

Children's Magazines: Education Scenes



TITLE

Little friends (Xiao pengyou 小朋友)

DATE

1966-02

CREATOR

Unknown

PUBLISHER

Shaonian ertong chubanshe

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DESCRIPTION

These two images show different aspects of education in China. The first image on the left side shows a group of schoolchildren in a park. All wear the red scarf of Young Pioneers. They stand in front of a wall dedicated to a young soldier called Wang Jie 王杰 (1943-65), who sacrificed himself to save the lives of others in an explosion. There are pages from his diary, some commemorations, and a portrait poster of the hero. The caption to the right of the poster says, 'Learn from Uncle Wang Jie!' The line at the top of the wall says, "Whatever Chairman Mao says, that's what we'll do."

The second picture on the right shows a traveling teacher, who arrives in the village, with his horse carrying a portable yurt on his back. Inner Mongolia is very sparsely populated, and in 1966, there were still not many schools or teachers, so the teacher moved from place to place, setting up the yurt and teaching classes. This is explained in the poem, which ends with the words, 'Chairman Mao cares for the Mongolian little friends and arranges the mobile school.' The poem is written in characters, but also has pinyin romanization, so students can learn the pronunciation of unfamiliar characters.