六一是从哪里来的

每年六月一日，孩子们上台表演，可是很少有人知道，这个节日是从哪里来的。

答案藏在战争年代里。第二次世界大战期间，许多孩子失去了父母和家园。1942年，捷克村庄利迪塞遭到毁灭，男人被杀害，妇女被送进集中营，孩子们下落不明。战争结束后，孩子们的遭遇被全世界记在心里。

1949年11月，国际民主妇女联合大会在莫斯科召开，各国代表提出应该有一个属于孩子自己的日子。大会通过决议，把六月一日定为国际儿童节，纪念在战争中死难的儿童，呼吁全世界保障孩子们的生存、健康和受教育的权利。

中国的六一，是在新中国成立的时候定下来的。1949年12月，政府宣布每年六月一日为儿童节。在那之前，中国孩子没有一个统一的节日；从这一年起，每逢六一，小学生和中学生都放假一天。

六一在中国怎么过？最热闹的地方是学校。节前几天，各班就开始排练节目，演出当天，操场上搭起舞台，唱歌、跳舞、小品、朗诵轮番上场。有的孩子第一次登台，下台时手心全是汗，脸上却亮堂堂的。不少学校还会在这一天举行少先队入队仪式，新队员在队旗下宣誓。博物馆、少年宫和公园也安排专场活动，家长们常抽空陪孩子出去走走。

其他国家也有自己的儿童节日。日本的儿童节在五月五日，家门前竖起高高的旗杆，挂着彩色的鲤鱼旗，盼着孩子像鲤鱼跃龙门一样结实勇敢。土耳其的儿童节在四月二十三日，这一天孩子们可以走进议会，坐到议员席上，甚至扮演一天的总统。印度的儿童节在十一月十四日，首任总理尼赫鲁的生日，他说过，孩子决定一个国家的未来。联合国还把十一月二十日定为世界儿童日。

日期各不相同，意思却是相通的：在这一天，全世界都把小孩子放在第一位。

Where June 1st Comes From

Every year on June 1st, children take the stage, yet few know where this day comes from.

The answer lies in the war years. During World War II, many children lost their parents and their homes. In 1942, the Czech village of Lidice was destroyed: the men were killed, the women sent to concentration camps, and the children vanished to unknown places. After the war, the suffering of children was remembered by the whole world.

In November 1949, the congress of the Women's International Democratic Federation met in Moscow, and delegates from many countries proposed that children should have a day of their own. The congress adopted a resolution designating June 1 as

International Children's Day, in memory of the children who perished in the war, calling on the world to protect children's rights to life, health, and education.

China's June 1st was set at the founding of the People's Republic. In December 1949, the government declared that June 1 would be Children's Day every year. Before that, Chinese children had no unified holiday; from that year on, primary and middle school students take a day off every June 1st.

How is June 1st celebrated in China? The liveliest place is the school. Days before the holiday, classes start rehearsing, and on the day itself a stage goes up on the playground, with songs, dances, skits, and recitations taking turns. Some children perform on stage for the first time; their palms are sweaty when they step down, but their faces shine. Many schools also hold Young Pioneers admission ceremonies, with new members swearing an oath under the team flag. Museums, children's palaces, and parks arrange special programs, and parents often take time off to go out with their children.

Other countries have their own children's festivals too. Japan's Children's Day falls on May 5, when tall poles in front of homes fly colorful carp streamers, wishing children to grow strong and brave like carp leaping the Dragon Gate. Turkey's Children's Day is on April 23, when children walk into parliament, sit in the deputies' seats, and even play president for a day. India's Children's Day is on November 14, the birthday of first Prime Minister Nehru, who said that children decide a nation's future. The United Nations also set November 20 as World Children's Day.

The dates differ, but the meaning is the same: on this day, the whole world puts children first.

爷爷口袋里的水果糖

六一前夜，爷爷从口袋里摸出一颗水果糖，把我叫到身边坐下，说他小时候过六一的事。

爷爷生在五十年代。他说，早先孩子没有一个属于自己的日子，一九四九年十二月，新中国刚成立，政府就宣布每年六月一日为儿童节。转过年来那个六一，是爷爷过的第一个儿童节。

爷爷说，那天全校走路去镇上的广场，老师一人发一颗糖、一个剥了壳的鸡蛋。他把糖揣在兜里，一整天没舍得吃，晚上回家，糖化透了，粘在口袋内衬上，他抠了一晚上。

我问爷爷，全世界为什么偏偏挑六月一日。爷爷说，这个日子是为了记住战争里的孩子定下来的。第二次世界大战时，许多孩子没了爹娘，没了家。一九四九年十一月，各国代表在莫斯科开会，通过决议，把六月一日定为国际儿童节，让全世界的孩子都被好好护着。

我的六一比爷爷的热闹。学校演节目，我在台上朗诵，早上入队戴上红领巾，下午爸妈带我去游乐园。摩天轮的队伍绕着湖排，我们的影子也排在里面。爷爷听得入神，问我台上紧不紧张。我说手心全是汗，可是音乐一响就忘了。爷爷点头，说他头一回上台更慌，台下黑压压全是人头，老师站在侧幕朝他竖大拇指，他才把歌唱完。

爷爷连别国的节日也知道。他说日本过儿童节在五月五日，家家门前竖起鲤鱼旗；土耳其的儿童节在四月二十三日，孩子走进议会，坐上议员的位子，扮一天总统；印度的儿童节在十一月十四日，是尼赫鲁总理的生日。

我问爷爷，怎么知道得这么细。爷爷拍拍脑门，说报纸上看来的，如今不出门也能知天下事。他又说，这些日子虽然不是一天，意思却是一天：大人把孩子当回事。

爷爷说，日子不一样，可哪国的孩子，都在这一天金贵。

说完，爷爷让我把水果糖剥开，一人一半。糖小，甜。

The Fruit Candy in Grandpas Pocket

On the eve of June 1st, Grandpa took a fruit candy out of his pocket, called me to sit beside him, and began telling me about the June 1sts of his childhood.

Grandpa was born in the 1950s. He said that long ago children had no day of their own; in December 1949, just after the People's Republic was founded, the government declared that June 1 would be Children's Day every year. The following June 1st was the first Children's Day of Grandpa's life.

Grandpa says the whole school walked to the town square that day, and each teacher handed out a candy and a peeled egg. He kept his candy in his pocket and could not bear to eat it all day; by evening it had melted and stuck to the lining of his pocket, and he picked at it all night.

I asked Grandpa why the whole world chose June 1. Grandpa said the date was set to remember the children of the war. During World War II, many children lost their parents and their homes. In November 1949, delegates from many countries met in Moscow and adopted a resolution making June 1 International Children's Day, so that children everywhere would be well protected.

My June 1st is livelier than Grandpa's. The school puts on shows, and I recite poems on stage; in the morning I join the Young Pioneers and put on the red scarf, and in the afternoon Mom and Dad take me to the amusement park. The line for the Ferris wheel wraps around the lake, and our shadows stand in that line too. Grandpa listens, rapt, and asks if I was nervous on stage. I say my palms were all sweat, but the moment the music started I forgot. Grandpa nods and says he was more frightened

the first time he went on stage: the audience below was a dark sea of heads, and he only finished the song after his teacher gave him a thumbs-up from the wings.

Grandpa even knows the holidays of other countries. He says Japan keeps Children's Day on May 5, when every home raises carp streamers at its gate; Turkey keeps it on April 23, when children walk into parliament, sit in the deputies' seats, and play president for a day; India keeps it on November 14, the birthday of Prime Minister Nehru.

I ask Grandpa how he knows all these details. Grandpa taps his forehead and says he read them in the newspaper - these days you can know the world without leaving home. He adds that although these days fall on different dates, they all mean the same thing: grown-ups take children seriously.

Grandpa said: the dates differ, but in every country children are the precious ones on this day.

When he finished, Grandpa had me unwrap the fruit candy, one half each. The candy was small, and sweet.

六一的环球旅行

六一过完，我把世界地图摊在书桌上，打算再走一趟远路——这一回不看名山大川，专看别国的儿童节日。

行程从莫斯科起。一九四九年十一月，许多国家的代表在这里开会。第二次世界大战里，无数孩子没了爹娘和家园，代表们想给孩子一个自己的日子。决议通过，六月一日成了国际儿童节。我在地图上的莫斯科点了个红点，算是给这趟旅行定了起点。

下一站北京。一九四九年十二月，新中国把六月一日定为儿童节。这一天，学校演节目，孩子上台唱歌跳舞，新入队的少先队员在队旗下宣誓，公园、博物馆和少年宫都办专场。红点落在北京，正是我们每年过节的地方。

再往东是东京。日本的儿童节在五月五日，家家门前竖起彩色的鲤鱼旗，旗子在风里往上游。家里人吃粽子和年糕，盼孩子结实康健。我想起动画片里见过的那条街，屋顶上一串鲤鱼，游得比云还慢。

再往西是安卡拉。土耳其的儿童节在四月二十三日，这一天孩子走进议会，坐上议员的位子，扮一天总理和总统，大人站在旁边，听孩子讲话。我用铅笔在地图上量了量，从北京到安卡拉，比到东京远得多，可孩子们一样过节。

再往南是新德里。印度的儿童节在十一月十四日，是首任总理尼赫鲁的生日。尼赫鲁喜欢孩

子，说孩子决定一个国家的未来。这一天孩子们演节目，大人们带孩子出去玩。地图上的新德里橙黄橙黄的，像一颗糖。

最后一站落在纽约。联合国把十一月二十日定为世界儿童日，那天夜里，世界各地的高楼亮起蓝色的灯。我在红点旁边又添了一行小字：灯亮起来的地方，都有孩子。

我把地图折好，贴回墙上。时区不同，日期不同，可地图上每一站，孩子都是家里最要紧的那个人。

A Round-the-World Trip of Childrens Days

After June 1st was over, I spread the world map on my desk and planned one more long journey - this time not to see famous mountains and rivers, but to look at the children's festivals of other countries.

The trip starts in Moscow. In November 1949, delegates from many countries met there. In World War II, countless children had lost their parents and homes, and the delegates wanted to give children a day of their own. The resolution passed, and June 1 became International Children's Day. I put a red dot on Moscow on the map, marking the starting point of this trip.

The next stop is Beijing. In December 1949, New China set June 1 as Children's Day. On that day schools put on shows, children sing and dance on stage, new Young Pioneers members swear their oath under the team flag, and parks, museums, and children's palaces hold special programs. The red dot lands on Beijing, exactly where we celebrate the holiday every year.

Eastward lies Tokyo. Japan's Children's Day falls on May 5, when every home raises colorful carp streamers at its gate, the flags swimming upstream in the wind. Families eat rice dumplings and rice cakes, hoping their children grow sturdy and healthy. I remembered the street I once saw in a cartoon: a string of carp on the rooftops, swimming slower than the clouds.

Westward lies Ankara. Turkey's Children's Day falls on April 23, when children walk into parliament, sit in the deputies' seats, and play prime minister and president for a day, while the grown-ups stand aside and listen to the children speak. I measured the distance on the map with my pencil: from Beijing to Ankara is far farther than to Tokyo, yet the children celebrate just the same.

Southward lies New Delhi. India's Children's Day falls on November 14, the birthday of first Prime Minister Nehru. Nehru loved children and said they decide a nation's future. On that day children perform, and the grown-ups take them out to play. New Delhi on the map is orange-yellow, like a piece of candy.

The last stop is New York. The United Nations set November 20 as World Children's Day, and on that night tall buildings around the world light up in blue. Next to my red dot I added one more line in small writing: where the lights come on, there are children.

I folded the map and stuck it back on the wall. Time zones differ, dates differ, but at every stop on the map, a child is the most important person in the house.