书包口袋里的贺卡

六一前一天放学，老师说要和好朋友交换礼物。回到家，我找出一张硬卡纸，剪成书包的形状，又在上面画了一个歪歪扭扭的书包，书包口袋里露出一张贺卡的一角。我在贺卡背面写，阿福，六一快乐，你是我同桌两年的人。

写完我有点不好意思，把贺卡压在枕头底下睡了一晚。第二天早上我到得早，阿福还没来。他的书包挂在椅背上，拉链拉开一条缝。我把书包形状的贺卡塞进他书包最外面的小口袋，塞得很深，只露出一丁点红色的边。

做完这些我飞跑回座位，装作在收作业。阿福进教室的时候眼睛平平常常，什么也没发现，我心想，计划成了。

可是第二节课一下课，阿福忽然走到我桌前，说，你书包外面那个口袋，是不是鼓起来了。我心里咯噔一下，说，没有吧。阿福说，你去看看。我拉开小口袋，里面躺着一张贺卡，对折着，打开是一幅画，画里两个小人共用一把伞，伞上写着六一快乐。

阿福站在旁边挠头，说，我昨天塞的时候手很轻，是不是碰到你的拉链了。我盯着他看，他耳朵红了。我说，你什么时候塞的。阿福说，就你趴在桌上睡觉的时候。

我把书包形状的贺卡也从他口袋里掏出来给他看。阿福念了一遍上面的字，念到你是我同桌两年的人，就不念了，改口说，这张画得不太像书包。我说，那当然，它本来装的是你。

课间十分钟，我们俩把两张贺卡并排摆在桌上比。他的伞画得比我好，我的书包剪得比他好。比来比去谁也赢不了，最后我们把两张贺卡对插在一起，变成一张四面都能看的贺卡，一人一半，约好各拿两个角。

放学的时候，那张四角贺卡被我们塞进了阿福的书包口袋，因为我家近，他家远，他说要让它多坐一会儿书包。我点头，心想，明天它该轮到我的口袋了。

The Card in the Backpack Pocket

The day before June 1st, the teacher said we should exchange gifts with a good friend. At home I found a piece of stiff card, cut it into the shape of a backpack, and drew a crooked backpack on it, with the corner of a greeting card peeking out of the pocket. On the back I wrote, Afu, happy Children's Day, you are the person who has been my deskmate for two years.

After writing I felt shy and slept with the card under my pillow. Next morning I arrived early. Afu was not there yet. His backpack hung on his chair, the zipper open a crack. I pushed the backpack-shaped card deep into the small outer pocket of his bag, leaving only a tiny red edge showing.

Then I ran back to my seat and pretended to tidy my homework. When Afu came in his eyes were normal, he had found nothing. My plan had worked, I thought.

But when the second class ended, Afu walked to my desk and said, is the outer pocket of your backpack a little fatter. My heart jumped. I said, no. He said, go look. I opened the small pocket and there lay a folded card. Inside was a drawing of two little people sharing one umbrella, with happy Children's Day written on the umbrella.

Afu stood beside me scratching his head. He said, I was very careful when I slipped it in, did it touch your zipper. I stared at him and his ears turned red. I asked, when did you put it there. He said, while you were sleeping on your desk.

I pulled my backpack-shaped card out of his pocket too. Afu read the words aloud, and when he reached you are the person who has been my deskmate for two years, he stopped and said instead, this drawing does not look much like a backpack. I said, of course not, it was made to hold you.

During the ten-minute break we laid the two cards side by side on the desk to compare. His umbrella was drawn better, my backpack was cut better. Neither could win, so we slotted the two cards into each other, making one card with four faces, each of us holding two corners.

At school-leaving time we put the four-cornered card into Afu's backpack pocket, because my home is near and his is far. He said he wanted it to ride in a backpack a little longer. I nodded, thinking, tomorrow it should take its turn in my pocket.

走了三个书包的贺卡

小满做了五张手工贺卡，准备六一课间和同学交换。五张贺卡都是她亲手做的，有的贴树叶，有的画小猫，每张背面都写了一句给那个人的话。她把贺卡按名字排好，一张一张塞进自己书包的隔层，隔层里有五个小口袋，一个口袋一张。

可是早读的时候，同桌大宇的书包拉链坏了，敞着口。小满路过时帮他把书包拉上，顺手把自己书包里最外面那张贴树叶的贺卡也按了进去。她没发现，那张是给前排的朵朵的。

第一节课下课，课间交换开始。朵朵来找小满要贺卡，小满翻了五个口袋，一张不少，可贴树叶的那张就是不见了。两个人把书包倒了个底朝天，铅笔、橡皮、糖纸掉了一桌，贺卡不在。

大宇背起书包要去操场，走到门口觉得书包外面鼓了一下。他拉开拉链，从里面摸出一张贴树叶的贺卡。贺卡上写着，朵朵，你借我的半块橡皮我一直记着。大宇不认识朵朵的字，也不认识朵朵，他把贺卡翻过来，在背面添了一行，六一快乐，我是大宇，这张贺卡刚才在我的书包里

睡了一节课。

第二节课下课，大宇把贺卡交给班长，说不知道朵朵是谁。班长把贺卡放进自己的书包口袋，打算放学问老师。路上贺卡被三个同学传着看，每个人都在背面添了一句。有人说，这张贺卡走过三个书包了。有人说，那它走过的路比我还多。

放学前的课间，班长终于问清楚了，把贺卡还给小满，让她转交朵朵。小满接过贺卡，本来想说对不起，可是她翻到背面，愣住了。背面写满了字，歪的、直的、大的、小的，一共七行，最后一行是大宇的字，它刚才在我的书包里睡了一节课。

朵朵接过贺卡的时候也愣住了。她把贺卡举高，给全班看。老师说，这张贺卡今天比别的贺卡多走了三个书包，多收了七句话，它是最远的一张贺卡。

那天放学，小满在书包隔层里重新排贺卡。她把贴树叶的那张单独放在最外面的口袋，又在口袋边上贴了一小块胶布。她想，明天开始，五个口袋要一个一个拉好拉链。

The Card That Visited Three Backpacks

Xiaoman made five handmade greeting cards for the break-time exchange on June 1st. Every card was her own work, some with pressed leaves, some with drawn cats, and on the back of each she wrote one sentence for that particular person. She lined them up by name and slid them into the five small pockets of her backpack divider, one card per pocket.

But during morning reading, her deskmate Dayu's backpack zipper was broken and hung open. As she passed, Xiaoman helped pull his bag shut, and in doing so pressed the outermost leaf-card from her own bag into his. She did not notice. That card was meant for Duoduo in the front row.

When the first class ended, the exchange began. Duoduo came to ask for her card. Xiaoman turned out all five pockets, not one missing, yet the leaf-card was gone. The two of them upended their backpacks, pencils, erasers and candy wrappers covering the desk. The card was not there.

Dayu slung his bag to go to the playground, and at the door felt something bulge. He opened the zipper and fished out a card with a leaf on it. It read, Duoduo, I still remember the half eraser you lent me. Dayu did not know Duoduo's handwriting or Duoduo herself. He turned the card over and added a line, happy Children's Day, I am Dayu, and this card just slept in my backpack for one class.

After the second class, Dayu handed the card to the class monitor, not knowing who Duoduo was. The monitor put it in his own backpack pocket, planning to ask the teacher after school. On the way the card passed through three classmates' hands, and

each added a sentence on the back. One said, this card has visited three backpacks. Another said, then it has traveled more roads than I have.

Before the last class, the monitor finally found out and returned the card to Xiaoman to give to Duoduo. Xiaoman took it, about to say sorry, then turned it over and froze. The back was full of writing, crooked and straight, big and small, seven lines in all. The last line was Dayu's: it just slept in my backpack for one class.

When Duoduo received the card she froze too. She held it high for the whole class to see. The teacher said, today this card visited three more backpacks and collected seven more sentences, making it the farthest-traveled card of all.

That afternoon Xiaoman rearranged the pockets of her divider. She put the leaf-card alone in the outermost pocket and stuck a piece of tape beside it. From tomorrow, she decided, every pocket gets its zipper closed, one by one.

没送出去的那张贺卡

北北是这学期刚转来的同学，坐在靠窗的位置。六一前老师说要交换手工贺卡，北北在家做了一张，卡纸上画了两只小船，一只大船一只小船，并排漂着。他把贺卡放进书包最里面的口袋，拉链拉了两遍，又在口袋上压了一本字典，怕它自己跑出来，又怕它一直不出来。

第一个课间，交换开始了。教室里到处是贺卡，同学们互相递，递完就凑在一起看谁画得好。北北把手伸进书包，碰到那个口袋，又抽回来。他想，我还没想好先给谁。其实他想给同桌南南，可是南南正在跟后排的同学说话，他不知道该怎么插进去。

南南发现了。她没问北北为什么不换，只是从自己书包里拿出一张贺卡，走到北北桌前，说，我这张画的是窗台上的绿萝，送给你，因为你每天帮我给绿萝浇水。说完她把贺卡塞进北北书包外面的口袋，没等他接话，就回去继续浇花了。

北北看着书包外面那张贺卡，看了很久。绿萝画得圆圆的，每片叶子都涂得很满，像怕哪一片叶子不够绿。他在心里把那张贺卡读了三遍，然后拉开里面那个口袋，把两只小船的贺卡拿出来，捏在手里。

第二个课间，北北等到南南一个人坐在座位上，就走过去，把贺卡放在她桌上，说，给你。声音很小，可是南南听见了。南南打开贺卡，看到两只小船，问，哪只是你。北北想了想，说，我也不知道，两只都在互相看着。

南南把两张贺卡并排贴在教室后面的展示板上，跟北北说，这样全班都能看见你的小船。展示板上贴了几十张贺卡，北北找了一会儿才找到自己和南南的那两张，它们挨在一起，跟画里一样并排漂着。

放学时北北收拾书包，发现里面口袋的拉链不知什么时候拉好了，字典也挪回了书堆里。他把书包背好，走到门口又回头看了一眼展示板。两张小船还在那儿，下课的铃声响了，它们不用动，也一直在往前漂。

第二天早上，北北的书包外面多了一个新的小口袋，是他自己缝上去的，蓝布做的。南南问那是干什么的。北北说，装贺卡的，下次课间，直接用这个。

The Card That Was Never Given

Beibei transferred in at the start of the term and sits by the window. Before June 1st the teacher announced a handmade card exchange. Beibei made one at home, drawing two boats on the card, a big one and a small one, floating side by side. He put the card in the innermost pocket of his backpack, pulled the zipper twice, then pressed a dictionary on top of the pocket, afraid the card might slip out by itself, and also afraid it would never come out.

During the first break the exchange began. Cards were everywhere, children handing them over and huddling to compare drawings. Beibei reached into his backpack, touched the pocket, and pulled his hand back. He told himself he had not decided whom to give it to first. Really he wanted to give it to his deskmate Nannan, but she was talking to the class behind, and he did not know how to join in.

Nannan noticed. She did not ask why he was not exchanging. She simply took a card from her own backpack, walked to his desk and said, this one is the pothos on our windowsill, for you, because you water it for me every day. She slipped it into the outer pocket of his backpack and went back to watering the plant without waiting for an answer.

Beibei looked at the card in the outer pocket for a long time. The pothos leaves were drawn round and filled in solidly, as if she feared any leaf might not be green enough. He read the card three times in his head, then opened the inner pocket and took out his two little boats and held them.

In the second break, Beibei waited until Nannan sat alone, then walked over, placed the card on her desk and said, for you. His voice was tiny, but she heard. Nannan opened the card, saw the two boats and asked, which one is you. Beibei thought a while and said, I do not know, the two are looking at each other.

Nannan stuck both cards side by side on the display board at the back of the classroom, saying, now the whole class can see your boats. Dozens of cards covered the board. Beibei searched a while before finding theirs, next to each other, floating side by side just like in the drawing.

At dismissal Beibei packed his bag and found the inner zipper somehow closed and the dictionary moved back into his book pile. He shouldered his backpack, walked to the door, and looked back at the board. The two boats were still there. The bell rang for the next break, and without moving at all, they kept drifting forward.

Next morning Beibei's backpack had a new small pocket sewn on, blue cloth, by his own hand. Nannan asked what it was for. Beibei said, for cards. Next break, I will use this one straight away.