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.