The Race Across The River
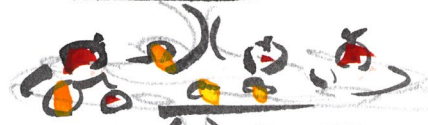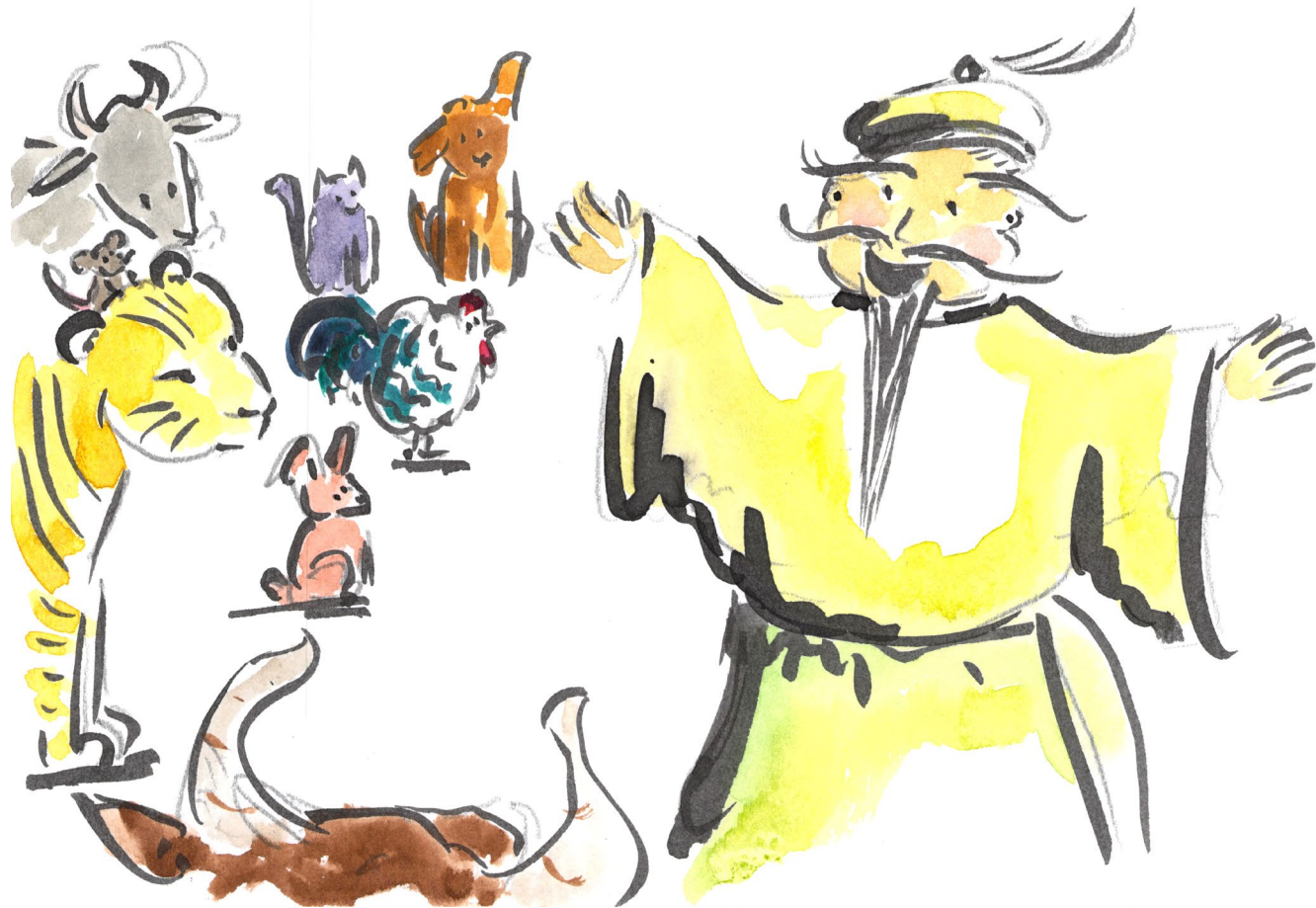
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Illustrated by Anne Holm Petersen

The Jade Emperor was having a birthday!

"Let us name the years!" he cried.
"We will name 12 years, each one after an animal."

"Listen," said the Emperor.
"You will all race across the river."

"The 1st one to swim across and get out will have the 1st year named after her. The 2nd one will have the 2nd year named after her, the 3rd one, the 3rd year, and so on."
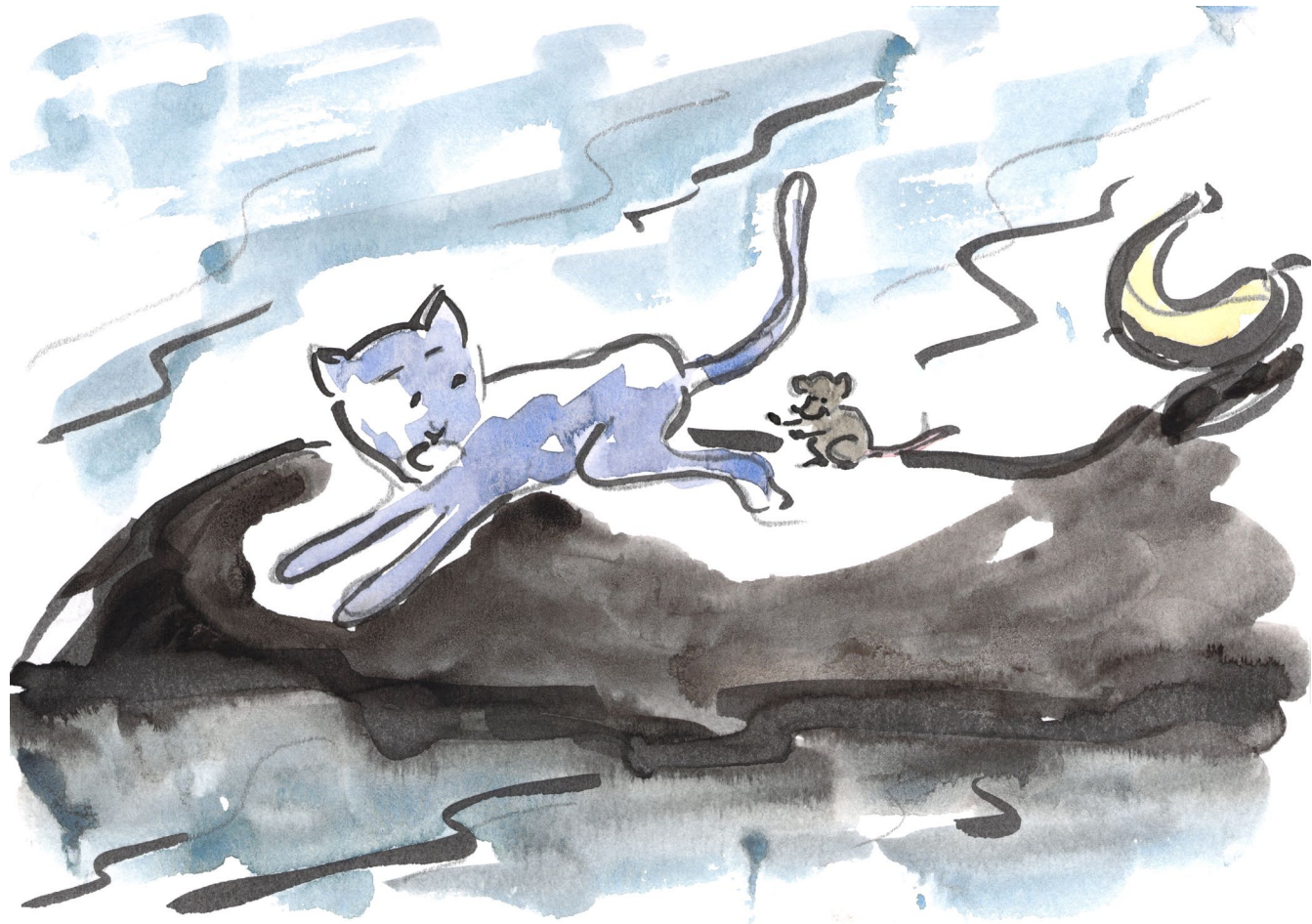
All the animals felt this was a good plan.

Rat and Cat went to the Ox. "We are not good swimmers," they said.
"You are a good swimmer," they told him. "Please can we ride on your back?"

The kind Ox agreed.
Rat and Cat ran onto his back.

Ox swam across the river.

Right in the deep bit, Rat pushed Cat into the river.

Just before Ox landed, Rat ran along his back.
She jumped on to the land first!

"The 1st year is the Year of the Rat," cried the Jade Emperor.

The Ox was sad because he was 2nd.

Tiger is a strong swimmer. He was also fast.

He came out just after the Ox.
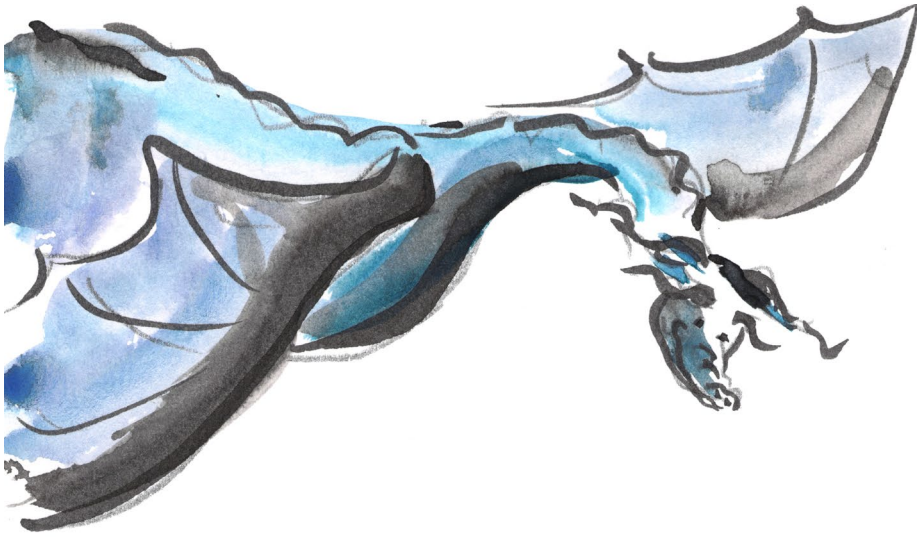The Jade Emperor said, "The 3rd year is Year of the Tiger."

Rabbit did not swim. He hopped from stone to stone and then to a log and floated.

So Rabbit was 4th.

The kind Dragon flew in next. He had been blowing the Rabbit's log.

The Jade Emperor said, "The 5th year is Year of the Dragon."

Just as Horse was getting out, Snake wriggled between his legs.

The Jade Emperor laughed. "Year of the Snake is the 6th year," he said. "Year of the Horse is the 7th."

Rooster found a raft stuck in the weeds. Goat ate the weeds.

Monkey pushed the raft across the river.

The Jade Emperor was happy to see them.
"Goat is Year 8, Monkey is Year 9 and Rooster is Year 10," he said.

Dog got out of the river. He had had his lunch before he set off!

Pig had eaten lunch like Dog, but he had then had a sleep! So Pig was last.

But then Cat came running up. The Jade Emperor said she was too late.
All the 12 years had names.

Cat was mad! She was very cross with Rat.
So now you will always see Cat chasing any rats she can find!

Sounds and letters

Sounds and letters
/c/ as c, /t/ as t, /a/ as a
/d/ as d, /g/ as g, /o/ as o
/m/ as m, /n/ as n
/i/ as i, /s/ as s and ss
/u/ as u, /r/ as r
/h/ as h, /l/ as l and ll
/e/ as e, /b/ as b
/f/ as f and ff, /sh/ as sh
/p/ as p, /c/ as k and ck
/ee/ as y, /p/ as pp (+ mm, dd, rr, nn)
/ee/ as ee, ea, e
/w/ as w and wh*, /ch/ as ch
/th/ as th, /ng/ as ng
/tthh/ as th, /v/ as v and ve
/oo/ as oo, u and oul
/j/ as j, /ar/ as ar and a*
/ou/ as ou, ow and ough
/or/ as or, ore, aw and a
/ay/ as ay, a-e, ai
/ie/ as y, ie, i-e, i and igh
/cw/ as qu/, /cs/ as x, /y/ as y
/oa/ as ow, o, oa, oe and o-e
/ooh/ as oo, ew, o
/z/ as z, zz and s, /g/ as, gu and gh
/er/ as er, ur, ir, ear and or
/s/ as c, se and ce
/j/ as g, ge and dge
/l/ as le + tt, gg, bb
/ue/ as ew, u-e and u
/ch/ as tch, /oy/ as oi, oy

Code-Breakers

Extended Texts ~ Book 3
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