

Feng Chia University *Outstanding Academic Paper by Students*

Title : The Mystery You Cannot Miss From the East—Strange Stories of Liaozhai

聊齋誌異

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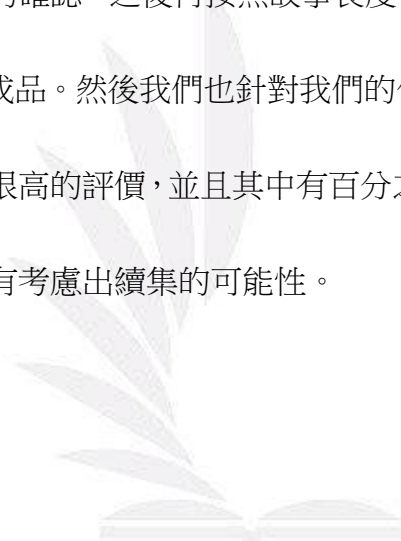
Abstract

Our motivation was that we were interested in the Western myth; on the other hand, we thought that the foreigners might be interested in Chinese culture as well. Therefore, we chose *Strange Stories of Liaozhai* as our topic and finished it as a picture book. And our goals were to introduce students to Chinese culture of gods and spirits, and made them understand the fables with the picture book. Our stories included Raining coins, Painted Skin, and The Taoist of Mount Lao. Besides, we made a questionnaire survey, and the result showed that our picture book got a high assessment in the reader-response-questionnaire survey. Approximately 86%(13out of15) freshmen were interested in our picture book, and they were looking forward to the sequel. Thus, we might consider working on the sequel of Strange Stories of Liaozhai in the future by translating the whole book and presented it to the public. Moreover, we might introduce more Chinese classics into the western country.

Keyword : Raining coins, Painted Skin, The Taoist of Mount Lao, Strange Stories of Liaozhai picture book

中文摘要

就如同我們會好奇西方的神話故事，我們覺得西方人也同樣對我們的神怪故事感興趣。因此我們決定製作聊齋誌異的繪本，目的是希望讓國外讀者藉由我們的作品去認識中國神怪文化，從中了解故事寓意，並以繪本形式去呈現加深讀者印象，另可做為教材使用。所以我們從聊齋誌異當中選擇幾篇故事—兩錢、畫皮、勞山道士，將這幾個故事翻譯並改寫成英文。文字部份我們有請讀者做試讀，修改後請老師幫我們做最後的確認。之後再按照故事長度做編排，以及加入精美的插圖，最後送印刷店印出成品。然後我們也針對我們的作品做了讀者問卷調查，讀者們對我們的作品擁有很高的評價，並且其中有百分之八十六的讀者會支持我們出續集。因此未來我們有考慮出續集的可能性。

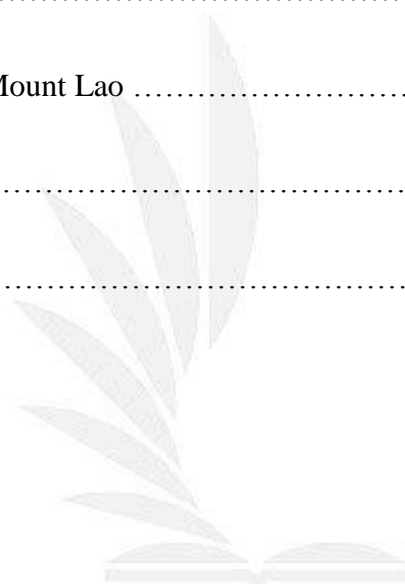


關鍵字：

兩錢、畫皮、勞山道士、聊齋誌異繪本

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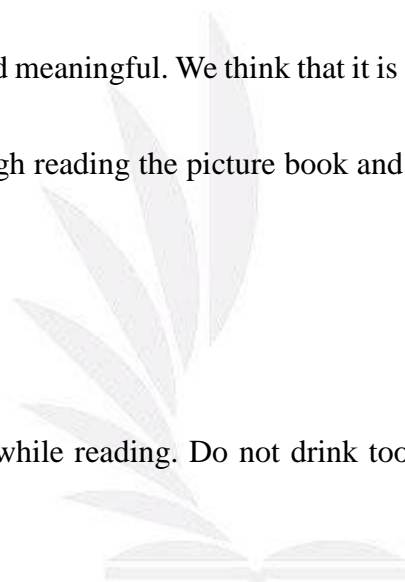
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Preface

The *Strange Stories of Liaozhai* is about fairies and monsters of China. We introduce students to Chinese culture of gods and spirits, making them understand the fables with the picture book. As we Chinese are curious about myths, westerners might also be interested in Chinese anecdotes. So we translate and rewrite the stories of *Liaozhai*, and we present it as a picture book. We choose three stories from *Liaozhai*—*Raining Coins*, *Painted-Skin*, and *Taoist of Mount Lao* because they are well-known, fascinating, and meaningful. We think that it is a great opportunity to learn Chinese genie culture through reading the picture book and we hope that you will like this book.

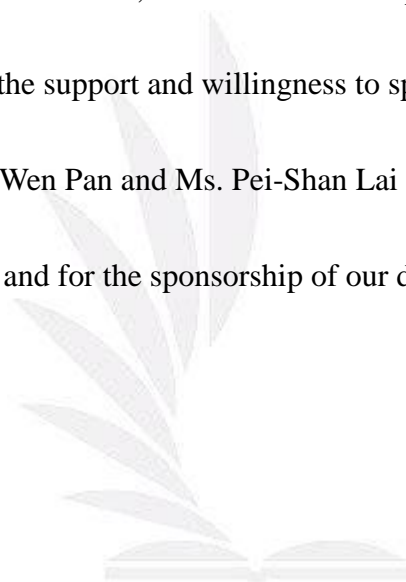
Reading Tips: Stay calm while reading. Do not drink too much water. Turn off the light if you can.



Acknowledgement

We are really grateful because we managed to complete our project within the time given by our supervisor Dr. Wei-Wei Shen. We sincerely thank for her guidance and encouragement in teaching and finishing this project with us in this course.

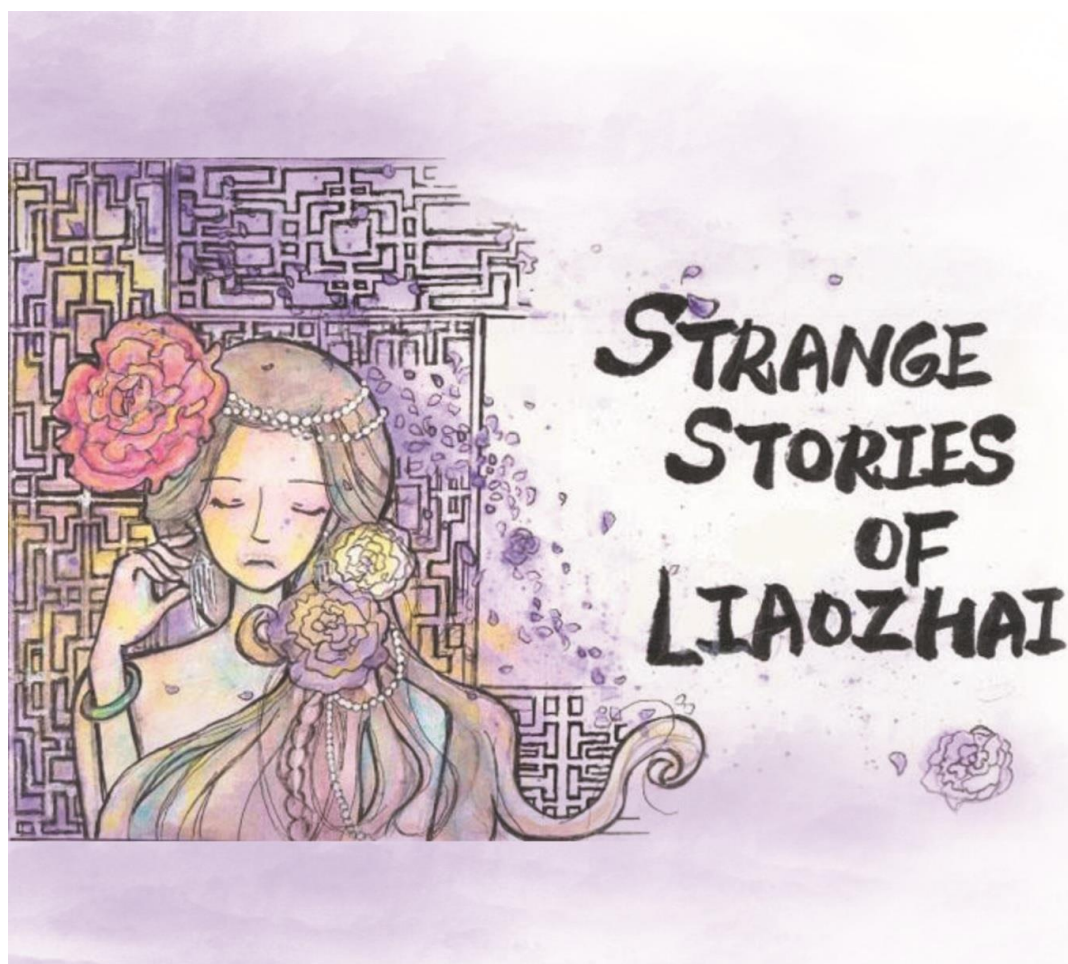
Meanwhile, the project cannot be completed without the effort and cooperation from our group members, Ms. Yi-Wen Chou, Mr. Shih-Wei Liu, Mr. Tse-Lung Hsiao, and Ms. Cheng-HsinYeh. Last but not least, we would like to express our gratitude to our friends and respondents for the support and willingness to spend time with us. Special thanks should go to Ms. Yu-Wen Pan and Ms. Pei-Shan Lai for their reading and feedback on our manuscript and for the sponsorship of our department to print out our picture books.



Chapter 1 Introduction

Our motivation was that we were interested in the Western myth; on the other hand, we thought that the foreigners might be interested in Chinese culture as well. Therefore, we chose *Strange Stories of Liaozhai* as our topic and finished it as a picture book. And our goals were to introduce students to Chinese culture of gods and spirits, and made them understand the fables with the picture book. Our stories included Raining coins, Painted Skin, and The Taoist of Mount Lao. We chose these three stories because the three stories were familiar with people and included deep morals. For example, raining coins conveyed that people shouldn't greedy. Thus, we selected these three stories to present. Besides, we made a questionnaire survey, and the result showed that our picture book got a high assessment in the reader-response-questionnaire survey. Approximately 86%(13out of15) freshmen were interested in our picture book, and they were looking forward to the sequel. Thus, we might consider working on the sequel of *Strange Stories of Liaozhai* in the future by translating the whole book and presented it to the public. Moreover, we might introduce more Chinese classics into the western country.

Chapter 2 The Present Translating Works



cover

Raining coins 雨錢

Translation & Rewrite : Ms. Yi-Wen Chou

Illustrator : Ms. Cheng-Hsin Yeh



Long time ago, a young scholar lived in the Bin zhou. One day, when he studied at his study room, someone knocked his door. He opened the door and found an old man with a white hair stood in front of the door. "Can I help you?" the scholar asked.

"Hello, my first name is Hu. I heard you have extraordinary and talented character, so I've come to visit you."

"Welcome to my house Mr.Hu."

The scholar liked to make friends with different people. He was glad to see the old man to come to visit him.

"Let me introduce myself first, my name is Hu-Yang Zhen. Actually, I am a fairy of fox. "

After hearing the old man's self-introduction, the scholar didn't feel surprised. Likewise, he introduced himself to the old man. They discussed the knowledge together and shared their ideas to each other. They chatted happily. The old man thought the young scholar is very knowledgeable. The young scholar admired the old man so much. From then on, the old man usually came over to visit the young scholar.



One day, the scholar asked the old man a question.

"You said you have magical power, didn't you?"

"That's a little trick. Nothing special."

"Come on. Don't be too modest. Show something for me." the scholar begged.

"What do you want to see?" The old man asked.

"As you know, I am not a rich man but a poor scholar. Can you make some money to me to improve my life?"

After hearing the scholar's request, the old man felt helpless.

What a greedy scholar!

However, the old man still responded to the scholar's needs.

The old man said, "You should prepare ten coins first. I will make more coins for you."

The scholar felt excited and then gave ten coins to the old man. The old man walked around the house and murmured some spell. Surprisingly, many

coins fell down on the ground like rain. The scholar stared at the falling coins and giggled.

After few minutes, the falling coins flood to their knees.

"We go out and wait a minute, OK?" the old man said.

The scholar and the old man left the house.

"Is it enough?" the old man asked the scholar.

"Enough. Enough."



The old man clapped his hand. The sound of the falling coins stopped.

The scholar opened the door immediately. However, only original ten coins he gave to the fairy of fox fell on the ground.

"Where? Where are my coins?" The scholar felt angry.

The old man who was the fairy of fox's personification sighed and said

"I felt very disappointed in you. I thought you are a modest and knowledgeable person at first. However, you are just a greedy common

person."

The scholar felt ashamed and wanted to say sorry. But the fairy of fox already disappeared. The fairy of fox never ever visited the greedy scholar again.



Painted Skin 畫皮

Translation & Rewrite : Mr. Shih-Wei Liu

Illustrator : Ms. Cheng-HsinYeh



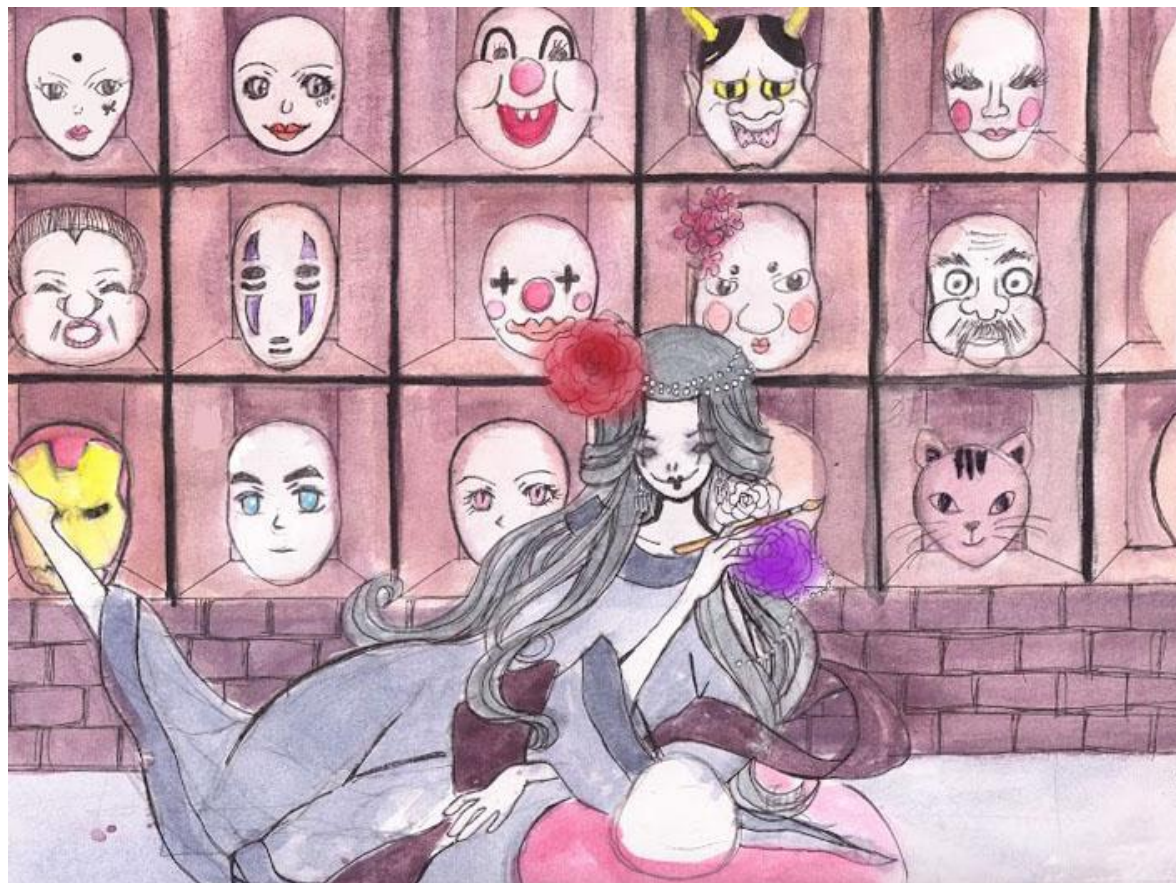
Mr. Wang lives in Taiyuan. One day, he met a homeless woman who is glamorous, and he decided to bring her home. Wang is married, his wife told him do not take such a strange woman to home, but Wang didn't listen to his wife.

In another day, Wang met a Taoist in the market. The Taoist asked Wang if he had come into contact with something unusual; however, Wang lied to him that he didn't. The Taoist thus said, "You are really a stubborn guy." Wang thought, "Such a beautiful woman like her would not be unusual," so he ignored the Taoist.



After going back home, Wang found that the door was locked, so he climbed up the wall and looked into the window secretly. Through the window, what came into Wang's view was an evildoer who was dressing itself in the skin of a human. Wang was shocked, and returned to the Taoist trembling.

Hearing this news from Wang, the Taoist did not bear to killing the evildoers, so he gave Wang a fly flap and asked him to hang it up on the door, since it could protect him. At first, the evildoer feared the fly flap, but before long she burst into the door. All of a sudden, the evildoer clawed open Wang's chest and took his heart out, so Wang was dead.



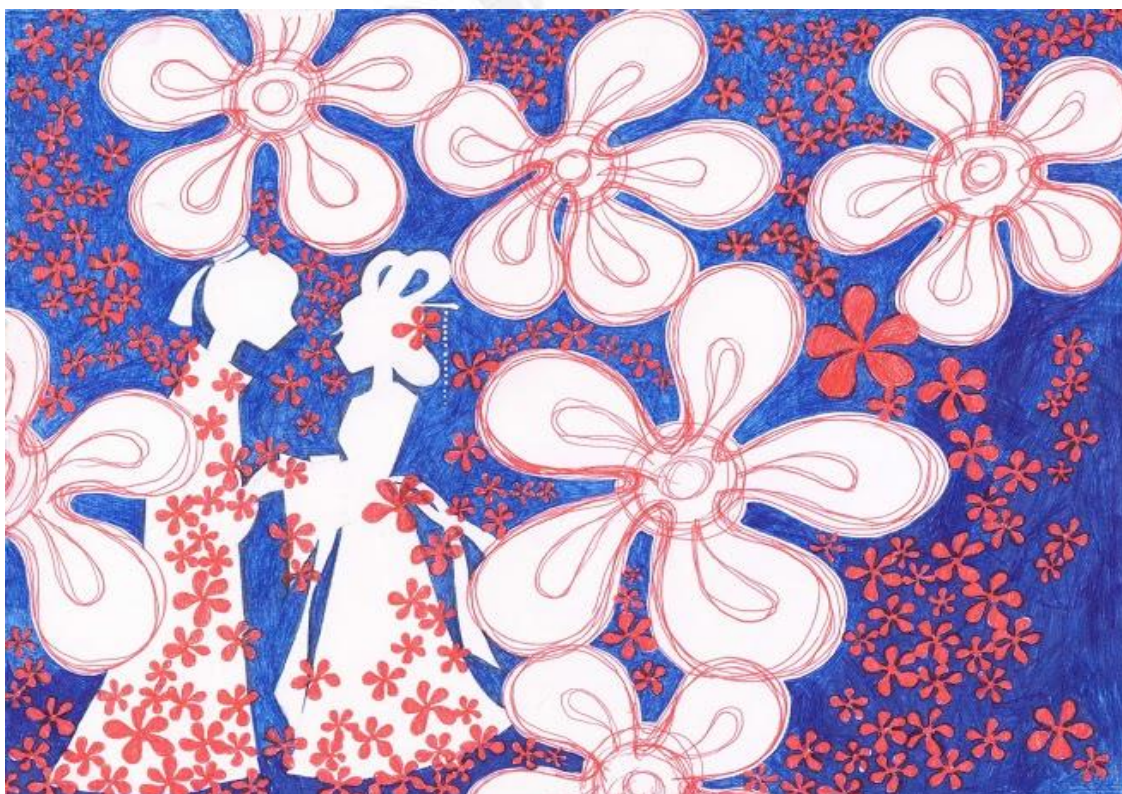
Wang's wife was frightened. Tomorrow, she told her brother to find the Taoist. When the Taoist came, he told them that the evildoer was still around. Just as they expected, the Taoist found the evildoer near the neighbor's house. He then subdued the evildoer using a hickory sword, and put the evildoer into the calabash.



Wang was dead, so his wife asked the Taoist how to bring Wang back to life. The Taoist says, "Go ask the madman who lives in the market." Therefore, Wang's wife did so, and the madman said, "I'm not the king of hell, how can I save a life?" and then spit on the floor, asking Wang's wife to eat his spit. Wang's wife could not refuse but really eat it. After that, the madman disappeared in a temple, so Wang's wife could only go back home.



Seeing Wang's dead body, Wang's wife was heartbreak. All of a sudden, she felt there was something in her chest, unexpectedly, she spit out a fresh heart, which she then put into Wang's body. In the end, Wang lived again.



The Taoist of Mount Lao 勞山道士

Translation & Rewrite : Mr. Tse-Lung Hsiao

Illustrator : Ms. Cheng-HsinYeh



Long time ago, there was a rich man named Wang Chi (meaning ‘number seven’ in his Chinese first name) because he was the seventh son in his family. He was interested in many things about sorcery when he was young, and heard there were many celestials on Mount Lao, and he decided to visit them. Later, he reached the top of the mountain and saw a man sitting on a cattail hassock in a temple. Wang Chi tried to greet and chat with him, and he asked the Taoist to teach him because of his mysterious words. However, the Taoist suspected that Wang Chi couldn’t sustain the hard work, and Wang Chi convinced him and greeted all the students of the Taoist in the afternoon, and stayed at the temple. The next day, the Taoist gave Wang Chi an axe to cut the trees with all students in the early morning. But this only last about a month, and Wang Chi couldn’t tolerate the work any longer because he had cut the trees and grew many calluses on his hands, and he started to think about going home.



One day, after finishing his daily job, Wang Chi saw his teacher sat and drank some wine with two guests. The Taoist scissored a piece of round paper like a mirror, and stamped it on the wall because they didn't lighten the candles. Later, the piece of paper changed into a moon, and made all room bright. Then, with a beautiful night, the Taoist gathered all the students to serve the guests, and one of the guests lifted up the pot filled with wine to share with the students and asked them to enjoy themselves. In Wang Chi's mind, he thought at first that it wouldn't be possible that a small pot of wine could make them drunk. Nevertheless, all of them brought up many opportunities to pour the wine to toast and the pot would not be empty. Wang Chi was so astonished because all fellows kept pouring the wine, but the pot always had some wine.

Few minutes later, the moon was getting dark, so the students came to light up the candles. They saw the teacher sitting there, and all guests disappeared. There was no more food and wine. Then they looked at the moon on the wall, and they found that it was just a piece of circle paper. The Taoist asked them to sleep early but Wang Chi was determined to stay late for this amazing night.



A month later, Wang Chi couldn't stand the hard work again, and the Taoist didn't teach him anything new yet. Hence, he wanted to quit and say goodbye to the Taoist. He complained that he came here several miles away to learn some magic from the teacher; however, what he could do was to keep cutting the woods every day. Then, The Taoist laughed and said that he had already predicted that Wang Chi couldn't endure. Wang Chi said he hoped the Taoist could teach him how to go through the wall directly because he had seen the Taoist did this before. The Taoist finally agreed with his request by teaching him some specific words and asking him to run as fast as he could. Then, Wang Chi really succeeded happily with these tricks; however, the teacher demanded that he be honest and be a good person, or this magic wouldn't happen, and gave him some money to go back home.



When arriving, Wang Chi started to boast that he had met a celestial in the mountain and he had learned a sorcery which could make him go through any strong wall directly. In the beginning, Wang Chi left the wall few meters away just like what he had done before, and ran quickly to the wall. Unfortunately, he was hurt fiercely and fell down because he forgot what the Taoist told him; what's worse, his forehead was swelling seriously.



He thought the Taoist deceived him, and was quite angry with him. Wang Chi's wife teased him because she saw his forehead swelling like an egg. Instead of recognizing his stupidity, Wang Chi kept slandering the Taoist with many bad words in the rest of his life.



Chapter 4 Conclusion

- 周怡彤: In the beginning, I didn't know what I wanted to do. Writing a researcher paper like composition was not what I want. However, when I discussed with my group member and the teacher, I gradually knew what we could do. Through doing this project, I learned how to make a picture book. From choosing the topic "Strange Stories of Liao-zhai" to publishing the full picture book was a long-term accomplishment. I translated and rewrote the stories, and added picture into the book to make the book more interesting. Finally, I was able to publish the picture book. Thanks to the teacher and the group members' cooperation, I could finish the project successfully. I learned many things such as communication, cooperation, and negotiation; I realized the importance of interpersonal communication and cooperation. I appreciated that our department provides the opportunity for us to do the project. My teacher and group members' help are great, so doing the project was a special and worthwhile experience.
- 劉適維: This is the first time that I do a research project with schoolmates, and this project really brought a great sense of accomplishment to me. In the very beginning, we chose a topic of our research by thinking together. "Strange Stories of Liao-zhai", a wonderful idea that we all agree is the first step of this research. After that, we experienced a lot of works, such as distributions of work, discussions of content, or negotiations with the publishers. All of these stages are indispensable parts of the research. Although this research is not a big project, through these small stages, I can learn how to do a larger research project in the future. Today, we finished the project, and I felt that it is absolutely a promotion of social-science skill. All in all, I believe that this class will be proved to be very useful, and it will give students an opportunity to learn how to do research.
- 葉承昕: At first, I thought the course might be a little boring, such as doing some paper writing research. However, I changed my mind as we started. The group member and I decided to translate the Chinese classic—Strange Stories of Liao Zhai into English and present it as a picture book. I was in charge of the drawing part; it was a new experience to me. Although I was not a professional in drawing, I'd tried very hard to get everything done on time. Thanks to the project, I learned many things. My painting skill was improved, and I learned how to use photoshop. I learned how to write acknowledgements and preface; I even knew how to print a book. The course taught me the importance of teamwork and

enlarged my world; I think it's extremely worth taking.

- 蕭澤璿: In beginning of this semester, I thought all students had to select it if they wouldn't choose the graduation play. But when the first time I came to class, I understood that I was totally wrong because it was not a compulsory course yet. Although this course did not require us to be in the class every week, we needed to keep finishing our project gradually and to record it into our journal. We had spent about two weeks thinking if the Strange Stories of Liao-zhai was interesting enough to appeal us to pick it up as our topic by translating and rewriting it. During the process, I had learned not only the importance of cooperation, but also the necessity to learn to solve problems by myself. Moreover, accomplishing my first project in my whole life was absolutely helpful because my ability to face the difficulties and to finish an essential project was obviously improved. Eventually, I thought when looking back of our completed work in the future, I certainly will not regret to make this decision because I have felt good achievement in the end.



References

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作者 清 蒲 松齡

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