我们班的世界儿童节联欢会

六一儿童节那天，我们班没排舞蹈，办了一场世界儿童节联欢会。班主任说，全世界的儿童节不止六月一日，你们自己去找、自己来演。全班分成三组，一周后开演。

第一组演日本。几个男生用布缝了三条大鲤鱼，竹竿一撑，挂在教室窗边，风扇一开，鱼就游起来了。他们讲：日本男孩节在五月五日，挂鲤鱼旗，黑鱼是爸爸、红鱼是妈妈、小鱼是孩子，因为老传说里鲤鱼跳得过龙门，大人盼孩子有勇气。女生那边摆了一张桌子，铺红布，放上纸做的人偶，一层一层排好，说这是三月三日的女孩节，家里这样摆人偶祝女孩健康。讲完还教大家吃了菱形的小饼干，说是学人家吃彩色米糕。

第二组演瑞典。组长上台先宣布：瑞典的儿童节是分着过的，十月七日男孩日，十二月十九日女孩日。话音刚落，全班男生戴上纸王冠，每人领到一颗糖；女生不服，组长说别急，女孩的日子更大——女生戴上蜡烛王冠上场，王冠是用纸筒和黄色卡纸做的，代表圣露西亚的蜡烛冠。他们讲老传说：家里最大的女儿在十二月十九日早上戴王冠、穿白袍，给全家端咖啡和面包。台下听得认真，有同学问那男孩端不端，全班笑。

第三组演西班牙，也是最乱的一组。三个同学戴王冠、披床单，骑上拖椅当骆驼，绕教室游行，说这是一月六日的三王节，一月五日夜里三位国王上街。后面的同学拎一袋水果糖往过道撒，全班趴在地上抢，糖纸踩得咔嚓响。讲的人喊：乖孩子鞋里有礼物，不乖的只有炭！抢糖的手立刻举起来：我今年特别乖。

联欢会散了，班主任问大家看出什么没有。有同学说：日本看鱼，瑞典戴冠，西班牙抢糖。班主任点头：日子不一样，玩法不一样，可哪个国家的大人都在同一片心思里——把孩子当成顶顶要紧的人。教室窗边，布鲤鱼还在风里一鼓一鼓地游。

Our Class's World Children's Day Party

On June 1st our class skipped the usual dance and held a World Children's Day party instead. Our teacher said: Children's Day around the world is not just June 1st - go find out yourselves, and act it out yourselves. The class split into three groups, and the show began a week later.

Group one performed Japan. Several boys sewed three big carp from cloth, propped them on bamboo poles by the classroom window, and with the fan running, the fish swam. They explained: Japan's Boys' Day is May 5th, when families fly carp streamers - the black carp is father, the red one mother, the small one the child - because in an old legend carp leap over the Dragon Gate, and grown-ups hope their children will have courage. The girls set up a table covered with red cloth and arranged paper dolls tier by tier, saying this is Girls' Day on March 3rd, when families display dolls to wish girls health. Afterwards they handed out diamond-shaped biscuits, saying they were imitating the colored rice cakes.

Group two performed Sweden. Their leader opened by announcing: Sweden splits its Children's Day - Boy's Day on October 7th, Girl's Day on December 19th. The moment he finished, every boy in class put on a paper crown and got a candy. The girls protested; the leader said wait - the girls' day is bigger - and the girls came out wearing candle crowns made from paper tubes and yellow cardstock, standing in for Saint Lucia's crown of candles. They told the old legend: on the morning of December 19th the eldest daughter of a household wears the crown, puts on a white gown, and serves coffee and bread to the whole family. The audience listened intently until someone asked whether boys ever serve too, and the whole class laughed.

Group three performed Spain - and was the messiest of all. Three classmates wore crowns, draped bedsheets over themselves, rode office chairs as camels, and paraded around the classroom, explaining that this is Three Kings' Day on January 6th, and that on the night of January 5th the three kings take to the streets. The students behind them grabbed a bag of fruit candy and scattered it down the aisle while the whole class dove to the floor to scramble for it, candy wrappers crunching underfoot. The narrator shouted: well-behaved children get gifts in their shoes; naughty ones get only coal! Hands snatching candy shot straight up: I have been extremely good this year!

When the party broke up, our teacher asked what we had noticed. One classmate said: Japan watches fish, Sweden wears crowns, Spain grabs candy. Our teacher nodded: the dates differ, the games differ, but every country's grown-ups share one and the same heart - treating children as the most important people there are. By the classroom window, the cloth carp were still swimming, bellies billowing in the fan's breeze.