



# What's Wrong with the Time?

慢吞吞手錶

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Little Fox moves at his own slow pace, earning him the nickname "Slowpoke." One day, he discovers a magical watch that has the ability to vanquish time. How will Slowpoke protect time for the entire world?

This book focuses on the common challenges and frustrations children face during their growth, particularly "moving slowly." It incorporates fantastical elements to help children grasp the concept of time. Reflecting a modern parenting approach, it recognizes that each child operates in their own unique time zone—and offers both children and adults a fresh perspective on how to navigate differences.



Author **Tung Hsiao-Hu**

Tung Hsiao-Hu graduated from the Graduate Institute of Children's Literature at National Taitung University. She works as a composition teacher and shares her life with a beloved pet cat. With a background in Chinese studies and design, she has taught language and art classes, led various reading-related camps, and guided children through their unique learning journeys. Known affectionately as "Teacher Hsiao-Hu" by both young and old, Tung is passionate about collecting and telling stories.



Illustrator **Rumin Wu**

Based in London, Rumin Wu is an illustrator and graphic designer with years of experience designing brands, greeting cards, and packaging across Taiwan, China, and the U.K.

# Coexisting with Your Child's Time Zone

by Ke Guanling

While reading *What's Wrong with Time?*, many images of children immediately came to mind. Parents often express frustration about their child's slow movements, delayed reactions, or lack of time awareness. When discussing this with children, they often share how adults are always rushing them, causing anxiety and fear. The hurried parents and the leisurely children seem to live in completely different time zones. How might we bridge this significant time difference? I suggest a few strategies and show how *What's Wrong With Time?* points us towards them.

*Respect Individual Differences.* Our

*This book teaches us that every child has their own unique rhythm.*

hero Slowpoke notices small flowers by the roadside, the clouds in the sky, and the cars on the way to school. Some children like to greet everyone they meet.

Under time pressure, it's important not to change children to be like us, but rather to adjust to a pace that is comfortable for both sides. Before urging children to speed up, try seeing the world from their perspective. Get down to their height and walk around the house—you'll notice the view is very different from what we usually see.

*Empathize with Their Thoughts and Emotions.* For children, some tasks require them to move slowly. You can discuss with your child the boundaries of taking their

time. For example, Slowpoke likes to think carefully when making choices. Let the child reflect and express why they prefer a slower pace and what they care about. Once you understand their thoughts and empathize with their emotions, you can discuss solutions together.

*Establish a Routine.* Slowpoke moves slowly, having a consistent routine helps him manage what needs to be done. When children have a routine, they feel more in control of their time. Parents can suggest general guidelines while letting the child decide how to carry them out. For example, after school, the goal might be to finish homework before dinner. The child can decide how to organize tasks like unpacking, washing hands, and starting homework, adjusting as needed. Posting a visual schedule in the room can

also remind them of what comes next.

*Give Each Other Breathing Space.* Adapting to each other's pace can be tiring. After a day filled with time pressure, remember to praise your child's efforts and acknowledge your own. Before bed, allow for personal time, where each of you can unwind and enjoy being in your own "time zones."

This book teaches us that every child has their own unique rhythm. With time and patience, you'll develop a mutual rhythm that works for both of you.

*Ke Guanling is an occupational therapist. This essay appeared in the book's afterword.*



噠噠噠噠噠噠……



Oh, hello Slowpoke!

Heading to school?



Morning Ms. Flowers!



噠噠噠噠噠噠……



Morning lil' blossoms!

Morning blue sky!

Morning white clouds!

Oh no, I'm almost late! Go, go, go!

噠噠噠噠噠噠……





呸

Slowpoke doesn't stop to count the cars today. Whoosh! He darts across the street.

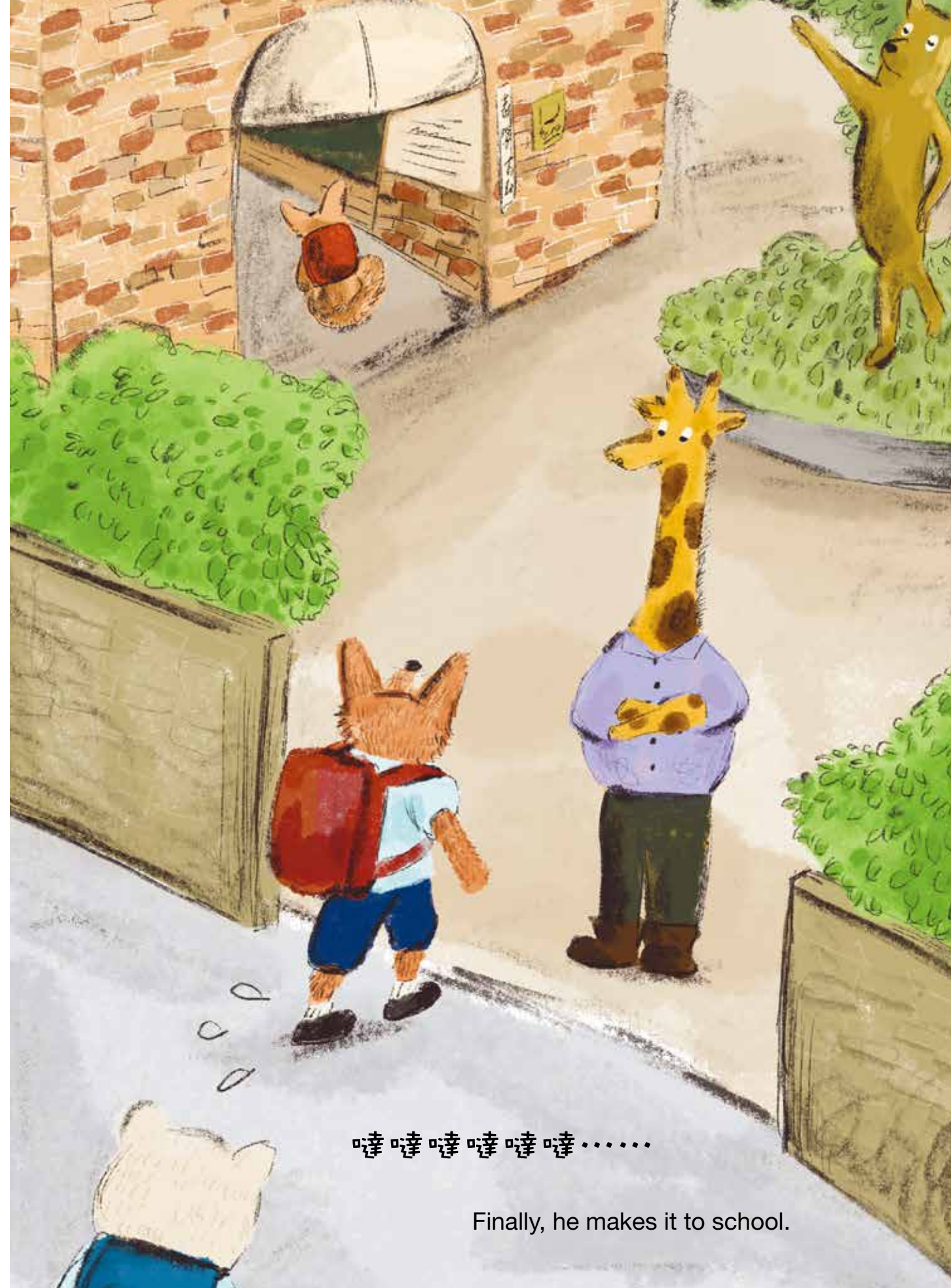




碰! No time to lose!



He picks up the watch and puts it inside his pocket.



Finally, he makes it to school.