

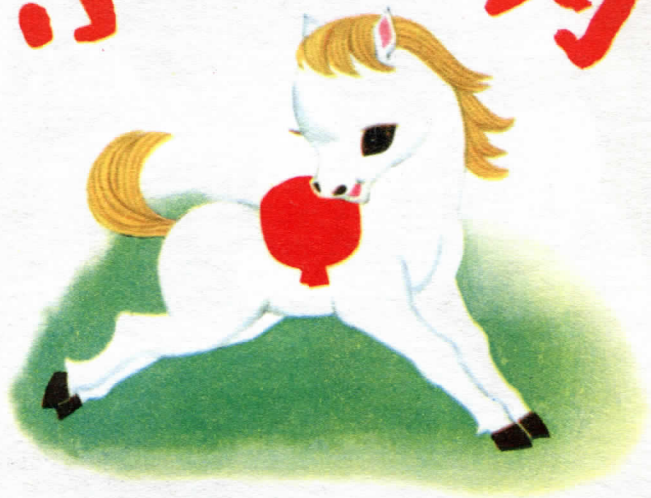


HOW THE FOAL  
CROSSED THE STREAM

## *The Story*

*How the Foal Crossed the Stream* tells us when we don't understand something, we should first find out exactly what the problem is, think about it and be sure we know the situation. Then we can decide what to do.

# 小马过河



## HOW THE FOAL CROSSED THE STREAM

*Adapted by Ming Yang  
Drawings by Chen Yung-chen*

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1 There are a lot of big horses in a Chinese mountain village. They pull ploughs and carts for the people.



2 This white mare has a foal, and the foal follows his mother about all day long.



3 One day Mare asks Foal to take a bag of wheat to the mill for her.



4 Foal comes to a swift stream.



- 5 An old bull is eating grass by the stream. Foal asks him: “Do you think I can cross this stream, Uncle Bull?”  
Bull replies: “The water’s shallow — just over my knuckle-bone. I know because I crossed it yesterday.”





- 6 Foal is about to cross when a squirrel scampers up and calls to him: "Stop! The water's deep! A friend of mine was drowned in it yesterday."



7 Is Bull right, or is Squirrel? Foal can't decide. He runs back to ask Mare.



8 “Why are you back?” she asks.  
“There’s a stream in the way,” explains Foal. “Uncle Bull says it’s shallow enough to cross. But Squirrel says it isn’t. He says the water’s deep.”



9 “Is the stream deep, or is it shallow? Can you cross it or not? What do you think yourself?” asks Mare. Foal shakes his head, for he hasn’t thought about it at all.



10 Mare explains fondly: “Bull’s tall and big, so of course the stream’s shallow for him. But for little Squirrel it’s deep and can drown him. Each speaks for himself. What do you think?” Foal understands now and prances away.



11 When Foal reaches the stream, Bull and Squirrel are arguing, one saying the stream is shallow and the other saying it's deep. Each is convinced that he is right.



12 Foal gets the idea and measures himself first against tall Bull and then against small Squirrel. "Let me try," he says.

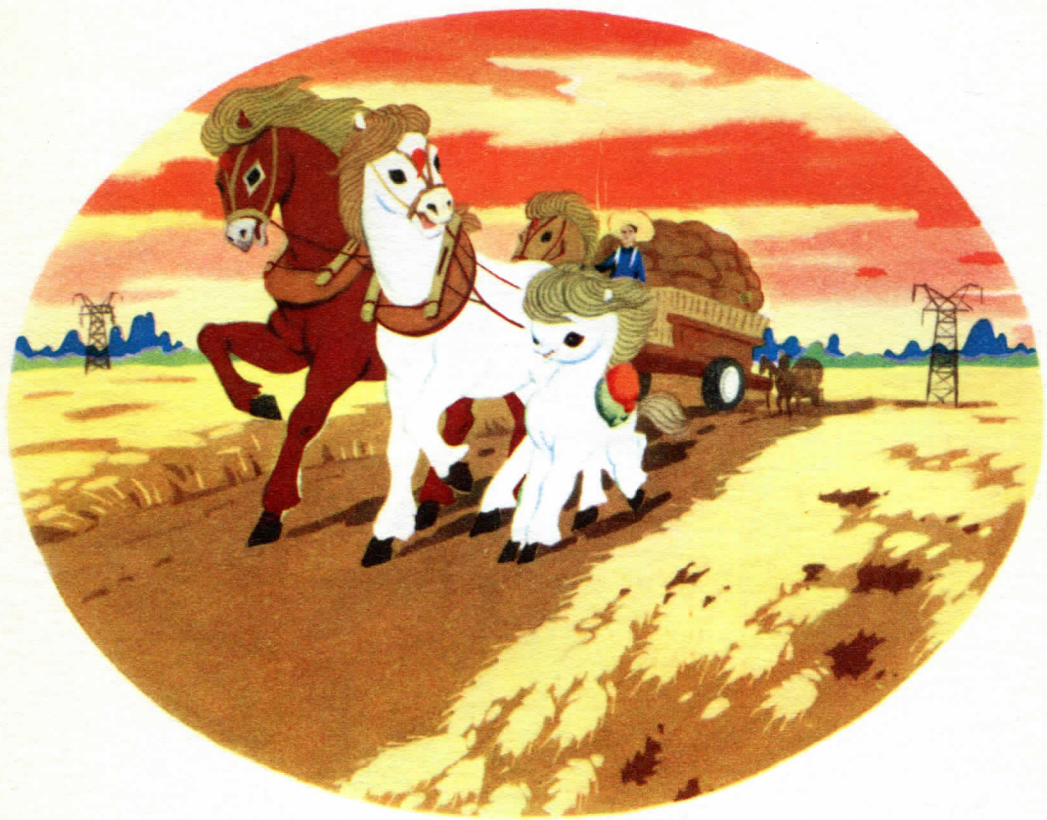


13 Foal crosses the stream easily. For him it is neither shallow nor deep. He is shorter than Bull but taller than Squirrel.





14 Foal delivers the wheat to the mill and goes home. Mare,  
his mother, says he's done the right thing.



15 From then on, when Foal doesn't know what to do, he first asks others. Then he considers his own situation before having a try. This way he becomes more and more capable.

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