



# Gong Fu School: Insects

寵物功夫學校

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**BFT2.0 Translator:** Michelle Kuo

Little Chong comes from a martial arts family and has been enrolled in a kung fu school by his grandfather. Chong's classmates all possess unique skills, such as Spider Girl's "Spider Fist" and Leaf Butterfly Boy's "Invisibility Technique." With chapter-based stories and kung fu segments, this book taps into children's curiosity about martial arts. Author Lin Che-Chang, known for his engaging campus tales, creates a kung fu school that embodies the essence of various animal movements within martial arts. The result is an entertaining and hilarious read.

This book is written in a chapter-style format that captures the spirit of kung fu stories. It is beautifully illustrated by Ju Tzu, a renowned artist selected for the Bologna Children's Book Fair in 2016, enriching the narrative with visuals that spark children's boundless imagination about the pet kung fu school.



## Writer **Lin Che Chang**

A graduate of Taitung University's Department of Children's Literature, Lin Che Chang is an advocate for the art of simple language, aspiring to create stories to delight "future adults" and "grown-up children." He has received multiple accolades, including the Mu Ti Award, the Cross-Strait Children's Literature Award, the Ministry of Education Literature Award, and the Jiuge Annual Fairy Tale Award. His published works include the *Super Butt Hero* series, *Helicopter Divine Dog* series, *Heartfelt School* series, *Fairy Island Primary School* series, *No-Laziness Primary School* series, as well as *Gung Fu School*, *The Invincible Weapon Against the Cosmic Demon King*, *One Dollar Coin's Wandering Diary*, *The Climbing Lizard and Mr. Vine*, *Magical Broom for Rent*, *Pet of the Celestial Emperor*, *The Giant's Bad Luck Bird*, *The Problem Zoo*, *Adventures on Face Island*, and *The Knife Boy's Squad Dream*, among others. This series has three published volumes. Volume 2 is *Kung Fu Battle Royale*, and Volume 3 is *Gung Fu Plant Techniques*.



## Illustrator **Huang Ling-Hsing**

Huang Ling-Hsing, also known as 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. 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.

# Kung Fu, the Art of Tapping into the Power of Animals: A Note from the Author

by Lin Che Chang

Kung fu is widely recognized as a hallmark of Chinese culture. Whether it's the famous Shaolin kung fu or the plethora of kung fu films, many foreigners associate "kung fu" with discussions of Chinese culture. But who actually invented it?

Legend has it that kung fu originated with Hua Tuo, who created the "Five Animal Frolics" to promote health through exercise that imitates the movements of various animals. After practicing these exercises, Hua Tuo's disciple, Wu Pu, lived into his nineties, maintaining both his

sharp mind and good health. It is said that he even retained all his teeth.

Any story about kung fu inevitably involves animals. Many martial arts styles are named after them, including the Five Shapes Fist—Dragon, Tiger, Leopard, Snake, and Crane—as well as Monkey Fist, Lion's Roar, Eagle Claw, Mantis Fist, and Scorpion Fist. This underscores the significant contributions animals have made to humanity throughout history. Besides helping us in our work, they also act as our wellness coaches and martial arts instructors. Imagine if we

could directly tap into the abilities of animals—a dog's keen sense of smell, an eagle's sharp vision, a leopard's incredible speed, a flea's powerful jump, or an ant's remarkable strength. With these abilities, we could all become superhuman.

The ancients recognized the value of learning from animals, and we modern individuals must also acknowledge the essential roles all living beings play in our lives. Protecting them and preventing their extinction is crucial. Perhaps one day we will gain even more inspiration and benefits from them. By learning kung fu

from animals and dedicating ourselves to their care, humanity becomes truly admirable. Only then can we rightfully claim to possess good "kung fu," a term that means achievement through great effort.

*This excerpt from the book's afterword has been edited for this booklet.*

Let the martial arts show begin!

“Hu, Hu, Hu!” That’s Little Chong’s grandfather on stage, showing us his “Five Animals Fist” martial arts performance. Watching him is so exciting. First, he begins with the fierce kung fu “Tiger Fist” stance. Next, he unfurls the powerful “Dragon Fist” technique. Then, with a blink of an eye, he quickly spins into the



movements for the “Leopard Fist” style. Now mesmerized, everyone is watching. He crouches down into the “Snake Fist” position, leaps up and nimbly places all his weight on one leg for the “Crane Fist” position. Oh, what an exciting performance.

Little Chong was happy that he was born into a martial arts family. His grandfather, a master of martial arts, specialized in the “Five Animals Fist,” a traditional animal style of kung fu. This style consisted of five techniques that mimicked five animal movements of the tiger, the dragon, the leopard, the snake, and the crane. It is said that this form of martial arts was

created by ancient kung fu masters who observed animal behavior. They refined their techniques through constant practice and combat. Little Chong's grandfather practiced this strict training, too. Once, he even volunteered at a zoo so that he could observe the animals.

One day, Little Chong spoke to his grandfather. "Grandpa, I understand why you went to the zoo to study tigers, leopards, snakes and cranes. That makes sense. But how did you learn the techniques for the "Dragon Fist" when there are no dragons in the zoo? Dragons are found in temples."

Grandpa Chong looked at his grandson's face and saw that he was serious. "Yes, you are right, Little Chong. There are carvings and pictures of dragons in temples. But they are carvings and don't move. I have thought and studied about this for a long time. Dragons are now extinct but some historical records suggest that they were a type of reptile and related to snakes. That's why snakes are sometimes called 'little dragons' in Chinese."

Little Chong's Grandpa was quiet as he stroked his long beard. Then he continued. "A dragon has a long snout, sharp teeth, slender legs, a thick tail and

scales all over its body. To me, it resembles a crocodile with horns. So, to answer your question, Little Chong, every day, I went to the crocodile pond, at the zoo to observe them. I noticed that crocodiles twist their bodies as they bite their prey. Scientists call this behavior a ‘death roll. From this, I developed a move called ‘Dragon Tornado.’”

Little Chong’s lit up with excitement. “The Invincible Dragon Tornado! That sounds awesome!”

“Oh yes—it’s very powerful!” he replied, both speaking and demonstrating at the same time. “Watch, this move uses both

hands and your mouth. First, you grab your opponent and then bite them. Next, you quickly jump upward, twisting your body at the same time. This way, your opponent spins and spins, becoming dizzy and completely disoriented.”

