

LEVELED BOOK • K

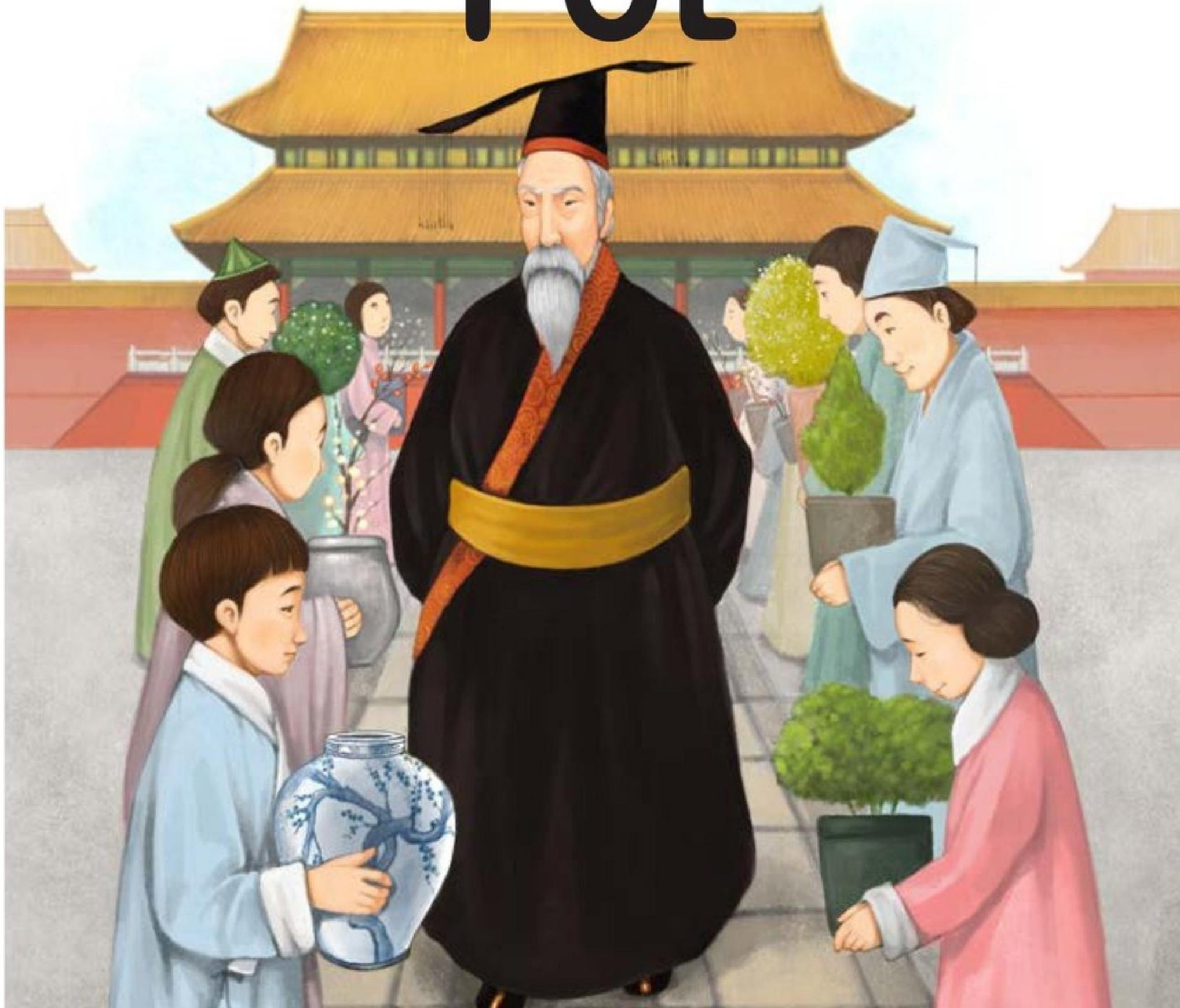
The Empty Pot



MULTI
level
H•K•N

Retold by Betty Yee • Illustrated by Jinwoo Kim

The Empty Pot



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Focus Question

What lesson does Chen learn?

Words to Know

boiled

emperor

empty

honest

pleased

sprout

The Empty Pot
Level K Leveled Book
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Correlation

LEVEL K	
Fountas & Pinnell	J
Reading Recovery	17
DRA	18



A long time ago, there was a boy named Chen. He lived in China with his mother. They lived in a house full of beautiful flowers and other plants from their garden.



The **emperor** of China was a very old man. He didn't have any children. He worried about who would become the next emperor.

The emperor decided to choose the next emperor from among the children of his country. He told his people, “I will give a flower seed to every child. In a year’s time, come back to the palace with your pots.”





Chen carefully planted his seed
in a little clay pot and gave it water.

Days passed, but the little seed
didn't sprout.

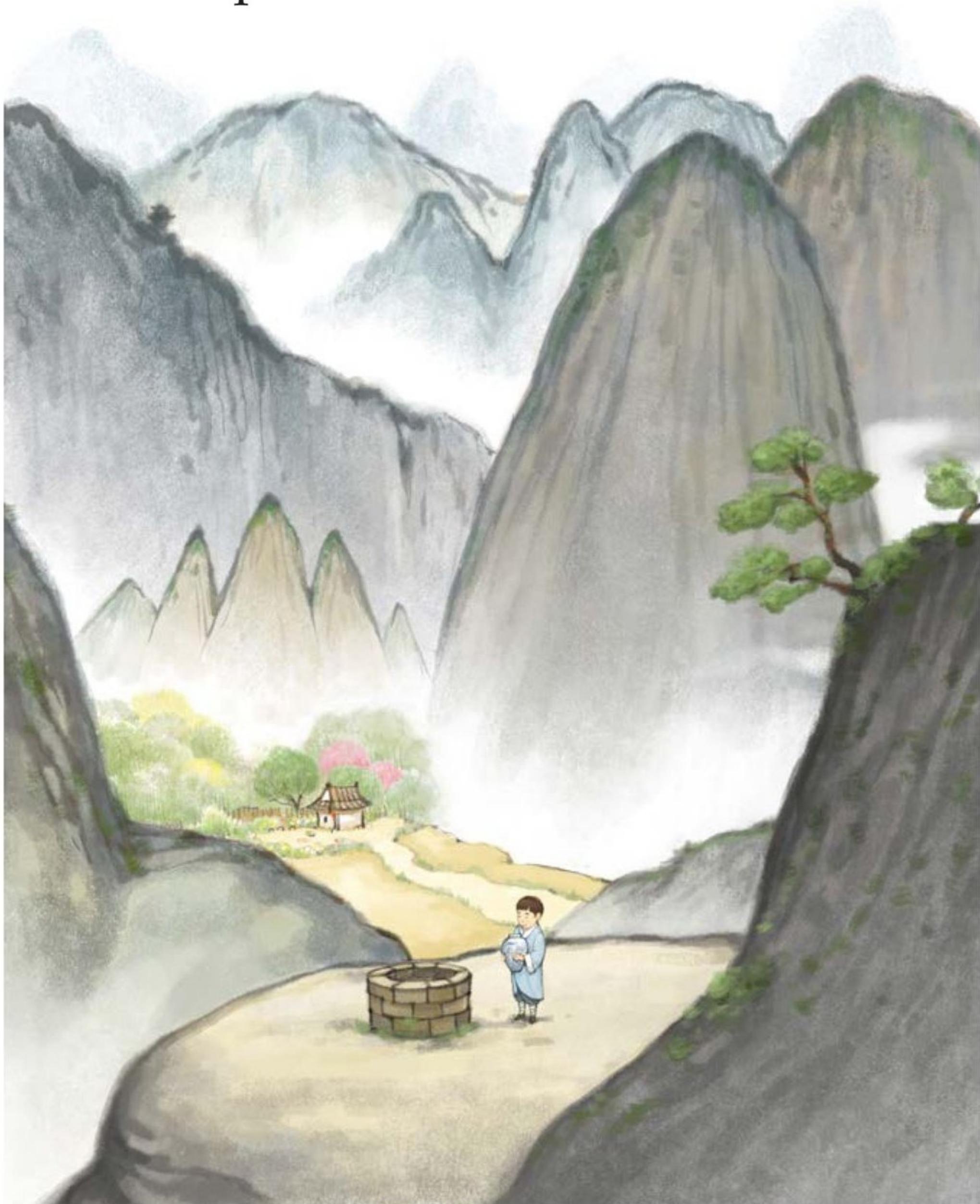
Chen moved the seed into a bigger, nicer pot. He placed the pot in the sunniest corner of his garden.

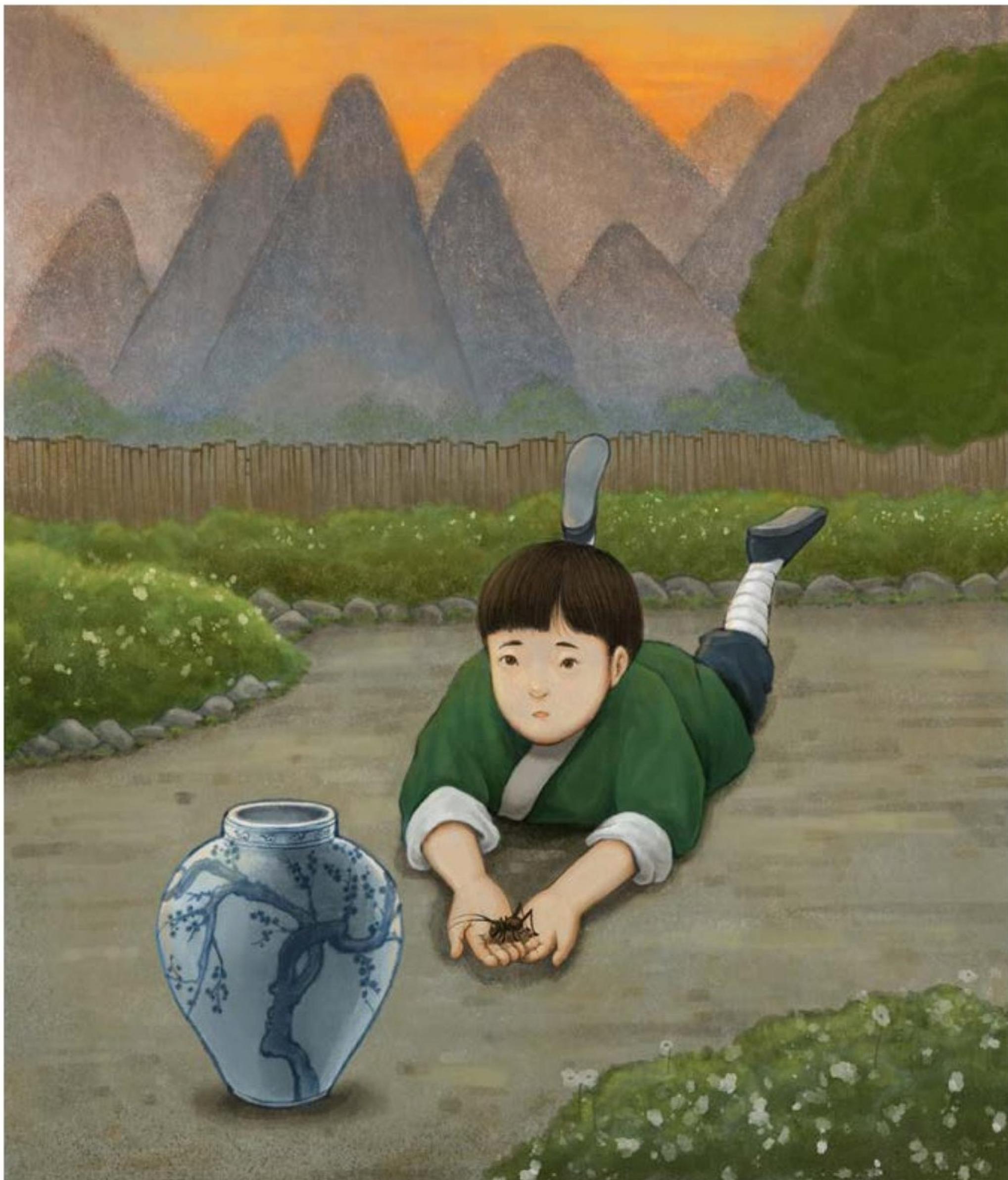
Weeks passed, but the little seed didn't sprout.



Chen carried his pot to a well with fresh water.

Months passed, but the little seed didn't sprout.





He kept his pet cricket next to the pot. He wanted the seed to hear the cricket's sweet sounds.

Seasons passed, but the little seed still didn't sprout.

A year passed.

It was time to bring the pot back to the emperor's palace. Chen was sad. His seed hadn't sprouted at all.



His mother found him crying in the garden. "You did your best," she said. "Bring your pot to the emperor and tell him what happened."

Children came to the emperor's palace with their pots full of flowers. Chen looked down sadly at his **empty** pot.



The emperor walked slowly through the crowd of children and flowers.



Something was wrong. The emperor didn't look **pleased**. At last he came to Chen and his empty pot.



“What’s this?” the emperor demanded. “Why is your pot empty?” he asked.

Chen said, “I’m sorry. I put the seed in a pot. I moved it into a bigger, fancier pot. I made sure it had sunlight. I gave it the freshest water. I even let my cricket keep it company at night! No matter what I did, it wouldn’t grow. I tried my best.”



Suddenly, to Chen's surprise, the emperor shouted, "I've found the next emperor! I don't know how the rest of you grew your flowers. The seeds I gave out were **boiled**. They could never have grown. But this child was **honest** and used his best effort to try to grow the seed."

Chen and his mother went to live in the palace. The emperor and Chen worked in the palace garden together. When the emperor died, Chen became emperor. He cared for China just as he had always cared for his own garden.



Glossary

boiled (<i>v.</i>)	heated in a liquid that has become hot enough to bubble (p. 14)
emperor (<i>n.</i>)	a man who rules a group of countries (p. 4)
empty (<i>adj.</i>)	not holding anything (p. 11)
honest (<i>adj.</i>)	truthful (p. 14)
pleased (<i>adj.</i>)	happy (p. 12)
sprout (<i>v.</i>)	come out of a seed and begin to grow (p. 6)

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A Reading A-Z Level K Leveled Book

Word Count: 446



Connections

Writing

Pretend you are a child other than Chen from the story. Write a journal entry telling what you gave to the emperor and why.

Social Studies

Draw a map of China. Label the capital city and five important landmarks.

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