

# AXEL AND THE EMPEROR'S NEW CLOTHES

## 亞斯的國王新衣

2015 China Times Open Book Award for Best Children's Book

Did you ever wonder who the young boy was that dared to say the Emperor was naked? His name was Axel, and he was never afraid to say what he thought. He told off his teacher when she made mistakes; he pointed out his Headmaster's baldness right to the Headmaster's face. Everybody was afraid of Axel, but he didn't care: he cared more about his beetles. He raised them, and drew beautiful pictures of them. Until one day, a fire in his bedroom forced his pictures out into the open. But how did the townspeople react when they discovered what he had made?

This book taps into the resonance of an old myth to provide context for a heartwarming story about a child with Asperger's. Come discover the boy with the sharp eyes on his own terms, and see what he can do.

### Liu Ching-Yen 劉清彥 / Author

A journalist by training, Liu Ching-Yen spends most of his time translating and writing children's books. He travels frequently, both in Taiwan and abroad, to speak to adults who also love story books, and spread the seed of reading around the globe.

### Chiang I-Tsun 姜義村 / Author

Chiang I-Tsun is a Professor of Special Education at National Taiwan Normal University. In addition to many years' experience researching and teaching new methods of instruction for special needs groups, he now participates in television and radio presenting, as well as children's book production.

### Huang Ling-Hsing 九子 / Illustrator

Huang Ling-Hsing (pen name Ju Tzu) is a freelance illustrator who enjoys staying at home with her pets as much as traveling the world. Most of her illustrations are digital, enhanced with hand-drawn effects on paper-based materials. To date, Ju Tzu has illustrated three picture books: *Flying Hats*, *The Sounds of Atayal*, and *Axel and the Emperor's New Clothes*. She was a selected illustrator at the Bologna Illustrators Exhibition in 2016.



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Everyone knew who Axel was. Ever since the day of the Emperor's parade, when he'd shouted, 'The Emperor's not wearing any clothes!' That one sentence had made him famous. He would go down in history.

His Papa had taken him home and scolded him for being impolite, but Axel didn't understand. He was only telling the truth! What had he done wrong?





But everyone thought Axel was a nuisance.

He was always interrupting, being impolite, and saying and doing things he wasn't supposed to.



Mama and Papa were always getting frustrated with him, his teacher would often shush him, and his classmates didn't want to play with him.



Every morning when Papa got on his horse to go out, Axel would stand with his arms blocking the doorway and sob, 'Papa, don't go riding! If you fall off and die, I'll become an orphan!'

If family friends came for dinner and stayed too late, Axel would tell them: 'I want to go to bed, it's time for you to go home!'



At school, Axel was the only child who dared speak up and tell the principal what was on his mind: 'You're going bald!'

Once during class, when the teacher wrote the wrong answer to a math question on the board by mistake, Axel stood up and announced: 'You're so stupid you don't even know the right answer!'





Every day after school, Axel would rush home to his best friends, his pet beetles. When his dog Sugar got in the way, he would shout: 'Out of my way, fatty!'

Axel wanted to play with the other children. But every time they saw Axel coming they would hide. He was always bossing them around.

Only Axel's pet beetles liked to spend time with him.

Axel loved his beetles. They all had names and their own nest made out of wood. He even made a special place for them to lay their eggs.



Axel loved drawing beetles and kept their shells after they died, placing them in special displays.

Mama and Papa sometimes worried about his obsession with beetles. Maybe, they joked, he would turn into one himself!