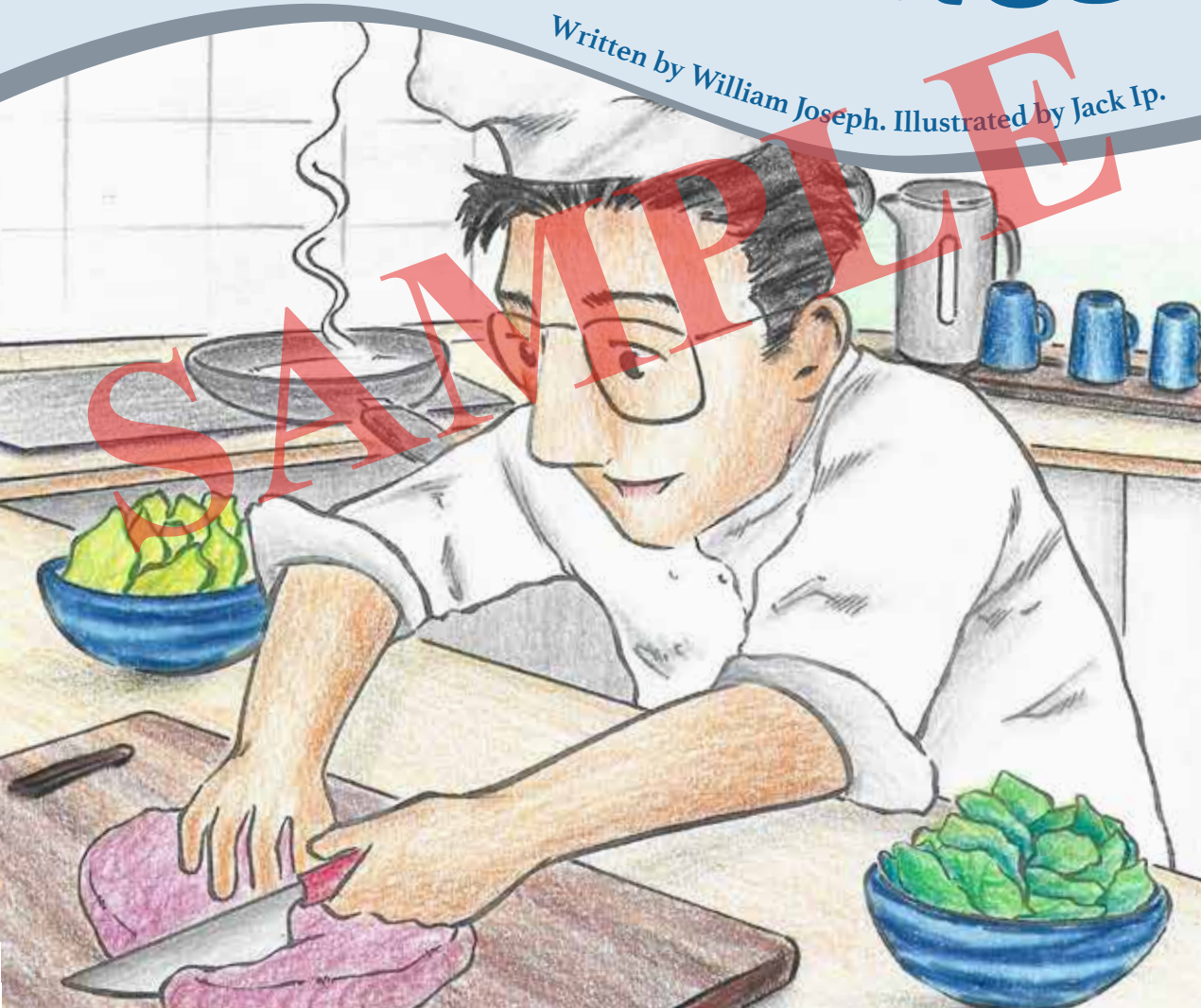




Chinese Dishes

Written by William Joseph. Illustrated by Jack Ip.



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JWD BOOKS



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William is a primary school teacher. He was born in England and has lived in Hong Kong for more than fifteen years. His favourite character is Gran.

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“I’ve got some *amazing* news!” announced Kitty one afternoon. “Helen is coming to Hong Kong. She has a school-trip here next month.”

The rest of the Lee family were almost as excited as Kitty.

“That’s wonderful,” said Mum. “You and Helen have been pen-friends for such a long time. Now you can finally meet up.”

“Helen will be busy with her schoolmates for the first few days,” said Kitty. “But she’ll be free for two days before she flies back to Australia. I must think of some fun things for us to do together...”

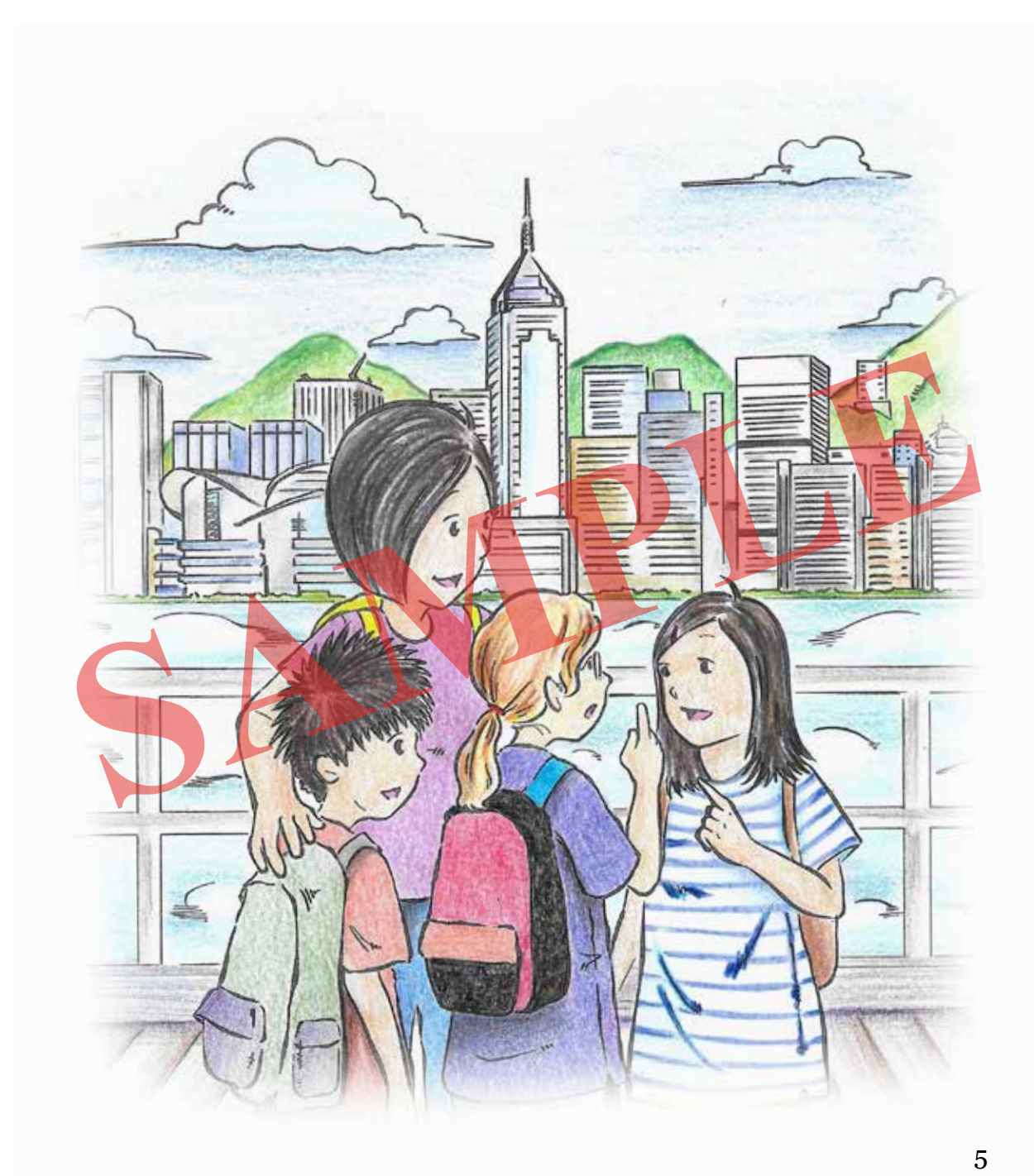


Three weeks later, Kitty, Mum and Martin picked Helen up at her hotel and took her on a whirlwind tour of Hong Kong. Helen bought lots of souvenirs at the Mong Kok markets and she loved going on the Star Ferry. In the afternoon they all headed up the Peak to enjoy the spectacular view.

“I’ve now done *almost* everything I wanted to do in Hong Kong,” said Helen.

“Almost everything?” asked Kitty. “What else did you want to do?”

“If it’s not too much trouble,” replied Helen. “I’d love to eat some *real* Chinese food.”

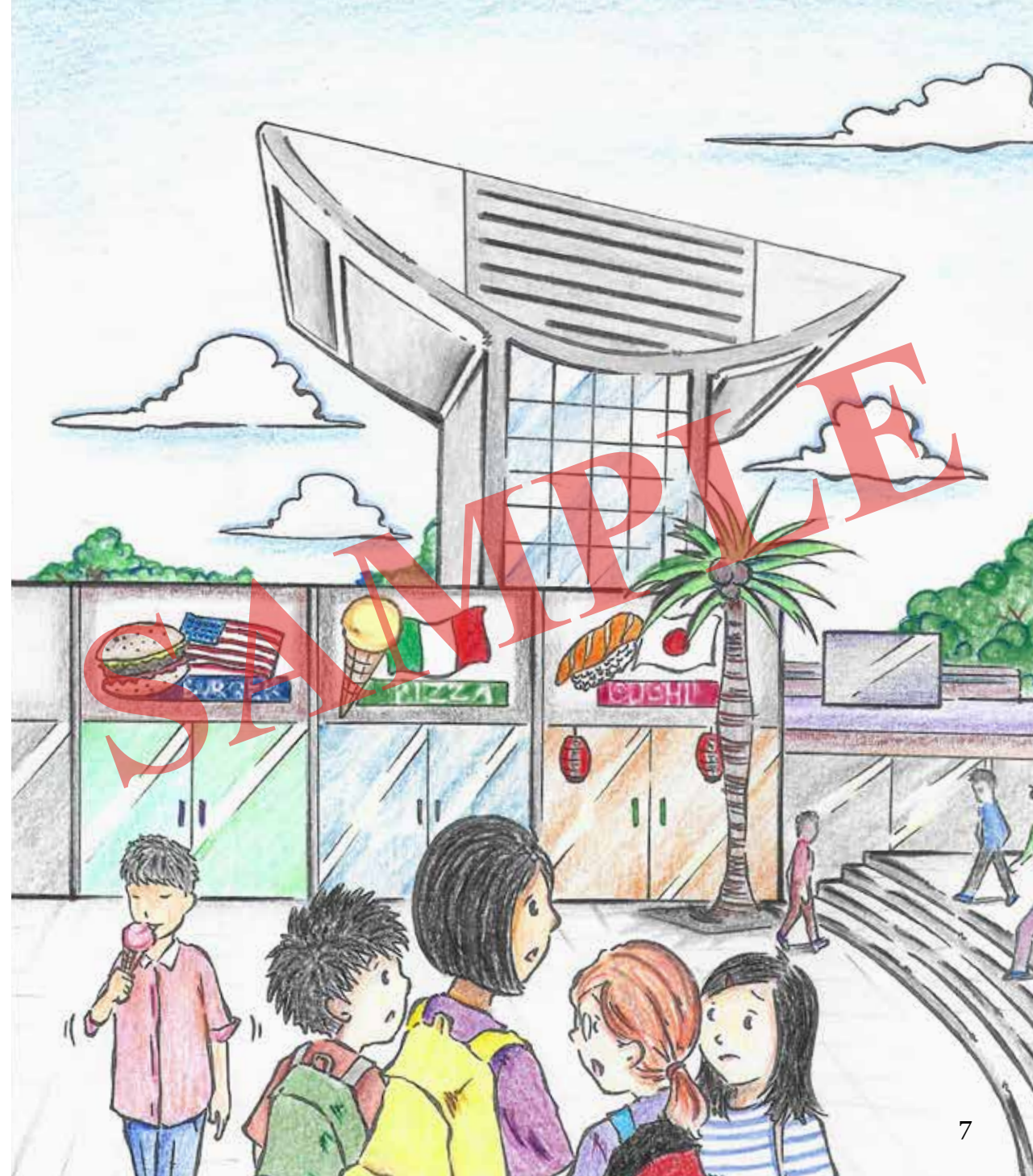


The small group immediately set off in search of a Chinese restaurant. They scoured all the local streets and shopping malls and found American burger bars, Japanese sushi restaurants and Italian ice-cream parlours... but no Chinese restaurants.

“This is crazy,” complained Mum, after they had been looking for almost an hour. “Let’s head back down to Central. There are lots of excellent Chinese restaurants there.”

And Mum was right. When they arrived at Central, they did indeed find many, many Chinese restaurants. Unfortunately, they were all completely full.

By this time, everyone was tired, frustrated, and very hungry.



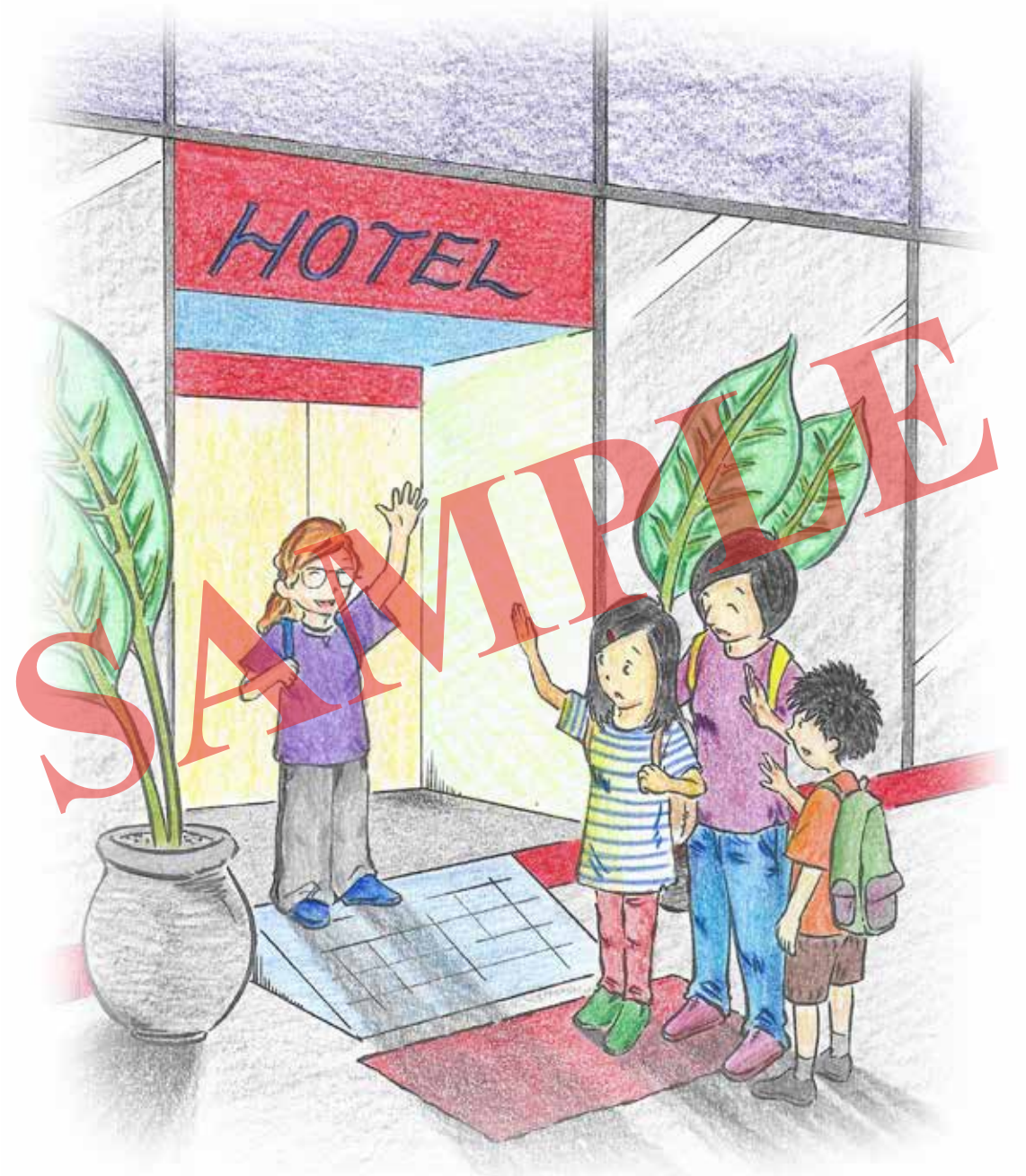
Just then, Kitty had an idea. “I know! Helen should come to our house for dinner tomorrow. That way she can eat the best Chinese food in town.”

Everyone was delighted with this suggestion.

A few hours later, Kitty, Mum and Martin dropped Helen off at her hotel.

“I can’t wait for tomorrow,” said Kitty, as they boarded the bus home. “Now I have to decide what to cook for Helen. It has to be something *really* delicious...”

Suddenly, Martin turned to his sister, “Would it be OK if I cooked something for Helen as well, Kitty?”



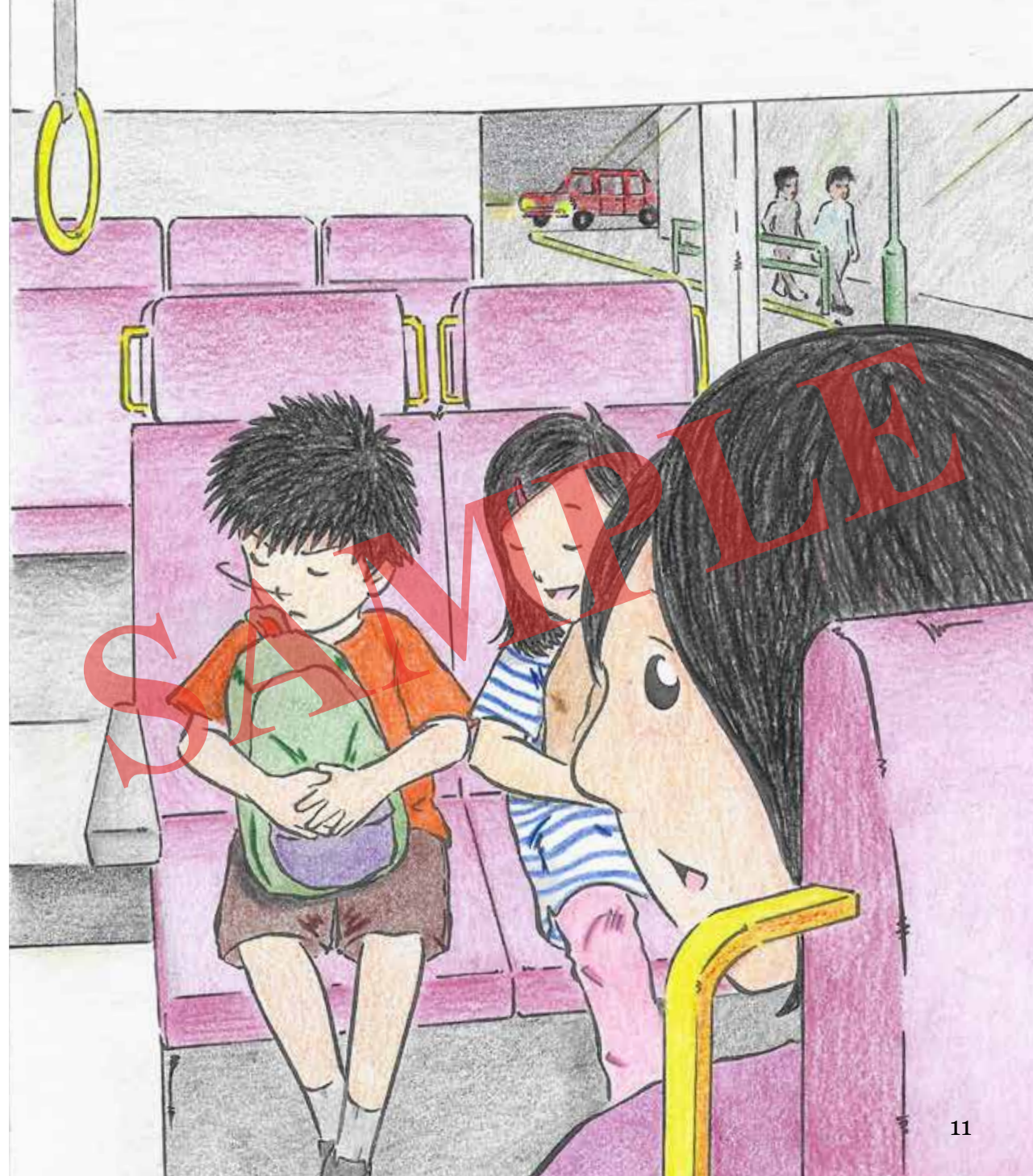
Kitty started laughing. “Oh Martin,” she giggled. “I don’t think that’s a good idea. I’m sure Helen wants to eat something *tasty*.”

Martin felt very hurt by Kitty’s comment. He quickly turned away so his sister couldn’t see his upset face.

But Mum saw.

“I know,” Mum said. “We can *all* cook a different dish for Helen. Dad and Gran as well. And then Helen can choose which one is her favourite. It will be fun.”

“That’s a great idea, Mum.” said Kitty. “A Chinese Banquet for Helen. And my dish will be the best of all!”



The following morning, they went out to buy the ingredients.

“I’ve got everything your Dad and Gran asked for,” said Mum, pushing her trolley. “And I’ve got my stuff, too. How about you guys?”

Kitty’s trolley was even more full than Mum’s.

“Nearly done,” Kitty said. “I just need some chillies, honey, vinegar, peppers, pineapple ...”

Mum rolled her eyes and turned to Martin. She was even more surprised when she saw his trolley.

“Is that it, Martin?” Mum asked. “A box of eggs and a bunch of spring onions?”

Martin simply nodded and smiled.

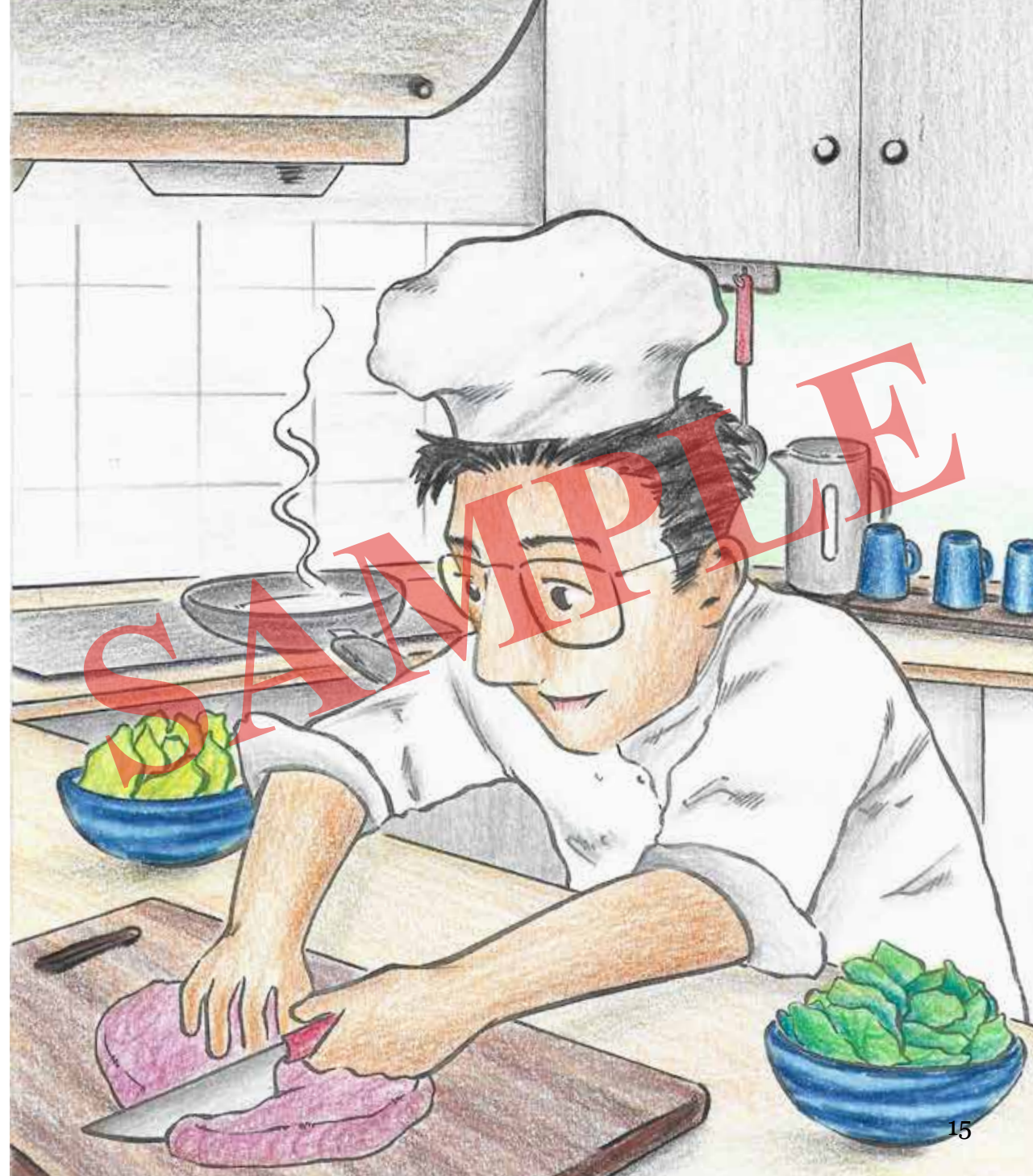


Dad was *very* excited about the cooking competition. He had even put on his chef's uniform – much to the delight of Baby Ping.

“First, wash the vegetables and cut up the meat,” explained Dad. “Then, put everything in the bowl and mix thoroughly. Next, pour on the secret sauce. After that, fry it all up.”

Mum, meanwhile, was so impressed. “You do realize your daughter is only six months old, Tony?” said Mum. “She's got no idea what you're saying.”

“That might be true,” replied Dad. “But it's never too early to learn how to cook.”



After Dad had finished, it was Gran's turn in the kitchen.

Kitty really wanted to see what Gran was cooking. But when she tried to open the kitchen door, nothing happened.

"GRAN!" shouted Kitty. "OPEN THE DOOR!"

Dad looked up from his newspaper. "It's no use," he said. "Gran's locked the door. Apparently, her dish is 'Top Secret!'"

Gran was smiling widely when she finally emerged twenty minutes later.

"All done," she said. "Now it's your turn, Kitty."

Kitty couldn't help feeling nervous as she put on her apron. She really wanted to cook something delicious for Helen.



Kitty had decided to cook Sweet and Sour Pork.

“A spoonful of sweet honey, a dash of sour vinegar, and a handful of spicy chillies,” Kitty said to herself. She had a little taste.

“Hmmm, not salty enough. A teaspoon of soy sauce...now it’s perfect.”

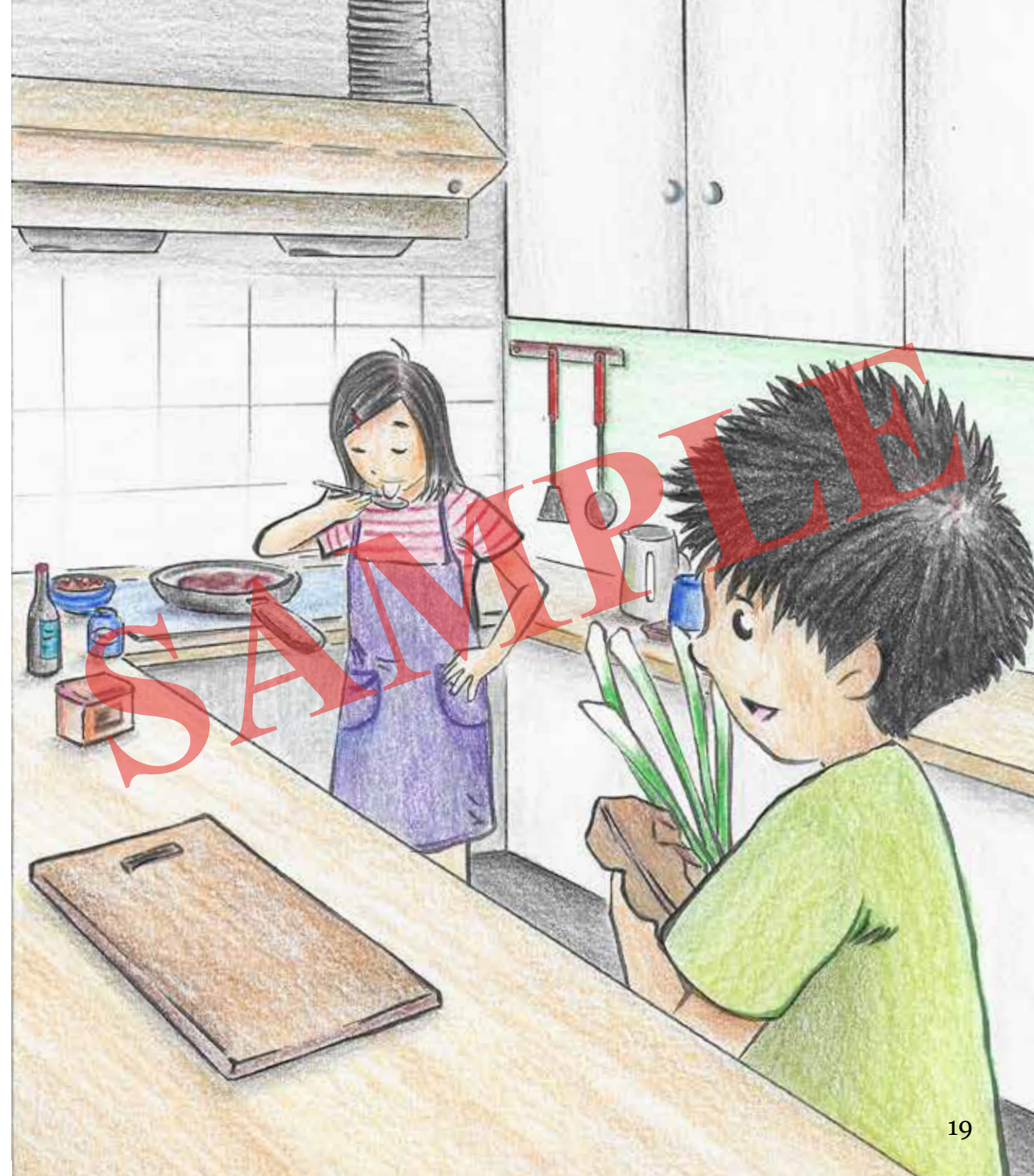
Just then, Martin came into the kitchen.

“Hurry up, Kitty,” Martin said. “Helen will be here soon, and I need to cook my egg-fried rice.”

“Egg-fried rice!” cried Kitty. “What a *boring* dish to choose!”

Martin said nothing.

Ten minutes later, the doorbell rang. Helen had arrived.



Kitty rushed to the front door to greet her friend.

“Helen!” Kitty exclaimed. “Please come in. How was your journey? Did you come by bus or taxi? Let me get your coat. Do sit down...”

“Let the poor girl breathe dear,” said Mum. “Hi Helen. Welcome to our home.”

Helen beamed a huge smile at everyone, handed Mum a small pot plant with a red bow, and sat down on the sofa next to Kitty.

The two girls had a great afternoon together - playing cards, swapping stories, and taking silly photos.

At last, it was time for dinner.



“Everyone’s cooked a different dish,” explained Kitty. “Try a bit of everything... then tell us which one is your favourite.”

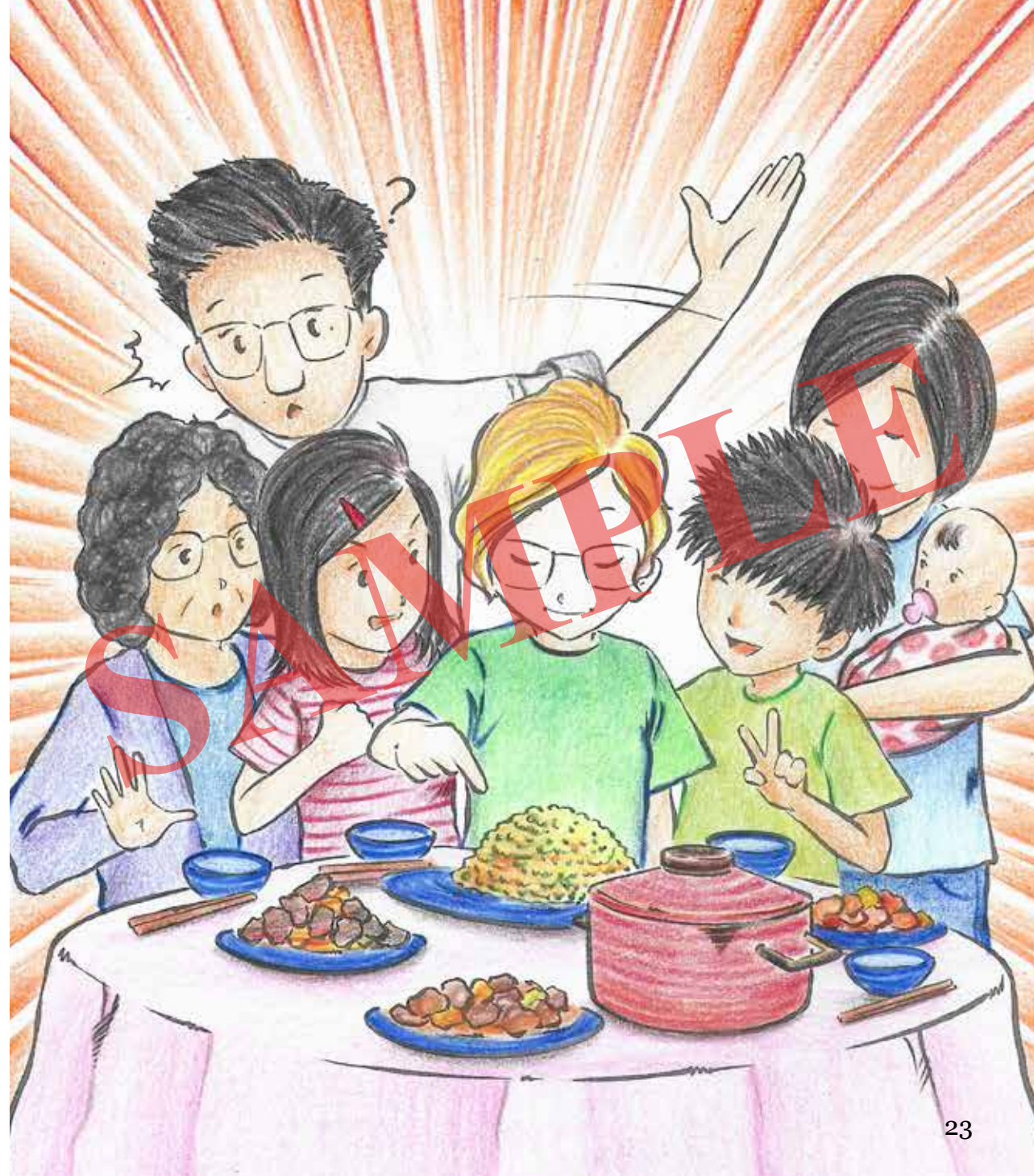
Helen looked at all the dishes: Mum’s Ginger Garlic Chicken, Gran’s Duck Soup, Dad’s Spicy Beef Noodles, Kitty’s Sweet and Sour Pork, and Martin’s Egg Fried Rice.

“Oh dear,” Helen said, looking embarrassed. “I forgot to tell you. I’m a vegetarian. I don’t eat meat... but this Egg Fried Rice looks delicious. I’ll be happy with just that.”

Kitty couldn’t believe it.

But Martin was thrilled.

“Just as I thought,” he exclaimed. “Martin’s Egg Fried Rice is the winner!”



Comprehension of the Story

Put the following sentences about the story into the correct order.



Dad put on his chef's uniform and prepared his dish in the kitchen.



Helen chose Martin's Egg Fried Rice as her favourite dish.



Mum, Kitty and Martin went home by bus.



Kitty told her family that Helen was coming to Hong Kong.



Kitty and Martin prepared their dishes as well.

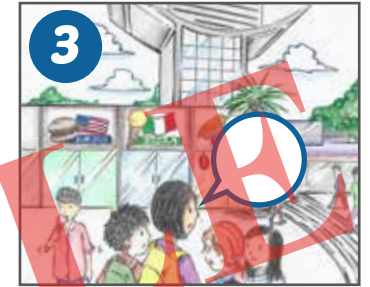


Mum, Kitty, Martin and Helen couldn't find any Chinese restaurants.

1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6.

Natural use of Language

What are the characters from the story saying at these times?



A. "Let's head back down to Central."

B. "Now it's your turn, Kitty."

C. "I've got some *amazing* news!"

D. "Martin's Egg Fried Rice is the winner!"

E. "Is that it, Martin?"

F. "I'd love to eat some *real* Chinese food."

Supplementary Exercise 3

Vocabulary

Find the underlined word in each question.
 What is the **antonym** of this word?
 (An antonym is a word with the *opposite* meaning.)



The rest of the family were almost as **excited** as Kitty.

- (A) Angry
- (B) Bored
- (C) Sad
- (D) Confused



All the restaurants were completely **full**.

- (A) Empty
- (B) Lonely
- (C) Tired
- (D) Expensive



"Helen can eat the **best** Chinese food in town."

- (A) Least
- (B) Worst
- (C) Most
- (D) Smallest



"It's never too **early** to learn how to cook."

- (A) Difficult
- (B) Wrong
- (C) Slow
- (D) Late



"GRAN! **OPEN** THE DOOR!"

- (A) Carry
- (B) Fix
- (C) Close
- (D) Find



"Martin's Egg Fried Rice is the **winner**!"

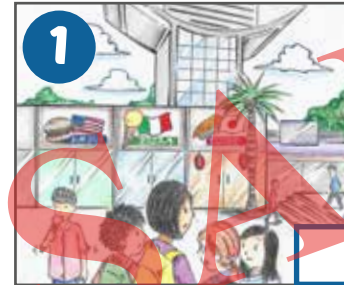
- (A) Loser
- (B) Smaller
- (C) Cheaper
- (D) Older

Supplementary Exercise 4

Grammar

Find the underlined word in each question.
 What type of word is it?

- (A) Noun
- (B) Adjective
- (C) Adverb
- (D) Present Simple Tense Verb
- (E) Past Simple Tense Verb
- (F) Past Continuous Tense Verb



Helen bought **souvenirs** at the Mong Kok markets.



Gran **was smiling** when she came out of the kitchen.



Martin **quickly** turned away from his sister.



"Egg Fried Rice? What a **boring** dish to choose!"



Martin simply **nodded** and smiled.



"**Tell us** which one is your favourite, Helen."

Answers to the Supplementary Exercises

Exercise 1 (1) D (2) F (3) C (4) A (5) E (6) B

Exercise 2 (1) C (2) F (3) A (4) E (5) B (6) D

Exercise 3 (1) B (2) A (3) B (4) D (5) C (6) A

Exercise 4 (1) A (2) C (3) E (4) F (5) B (6) D

Total Number of Words in the Story = 1,064

Target Language (15)

Salty

Sour

Spicy

Sweet

Add

Cut

Fry

Mix

Pour

Wash

First

Next

Then

After that

Finally

Tips for parents and teachers

BEFORE READING

- 1 Look at the front cover. If the child is familiar with this book series, point to Dad and ask 'Who is this?'
- 2 Point to the picture and ask 'Where is Dad? What is Dad doing? Do you like cooking?'
- 3 Point to the picture and ask 'What is Dad's job? Do you think being a chef is hard? Would you like to be a chef?'

WHILE READING

- 1 Pages 2 and 3. Ask 'What are some fun things that Kitty and Helen can do? What are your favourite things to do in Hong Kong?'
- 2 Pages 6 and 7. Say 'They can't find any Chinese restaurants near The Peak, and the Chinese restaurants in Central are all full. What do you think they should do?'
- 3 Pages 10 and 11. Point to the picture and ask 'How does Martin feel now? Why? Do you think Kitty is being nice and kind?'
- 4 Pages 18 and 19. Ask 'Do you like Sweet and Sour Pork? What is your favourite Chinese dish? Do you agree with Kitty that Egg Fried Rice is a boring dish to choose?'

AFTER READING

- 1 In the story, Helen, Kitty, Mum and Martin visit the markets in Mong Kok, ride on the Star Ferry and go to the Peak. Choose one of these activities and do this activity with your family the next time you are all free.
- 2 Kitty, Martin, Mum, Dad, and Gran all cook a different dish for Helen (see page 22 in the story). Choose one of these dishes and search for a recipe for this dish on the internet. Ask an adult if they can help you to cook this dish by yourself at home.

**The Lee Family cook
delicious Chinese
food for Kitty's
pen-friend, Helen.**



Teachers' Note:

The language focus of this book is TASTES, RECIPES, AND SEQUENCERS



Lee family series - Level Three Books

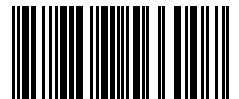
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| 2 The Anniversary Cake | 8 Kitty's Foolish Wish |
| 3 Afternoon Tea | 9 Martin the Detective |
| 4 Kitty's Shopping Trip | 10 The Typhoon Day |
| 5 The School Calendar | 11 The Camping Trip |
| 6 Making the School Video | 12 Secret Santa |

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