攞呀?

dai6	dai6	bin1	go3	gaau2	dou3	gam3	laau2	gaau5	aa3
dai	dai	bean	guo	gow	doh	gum	lau	gow	ah



哥哥 Older Brother
go1 go1 (goh goh)

弟弟 Younger Brother
dai6 dai6 (dai dai)

氣球 Balloon
heiz kau4 (hay kuw)

恤衫 Shirt
seot1 saam1 (soot sahm)

手套 Gloves
sau2 tou3 (suw toe)

奶嘴 Pacifier
naai5 zeoi2 (nye jeoi)

褸 Jacket
lau1 (luw)

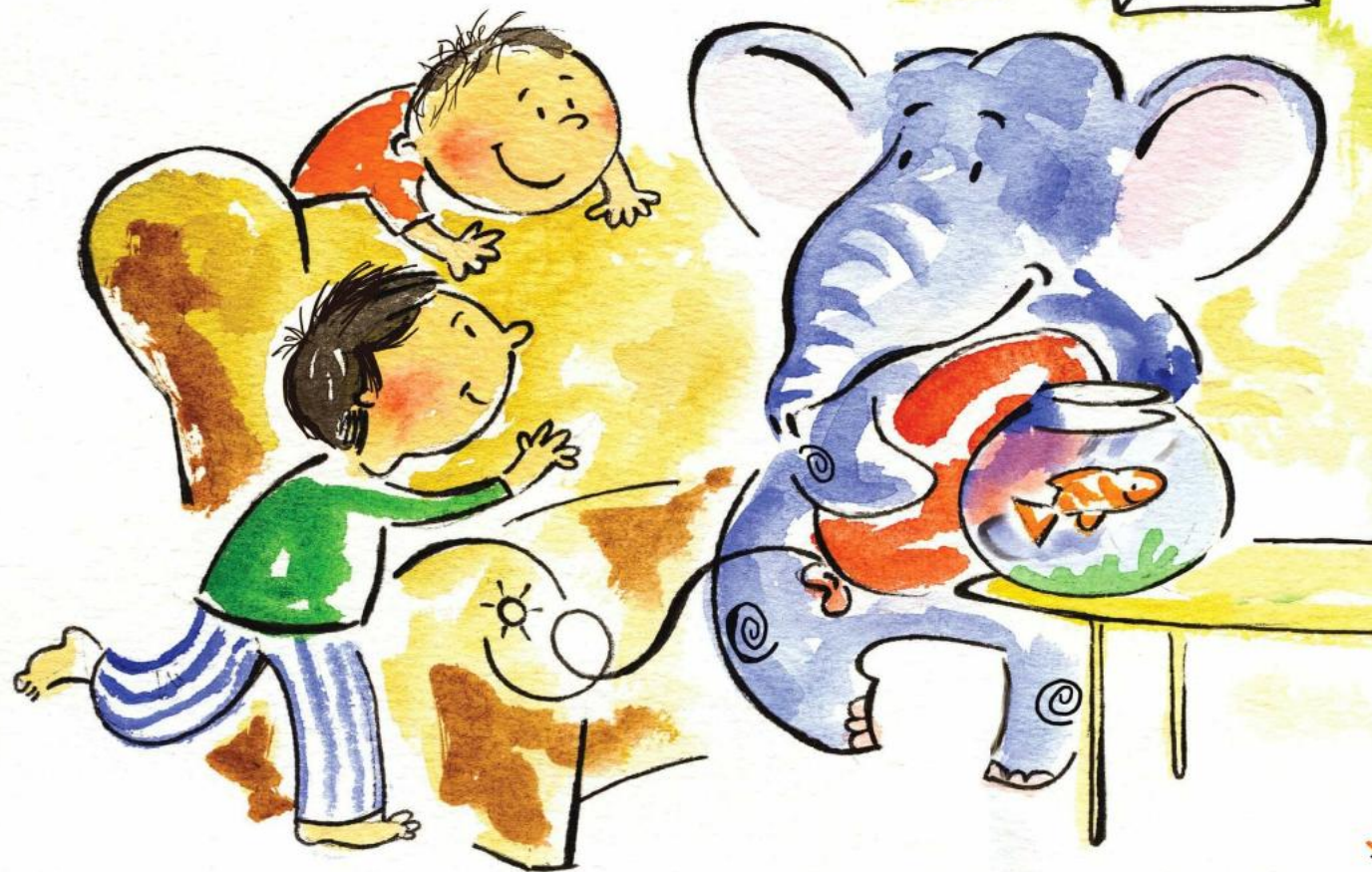
襪 Socks
mat6 (mutt)

褲 Pants
fu3 (foo)

It's **Elephant**! He's in the **living room**!

係 **大** 笨 象! 佢 喺 **客** 廳!

hai5 daai6 ban6 zoeng6 keoi5 hai2 haak3 teng1
high dye bun jerng keoi high hahk tang



Let's go play!

去玩啦!

heoi3 waan2 laa1
heoi wahn luh



扶手凳 Armchair

fu4 sau2 dang3 (foo suw dung)

窗口 Window

coeng1 hau2 (cherng huw)

花樽 Vase

faa1 zeon1 (fah juun)

畫 Painting

waa2 (wah)

檯 Table

toi2 (toy)

燈 Lamp

dang1 (dung)

波 Ball

bo1 (buoh)

地氈 Rug

dei6 zin1 (day jeen)

金魚 Goldfish

gam1 jyu4 (gum yue)

We **sing songs** together.

我 哋 一 齊 唱 歌.

ngo5	dei6	jat1	cai4	coeng3	go1
ngo	day	yet	chai	cherng	guo



We **play*** piano together.

我 哋 一 齊 彈 鋼 琴 .

ngo5	dei6	jat1	cai4	taan4	gong3	kam4
ngo	day	yet	chai	tahn	guong	kum



* The translation of "play" varies based on context.

Who **wants** to go play in the **backyard**?

邊 個 想 去 後 院 玩?

bin1	go3	soeng2	heoi3	hau6	jyun2	waan2
bean	guo	serng	heoi	huw	yuen	wahn



We like to **water** the **flowers**.

我 哋 中 意 **淋** 花.

ngo5
ngo

dei6
day

zung1
johng

ji3
yee

lam4
lum

fai1
fa

花園 Flower Garden
fai1 jyun4 (fa yuen)

蝴蝶 Butterfly
wu4 dip2 (woo deep)

西瓜 Watermelon
sai1 gwaa1 (sigh gwah)

水喉 Garden Hose
seoi2 hau4 (seoi huw)

帽 Hat
mou6 (moh)

雀仔 Bird
zoek3 zai2 (jerk zhai)

草地 Lawn
cou2 dei6 (cho day)

雲 Cloud
wan4 (wun)

樹 Tree
syu6 (shue)



Everyone **climbs** the apple **trees**.

個 個 爬 蘋 菓 樹.

gō3
guo

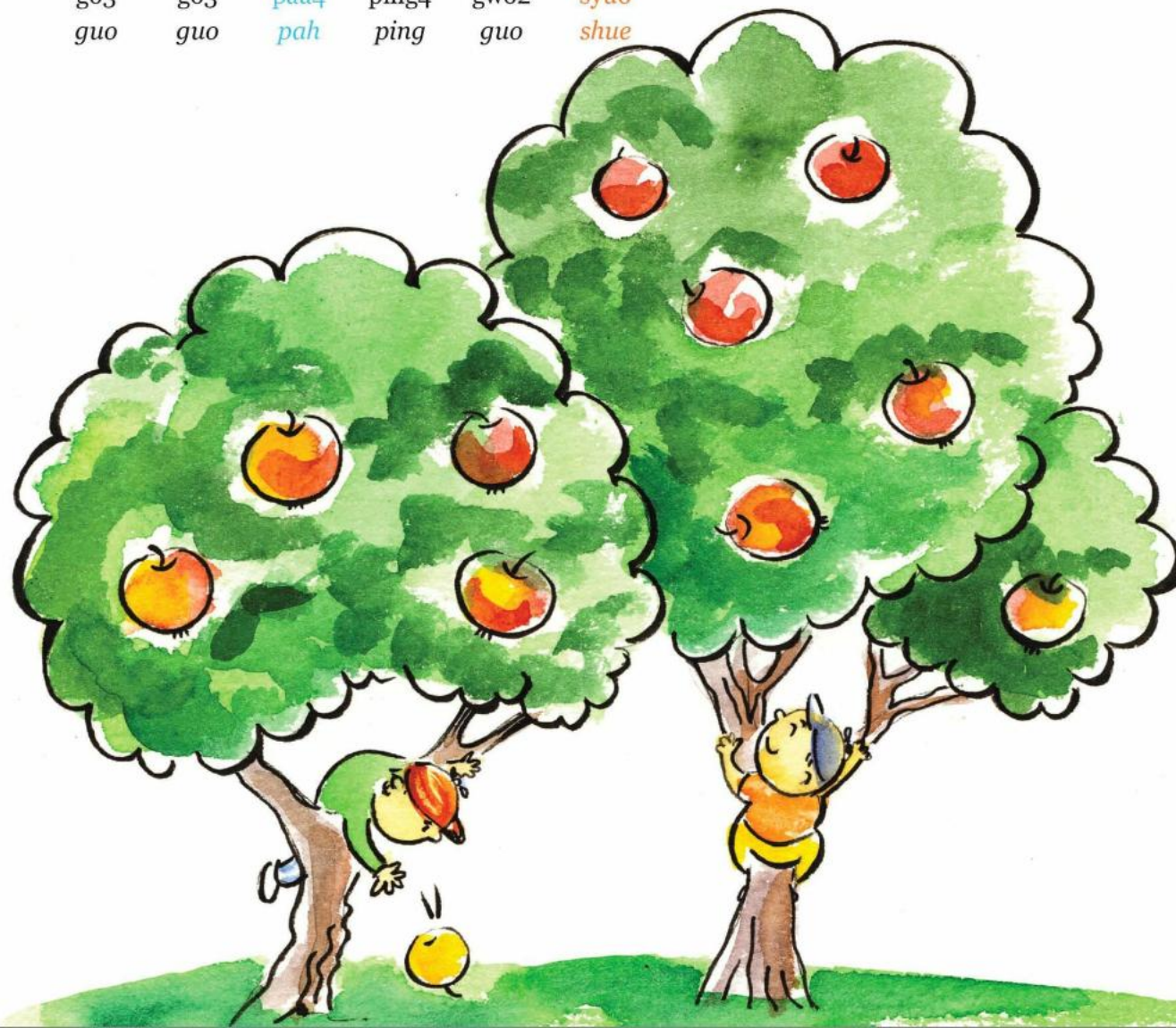
gō3
guo

paa4
pah

ping4
ping

gwō2
guo

syu6
shue



Who wants to **pick** red apples?

邊 個 想 摘 紅 蘋 菓?

bin1

go3

soeng2

zaak6

hung4

ping4

gw02

bean

guo

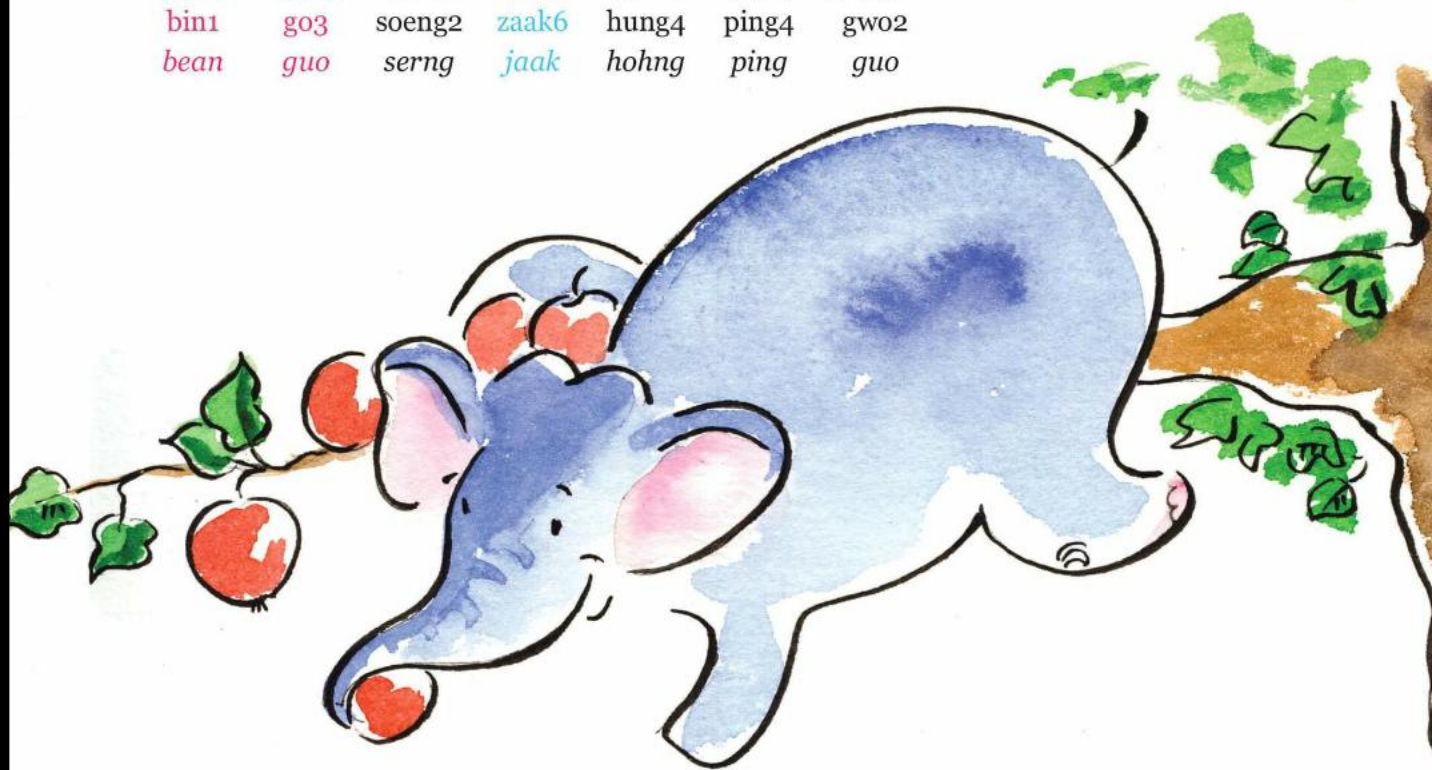
serng

jaak

hohng

ping

guo



An **apple** fell down!

隻 蘋 菓 跌 咗 落 地 啦!

zek3

ping4

gw02

dit3

zo2

lok6

dei6

laa1

jaek

ping

guo

deet

juo

lock

day

la



We like to **play*** **ball**.

我 哋 中 意 打 波。

ngo5

dei6

zung1

ji3

daa2

bo1

ngo

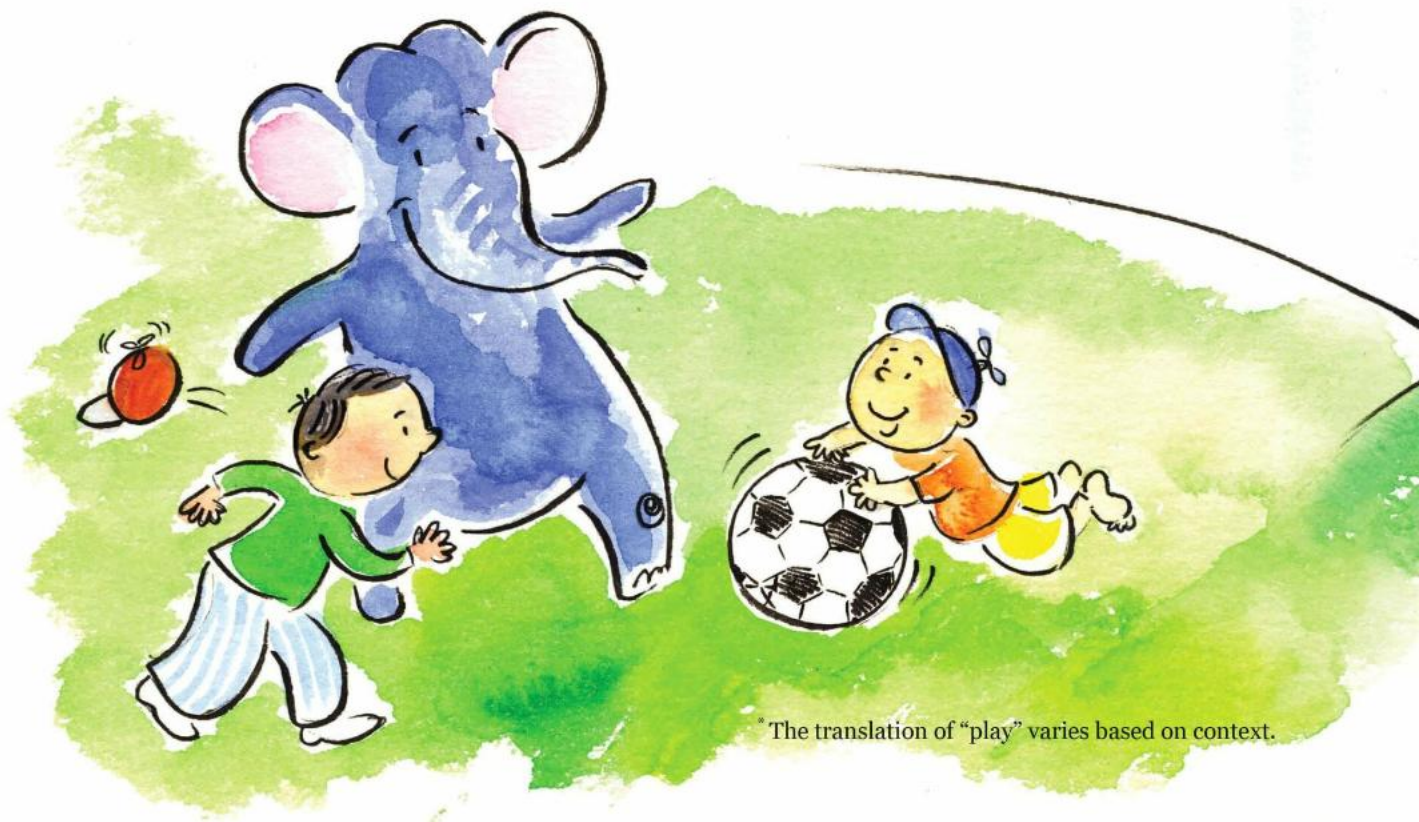
day

johng

yee

dah

buoh



* The translation of "play" varies based on context.



We **fly** a **dragon kite**!

我 哋 放 條 龍 紙 鸞!

ngo5
ngo

dei6
day

fong3
fuong

tiu4
tiew

lung4
lohng

zi2
jee

jiu2
yew



We played for so **long**! We're really **hungry**!

我 哋 玩 咗 好 耐! 我 哋 好 肚 餓!

ngo5
ngo

dei6
day

waan2
wahn

zo2
juo

hou2
ho

noi6
noy

ngo5
ngo

dei6
day

hou2
ho

tou5
toe

ngo6
ngoh

Everyone goes to the kitchen.

大 家 去 廚 房 .

daai6
dye

gaa1
gah

heoi3
heoi

cyu4
chiu

fong2
fuong



We help **cook dinner!**

我 哋 幫 手 煮 晚 飯!

ngo5 dei6 bong1 sau2 zyü2 maan5 faan6
ngo day bong suw jue mahn fahn



凳 Chair
dang3 (dung)

碗 Bowl
wun2 (woon)

杯 Cup
bui1 (buoy)

鑊 Wok
wok6 (wok)

煲 Pot
bou1 (bo)

爐頭 Stove
lou4 tau4 (lo tuw)

焗爐 Oven
guk6 lou4 (gook loh)

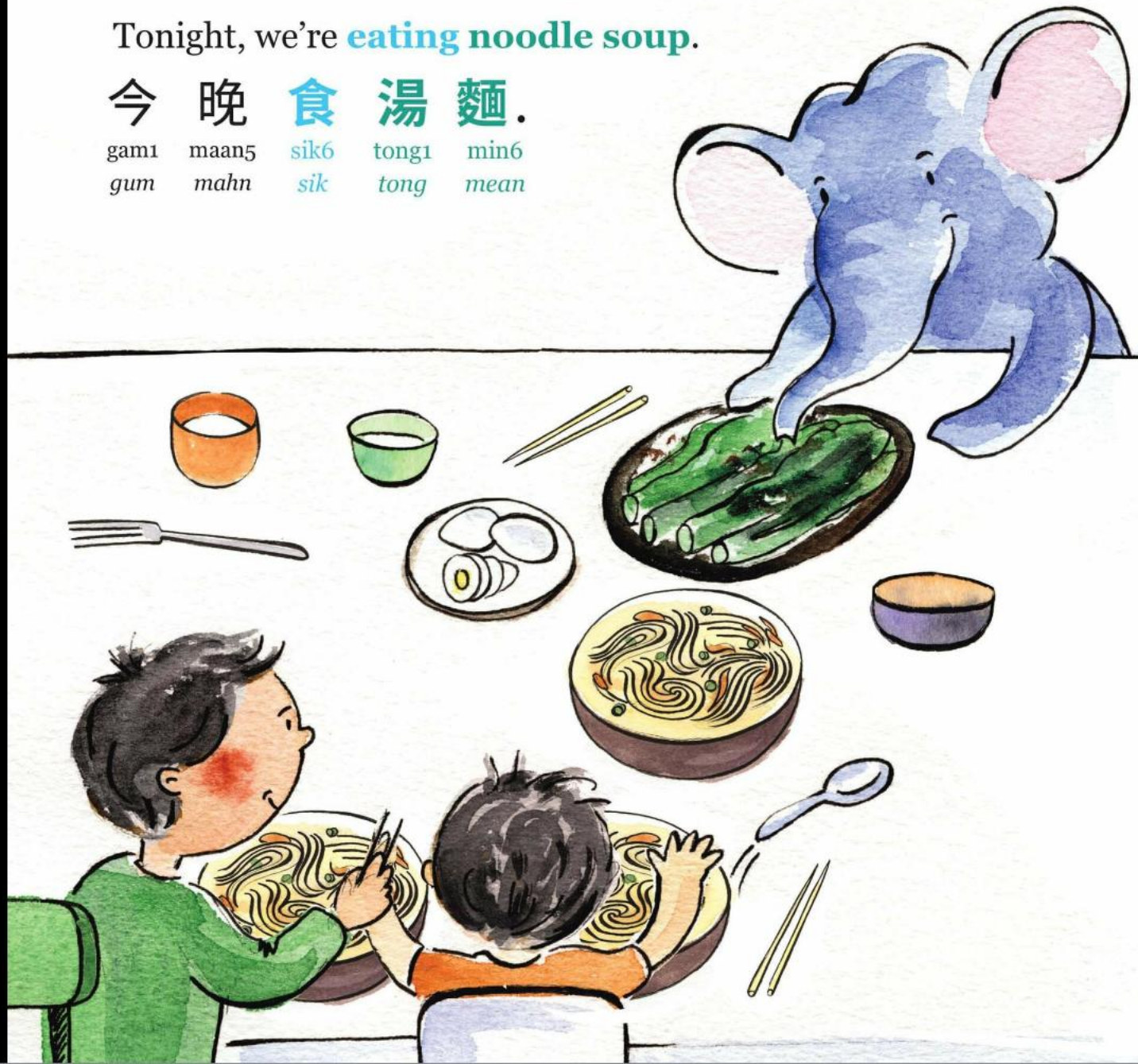
雪櫃 Refrigerator
syut3 gwai6 (shoot gwy)

食飯檯 Dining Table
sik6 faan6 toi2 (sik fahn toy)

Tonight, we're **eating noodle soup**.

今晚食湯麵。

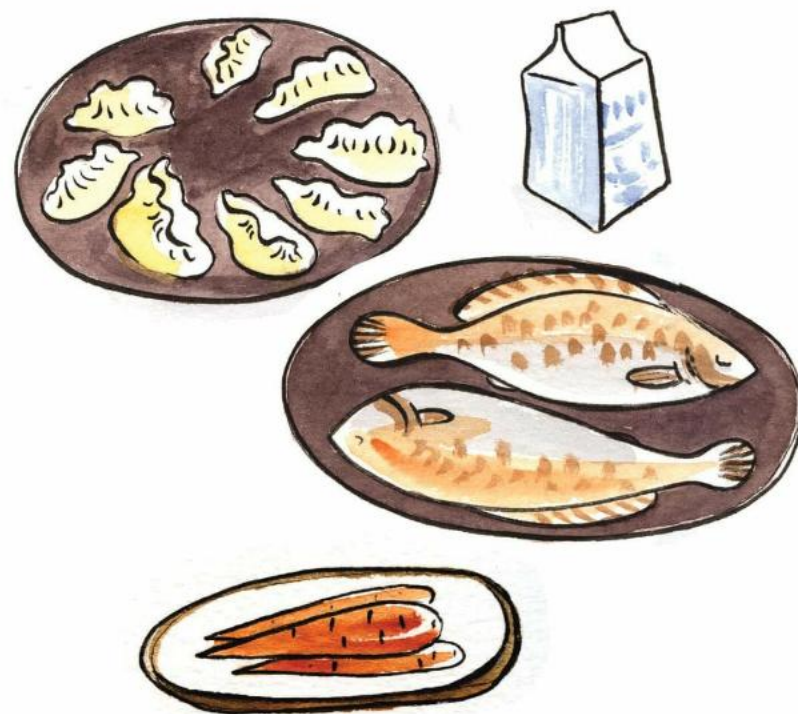
gam1	maan5	sik6	tong1	min6
gum	mahn	sik	tong	mean



Who wants **boiled dumplings**?

邊 個 要 水 餃?

bin1 go3 jiu3 seoi2 gaau2
bean guo yew seoi gao



魚 Fish
jyu4 (yue)

蛋 Egg
daan6 (dahn)

麵 Noodles
min6 (mean)

叉 Fork
caa1 (cha)

匙羹 Spoon
ci4 gang1 (chee gung)

筷子 Chopsticks
fai3 zi2 (fie jee)

牛奶 Milk
ngau4 naai5 (nguw nigh)

芥蘭 Chinese Broccoli
gaa3 laan2 (guy lahn)

紅蘿蔔 Carrot
hung4 lo4 baak6 (huung luo bahk)

After dinner, we go **take a bath!**

食 完 飯, 我 哋 去 冲 凉!

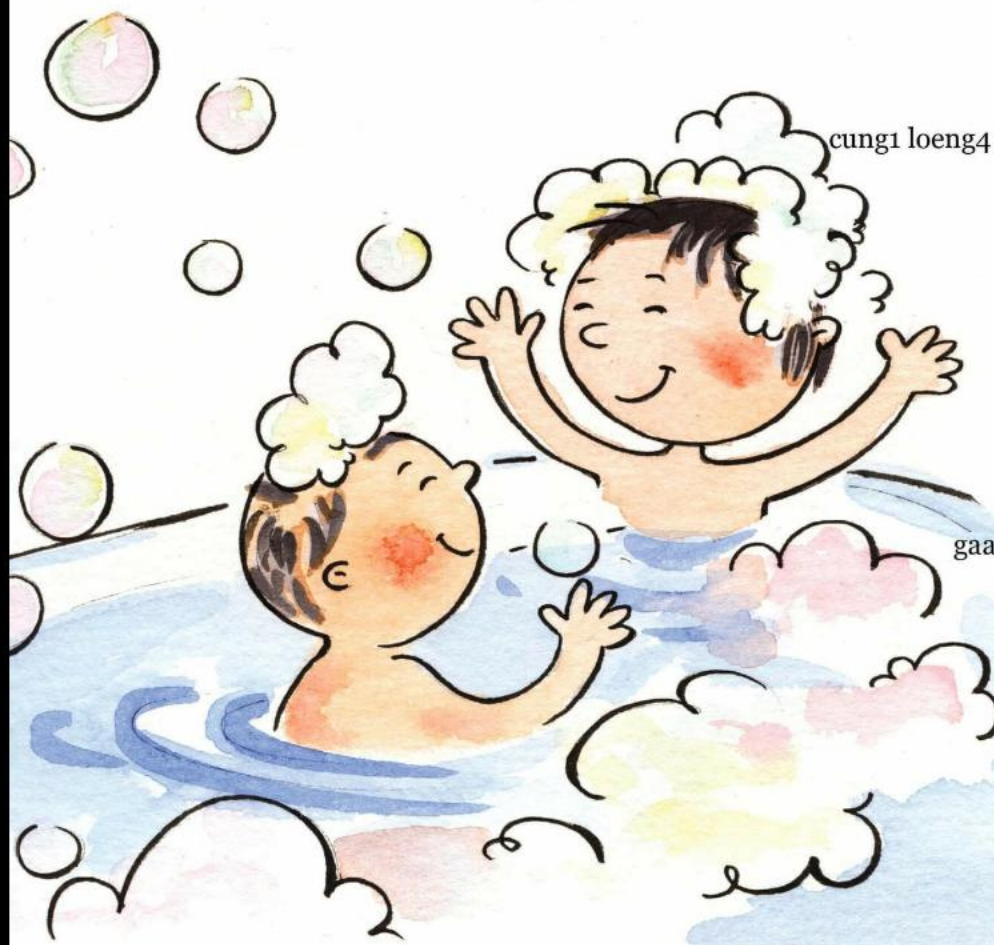
sik6	jyun4	faan6	ngo5	dei6	heoi3	cung1	loeng4
sik	yuen	fahn	ngo	day	heoi	chuong	lerng



We play with **soap bubbles**.

我 哋 玩 番 梘 泡.

ngo5 dei6 waan2 faan1 gaan2 pou5
ngo day wahn fahn gahn poh



水喉

Faucet
seoi2 hau4 (seoi huw)

牙刷

Toothbrush
ngaa4 caat2 (nga chaht)

牙膏

Toothpaste
ngaa4 gou1 (nga go)

沖涼巾

Bath Towel
cung1 loeng4 gan1 (cho(ng) lerng guon)

浴缸

Bathtub
juk6 gong1 (yook guong)

番梘

Soap
faan1 gaan2 (fahn gahn)

膠鴨仔

Toy Duck
gaaui aap3 zi2 (gau ahp zhai)

鏡

Mirror
geng3 (gang)

瓷盆

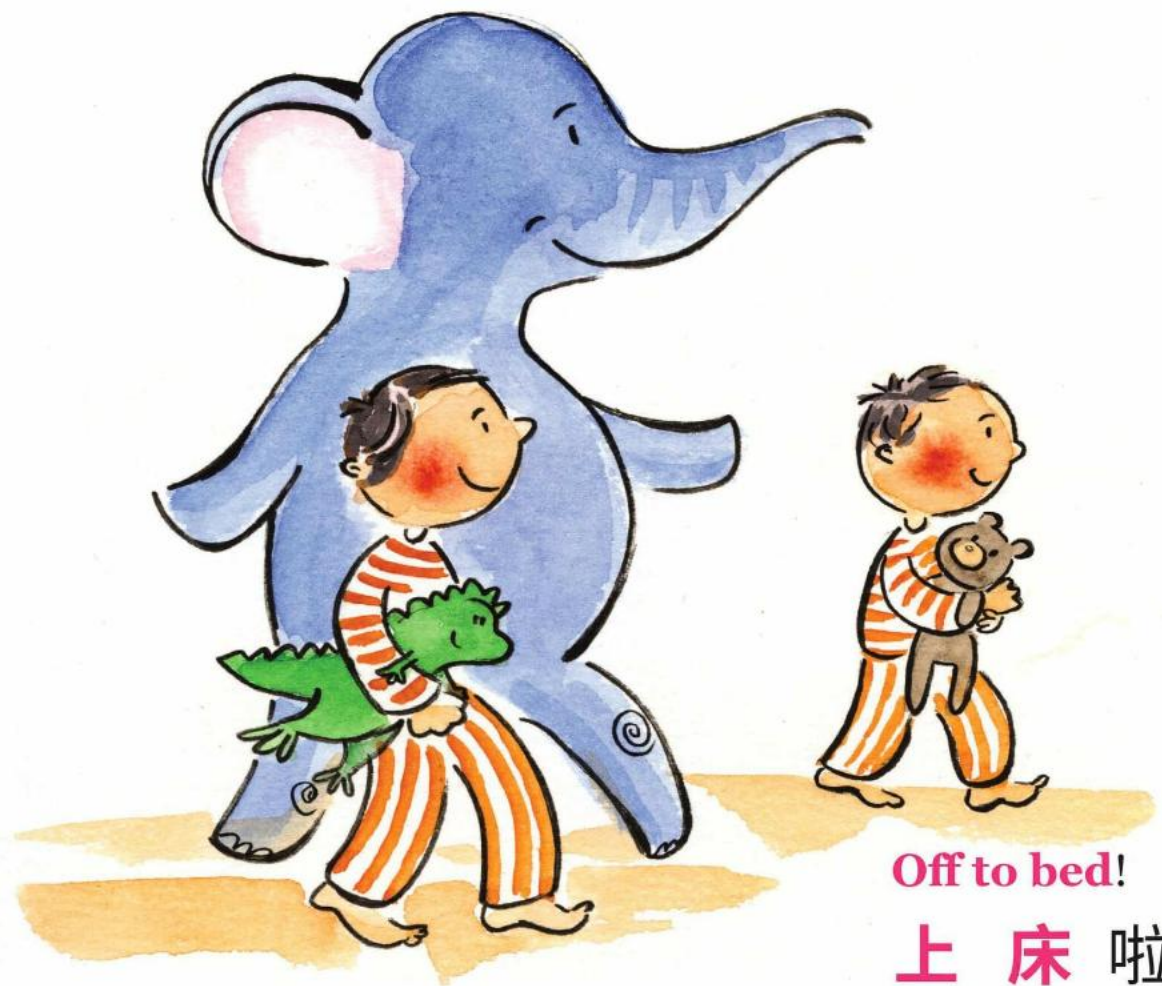
Sink
ci4 pun2 (chee poon)

We **brush** our **teeth** and **wash** our **faces**.

我 哋 **刷** **牙** 同 埋 **洗** **面**.

ngo5	dei6	caat3	ngaa4	tung4	maai4	sai2	min6
ngo	day	chaht	nga	tuong	my	sigh	mean





Off to bed!

上 床 啦!

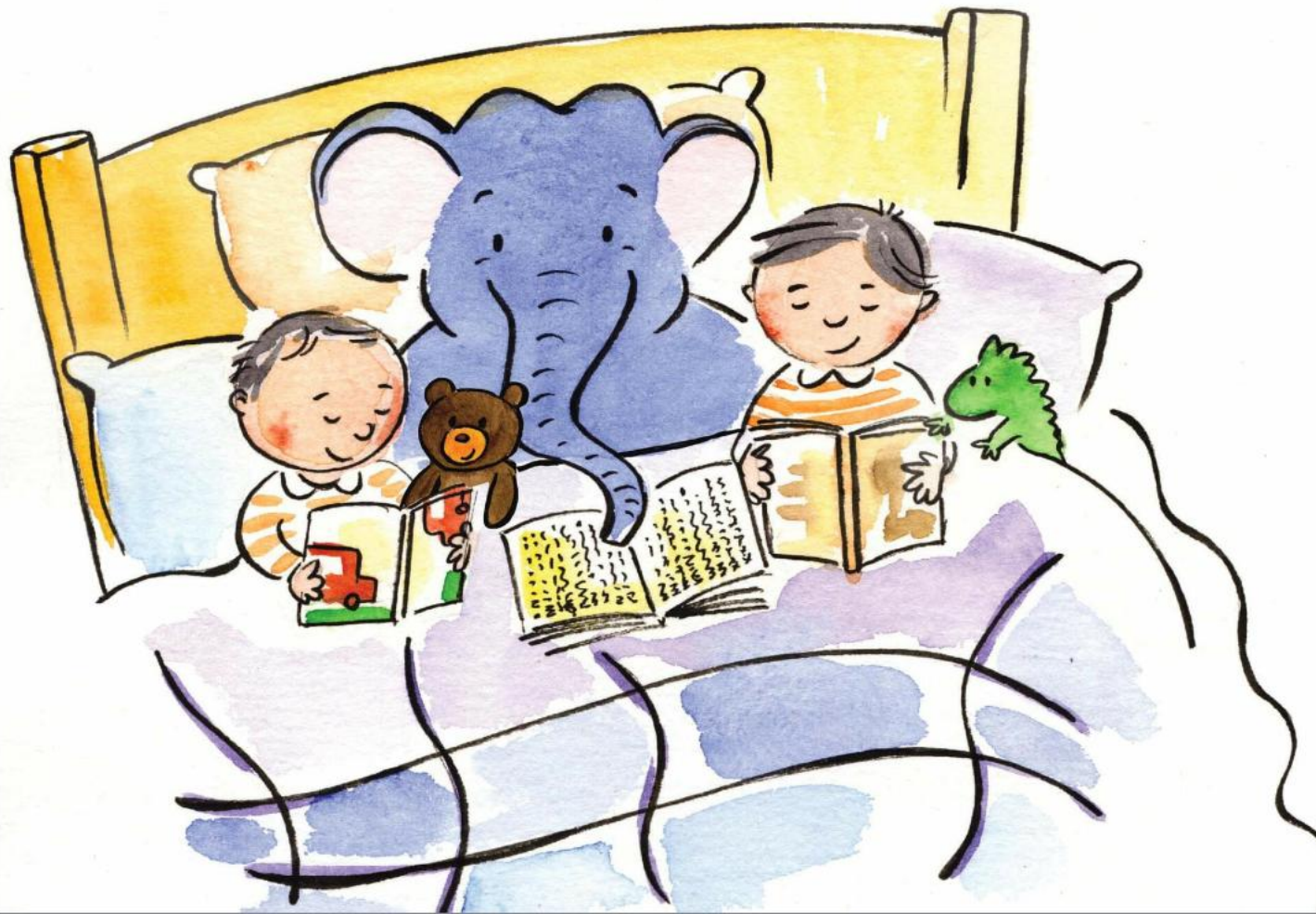
soeng5 cong4 laa1
serng chong luh

+啦 is optional and adds emphasis.

In the **bedroom**, everyone **chooses** a book.

喺 **睡房**，每人 **揀** 本書。

hai2	seoi6	fong2	mui5	jan4	gaan2	bun2	syu1
high	seoi	fuong	mui	yen	gahn	boon	shoe



We **read books** together.

我 哋 一 齊 讀 書.

ngo5 dei6 jat1 cai4 duk6 syu1
ngo day yet chai dook shoe



書架 Bookshelf
syu1 gaa2 (shoe gah)

床 Bed
cong4 (chong)

被 Blanket
pei5 (pay)

枕頭 Pillow
zam2 tau4 (jum tuw)

書檯 Desk
syu1 toi2 (shoe toy)

奶樽 Milk Bottle
naai5 zeon1 (nigh juun)

恐龍 Dinosaur
hung2 lung4 (hohng lohng)

啤啤熊 Teddy Bear
bei1 bei1 hung4 (beh beh hohng)

月亮 Moon
jyut6 loeng6 (yoot lerng)

Time to **sleep!**

瞓 覺 啦!

fan3
fun

gaau3
gau

laa1
luh



Elephant helps us **turn off** the **lights**.

大 笨 象 幫 我 哋 熄 燈.

daai6	ban6	zoeng6	bong1	ngo5	dei6	sik1	dang1
dye	bun	jerng	bong	ngo	day	sick	dung



Good night!

早 啱!

zou2

tau2

jo

tuw



NOTES

CANTONESE TONES Each Jyutping includes the tone (example: 貓 maau1 = tone 1). To remember the six tones in order, speak the numbers “394052”(saam1 gau2 sei3 ling4 ng5 ji6) in Cantonese.

TONE	NUMBER	JYUTPING	ALTERNATE PHONETICS
Tone 1	“3”	saam1	sahm
Tone 2	“9”	gau2	guw
Tone 3	“4”	sei3	say
Tone 4	“0”	ling4	ling
Tone 5	“5”	ng5	mm
Tone 6	“2”	ji6	yee

ALTERNATE PRONUNCIATIONS For words with more than one common pronunciation, this book tries to select the pronunciation that would be most easily understood when spoken by less fluent Cantonese speakers. For example, for 你(you): both “lei5 (lay)” and “nei5 (nay)” are common, but less fluent Cantonese speakers may find they are more easily understood when they speak “nei5 (nay)”.

CLASSIFIERS Classifiers (or measure words) are used with nouns. Classifiers have similarities to English expressions such as a flock of geese, a piece of paper and a cup of water. These words are often optional in English, but are required in Cantonese. This book uses a few classifiers, including: 本 (bun2/boon) for furniture, 隻(zek3/jaek) for apple. If you are unsure which classifier to use, you can use the generic classifier 個 (go3/guo).

COLOR CODING

- Verbs (**CYAN** or **RED**)
- Nouns (**ORANGE** or **TEAL**)
- Other (**MAGENTA**)

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

K Yee is a Cantonese-American and native Cantonese speaker. She graduated from Stanford University and the Wharton School of Business, and was a National Spelling Bee finalist. She created Cantonese for Kids to help kids (and parents!) have fun learning Cantonese.

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ISBN: 9781955188067 (Hardcover); 9780999273067 (Paperback)
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