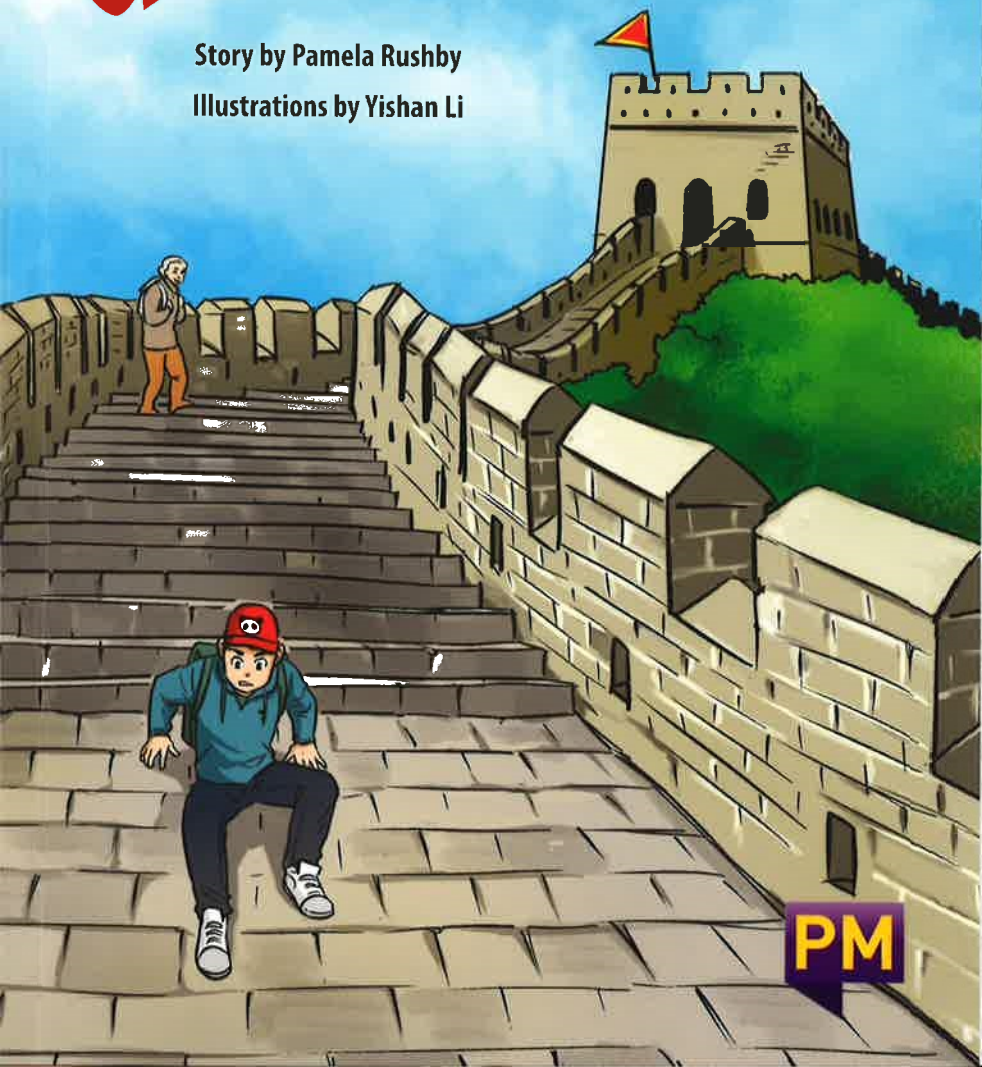
Darwin Wong Goes to China

Story by Pamela Rushby

Illustrations by Yishan Li



PM

PM

Darwin Wong Goes to China

Level 30

Running Words 11 498 **Text Type** Narrative (Imaginative)

Curriculum Areas Literacy; Humanities – Geography; Intercultural Understanding

Oral Literacy Focus for Students

Key issues from the text to encourage critical thinking and stimulate group discussions:

1 Explain why the Wong family used the internet when they planned their trip to China.

2 Discuss reasons why bicycles are a popular form of transport in Beijing

3 Imagine being lost in a huge city in a foreign country. List important information you would need in order to seek assistance.

4 Identify five main tips Darwin would convey to others about having a holiday in China.

5 Challenge the judges' decision for choosing Alice's video as the winner of the contest.

Written Literacy Focus for Students

Key issue from the text to present in visual and written form to an audience:

1 Research the topic 'The Great Wall of China'.

2 Prepare a five-minute tourist documentary describing interesting facts about the Great Wall of China.

3 Edit and revise the documentary.

4 Present the documentary to an audience.

5 Critically evaluate your presentation.

Links with other PM Guided Reading Books and Cards

Level 29	Book	Narrative	*Tennis Club Tension*
Level 30	Book	Narrative	*Friends Forever!*

For Review Only

Darwin Wong Goes to China

Story by Pamela Rushby
Illustrations by Yishan Li

For Review Only

Contents

Chapter 1	Why China?	3
Chapter 2	Panda Tours	9
Chapter 3	The Forbidden City	19
Chapter 4	Great Wall Hero	29
Chapter 5	Calligraphy and Lions	38
Chapter 6	The Wishing Bell	47
Chapter 7	Cruising and Film-Making	53
Chapter 8	Superstars	62

Chapter 1

Why China?



"China," my mum said. "I vote for China."

We all stared at her. China. *China?!*

Wow, that was right out of left field.

"Why *China*?" we all said.

"Why not?" said Mum.

We – Dad, Mum, my older sisters Adelaide, Katherine and Alice, and me (Darwin) – were all sitting around one of the tables in our Mexican restaurant, Pepe's.

The restaurant had just closed for the evening and we were all taking a rest. Mum and Dad from

For Review Only

cooking, Adelaide, Katherine and Alice from serving and washing up, and me from helping by clearing tables. Well – from trying to help by clearing tables. When they'd let me. (I'll tell you more about that later.)

It was a good time to talk. We started talking about where we'd each like to go for our holiday that year. That was the way we did it every year. Everyone came up with an idea for a place to go, then we'd discuss it and vote on it. And then we'd go.

Adelaide said she'd like to go to an island with sun and sand and palm trees, where you could swim in lovely, warm tropical water.

Dad said he'd like to go to Mexico and collect a few exciting new recipe ideas for the Pepe's menu. And after that, he said, he'd like to just sit in a chair in the sun, beside a pool, with an icy cold drink in his hand.

Katherine said she'd like to go to Paris. She'd just started studying French at school and she wanted to try it out. But I think she could see by Mum and Dad's faces that Paris might be a bit too much to hope for. "Or Nouméa would do," she said quickly. "They speak French there, too. And it's on an island." She raised her eyebrows at Adelaide.

For Review Only

Alice said she'd like to go to California, to Hollywood and Universal Studios. She was studying film and media at school; maybe she thought she'd pick up some good tips for the student film she had to make.

I was just about to tell them my idea, to go to Alaska and walk on a glacier. But I never got a chance to say it, because Mum said, "China".

"China," Dad said slowly. "Why China?"

"It's a place I've always wanted to visit," said Mum, thoughtfully. "I want to climb the Great Wall of China. I want to walk through the Forbidden City. I want to see the army of entombed terracotta warriors. But most of all –"

"Yes?" said Dad.

"I want to see the Yangtze River," Mum said.

We all thought about it. China? Hmm. A tropical island or Mexico or California, or even Nouméa, still sounded better to me. I don't even like Chinese food. And I didn't get the chance to tell everyone about my Alaska idea yet.

But Dad suddenly slapped his hand on the table. He had made a decision. "China it is then," he said.

"Hey!" I said. "Hey! We haven't even discussed it. And I wanted to vote for Alaska!"

For Review Only

But, looking at Dad's face, I could see it was no use. There was no discussion on this one.

The Wongs were going to China.

Adelaide, Katherine and Alice were looking at each other, eyebrows raised. (My sisters do a lot of communicating through their eyebrows. They've got a language of their own.) "It's going to be a bit weird, going to China, isn't it?" their eyebrows were saying now.

They were right. It was going to be a bit weird, the Wongs in China.

With a name like Wong you'd think we would feel right at home in China. But it's not like that. Not like that at all.

None of us Wongs has ever been to China. My grandparents have never been to China. Even my great-grandparents never went to China.

We might all look as if we were born in the middle of Beijing, but my family's been in Australia for generations. We don't even know when the first Wong arrived in Australia. Not one of us speaks a word of Chinese. We're Australian! We run a string of *Mexican* restaurants!

So it was definitely going to be a bit strange, I thought, going to China, where we'd look as if we

For Preview Only

fitted in – but we wouldn't. We'd look like locals, but we'd be tourists. A *bit* strange.

I could see there was no use protesting and talking about Alaska, discussing or voting, so I got up to take my plate and glass through to the kitchen. At once, Adelaide took my plate out of my hands, and Katherine reached over and picked up my glass. "We'll do it," they said quickly.

"Hey!" I said. "Hey!" My sisters have this idea that I drop things. And break things. And generally mess things up. I don't, really I don't. Not all the time, anyway. I'm as careful as I can be. It's just that things sometimes – well, I have to admit, quite often, actually – go wrong. When Alice is being mean, she calls me a "klutz". When she's being really mean, she calls me "super klutz". She never says it when Mum and Dad can hear her, though, because they always tell her off. "Darwin does his best," they say. "He can't help being – well, just a little *awkward*. It's his age," they say. "He'll grow out of it."

"Huh," Alice says. "He's been like this ever since he started to walk. He should have grown out of it by now."

I took my plate and glass back from Adelaide and Katherine. Firmly. "I can do it," I said.

For Review Only

I started to walk out to the kitchen. I could feel everyone holding their breath. I stepped over the fringed Mexican patterned rug in the middle of the floor. (I have tripped over that rug before.) No problem. I walked especially carefully over the tiles. (The tiles could be slippery.) That was okay. I got through the kitchen door without bumping into it. (I have been known to do that.) Fantastic! I was nearly there!

I put my plate down carefully on the drainer of the sink. I reached into the sink to put the glass in. I'd done it! I turned my head and called out to Alice, "Told you I could do it!" – and my hand moved, and the glass hit the edge of the sink.

Crack! The glass split into two pieces and tinkled into the sink. I could hear everyone's breath being let out. Alice giggled. I felt terrible. I'd done it again.

"It doesn't matter," Mum said. "It's only a glass."

But it did matter. It was just another case of me being a klutz. Super klutz. Darwin Wong, super klutz, just like Alice says.

For Preview Only

15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29

PM Level 30

PM

Darwin Wong wanted to go to Alaska for his family's annual holiday. Instead, his family decided on a trip to China. How is an all-Australian 12-year-old who looks Chinese but doesn't speak a word of Chinese, and has two left feet, going to cope in China?



For Review Only

Text Type:
Narrative (Imaginative)

ISBN: 978-0170379441



NELSON
CENGAGE Learning
For learning solutions, visit **cengage.com.au**