半块橡皮和一整首歌

六一那天，全班每个人都收到一个礼物盒。石头的盒子包着花牛纸，他凑到耳朵边摇了摇，里面哗啦哗啦响，像装了一把小石头。他想当场拆开，老师说，礼物要在音乐课上拆，才算全班一起过的节。

音乐课上，老师敲鼓，同学们把盒子从一只手传到另一只手。鼓声一停，盒子停在谁手里，谁就拆开给大家看。第一个拆的是小虎，盒子里是一只口哨，他吹了三声，全班跟着学鸟叫。第二个是蓝诺，里面是一根跳绳，老师让大家轮流跳了一圈。

鼓又响了，盒子又传起来。鼓一停，盒子正好落在石头手里。他刚要拆，老师说，时间到了，下节课接着玩。石头捧着盒子捧了很久，到底没拆成。

下课，石头把没拆的盒子放回课桌，压在最底下。同桌甜甜看见了，把自己的盒子打开，从里面拿出一块草莓形状的粉橡皮，从中间掰成两半，推过来一半。甜甜说，给你一半，这样你也有一份礼物了。

石头把那半块橡皮放进铅笔盒，又舍不得用，改摆在书桌角上。那半块橡皮有淡淡的草莓味，闻一下，就想起音乐课上没拆开的盒子。

第二天，石头抱着自己的礼物盒到学校，放到甜甜桌上。他说，你来拆，我们分。甜甜说，为什么呀，你昨天不是没拆成。石头说，所以才要今天拆，拆出来一半是你的，一半是我的。

盒子打开，里面是一把小口琴，七个白键。甜甜按了一个键，嘟，是do。石头按了一个，嘟，是mi。两个人一起按，声音小小的，像一首歌在教室里跑来跑去。

后来音乐课再传盒子，同学们敲鼓都敲得慢了些，好像都想让盒子停在石头手里。石头的口琴一点一点吹出了《小星星》，吹的时候他总从mi起头，因为那是甜甜先听见的音。

Half an Eraser and a Whole Song

On June 1st every child in the class got a gift box. Shitou's box was wrapped in cow-print paper. He shook it by his ear and heard a rustle, like a pocket of small stones. He wanted to open it at once, but the teacher said, gifts open in music class, so it counts as a gift the whole class shares.

In music class the teacher beat a drum and the children passed the boxes from hand to hand. When the drum stopped, the child holding a box opened it for everyone. The first was Xiaohu, inside was a whistle, he blew three notes and the class learned to call like birds. The second was Lanuo, inside was a jump rope, and everyone took a turn jumping.

The drum beat again and the boxes moved on. It stopped, and the box landed in Shitou's hands. He was about to open it when the teacher said, time is up, we continue next class. Shitou held the box a long time and never got his turn.

After class Shitou put the closed box at the bottom of his desk. His deskmate Tiantian saw it, opened her own box, took out a strawberry-shaped pink eraser, broke it in half down the middle, and pushed one half over. She said, here, this half is yours, now you have a present too.

Shitou kept the half eraser in the corner of his desk, unable to bear using it. It smelled faintly of strawberry, and the smell reminded him of the box he had not opened.

The next morning Shitou carried his gift box to school and set it on Tiantian's desk. He said, you open it, we share. Tiantian said, why, you missed your turn yesterday. Shitou said, that is exactly why I open it today, half is yours and half is mine.

Inside was a harmonica with seven little white keys. Tiantian pressed one and it sounded do. Shitou pressed another and it sounded mi. They pressed together, and the sound was small, like a song running around the classroom.

Later, whenever music class passed the boxes, the children beat the drum more slowly, as if hoping it would stop in Shitou's hands. His harmonica played Twinkle Twinkle Little Star bit by bit, and he always started on mi, because that was the note Tiantian heard first.