红领巾的故事

每年六一儿童节，小学一二年级的孩子会迎来一件大事：加入中国少年先锋队，戴上红领巾。要弄明白这条红领巾，得先知道它从哪里来。

红领巾是少先队员的标志。它是一面红旗的一角，红色是革命先辈用奋斗染成的。老一辈常说，红领巾代表革命的荣誉，戴上它，就要像先辈那样勇敢、诚实，爱祖国，爱别人。这句话听着大，落在小事上很清楚：升国旗站得直，同学摔倒了伸手扶，说了的话要算数。

少先队有自己的样子。队旗是红旗加一颗五角星，队徽是五角星加火炬和写着少先队的绶带，队礼是右手五指并拢高举头上，意思是人民的利益高于一切。敬礼的时候手要举过头顶，胳膊伸直，这是孩子最神气的姿势。

入队仪式一般挑在六一儿童节前后，操场上列队，队旗走在最前头。大队辅导员宣布新队员名单，一个名字念出来，队伍里应一声到。老队员走上前，把红领巾叠成合适的样子，绕过新队员的衣领，打一个结。这个结有讲究：左尖压右尖，右尖绕一圈，圈里抽出尖，平整又服帖。

最要紧的是宣誓。领誓人一句一句念，新队员握紧右拳，跟着大声答。右手握拳举在耳侧，声音从操场这头滚到那头。宣誓完，老队员讲话，这就是寄语。高年级的哥哥姐姐讲自己入队那天的紧张，讲戴了几年红领巾后明白的事：红领巾不是装饰，是提醒，提醒孩子说话算话，做事认真，跌倒了不哭鼻子。

仪式散了，孩子们低头看胸前的红。有的回家路上就一直没让它歪过。妈妈拍照，喊一声小队员，孩子把腰又挺了挺。

六一儿童节因此多了一层意思：对低年级的孩子来说，这一天不只是看演出，而是从今天起，胸前多了一角红旗，心里多了一份自己的名字——少先队员。

The Story of the Red Scarf

Every year on June 1st, first and second graders face a big event: joining the Chinese Young Pioneers and receiving the red scarf. To understand this scarf, we first need to know where it comes from.

The red scarf is the symbol of a Young Pioneer. It is one corner of a red flag, and its red color was dyed by the struggle of the revolutionary elders. The older generation often says the red scarf stands for the honor of the revolution: wear it, and be brave and honest like the elders, love the country, and care about others. The words sound big, but they land on small things clearly: stand straight when the flag rises, lend a hand when a classmate falls, and keep the promises you make.

The Pioneers have their own emblems. The team flag is a red flag with a five-pointed star; the team badge shows a star, a torch, and a ribbon bearing the team's name; the team salute raises the right hand, five fingers together, above the head,

meaning the people's interests come above all. When saluting, the hand must go above the head with the arm straight - the proudest pose a child can strike.

The admission ceremony is usually held around June 1st. Classes line up on the playground, the team flag marching at the front. The instructor reads out the names of new members, and each name is answered with a Here from the ranks. Older members step forward, fold the red scarf neatly, pass it around the new member's collar, and tie the knot. The knot has its rules: left tip over right tip, right tip around once, and the tip pulled through the loop - flat and tidy.

The most important part is the oath. The lead recites line by line, and the new members clench their right fists and answer aloud, fist raised beside the ear, voices rolling across the playground. After the oath, an older member speaks - that is the message of good wishes. A senior talks about how nervous they were on their own admission day, and what they learned after wearing the scarf for years: the red scarf is not a decoration but a reminder - to keep your word, do things earnestly, and get up without crying when you fall.

When the ceremony breaks up, children look down at the red on their chests. Some never let it tilt the whole way home. Moms take photos, calling out little pioneer, and the child straightens up even more.

So June 1st gains another layer of meaning: for the younger children, the day is not only about watching shows. Starting today, a corner of the red flag rests on their chest, and a new name rests in their heart - Young Pioneer.