

Lesson 21

Page 30

村居
cyun1 geoi1
Village Life

(清) 高鼎
(cing1) gou1 ding2

Quizlet flashcards for the vocabulary at the bottom of page 30 can be found here:

https://quizlet.com/_9zac7v?x=1qqt&i=2f4qkn

You can listen to a recording of the poem in Cantonese here:

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

Chinese	Pronunciation	Meaning	Spoken Cantonese
村	cyun1	village	
居	geoi1	live (somewhere), dwell	geoi1 zyu6 (居住)
清	cing1	the Qing dynasty (AD 1644–1912)	cing1 ciu4 (清朝)
草	cou2	grass	
長	zoeng2	grow	saang1 zoeng2 (生長)
鶯	ang1	oriole (a kind of bird)	
飛	fei1	fly	
二月	ji6 jyut6	the second month of the year (In modern Chinese 二月 would usually mean February. But in this old poem it refers to the second month of the lunar year.)	nung4 lik6 ji6 jyut6 (農 曆二月)
天	tin1	In old Chinese, 天 meant “sky”. In modern Chinese it	jat6 zi2 (日子)

		can mean both “sky” or “day”.	
拂	fat1	touch lightly, brush	sou3 (掃)
堤	tai4	embankment (man-made bank of a river)	
楊柳	joeng4 lau5	willow (tree)	
醉	zeoi3	drunk	
煙	jin1	mist (in modern Chinese 煙 usually means “smoke”)	
兒童	ji4 tung4	child	siu2 pang4 jau5 (小朋友)
散學	saan3 hok6	leave school	fong3 hok6 (放學)
歸來	gwai1 loi4	return, go home	faan2 nguk1 kei5 (返屋企)
早	zou2	early (i.e. they went home quickly)	hou2 faai3 (好快)
忙	mong4	hurry (to do something)	gon2 zyu6 (趕住)
趁	can3	take advantage of	
東	dung1	east	
風	fung1	wind	
放	fong3	release	
紙	zi2	paper	
鳶	jyun1	hawk	fung1 zaang1 (風箏)
放紙鳶	fong3 zi2 jyun1	fly a kite (shaped like a hawk)	fong3 fung1 zaang1 (放風箏)
春光	ceon1 gwong1	spring scenery	ceon1 tin1 ge3 ging2 zi3 /fung1 gwong1 (春天嘅景致/風光)
明媚	ming4 mei6	bright and beautiful	
開始	hoi1 ci2	start	

嫩	nyun6	tender	
芽	ngaa4	shoots, sprouts	
黃鶯	wong4 ang1	oriole	
快活地	faai3 wut6 dei6	happily	faai3 wut6 gam2 (快活咁)
空中	hung1 zung1	in the sky	
翻飛	faan1 fei1	fly to and fro	fei1 lei4 fei1 heoi3 (飛嚟飛去)
長	coeng4	long (same character as zoeng2, which means 'grow')	
柳條	lau5 tiu4	willows	joeng4 lau5 (楊柳)
輕	hing1	light(ly)	
河	ho4	river	
像	zoeng6	like, as if	hou2 ci5 (好似)
陶醉	tou4 zeoi3	drunk (with happiness etc.)	
霧氣	mou6 hei3	mist	
柔和	jau4 wo4	gentle, soft	
吹起	ceoi1 hei2	start to blow	
風箏	fung1 zaang1	kite	
放風箏	fong3 fung1 zaang1	fly a kite	
時節	si4 zit3	time (of the year)	gwai3 zit3 (季節)
孩子們	haai4 zi2 mun4	children	siu2 pang4 jau5 (小朋友)
一 ..., 就 ...	jat1 ..., zau6 ...	as soon as ..., ...	
迫不及待	bik1 bat1 kap6 doi6	unable to wait, can't hold back	(hou2 sam1 gap1) 好心急
跑回家	paau2 wui4 gaa1	run home	(paau2 faan2 nguk1 kei5) 跑返屋企
趕忙	gon2 mong4	hurry (to do something)	zik1 hak1 (即刻)

Village Life

(Qing dynasty) Gaoding

Grass is growing and orioles are flying in the second month.
Brushing the embankment, the willows are drunk with spring mist.
Children going home early after school take advantage of the east wind to fly kites.

Text underneath the poem on page 30

What does the ancient poem say?

In the beautiful bright spring sunshine of the second month of the year, the grass is beginning to sprout and orioles are flying to and fro in the sky. The long willows are brushing the river embankment as if they are drunk in the spring mist. The gentle east wind has begun to blow and it is a good time to fly kites. As soon as school is over, the children cannot wait to run home and hurry to fly kites.