

Knock! Knock! Here Comes the Dinosaur!

A Full English translation is available.

當恐龍來敲門

Author: Tom Liu (Chen-Kuo Liu) **Illustrator:** Tom Liu (Chen-Kuo Liu) **Publisher:** Global Kids
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Rights contact: bft.children.comics@moc.gov.tw
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BFT 2.0 Translator: Rachel Yung-Hsin Wang

Yang is a young boy who loves cars and dinosaurs. One day at the park, he meets May, a writer and artist. Inspired by Yang's ideas, May decides to create a story about cars and dinosaurs—but no matter how hard she tries, inspiration refuses to come.

Then—knock, knock!—a diplodocus appears at her door and declares it will stay until the story is finished. From that day on, May's life becomes lively and full of surprises. More dinosaurs show up, playing, exploring, and brainstorming with her. Together, they circle the lake again and again, revising the story as it slowly takes shape.

At last, May finishes her tale and shares it with Yang. After listening, Yang begins to ponder; a brand-new story idea is about to come knocking on his door as well. With warmth and humor, this imaginative picture book gently reveals what the creative process really looks like: not sudden genius, but observation, patience, collaboration, and constant adaptation. It celebrates storytelling, revision, and the joy of asking, "What happens next?"



Author Tom Liu (Chen-Kuo Liu)

Born in Taipei in 1966, Chen-Kuo Liu leads a humble, orderly life and has a particular interest in simple and essential forms. His major works include *It's Raining, The Scariest Day of My Life, Granny Lin's Peach Tree, Calder the Artist, Kung Fu Frog River River Lake, The One-Sided Painter, Who Wants to Play Hide and Seek?* , and *Knock! Knock! Here Comes The Dinosaur*! He has received numerous awards, including the Taipei International Book Exhibition Book Prize, the White Raven Award from the International Youth Library in Germany, the Golden Tripod Award for Best Illustration, the Feng Zikai Children's Picture Book Award, the "Good Books for All" Annual Best Youth Literature Award, and the Hsin Yi Children's Literature Award. He has also been selected for the Bologna Illustrators Exhibition in Italy.

Everyone Can Make a Story: A Picture Book That Reveals the Creative Process

by Chih-Hsuan Tu

Knock! Knock! Here Comes the Dinosaur! begins with an ordinary moment. The protagonist, May, is an adult who writes picture books. One day she meets a boy named Yang at a lake in the park. Yang's grandmother casually asks whether May has come to the lake in search of inspiration.

The story thus begins with a simple question: what is inspiration? When Yang says he doesn't know, his grandmother explains that it's "a good idea that suddenly pops into your head." The story begins with a simple question: what is inspiration? When Yang admits he doesn't know, his grandmother explains that it's "a good idea that suddenly pops into your head." Taking this to heart, he asks May for a story about cars and dinosaurs.

May begins to think about how to write a story about cars and dinosaurs. This book captures a familiar part of the creative process: wanting to create, but not knowing how to begin. Through language young readers can understand, it explores how inspiration takes shape. While the grandmother defines it as a sudden good idea, May's daily life offers another perspective—one shaped by research, observation, and even allowing oneself to do nothing at all. The book's depiction of seemingly idle moments of blankness reassures children that not knowing where to begin is nothing to be ashamed of, and that waiting does not mean giving up. Waiting, too, can be a way of working.

Then, a knock is heard at the door. A diplodocus has appeared. It announces that it will stay with May until the story is finished. The creative process is far from complete, for soon more dinosaur friends arrive. Together they circle the lake again and again, discussing and revising the story. Conversations about creativity often focus on talent or flashes of inspiration, but rarely depict the art and practice of revision. Here, the dinosaurs' arrival brings whimsy and charm, while also showing that storytelling requires repeated attempts and constant adjustment to turn a vague idea into a compelling narrative.

Within the story, the diplodocus transforms into different vehicles, solving problems along the way as it carries the boy to his grandmother's house. This rhythm—constant transformation and problem-solving—mirrors the way children imagine while playing, pushing the story forward with both creativity and playfulness. When May finally finishes telling the story, the narrative is gently handed back to Yang. Instead of ending with the satisfaction of a wish fulfilled, the author takes one step further: Yang asks, "What happens next?" Imagination continues to unfold, and a new story begins to take root in the child's mind.

Knock! Knock! Here Comes the Dinosaur! reminds children that creativity never belongs solely to the creator—it belongs to everyone willing to participate in imagination. Inspiration may come knocking, but it is often preceded by long preparation. It may walk beside you, but the creative path inevitably involves revision and change. And when a story is complete, it moves on, roaming freely.

Chih-Hsuan Tu, formerly a market research analyst and online course programmer, now is a freelance writer. She reads to better understand the world, lives most days with enthusiasm, and occasionally retreats from the noise for solitude. A devoted cat person, she hopes to share a home with her better half and two cats, surrounded by bookshelves.