Ting's Subway Mystery



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TCM Teacher Created Materials

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Chapter One



Window Flowers

Every afternoon, Ting rode the subway with her mom. She dreaded the ride home from school. It took forever, and it was boring.

They sat in the same seats, across from a woman who reminded Ting of her *amah*, her grandmother. The woman had gray hair just like Amah and small brown eyes. But the woman never smiled. Amah always smiled, no matter what.

For Review Only



For Review only

Ting tried not to stare at the woman, but she couldn't help it. The woman wore a scarf around her neck. It was torn and ragged. She smelled funny too—like the herbs Amah boiled when someone was sick. Today, the woman was really busy.



For Review Only

Snip, snip. Her scissors made a cutting sound as they sliced into a red paper square. Colorful pieces of paper fell in a pile on her lap. When the woman was done, she held up the paper. Light shone through the holes. It was a flower!

She's just like Amah, Ting thought. *She makes wonderful things appear with her hands.*



For Review Only

When Amah visited, she made delicious dumplings appear. Ting made them disappear by eating them!

The following day, Ting decided to finally talk to the woman on the subway.

"What are you making?" Ting asked. She stared at the bright square in the woman's hands.

The woman didn't look up. She seemed really crabby. "Wait and see," she said with an impatient voice.

Ting wished she hadn't talked to the woman.

The woman kept cutting. *Snip, snip.* A few minutes later, she unfolded the paper. It was a beautiful butterfly.

"That's amazing," said Ting. "Why are you making these?"

For Review Only

"I decorate windows," said the woman. "These are called *window flowers*. It is an old tradition. It started thousands of years ago in China."

The woman got off the train before Ting and her mom. Ting waved goodbye.



FOR REVIEW Only

Ting's Subway Mystery

On the way to school, Ting becomes intrigued with a woman who always sits across from her on the subway. One day, the woman is not there, but she leaves something behind. Ting sets out to find the woman and return it.

For Review Only

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