科学小组里的那声哇

科学课还没上课，王老师提着一个托盘走进教室：蜡烛、盘子、玻璃杯、一小盆水，还有一盒火柴。她把托盘放在讲台上，说：今天由杯子做实验。全班一下子安静下来，三十多双眼睛都盯着那个托盘，连后排爱讲话的陈小宇都坐直了。

我们轮流上去做。第一个是林小雨。她划着火柴点了蜡烛，把蜡烛粘在盘子里，动作都很稳，可扣杯子的时候手抖了一下，杯底斜着搁在盘子上，留出一道小缝。蜡烛晃了晃就灭了，盘子里的水却纹丝不动，一滴也没有爬上来。林小雨愣在原地，手指揪着裙角，耳根都红了。王老师没有马上纠正，只问了一句：谁看出她刚才哪里不一样？

有人说杯子歪了，有人说底下有缝，有人说是空气从缝里跑进去捣乱。林小雨自己弯下腰去看那道缝，看完直起身，眼圈还有点红，可她重新拿起了杯子。这一次，她把杯口对准盘子，两只手压着杯沿，压得严严实实，一动也不动。

火苗在杯子里缩起来，脖子越伸越长，灭了。水顺着杯壁往上爬，爬呀爬，停在一指高的地方。全班整齐地发出一声哇，那声音大得连窗玻璃都像跟着抖了一下。林小雨站在讲台边，回座位的时候脚步轻快，经过的人都想跟她击掌。陈小宇把手举得高高的，喊了一声再来一遍，王老师真的让她再做了一次。这一次全班不喊哇了，都屏住呼吸盯着杯壁，只有水在悄悄地往上走，走得比第一次还稳。

轮到最后一个人做完，王老师把托盘举起来说：第一次水不爬，也是实验的一部分，它告诉我们杯子要扣严，缝里进空气，水就不爬。她在黑板上写下三个大字：别漏气。下课铃响了，我们走出教室，还在说那声哇。我觉得那声音不是我们喊出来的，是水从杯子里替我们喊出来的。

The Whole Class Said Wow at the Same Time

Science class had not officially started when Teacher Wang walked in carrying a tray: candles, plates, glass cups, a small basin of water, and a box of matches. She set the tray on the podium and said: today the cup will run the experiment. The class went silent at once. More than thirty pairs of eyes fixed on the tray, and even Chen Xiaoyu in the back row, who never stopped talking, sat up straight.

We took turns going up. The first was Lin Xiaoyu. She struck a match, lit the candle, and fixed it onto the plate, all of it steady. But when she lowered the cup, her hand trembled, and the cup rested crooked on the plate with a small gap under its rim. The candle flickered and went out, yet the water on the plate did not move at all, not a single drop climbing up. Lin Xiaoyu froze where she stood, fingers twisting the hem of her skirt, the roots of her ears red. Teacher Wang did not correct her right away. She only asked one question: did anyone notice what was different just now?

Some said the cup was tilted. Some said there was a gap underneath. Some said air

sneaked in through the gap and spoiled the trick. Lin Xiaoyu bent down to look at the gap herself. When she straightened up, her eyes were still a little red, but she picked the cup up again. This time she lined the rim with the plate, pressed the edge with both hands, tight and firm, not moving at all.

The flame shrank inside the cup, stretched its neck longer and longer, and went out. The water climbed up the glass wall, climbing and climbing, and stopped at a height of one finger. The whole class let out a single loud wow, so big that even the window glass seemed to tremble with it. Lin Xiaoyu stood by the podium, and on her way back to her seat her steps were light, and everyone she passed wanted to high-five her.

After the last person finished, Teacher Wang lifted the tray and said: the first time the water refused to climb was also part of the experiment. It told us the cup must seal tight, because if air leaks in through a gap, the water will not rise. She wrote three big characters on the blackboard: no air leaks. The bell rang, and as we walked out of the classroom we were still talking about that wow. I felt the sound did not come from our throats. The water shouted it for us, from inside the cup.