

THE THREE LITTLE MOLES SERIES

三隻小鼹鼠系列

Grandpa Mole and the two young moles live under the roots of a big tree. When they go out in the forest they meet new friends, and have all kinds of adventures. This series of three books takes readers into the forested mountains of Taiwan, and encourages them to be positive, help each other and share.

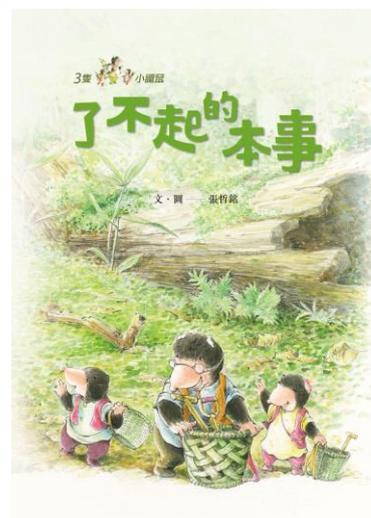
Grandpa Mole and the two young moles live under the roots of a big tree. When they go out, they meet new friends in the forest. There are three books in the series.

In *A Special Gift*, the three moles go in search of their natural talents. On the way, they meet a little duckling that has fallen down a hole, and the moles use their talent for digging holes to rescue the little duckling. They affirm their own abilities and learn to appreciate others. In *Let's Roast Sweet Potatoes*, the moles start to argue with chipmunks when digging up the sweet potatoes. In the end, they learn to share their food and help each other. In *Adventure in the Forest*, the moles meet some baby birds, and rescue them from the owl's clutches. As they do so, they see a wonderful Mikado Pheasant in the mist.

Chang Che-ming uses water colors to great effect and creates a beautifully detailed forest scene, featuring animals that are found in the forested mountains of Taiwan. The stories are fresh, charming and meaningful – they are quietly elegant animal stories.

Chang Che-ming 張哲銘

Chang Che-ming creates picture books and art. His work has been selected for exhibition at the Bologna Children's Book Fair, and he has received the National Book Prize, and the Hsin-Yi Children's Literature Award. His style is elegant and detailed, and often filled



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with references to the natural world and local customs in Taiwan, showing a deep affection for Taiwan.

A SPECIAL GIFT

Translated by Helen Wang

p.4-5

Early in the morning, the sun shone over the mountain forest, and woke three little moles who lived on the island.

p.6-7

The three little moles lived under the tree root.

“Time to get up!” Grandpa called out.

p.8-9

“Are you ready to go?” asked Grandpa.

“Yes! Yes! We’re ready!” said the two young moles, putting their baskets on their backs.

“Let’s go!” The two young moles were excited to be out in the warm sunshine.

Grandpa was going to teach them about special skills.

p.10-11

“Are moles always so small?” asked the two young moles after they’d managed to climb over the tree root.

“I’m afraid there’s nothing we can do about it,” said Grandpa. “We may be small, but we have a special gift.”

“A special gift? Like a super power?”

“A mole’s special gift is...”

But before Grandpa could finish his sentence, they heard an anxious voice behind an old tree.

“Quack, quack, quack.”

“Who could it be?”

p.12-13

“Ah, it’s Mama Wild Duck with her ducklings.”

“But, why is she sticking her head in the ground?”

p.14-15

The three moles hurried over, and discovered that a duckling had fallen down the hole! Grandpa was worried. "We must rescue it," he said, "but it won't be easy."

"Quick, you two, come and help."

"Shall we throw it a rope and pull it out?" the two young moles asked.

"No! We'll use our special gift."

Grandpa knew what to do.

p.16-17

"A mole's special gift is digging holes," said Grandpa.

The three moles worked as a team: Grandpa dug the hole, and the two moles cleared away the earth.

"We're nearly there! We'll soon see the duckling!"

The three moles sang to keep their spirits up: "We can do it! Dig, dig, dig!"

p.18-19

"We're almost there now!"

"We did it! We rescued the duckling!"

"Quack, quack, quack." The duckling was so pleased to see its mother.

p.20-21

"We moles have a very special gift!" said the two young moles.

"Indeed we do," said Grandpa. "We might be small, but we have a special gift!"

p.22-23

Grandpa was pleased with their success.

"And now, I'll show you another of my gifts ... rafting."

"If you untie the rope, then sit still, the raft will start to move."

The two young moles did as he said, and the raft started to drift.

"See, it's different from being on land!" said Grandpa.

p.24-25

It was different from being on land! The two young moles had never been on a raft before, and kept looking around.

"Grandpa, look! There's something in the water and it seems to be following us," said the two young moles.

All of a sudden, a giant fish leapt out of the water towards them.

“AAGH! HELP!”

p.26-27

Then, there was an almighty noise in the sky.

“It’s Mama Wild Duck!”

The three moles looked up and cried out in surprise.

p.28-29

“Thank you, Mama Wild Duck!”

“And that,” said Grandpa, “is the wild duck’s special gift.”

p.30-31

Everyone has their own special gift.