

ISBN 9 780190 832308

啟思中國語文

一上第二冊

Primary 1 Book 2

## 江南

gong1 naam4

South of the Yangtse River

by: 漢樂府 hon3 ngok6 fu2

(anonymous: from the Han Dynasty\* see note below)

This poem shows a scene from the lotus picking season - a happy time when people gathered together and watched the fish play in the lotus ponds.

You can watch an audio video in Cantonese here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mZOckK79ECY>

and here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4jeGuxBsiec>

## 江南可採蓮

gong1 naam4 ho2 coi2 lin4

[river] [south] [can] [pick] [lotus]

South of the river you can pick lotus

## 蓮葉何田田

lin4 jip6 ho4 tin4 tin4

[lotus] [leaves] [how] [field] [field]

Lotus leaves, so densely packed like fields

## 魚戲蓮葉間

jyu4 hei3 lin4 jip6 gaan1

[fish] [play] [lotus] [leaves] [inbetween]

Fish play happily between the lotus leaves

## 魚戲蓮葉東

jyu4 hei3 lin4 jip6 dung1

[fish] [play] [lotus ] [leaves] [east]

Fish play happily to the east of the lotus leaves

## 魚戲蓮葉西

jyu4 hei3 lin4 jip6 sai1

[fish] [play] [lotus ] [leaves] [west]

Fish play happily to the west of the lotus leaves

## 魚戲蓮葉南

jyu4 hei3 lin4 jip6 naam4

[fish] [play] [lotus ] [leaves] [south]

Fish play happily to the south of the lotus leaves

## 魚戲蓮葉北

jyu4 hei3 lin4 jip6 bak1

[fish] [play] [lotus ] [leaves] [north]

Fish play happily to the north of the lotus leaves

### Notes on Page 40

- 1) 江南。江 means 'river'. Here it means specifically 長江 – The Yangtze. So the title means places south of the Yangtze.
- 2) 可：可以. This means 'can' 'is able to'.
- 3) 何：多麼. How! What a!
- 4) 田田： Means the lotus leaves are densely packed, and linked together in a formation that looks like the character 田 (which means field).
- 5) 戲: 嬉戲 play happily, frolic around

\* 漢 hon3 is the Han Dynasty (206 BC-220 AD)

樂府 ngok6 fu2

The 樂府 was a type of government office in charge of the collection of folk songs and poems, which would later be set to music.