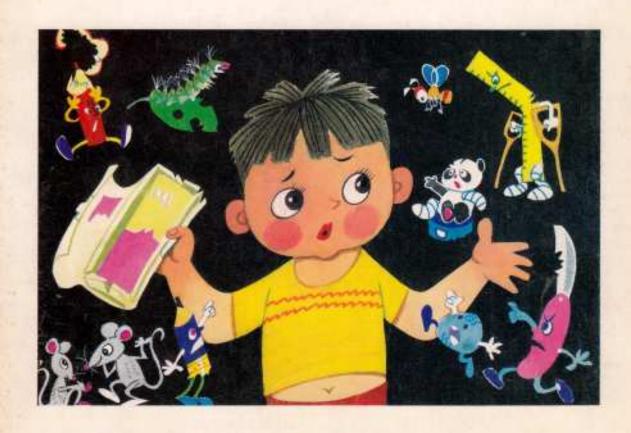


Pals in the Pencil Case



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Story by Zheng Yuanjie Illustrations by Mao Yongkun and Hu Yongkai

Pals in the Pencil Case

From China Children's Publishing House

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There was a little boy who was a first grader.



Before the first day of school his mother bought him a beautiful pencil case with a pencil, an eraser, a ruler, a penknife and a pencil sharpener in it.



The pencil and its pals wanted to help the little boy study well.





That night while the boy was asleep



Then, the pencil in tears ran out of the pencil case.



The penknife asked why he was weeping. The pencil replied: "He keeps sharpening me and I am nearly gone."



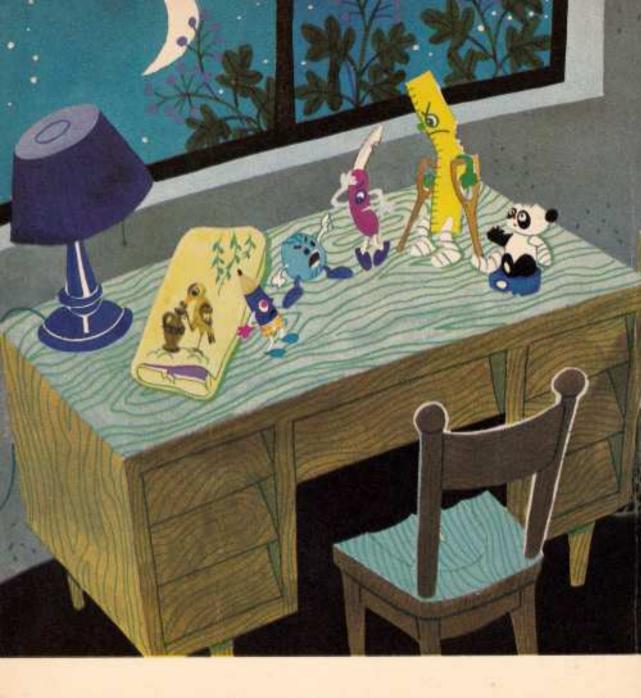
Hearing this, the penknife pulled the pencil sharpener out of the case. "What happened to you?"



The pencil sharpener responded:
"When the boy attacked the butterflies with
the schoolbag I fell and broke."



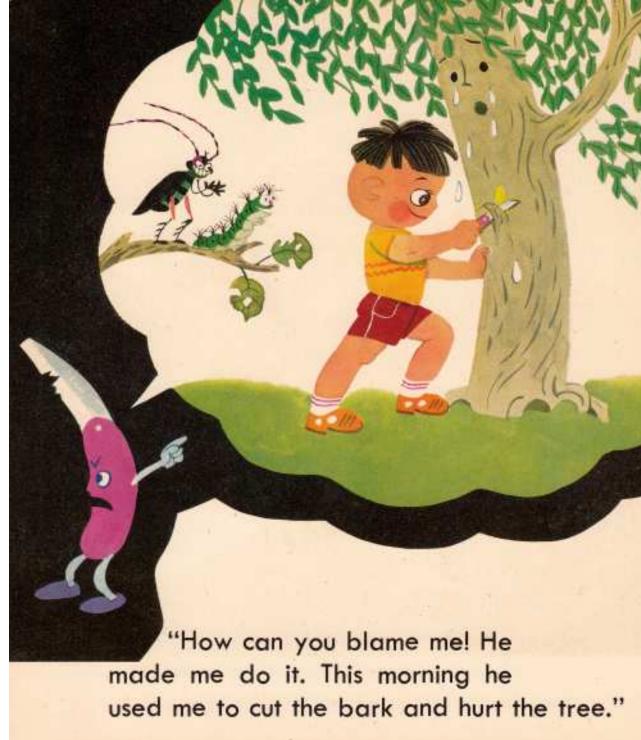
The eraser and ruler were also crying.

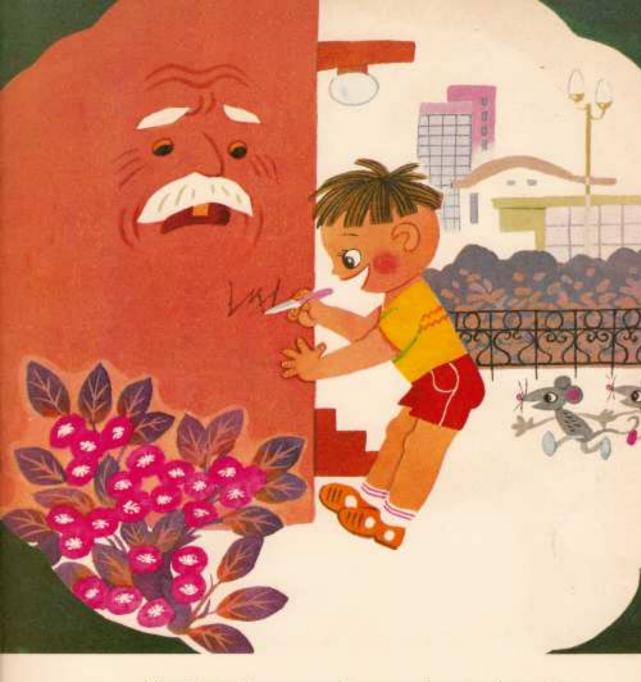


They said: "Penknife, it's all your fault. You



ways cut us. Look, what you have done to us!"

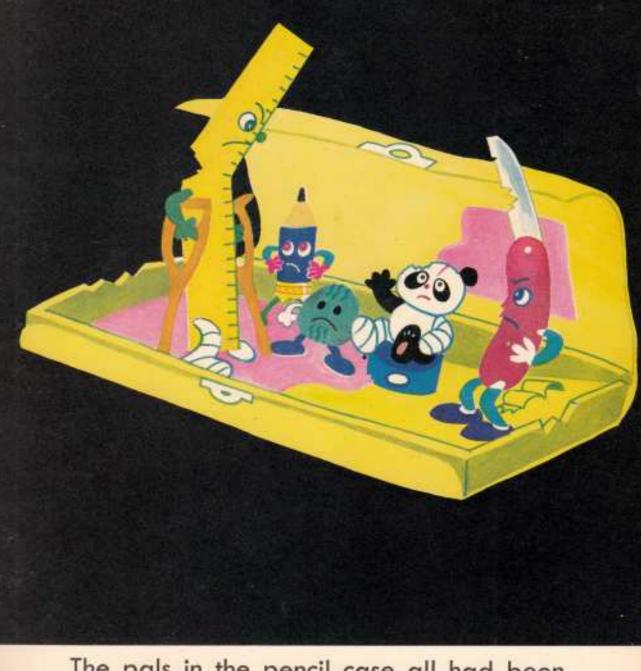




"In the afternoon he again used me to carve on Grandpa Wall."



"After school, he stuck me into the mud. Look! My blade is damaged!"



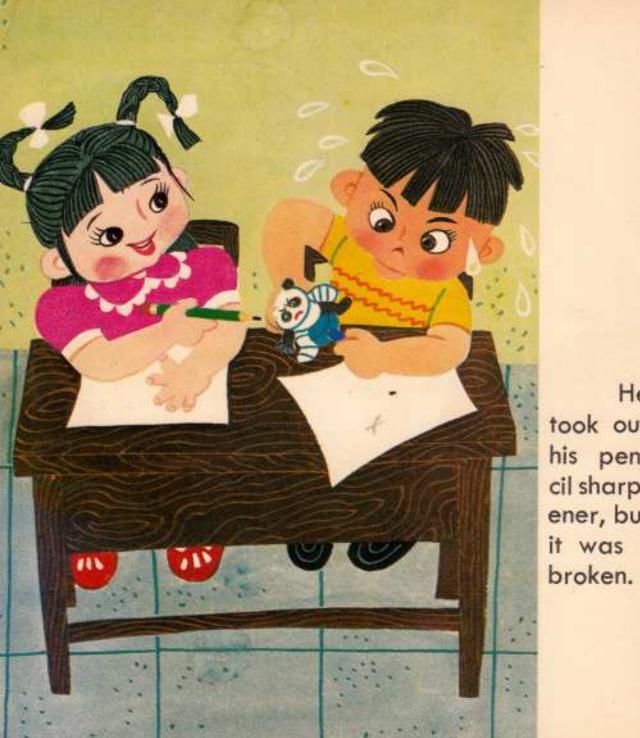
The pals in the pencil case all had been wounded. They said angrily: "If he doesn't make the best use of us, how can we help him study well?"



The next morning the boy hurried to school.



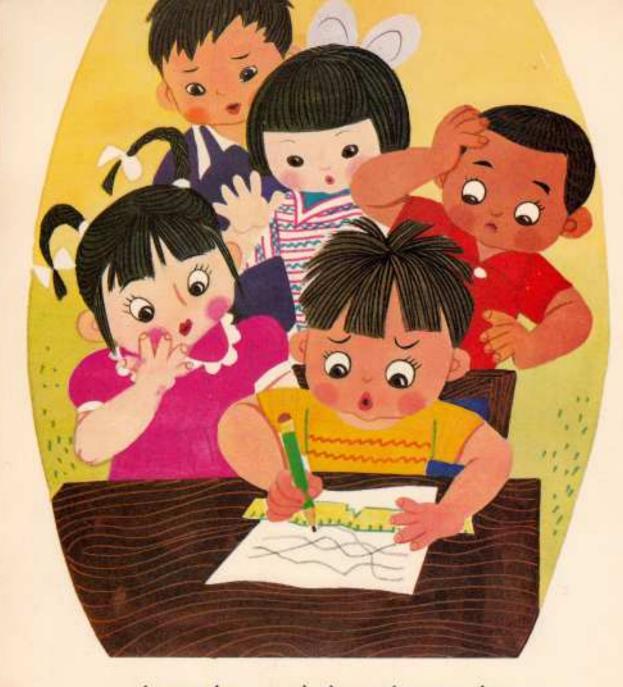
In class, the point of his pencil broke.



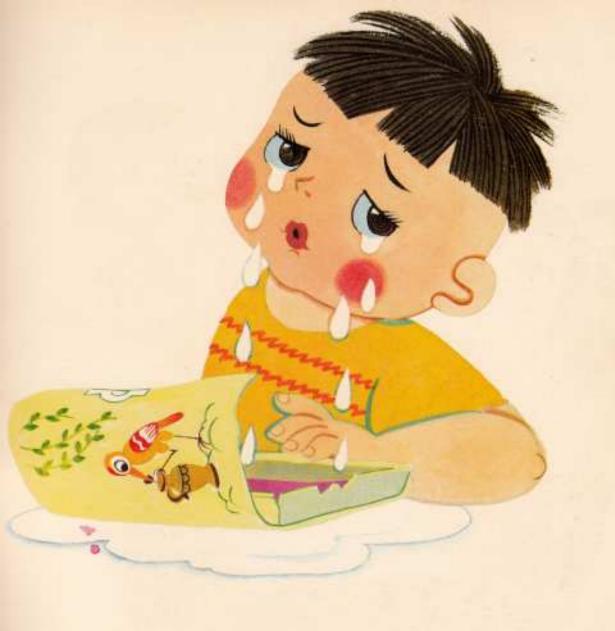
He took ou his pen cil sharp ener, bu it was

He took out his eraser to erase the mark but the more he rubbed the darker the paper became.





Later he used the ruler to draw a straight line, but the line was zigzagged.



That night he couldn't do his homework well and he cried.



铅笔盒里的伙伴

(英文版)

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