

## Intermediate - The Little Tadpoles in Search of Their Mother (C1682)

春天来了。

chūntiān lái le.

*Spring had arrived*

池塘里有很多可爱的小蝌蚪。

chítáng lǐ yǒu hěnduō kě'ài de xiǎokēdǒu.

*and there were lots of cute little tadpoles in a pond.*

小蝌蚪从来没见过自己的妈妈，所以它们想去找妈妈。

xiǎokēdǒu cónglái méi jiàn guo zìjǐ de māma, suǒyǐ tāmen xiǎng qù zhǎo māma.

*The tadpoles had never met their mother before, and so they wanted to go out and find her.*

鸭妈妈告诉它们：“你们的妈妈有两只大眼睛，一张大嘴巴。”

yā māma gàosu tāmen:” nǐmen de māma yǒu liǎng zhī dà yǎnjīng, yī zhāng dà zuǐba.”

*A mother duck said to them, "Your mother has two eyes and one big mouth."*

小蝌蚪往前游，看见了一条金鱼。

xiǎokēdǒu wǎng qián yóu, kànjiàn le yī tiáo jīnyú.

*The little tadpoles swam forward and saw a goldfish.*

金鱼的头上有两只大眼睛。

jīnyú de tóu shàng yǒu liǎng zhī dà yǎnjīng.

*The goldfish had two big eyes on its head.*

它们高兴地喊：“妈妈！妈妈！”

tāmen gāoxìng de hǎn:” māma! māma!”

*The tadpoles happily cried out, "Momma! Momma!"*

金鱼说：“我不是你们的妈妈。你们的妈妈是白肚皮。”

jīnyú shuō:” wǒ bùshì nǐmen de māma. nǐmen de māma shì bái dùpí.”

*The goldfish said, "I'm not your mother. Your mother has a white belly."*

小蝌蚪继续往前游，看见了一只螃蟹。

xiǎokēdǒu jìxù wǎng qián yóu, kànjiàn le yī zhī pángxiè.

*The tadpoles continued swimming forward and saw a crab.*

螃蟹的肚皮是白的。

pángxiè de dùpí shì bái de.

*The crab's belly was white.*

它们赶紧喊：“妈妈！妈妈！”

tāmen gǎnjǐn hǎn:” māma! māma!”

*They immediately cried out, "Momma! Momma!"*

螃蟹摇摇头说：“你们认错了。我有八条腿，你们的妈妈只有四条腿。”

pángxiè yáo yao tóu shuō:” nǐmen rèncuò le. wǒ yǒu bā tiáo tuǐ, nǐmen de māma zhǐ yǒu sì tiáo tuǐ.”

*The crab shook its head and said, "You've got the wrong lady. I have eight legs and your mother only has four."*

哎！它们又继续往前游，看见了一只乌龟。

āi! tāmen yòu jìxù wǎng qián yóu, kànjiàn le yī zhī wūguī.

*Agh! They continued to swim forward and saw a turtle.*

乌龟正好有四条腿。

wūguī zhèng hǎo yǒu sì tiáo tuǐ.

*The turtle had exactly four legs.*

它们又高兴地喊：“妈妈！妈妈！”

tāmen yòu gāoxìng de hǎn:” māma! māma!”

*Again, they happily cried out, "Momma! Momma!"*

乌龟说：“你们的妈妈穿着绿衣服，会呱呱呱叫。”



wūguī shuō:” nǐmen de māma chuān zhe lǜ yīfu, huì guāguā jiào.”

*The turtle said, "Your mom is wearing green clothes and goes 'ribbit ribbit'."*

小蝌蚪很失望。突然，它们听见一只青蛙在呱呱呱呱叫。

xiǎokēdǒu hěn shīwàng. tūrán, tāmen tīngjiàn yī zhī qīngwā zài guāguājiào.

*The little tadpoles were very disappointed. Suddenly, they saw a frog going 'ribbit ribbit'.*

它们小心地问：“你是我们的妈妈吗？”

tāmen xiǎoxīn de wèn:” nǐ shì wǒmen de māma ma?”

*They asked cautiously, "Are you our momma?"*

青蛙笑着说：“我就是你们的妈妈。等你们长大了，就跟妈妈一样了。”

qīngwā xiào zhe shuō:” wǒ jiùshì nǐmen de māma. děng nǐmen zhǎngdà le, jiù gēn māma yīyàng le.”

*The frog smiled and said, "That's me. I'm your mother. Once you've grown up, you'll look just like me."*

小蝌蚪终于找到了妈妈！

xiǎokēdǒu zhōngyú zhǎodào le māma!

*The little tadpoles had finally found their mother!*

**Key Vocabulary**

春天	chūntiān	<i>spring</i>
池塘	chítáng	<i>pond</i>
蝌蚪	kēdǒu	<i>tadpole</i>
从来没	cónglái méi	<i>never before</i>
鸭	yā	<i>duck</i>
只	zhī	<i>[measure word for some body parts and animals]</i>
眼睛	yǎnjing	<i>eyes</i>
张	zhāng	<i>[measure word for mouths]</i>
嘴巴	zuǐba	<i>mouth</i>
游	yóu	<i>to swim</i>
条	tiáo	<i>[measure word for legs]</i>
金鱼	jīnyú	<i>goldfish</i>

喊	hǎn	<i>to shout</i>
肚皮	dùpí	<i>belly</i>
继续	jìxù	<i>to continue</i>
螃蟹	pángxiè	<i>crab</i>
赶紧	gǎnjǐn	<i>hurriedly</i>
摇头	yáotóu	<i>to shake one's head</i>
认错	rèncuò	<i>to recognize incor- rectly</i>
腿	tuǐ	<i>leg</i>
乌龟	wūguī	<i>turtle, tortoise</i>
正好	zhènghǎo	<i>just happen to</i>
呱呱呱	guāguāguā	<i>'ribbit, ribbit'</i>
失望	shīwàng	<i>to be disappointed</i>
突然	tūrán	<i>suddenly</i>
青蛙	qīngwā	<i>frog</i>
等	děng	<i>once</i>

长大                      zhǎngdà                      *to grow up*

终于                      zhōngyú                      *finally*

### Supplementary Vocabulary

游泳                      yóuyǒng                      *to swim*

表面                      biǎomiàn                      *surface*

生动                      shēngdòng                      *lively*

碰巧                      pèngqiǎo                      *to happen by coincidence*

状态                      zhuàngtài                      *condition*

量词                      liàngcí                      *measure word*

软                      ruǎn                      *soft*