

小池

siu2 ci4, xiǎo chí

The Little Pond



Many Chinese poets have written poems featuring dragonflies. Here is one of them. This poem was written by 楊萬里 joeng4 maan6 lei5/ yáng wàn lǐ. Wikipedia tells us he was born in 1127 and died 1206. Many of his poems were about nature. Listen to reading of the poem in Cantonese here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OLLBypPGZ3s&t=19s>

泉眼無聲惜細流

cyun4 ngaan5 mou4 seng1 sik1 sai3 lau4

quán yǎn wú shēng xī xì liú

[spring] [eye] [without] [sound] [cherishes] [thin] [flow]

A thin stream of water flows silently from the spring/
The spring lovingly releases a thin stream of water.

樹陰照水愛晴柔

syu6 jam1 ziu3 sei2 ngoi3 cing4 jau4

shù yīn zhào shuǐ ài qíng róu

[tree] [shadow] [reflect] [water] [love] [clear] [gentle]

The tree's shadow is reflected in the water, it loves the clear gentle day

小荷才露尖尖角

siu2 ho4 coi4 lou6 zim1 zim1 gok3

xiǎo hé cái lù jiān jiān jiǎo

[small] [lotus] [just] [reveals] [pointy] [pointy] [corner]

The small lotus has only just revealed its pointed tips

早有蜻蜓立上頭

zou2 jau5 cing1 ting4 lap6 soeng5/6 tau4

zǎo yǒu qīng tíng lì shàng tóu

[soon] [there is] [dragonfly] [stands] [on top of] [the head]

Soon a dragonfly is standing on the tip of the lotus.