秃鹤那节课之后

自从那节聊秃鹤的班会之后，小扬变了。变得不多——他开始帮同学递东西，班里有人被起外号，他会说一句，别笑。我知道，这个变化是从秃鹤来的。

其实在那之前，他就是给转学生起外号的孩子之一。我没有把他叫出来批评。我只是把《草房子》放进阅读角，推荐给全班。我喜欢这本书，是因为它不绕开童年里那些难的部分——秃鹤长得不一样的脑袋，杜小康家里的败落，桑桑的病。我信孩子们能在书里懂得这些事，比听大人讲道理懂得更牢。这话我也跟家长说过，不少家长起初将信将疑，一个学期过去，他们倒先来问我，孩子回家讲秃鹤了没有。

课堂上的讨论是从陆鹤在广播操比赛里故意做错那段开始的。孩子们生陆鹤的气，小扬嗓门最大，说他该被大家不理。我反问了一句：有没有人故意做错过什么，就是想让人看见自己？他愣了一下。讨论没有中断，继续进行着，可我看见他不再说话了。

几个星期后的分享圈上，他第一次走到教室前面，说我做过像陆鹤那样的事，故意出洋相，就是想让大家笑。他说他把秃鹤在汇演上赢得掌声那段读了好几遍，他说，他最后站起来了，我也想站起来。全班鼓掌，他没有躲开那片掌声。后来他在周记里写，他给那个转学生道了歉，对方愣了一下，然后两个人都笑了。他把周记本推给我看，没多说什么，我也没有多问。

现在我把《草房子》推荐给新来的家长，不说它得过什么奖、列在什么书单上，我只说，让孩子读，然后听他讲讲秃鹤。他会讲出平时绝不开口的事。我眼看着这本书在孩子们手里传了好几年，眼看着一个曾经笑别人的孩子开始说别笑。一本书，这就够了。

After the Bald Crane Class Meeting

Since that class meeting about Bald Crane, Xiao Yang has changed. Not greatly - he began passing things to his classmates, and when someone was given a teasing nickname he would say, don't laugh. I know the change came from Bald Crane.

Before that, he had been one of the children who nicknamed the new transfer student. I did not call him out to scold him. I only placed Grass House in the reading corner and recommended it to the whole class. What I love about the book is that it never avoids the hard parts of childhood - Bald Crane's odd-shaped head, the ruin of Du Xiaokang's family, Sang Sang's illness. I believe children understand these things through a book more firmly than through grown-up reasoning. I had said the same thing to parents. Many were half-skeptical at first, but by the end of a term they were the ones coming to ask me whether their children had come home talking about Bald Crane.

The classroom discussion began when we reached the part where Lu Xiang deliberately made mistakes at the radio exercise competition. The children were angry with him, and Xiao Yang was the loudest, saying he deserved to be shut out. I asked

one question back: has anyone here ever done something wrong on purpose, just to be noticed? He froze for a moment. The discussion went on, but I saw him stop talking.

Weeks later, at the sharing circle, he stepped to the front of the class for the first time and said, I have done things like Lu Xiang, playing the fool on purpose because I wanted everyone to laugh. He said he had read the part where Bald Crane won the applause at the school play again and again. He finally stood up, he said, and I want to stand up too. The class clapped, and he did not dodge the applause. Later he wrote in his weekly journal that he had apologized to the transfer student; the boy froze for a moment, and then they both laughed. He pushed the journal toward me to read, said nothing much, and I asked nothing much.

Now, when I recommend Grass House to new parents, I do not talk about prizes or reading lists. I only say: let your child read it, then listen to them talk about Bald Crane. They will tell you things they never otherwise open their mouths about. I have watched one copy of this book pass through the children's hands for years, and watched a child who used to laugh at others begin to say, don't laugh. For a book, that is enough.