

WANG JIE MEETS A NEW FRIEND

by
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Wang Jie lived in the mountains of China. He was a simple boy whose parents were rice farmers. It was a hard life, but they loved each other very much.

Every morning Wang Jie got up very early to help his grandfather milk the goat and feed the chickens. He enjoyed doing this very much. He had many chores to do before he left for school. He had a long walk to school every day. He usually walked with his friends and sometimes they played games. The weather in their place was good for growing bamboo and rice.

When he returned from school in the afternoon, he had many more chores to do. He had to do them before he did his homework. Usually Wang Jie would go to bed very late. His parents wanted him to do well in school. They wanted him to get a good job when he would become older.

Wang Jie always looked forward to Sunday. Although he still got up early to do his chores, he did not have to go to school. After doing his chores, he would spend all day playing and finding new things to see and do.

Wang Jie was an explorer. He knew all of the places in the mountains where he lived. He found streams and caves. He had a favorite climbing tree. He even had a special rock where he would sit for many hours looking across the big valley.

One day, as Wang Jie was walking through the forest, he heard a noise in the trees

above him. He thought he saw something. It was very big. It was moving slowly from branch to branch. He could not see what it was.

Just then, the animal saw Wang Jie and became frightened. As the animal climbed up the tree, Wang Jie was able to get a better look at it. It was big like a bear. It had long claws. It was black and white. It was a wild panda! Wang Jie had heard about pandas, but he had never seen one before.

Wang Jie moved down the path to get a better look. Wang Jie and the panda looked at each other eye to eye. The panda did not seem to be afraid anymore. They just stared at each other for the longest time.

It was getting late so Wang Jie said good-bye to his new friend in the forest. He went home to eat his dinner.

At the table, he told his parents all about his discovery in the forest. He told his mother and father about the giant panda. He told how at first the panda was frightened but later they became friends.

His father stood up from the table, and asked in a stern voice, "Where is the panda?"

Wang Jie was surprised at his father's actions. He became afraid.

Wang Jie responded, "I saw him in the forest near the big rock that I sit on to look at the valley."

His father ran out of the house very quickly. Wang Jie turned to his mother and asked, "Why is father angry, and why did he run out of the house?"

His mother told him that some men had come to the house earlier in the day. They had told his father that a giant panda had escaped from the research center in the village. They told him there was a reward for its capture.

Wang Jie was upset. He had made a new friend. Now his new friend was going to be returned to the center where they took care of pandas. He thought about what he could do to save his new friend.

Wang Jie left the table quickly and ran out of the house. He ran to the forest and

ran toward his rock. He stopped at the place where he had seen the panda, but he could not find him. Wang Jie began to cry. He thought the caretakers had already found his friend. He thought he was on his way back to the research center.

Suddenly he saw something move. Wang Jie went a little farther down the path and there he saw the panda eating bamboo leaves.

Wang Jie yelled out, "Go away! There are bad men coming to get you. They want to take you back to the research center!"

Wang Jie heard voices. The men from the research center were coming toward him. They had followed him. His father had told them that Wang Jie knew where the panda was in the forest. One of the men aimed his gun at the panda.

Wang Jie shouted, "NO!"

BOOM! The gun went off, and the panda slowly began to fall through the branches to the ground. The gun had shot a dart with medicine to make the panda go slowly to sleep. Once he was on the ground, the caretakers put him into a net. Then five men carried him to a truck that was waiting on the edge of the forest. Wang Jie was angry and sad. It was his fault that they had found the giant panda, and now they were returning him to the research center in the town.

Wang Jie went home. He went to his bed and turned to the wall. He was angry at his father for telling the men about the giant panda.

He was still angry when he went to school on Monday. The teacher knew about the panda.

She explained to Wang Jie, "The panda's parents had abandoned him, and he had been raised at the research center. Because of this he did not know how to live in the forest. If the panda had stayed in the forest, he would have died. So it was best that he was returned to the research center."

She told Wang Jie that he was a hero. He had saved the giant panda, and everyone was happy that the panda was safe in the research center again.

Wang Jie was confused. He had made a new friend, and he wanted the panda to

always be there in the forest when he went to visit. Now the panda was back at the research center, and he would not be able to see the panda again because they were so poor.

When Wang Jie returned home, there were two men at his house. They were talking to his father.

The men asked, “Is this the boy who found our panda?”

Wang Jie’s father replied, “Yes, this is my son Wang Jie. He found the panda.”

The men shook his hand and thanked him for helping them to find Ming- Ming, the most popular animal in the panda research center. They handed him an envelope, and then said good-bye.

After the men left, Wang Jie opened the envelope, and inside he found three lifetime membership cards to the research center to visit anytime he wanted. Wang Jie jumped into the air. He was so excited. Now he could go anytime he wanted to see his new friend Ming-Ming at the research center in the valley.



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VOCABULARY: (*Match the word to its definition*)

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. farmer _____ | a. between two mountains |
| 2. explorer _____ | b. mad, furious |
| 3. stream _____ | c. sharp nails |
| 4. valley _____ | d. grower of crops |
| 5. claws _____ | e. prize, gift |
| 6. stern _____ | f. small river |
| 7. reward _____ | g. pioneer, traveler |
| 8. angry _____ | h. serious, harsh |
| 9. hero _____ | i. star, champion |
| 10. lifetime _____ | j. within one's life, lifespan |

TRUE / FALSE:

- | | |
|--|-------|
| 1. Wang Jie lived in a big city. | T / F |
| 2. The giant panda was very dangerous. | T / F |
| 3. The giant panda was eating eucalyptus leaves. | T / F |
| 4. The men from the research center killed Ming-Ming. | T / F |
| 5. Wang Jie had many chores before school. | T / F |
| 6. Wang Jie was given a one-day pass to the research center. | T / F |
| 7. The caretakers put Ming-Ming into a net. | T / F |
| 8. Wang Jie was mad at his mother. | T / F |
| 9. Wang Jie liked Sundays. | T / F |
| 10. Wang Jie's teacher told him he was a hero. | T / F |

MULTIPLE CHOICE:

1. What did Wang Jie find in the forest? _____
 - a) a big bear
 - b) a wild panda
 - c) a wild boar
 - d) a big valley

2. Who told the caretakers that Wang Jie had found the animal? _____
 - a) his mother
 - b) his brother
 - c) his teacher
 - d) his father

3. Why did the animal need to go back to the research center? ____
 - a) he did not know how to survive in the forest.
 - b) he was going to be killed
 - c) he was afraid
 - d) he was hungry

4. What did Wang Jie do with his grandfather before school? _____
 - a) his homework
 - b) he milked the goat and fed the chickens
 - c) he went for a long walk
 - d) he helped his mother in the kitchen

COMPREHENSION: *(Write a complete sentence to answer the question.)*

1. Where was the panda when Wang Jie first saw him?

2. Where did Ming-Ming live before he escaped?

3. How many people carried Ming-Ming to the truck?

4. Why was Wang Jie upset?

5. What did Wang Jie's father do after Wang Jie talked about the panda?

6. What was Wang Jie's reward?

7. What did Wang Jie's father grow on their farm?

8. How many members were there in Wang Jie's family?

9. When Wang Jie sat on his rock, what did he see?

10. What were some of Wang Jie's chores?
