展墙上的旧口号

学校走廊尽头有一面校史展墙，六一那周换了新内容：几十张老照片，全是历届六一儿童节，照片上方挂着一排复制的旧横幅，一条横幅一句口号。

我是这面墙的小讲解员。来参观的一年级小同学最多，他们仰着头问：这些字为什么跟学校今年挂的不一样？我告诉他们，六一儿童节几乎每年有一句主题口号，年年都在变。早些年，口号里常见好好学习、天天向上这样的字，讲的是读书和本领；后来常见健康成长、快乐童年，讲的是身体和心情；再近几年，口号里出现了劳动、环保、家风，比如自己的事自己做、和好书交朋友。一条一条读下来，你会发现国家每些年最看重什么，口号就写什么。这不是随便换词，是大人在换着法子关心孩子。

小同学们还爱看照片里的旧会标。六一的会标和海报，几十年翻来覆去用那几样图案：太阳、红领巾、风筝、气球、五角星、和平鸽。我指着照片给他们拆：太阳是希望，孩子像早晨的太阳；红领巾说明这是少先队自己的节日；风筝的线在孩子手里，意思是梦想靠自己放飞；五角星跟队旗上那颗一样，代表中国共产党的领导；和平鸽提醒孩子，这个节日本来就跟战争里吃过苦的孩子有关。旧会标画得朴素，可每一样都有出处。

讲到最后，我带他们看展墙末尾那段说明，讲的是节日的来历：上世纪四十年代，战争里成千上万的孩子死难、失学，后来人们设立六一儿童节，纪念那些孩子，也提醒所有大人把孩子放在心上。所以六一不是光玩一天。口号是节日说的话，会标是节日画的像，来历是节日记得的账——三样合起来，才是完整的六一。

参观结束，一个小同学在留言本上写：原来口号是会变的，关心是不变的。我把它念给讲解团的每个人听。第二年校史展更新，展墙最下面留了一排空白横幅，专门留给下一届学生，写他们那一年的口号。

The Old Slogans on the Display Wall

At the end of the school corridor stands a history display wall, and the week of June 1st it had new content: dozens of old photographs from past Children's Days, and above them a row of copied old banners, one slogan per banner.

I am the student guide for this wall. Most visitors are first graders, who crane their necks and ask: why are these words different from the ones hung at school this year? I tell them that Children's Day in China has had a theme slogan almost every year, and it keeps changing. In earlier years the slogans often carried phrases like study hard and make progress every day, about schoolwork and skills; later healthy growth and happy childhood became common, about bodies and spirits; in recent years labor, the environment, and family values have appeared in the slogans - do your own things yourself, make friends with good books. Read them one by one and you find: whatever the country valued most in a given stretch of years, that is what the slogan wrote. This is not swapping words at random; it is grown-ups caring for children in

changing ways.

The little visitors also love the old emblems in the photos. For decades, Children's Day emblems and posters have kept using the same handful of motifs: the sun, red scarves, kites, balloons, five-pointed stars, doves of peace. I take them apart photo by photo: the sun is hope, and children are like the morning sun; the red scarf shows this is the Pioneers' own festival; the kite's string is in the child's hand, meaning dreams are flown by yourself; the five-pointed star is the same one on the team flag, standing for the leadership of the Communist Party of China; the dove of peace reminds children that this festival began with children who suffered in war. The old emblems were plainly drawn, but every element has its source.

At the end of the tour I take them to the note at the end of the wall, which tells where the festival came from: in the 1940s, tens of thousands of children died or lost their schooling in the war, and people later established the June 1st Children's Day to remember those children and to remind all grown-ups to keep children in their hearts. So June 1st is not just one day of play. The slogan is what the festival says, the emblem is the festival's portrait, and the origin is the debt the festival remembers - put the three together and you have the whole of Children's Day.

When the visit ended, one little first grader wrote in the guest book: so the slogans change, but the caring never changes. I read it aloud to everyone in the guide team. When the display wall was updated the next year, a row of blank banners was left at the very bottom, reserved for the next grade of students to write their own year's slogan.