

A watercolor illustration of a river flowing under a tree. The river is depicted with various shades of blue and green, suggesting movement and depth. A large tree with green foliage is on the left side, its trunk extending into the water. The background is a mix of green and blue washes, creating a serene and natural atmosphere.

Chinese Farmers' Calendar

二十四節氣

Written and illustrated by Jian Zhi Qiu

Grandfather's Diary
爺爺的記事簿

圖/文：邱建誌
英譯：胡素燕、羅伊·皮爾斯

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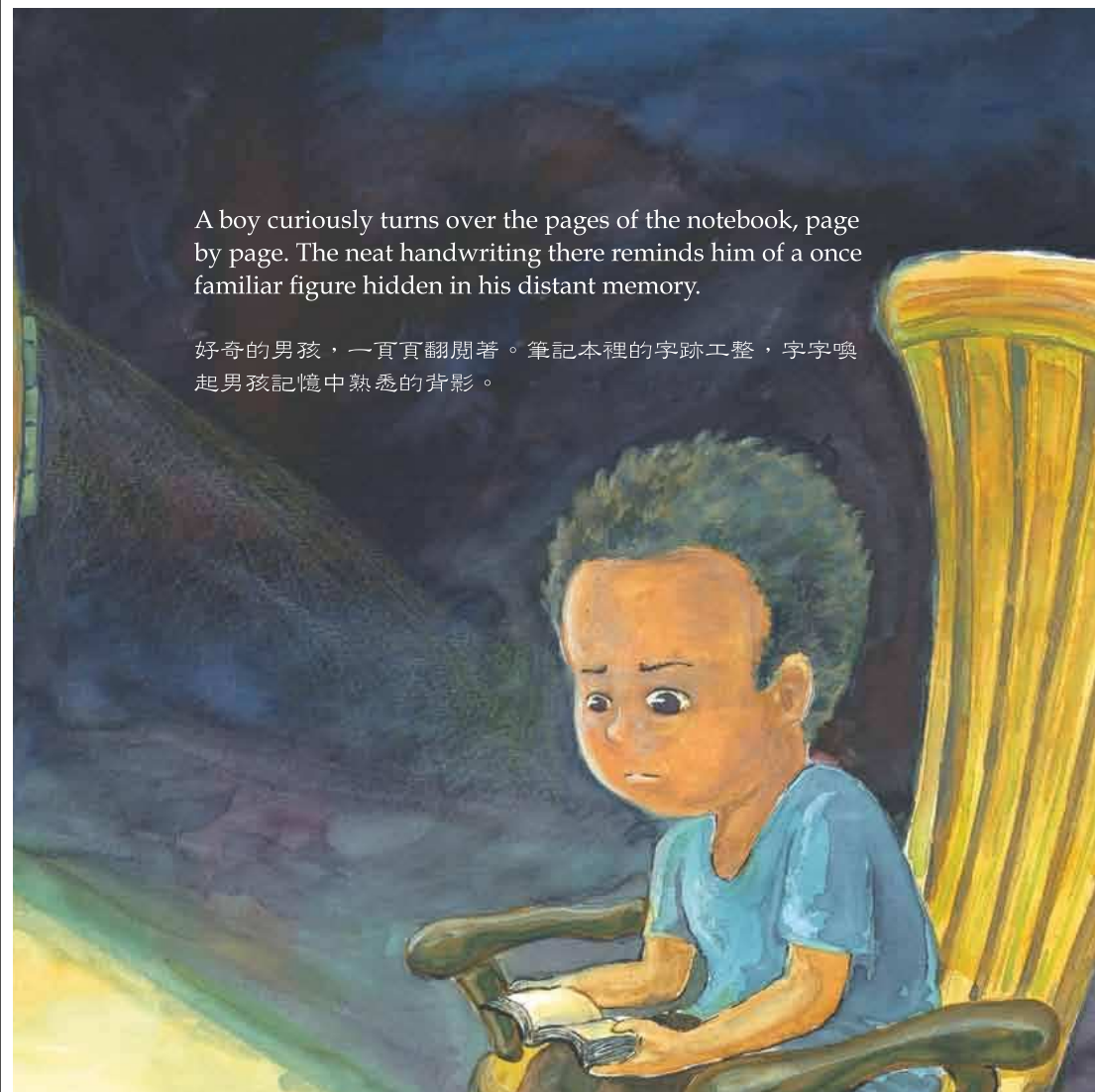
24 Solar Terms 二十四節氣

1	The Rains	雨水	13	Stopping the Heat	處暑
2	Insects Awaken	驚蟄	14	White Dews	白露
3	Vernal Equinox	春分	15	Autumn Equinox	秋分
4	Clear and Bright	清明	16	Cold Dews	寒露
5	Grain Rain	穀雨	17	Hoar-Frost Falls	霜降
6	Summer Begins	立夏	18	Winter Begins	立冬
7	Grain Buds	小滿	19	Light Snow	小雪
8	Grain Ear	芒種	20	Heavy Snow	大雪
9	Summer Solstice	夏至	21	Winter Solstice	冬至
10	Slight Heat	小暑	22	Slight Cold	小寒
11	Great Heat	大暑	23	Great Cold	大寒
12	Autumn Begins	立秋	24	Spring Begins	立春



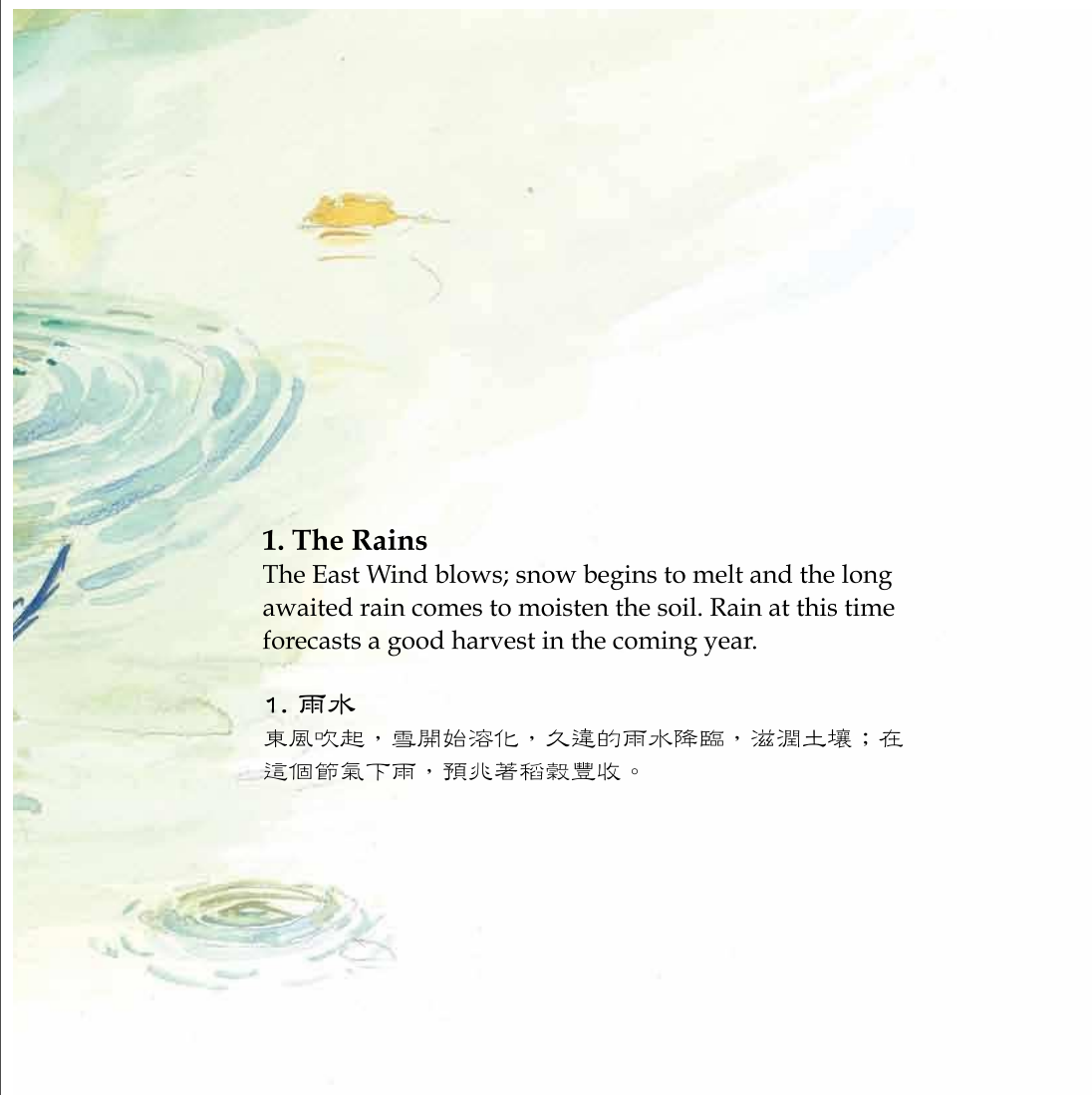
A gentle breeze blows over the yellowed pages of an old notebook on an ancient rocking chair.

微風輕輕吹起一本擱在老舊搖椅上泛黃的記事本。



A boy curiously turns over the pages of the notebook, page by page. The neat handwriting there reminds him of a once familiar figure hidden in his distant memory.

好奇的男孩，一頁頁翻閱著。筆記本裡的字跡工整，字字喚起男孩記憶中熟悉的背影。

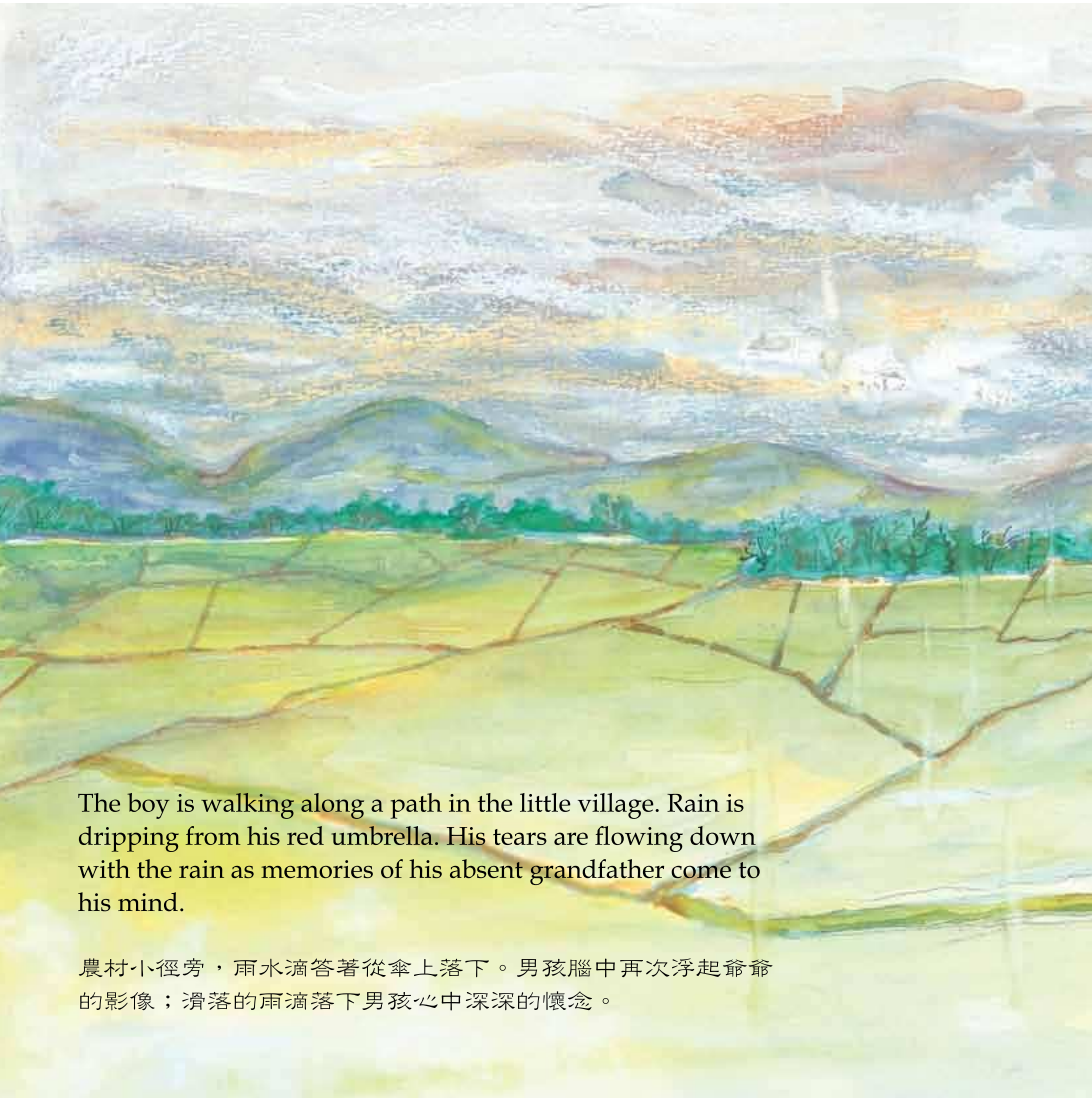


1. The Rains

The East Wind blows; snow begins to melt and the long awaited rain comes to moisten the soil. Rain at this time forecasts a good harvest in the coming year.

1. 雨水

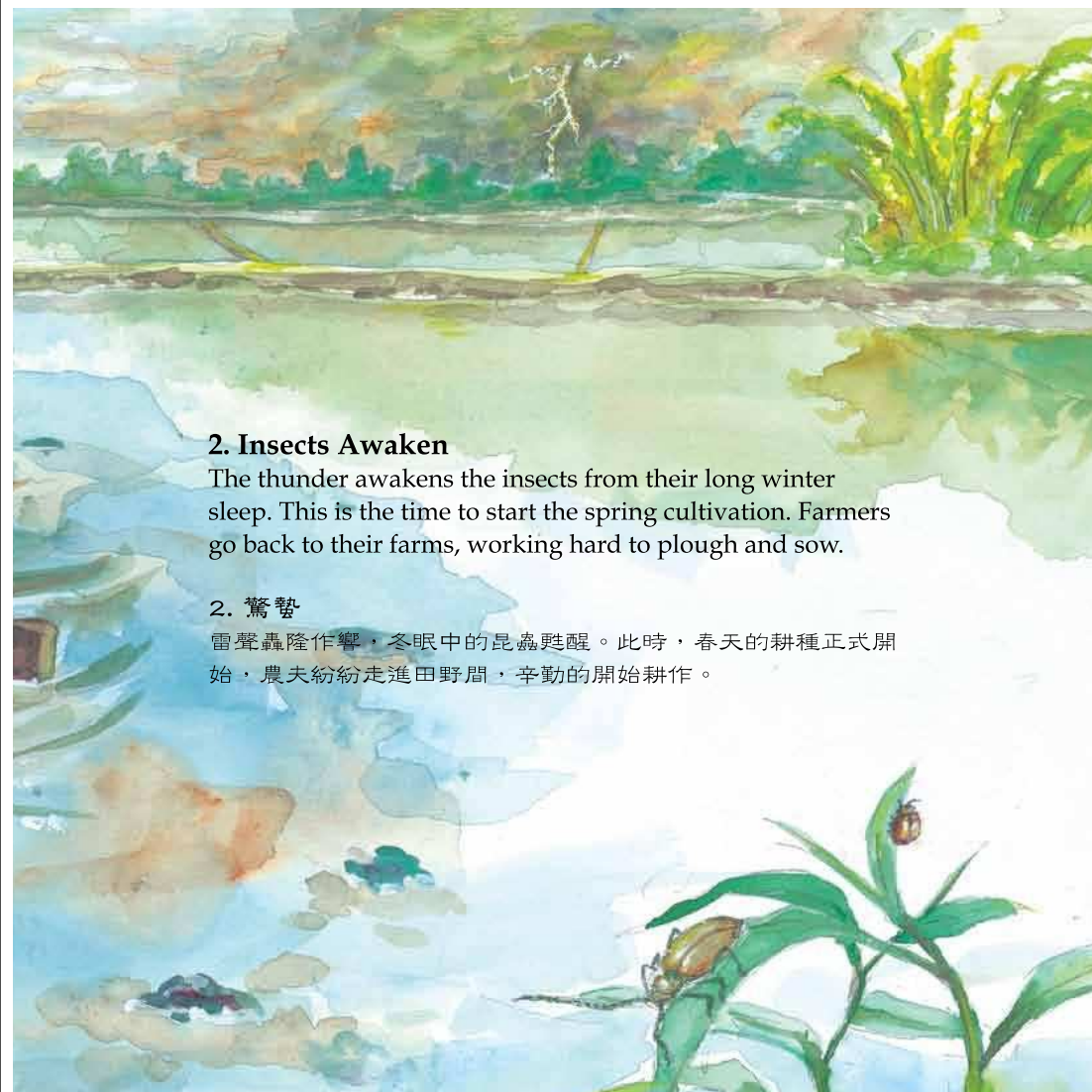
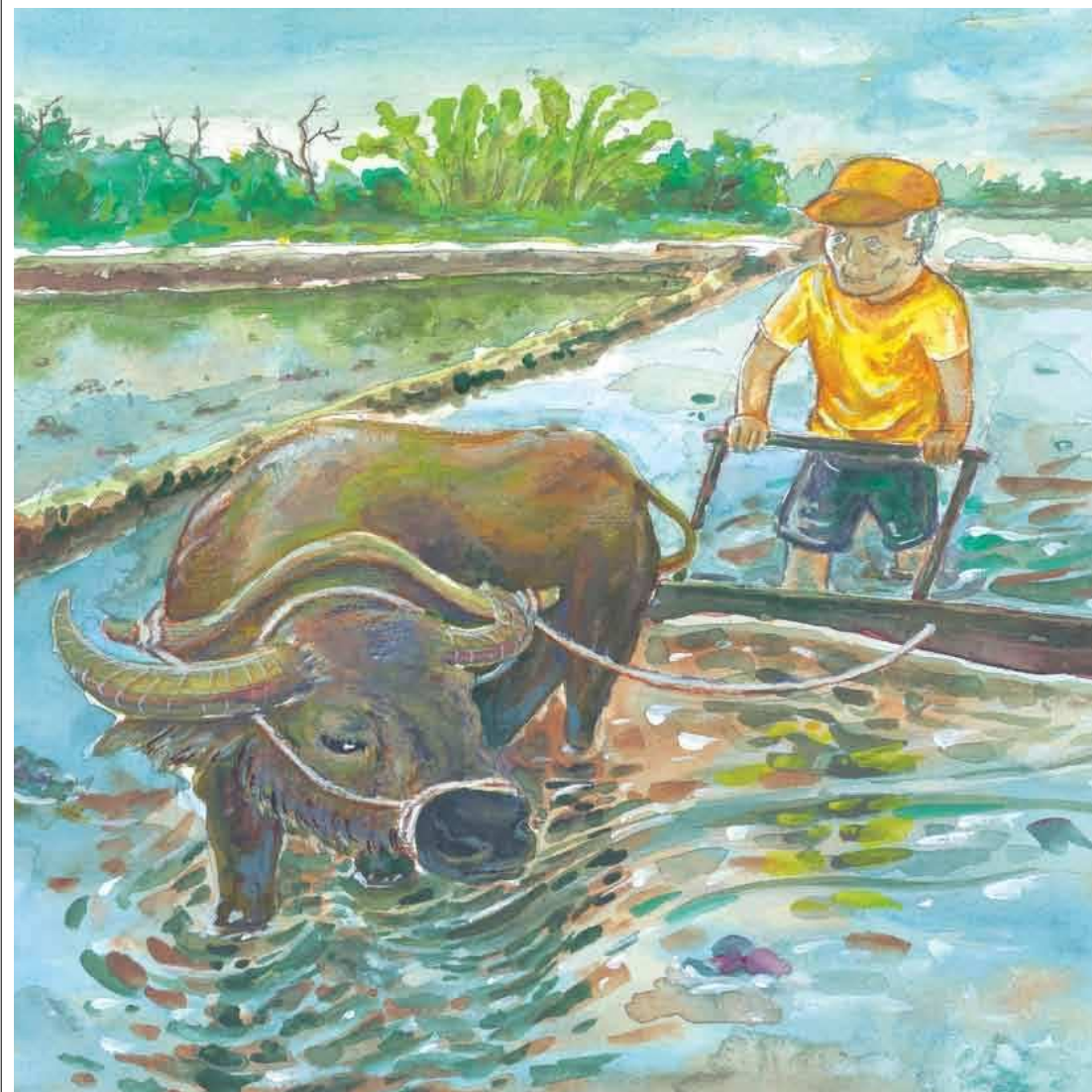
東風吹起，雪開始溶化，久違的雨水降臨，滋潤土壤；在這個節氣下雨，預兆著稻穀豐收。



The boy is walking along a path in the little village. Rain is dripping from his red umbrella. His tears are flowing down with the rain as memories of his absent grandfather come to his mind.

農村小徑旁，雨水滴答著從傘上落下。男孩腦中再次浮起爺爺的影像；滑落的雨滴落下男孩心中深深的懷念。





2. Insects Awaken

The thunder awakens the insects from their long winter sleep. This is the time to start the spring cultivation. Farmers go back to their farms, working hard to plough and sow.

2. 驚蟄

雷聲轟隆作響，冬眠中的昆蟲甦醒。此時，春天的耕種正式開始，農夫紛紛走進田野間，辛勤地開始耕作。

Background To The Book

The Twenty-four Terms are an important part of Chinese cultural heritage. These terms have been applied widely in various situations, though the applications may be different according to geographical differences. Taking Taiwan as an example, rice would be harvested at Summer Solstice in the south, but wouldn't be harvested till Great Heat in the north.

In the past, people prayed for good harvests, worshipped the sky for rain and followed the recorded knowledge of terms and the passed-on experience to grow crops and to go fishing at the right times. This traditional attitude by which people followed and respected nature is what modern people lack.

This story starts with a boy who opens his grandfather's notebook and begins to read the records of the twenty-four terms as they were used in the agriculture of south Taiwan. As he reads, happy memories of his grandfather come to the boy's mind and these are sympathetically illustrated by Jian Zhi. The scenery and the changing seasons are depicted with natural and vivid lines and colours; the pictures evoke the mood of family love in the intertwined lives of the hard-working grandfather and the boy.

The story ends with the coming of a new spring to express the knowledge being passed on to the new generation and to symbolise the traditionally harmonious life between people and nature; it is a reminder to modern people to live with nature or nature will fight back with disastrous effect.

後序

二十四節氣是中國重要的文化資產之一。傳統生活中，各行各業的運轉皆遵循著節氣變化，但方式則因地域的差別而各有不同。以臺灣為例，中南部的稻米到夏至就可收割，而北部則要等到大暑。

古人為豐收而祈禱，為下雨而祭天，並配合節氣紀錄的知識和傳承的經驗，適時的種植穀物及捕獲魚蝦。這些對天地萬物的尊重和順從，是現代人所缺乏的。

故事藉由小男孩翻起爺爺的記事本開始，展開二十四節氣運用在中南台灣農業的紀錄，並結合男孩腦海中浮現的片片回憶，在建誼的畫筆下轉化呈現。自然生動的線條和色彩描繪著雨後的景色和氣候的變化；辛苦耕種的爺爺與男孩的生活互動，為畫面添加了溫暖的親情。

故事以新春的到來結尾，表達知識的傳承，及過去人們順著四季與自然共存的協調生活，並提醒現代人要順自然而生，才能免受自然反撲之苦。

