



村居

cyun1 geoi1/ cūnjū
Village Life

(清 cing1, qīng)

This poem was written by 高鼎 *gou1 ding2 /gāo dǐng*, who lived in the Qing Dynasty. He is not a super famous poet – this poem is his only well-known piece of work.

The poem is about the beauty of a spring day. The first two lines describe the natural scenery and the rejuvenation of plants as spring arrives. The second two lines introduce humans into the picture. The poet paints an idyllic picture of a carefree childhood, as the children rush to fly their kites in the spring breeze.

The poem is an example of 七言絕句 – there are 4 lines and 7 syllables to each line. They are usually read 2 syllables + 2 syllables + 3 syllables. This gives a pleasing rhythm.

The poem mentions 二月. In this context, 二月 is not ‘February’ ; it’s the 2nd month in the lunar calendar.

草長鶯飛二月天

cou2 zoeng2 ang1 fei1 ji6 jyut6 tin1
cǎo zhǎng yīng fēi èr yuè tiān

[the grass] [grows] [oriole] [fly] [second] [month] [sky]
Grass is growing and orioles are flying in the second month.

拂堤楊柳醉春煙。

fat1 tai4 joeng4 lau5 zeoi3 ceon1 jin1
fú dī yáng liǔ zuì chūn yān

[stroke] [embankment] [willow] [drunken] [spring] [smoke]
Brushing the embankment, the willows are drunk with spring mist.

兒童散學歸來早，

ji4 tung4 saan3 hok6 gwai1 loi4 zou2
ér tóng sàn xué guī lái zǎo

[children] [disperse] [school] [return] [come] [early]
Children going home early after school

忙趁東風放紙鳶。

mong4 can3 dung1 fung1 fong3 zi2 jyun1
máng chèn dōng fēng fàng zhǐ yuān

[busy] [take advantage of] [east] [wind] [put] [paper] [hawk]
take advantage of the east wind to fly kites.