



LIU WEN-HSUEH
— A Boy Martyr

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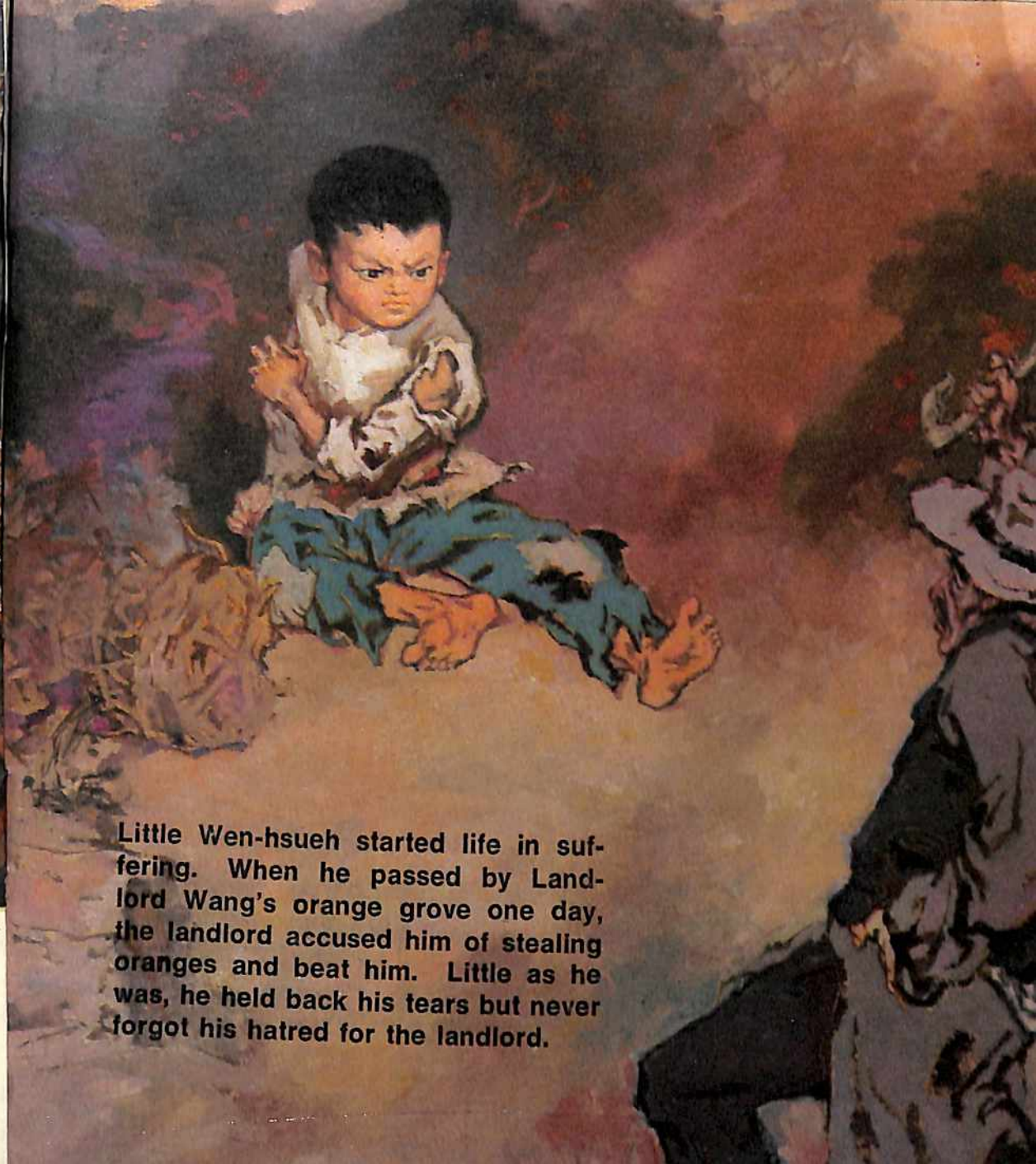
Illustrations by Lou Chia-pen



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Liu Wen-hsueh was born into a poor family. His father was a tailor, but the family went cold and hungry before liberation.

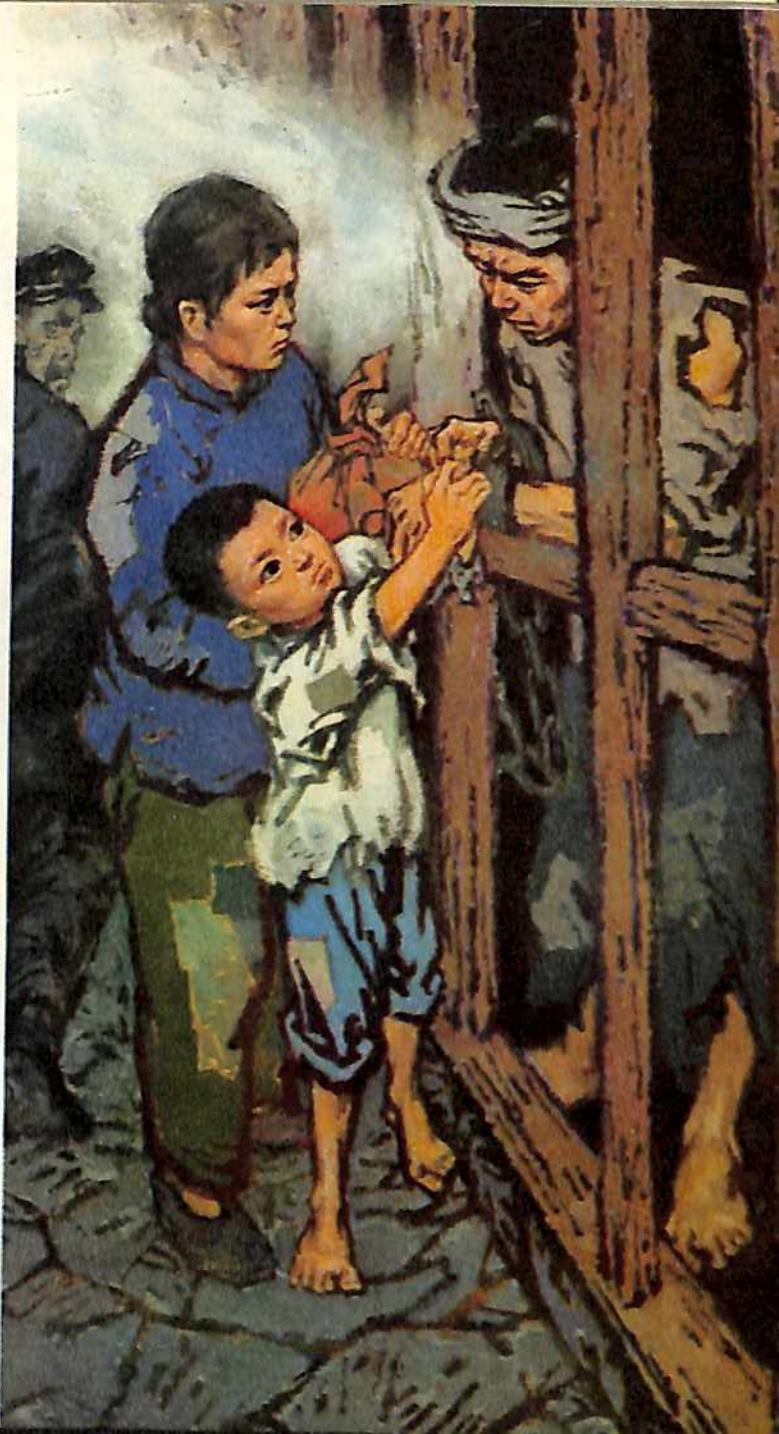


Little Wen-hsueh started life in suffering. When he passed by Landlord Wang's orange grove one day, the landlord accused him of stealing oranges and beat him. Little as he was, he held back his tears but never forgot his hatred for the landlord.



Wen-hsueh's father was a straightforward person who refused to peddle opium for the landlord. For this, the cruel landlord and the reactionary "Peace Preservation Corps" threw him into prison.

The little boy's mother took him to see his father and found him just skin and bones. In the old society, where could the poor air their grievances!





Wen-hsueh's mother had to go to the landlord's house to work. The landlord's wife wouldn't let the boy in to see his mother, but set a fierce dog on him.

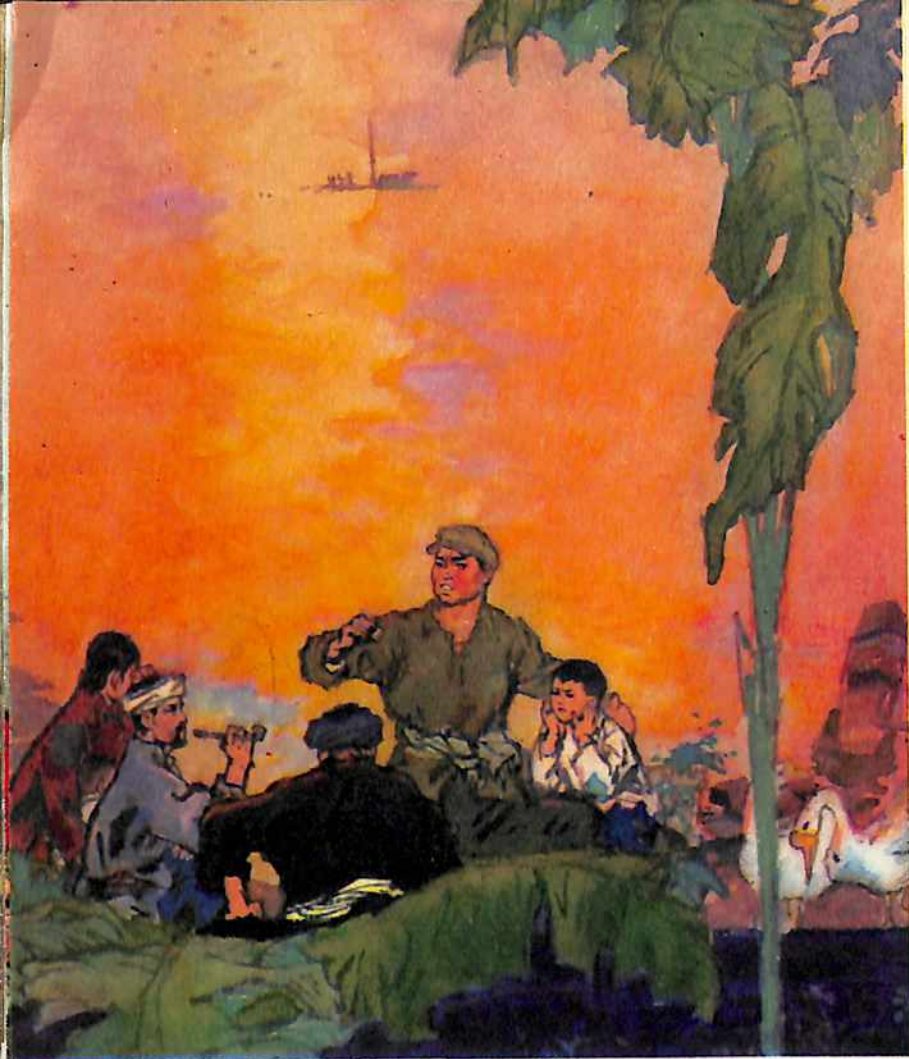


The dog tore at the boy till he was bleeding all over. How he hated landlords!



In 1949 the Communist Party led the people of the whole country to overthrow the reactionaries. Liu Wen-hsueh's home

village was liberated. The boy was overjoyed as he eagerly welcomed the people's own army.



Chairman Mao sent people to the village to redistribute the land. They visited the poor, asked about their past sufferings, then aroused the masses to struggle against the landlords.

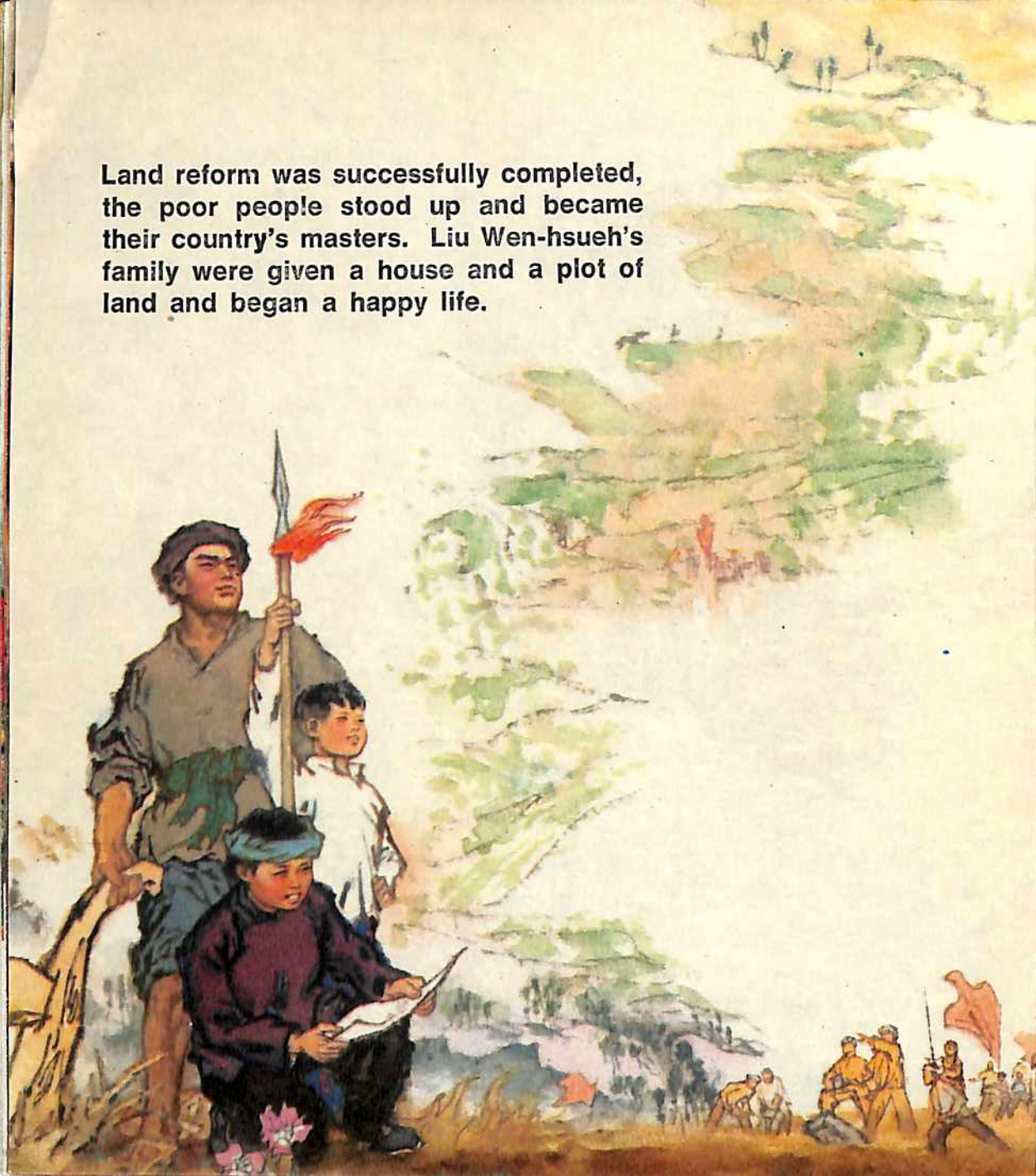


At the struggle meeting, the bitterly exploited and oppressed poor and lower-middle peasants denounced the crimes of the landlord class. Liu Wen-hsueh showed where he had been bitten by the landlord's dog. He told how the landlord bullied poor people.



“Down with the landlords!” came the shout from the meeting. The struggle greatly strengthened the labouring people’s fighting will and hit hard at the arrogance of the class enemy.

Land reform was successfully completed, the poor people stood up and became their country's masters. Liu Wen-hsueh's family were given a house and a plot of land and began a happy life.

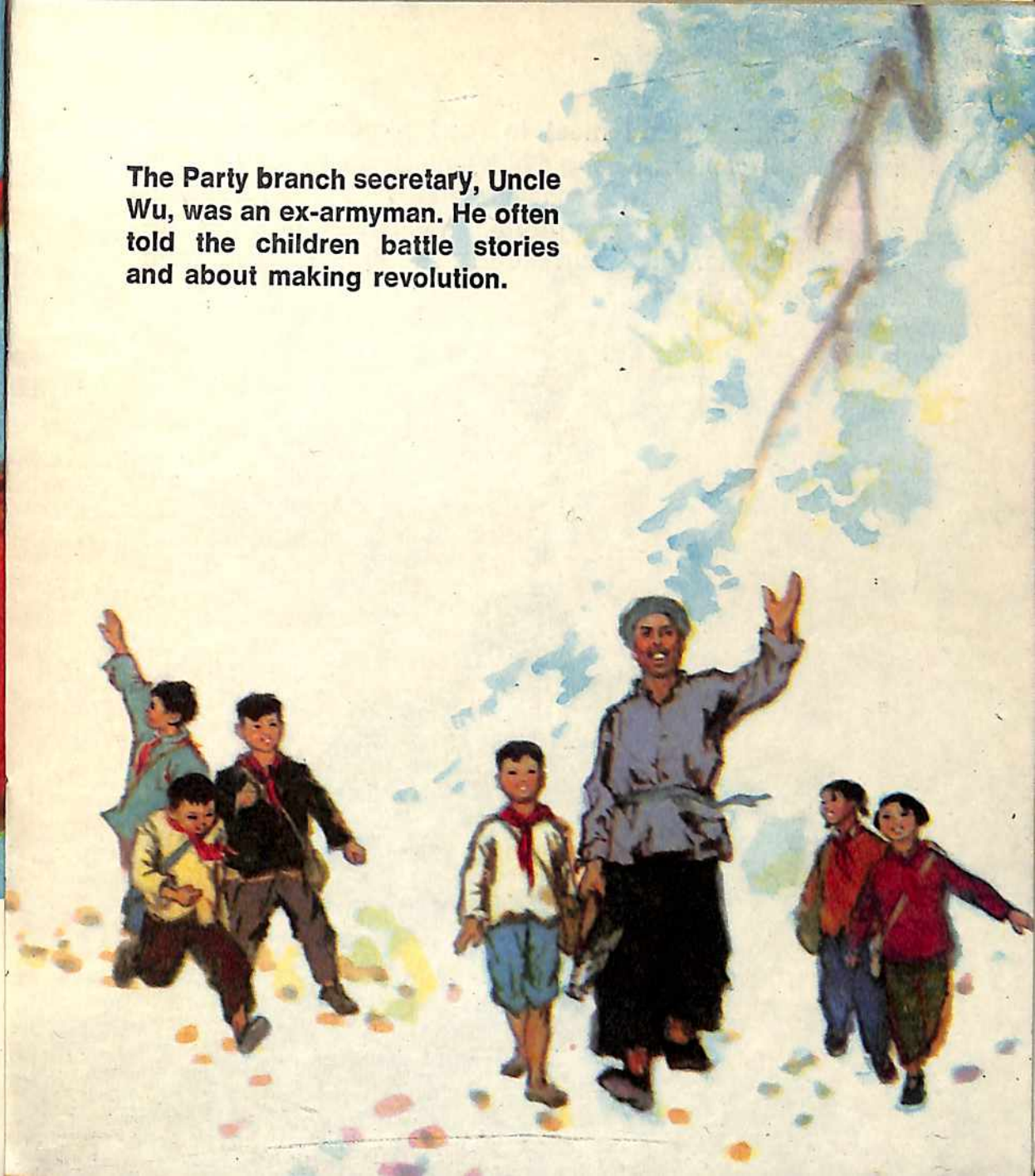


In the old society, school gates were closed to the children of the poor. Now, Little Wen-hsueh put on new clothes, slung his satchel over his shoulder and went to school.



He gloriously joined the Young Pioneers and wore the red scarf, determined to *"study well and make progress every day"* and be a good Young Pioneer.

The Party branch secretary, Uncle Wu, was an ex-armyman. He often told the children battle stories and about making revolution.



Liu Wen-hsueh liked most to read picture-books about brave fighters: how Huang Chi-kuang threw himself on the muzzle of the enemy's machine-gun, how Tung Tsun-jui sacrificed himself blowing up an enemy fort, how Liu Hulan died rather than surrender. The boy learned from these heroic deeds.



China's people are brave and strong. They are fighting for their freedom and independence. They are fighting for a better world. They are fighting for a world where everyone can live in peace and happiness.



Life before liberation had been bitter; it was happy now. His love for the Party and Chairman Mao grew, as did his hatred of the landlord class. "Every child of our country should be Chairman Mao's good child," he wrote in his diary.



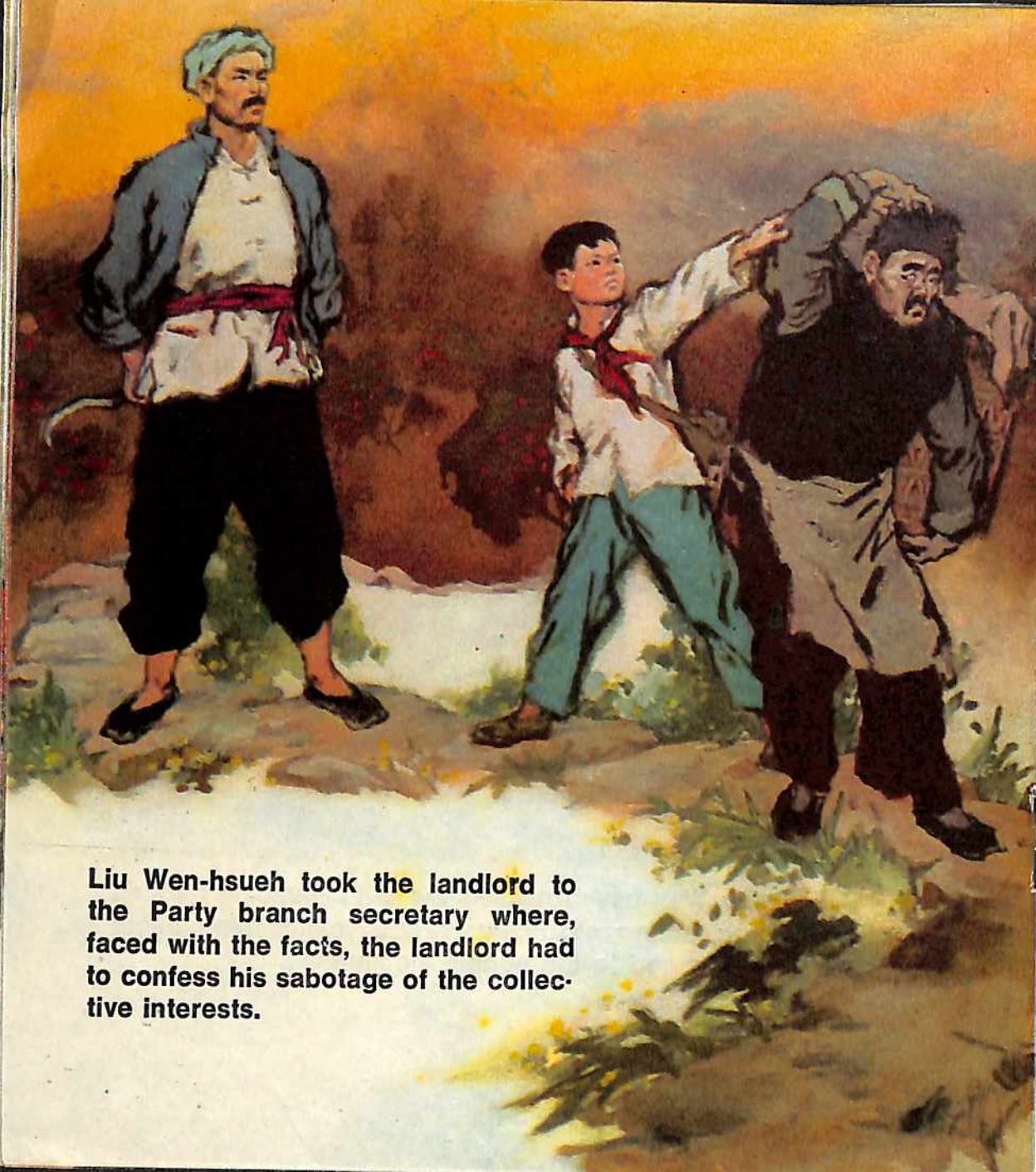
In 1958, when the people's communes were set up in the countryside, Liu Wen-hsueh took an active part in productive labour along with the commune members.



He often fetched water and cut firewood for Granny Chao who had no family of her own.



One day as Liu Wen-hsueh passed the river bank he noticed Landlord Wang acting suspiciously and found him selling oranges that belonged to the people's commune.



Liu Wen-hsueh took the landlord to the Party branch secretary where, faced with the facts, the landlord had to confess his sabotage of the collective interests.



The Party branch secretary praised Liu Wen-hsueh: "You did right. We ought to protect the interests of the people's commune!"



The commune peppers were ripe, and Liu Wen-hsueh and the commune members were picking them one evening in order to get them to the market early the next morning.

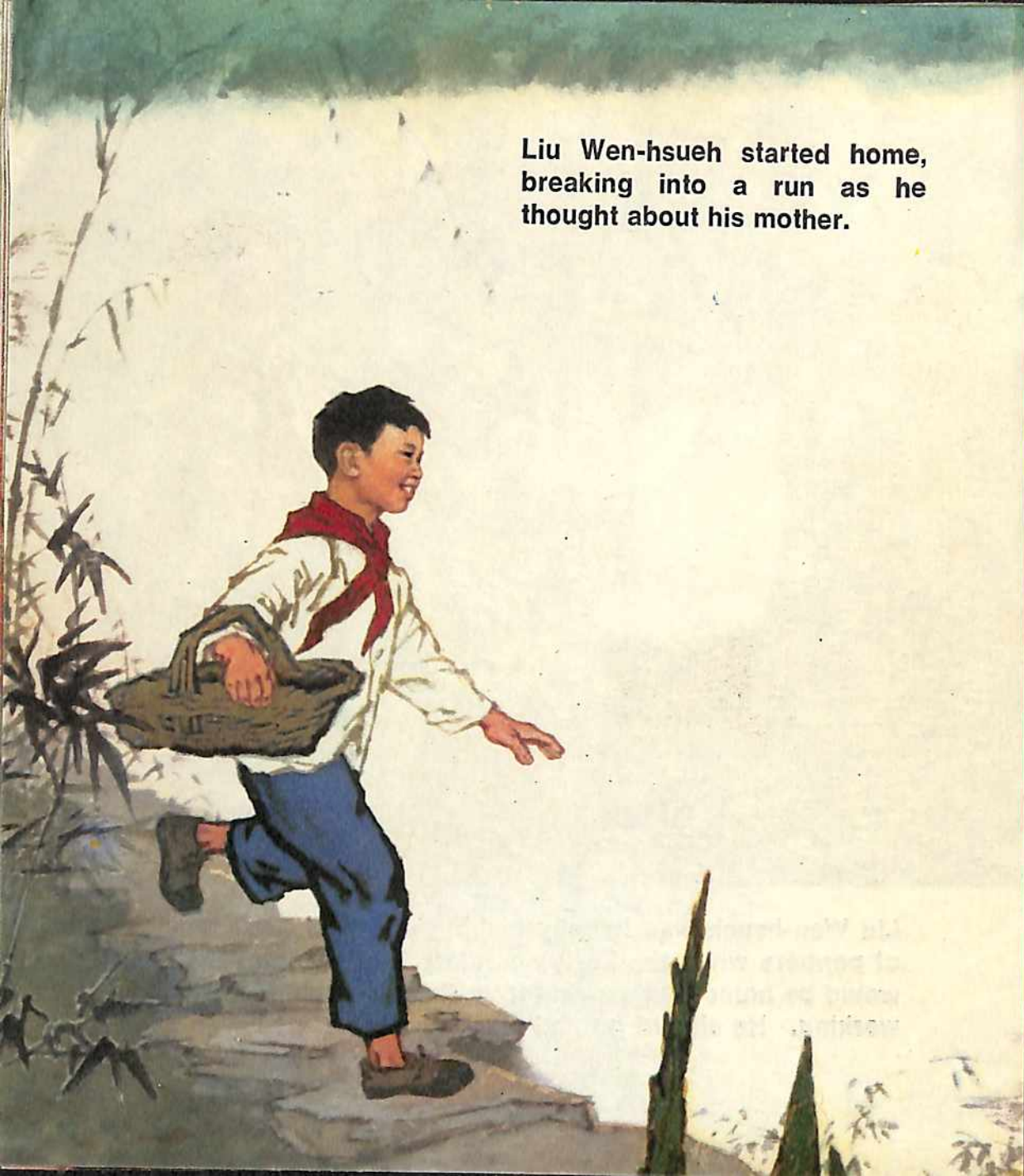


While the commune members were busy picking peppers, Landlord Wang slipped into a pepper field some distance away.



Liu Wen-hsueh was happily picking one basket after another of peppers when the Party secretary told him that his mother would be home that evening from the reservoir where she was working. He should go and prepare supper for her.

**Liu Wen-hsueh started home,
breaking into a run as he
thought about his mother.**



**On the way he suddenly spotted
a dark figure in the shadows.
Who could it be?**





Why, it was Landlord Wang stealing peppers! Liu Wen-hsueh shouted: "Wang Jung-hsueh, so you're stealing commune property again!"



The landlord saw Liu Wen-hsueh, whom he hated and feared. He tried to slip away, but Liu Wen-hsueh stopped him.



Pointing at the peppers in Wang's basket, Liu Wen-hsueh accused him indignantly: "You've stolen them! They're collective property!"



Landlord Wang grinned and pressed some money into Liu Wen-hsueh's hand. "Ah, let me off," he pleaded. "Here's some money. Go and buy yourself some candy."

The boy flung the money into the landlord's face. "Filthy! Think you can make a deal with me!"



Liu Wen-hsueh was sharp with him: "You steal the commune's peppers and then try to bribe a Young Pioneer. Come along to the public security office!" Liu Wen-hsueh took him by the collar.



“Lay your hands on me and I’ll kill you!” threatened the landlord.

Liu Wen-hsueh said sternly: “I’m not afraid! I can’t let a bad egg like you get away!”

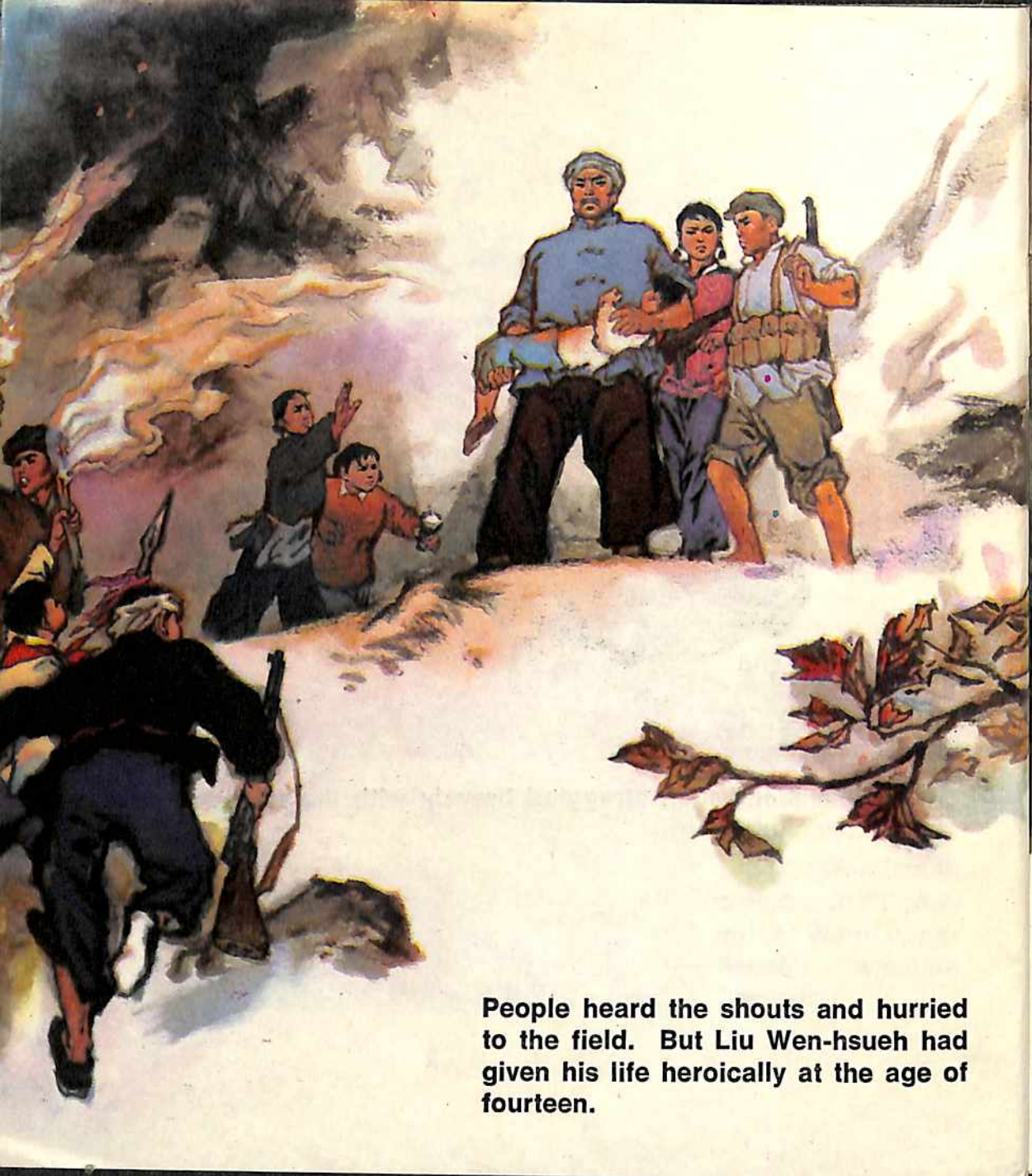


Landlord Wang grabbed Liu Wen-hsueh, really going to kill him.

Still Wen-hsueh called out: "Come, quick! Wang Jung-hsueh's stealing peppers!"



Liu Wen-hsueh struggled bravely with the landlord.



People heard the shouts and hurried to the field. But Liu Wen-hsueh had given his life heroically at the age of fourteen.

The commune militia pursued and arrested the murderer Landlord Wang that night to avenge the young hero.

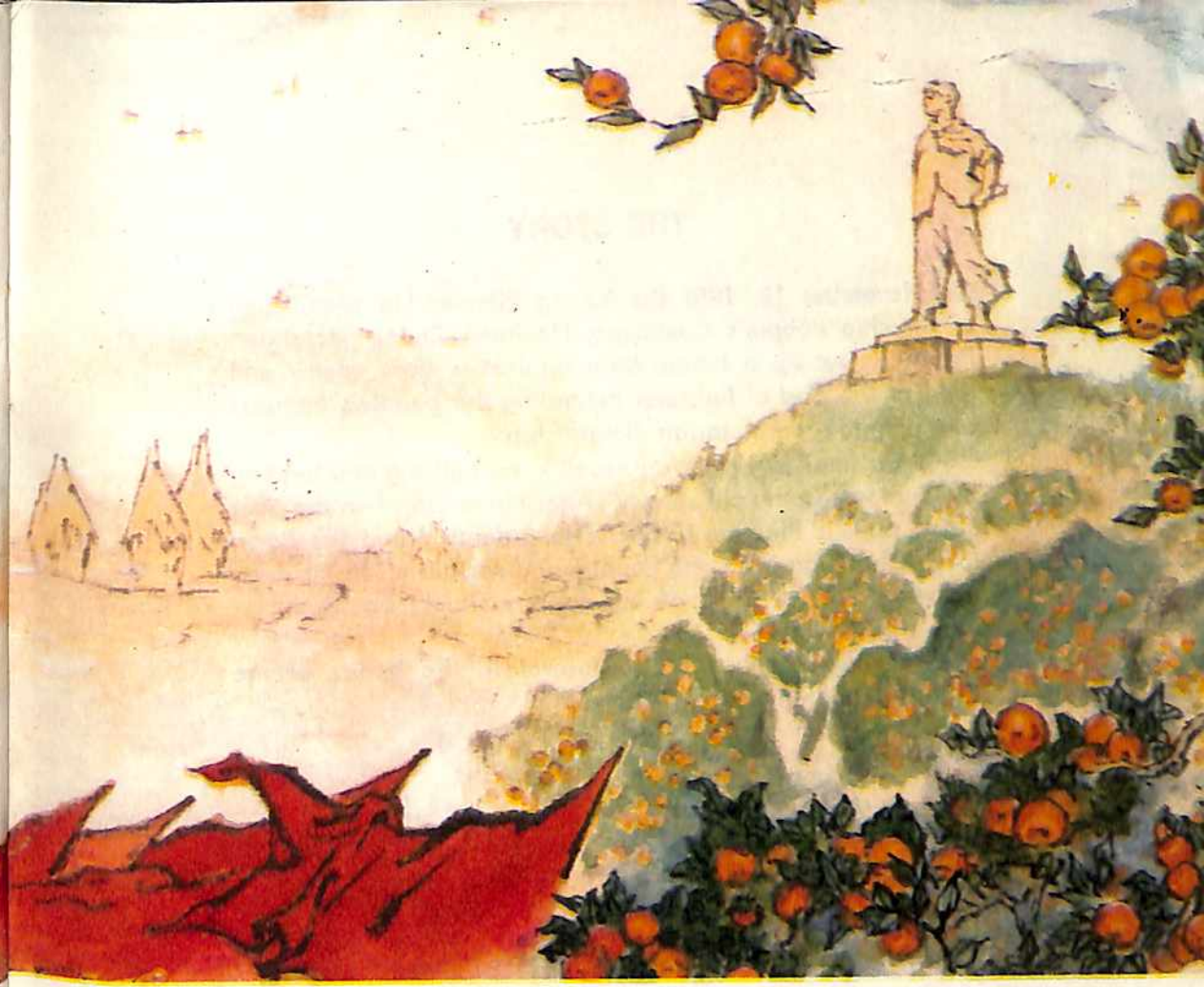




Liu Wen-hsueh had laid down his life defending the collective interest of the people's commune. A public trial was held and the murderer was sentenced to death.



The story of the brave young hero spread far and wide over the country, and children everywhere learned from it to love



the Party and socialism, and the revolutionary spirit of struggling bravely to the end against the class enemy.

THE STORY

On November 18, 1959 the Young Pioneer Liu Wen-hsueh of Chuchia People's Commune, Hochuan County, Szechuan Province, put up a heroic fight against a class enemy and died at the age of fourteen defending the people's interests and upholding proletarian dictatorship.

As a small boy Liu Wen-hsueh knew bullying and beating by landlords in the old society. After liberation when the poor stood up, his life was happy. He ardently loved the Party, loved Chairman Mao, the country and socialism. In his diary he wrote: "Every child of our country should be Chairman Mao's good child!"

Liu Wen-hsueh will live forever in the hearts of the Chinese children and all the people.

刘文学

楼家本绘

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