

# Our Home Is in the Hills

Story: Khanittha Sakduang

Illustrations: Ekkasit Chuwong





## Local Knowledge Book Series



สำนักงานบริหารและพัฒนาองค์ความรู้ (องค์การมหาชน)

# Our Home Is in the Hills

**Story** Khanitta Sakdoun

**Illustrations** Ekkasit Chuwong

**Project Title** Local Knowledge Book Series

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# Preface

Thailand Knowledge Park (TK park) mission in society is to develop a love of reading and give people equal opportunities to experience modern learning centers which speak to their interests. TK park has been cooperating with local administrators in many regions of Thailand to build living libraries as a way to achieve its mission.

Bringing local knowledge to children, in a modern and fun way, is an important tool to inspire them to read and explore. The idea is to create books which reflect local wisdom, together with morality and ethics, for children aged 4 - 12.

The books in the Mae Hong Son Set were developed by TK park, scholars, and local writers. Children and adults will get to know about the Mae Hong Son and be proud of the unique traditions found there. Moreover, the books also foster better understandings of and tolerant attitudes toward others from different cultures and societies.

TK park hopes the books will be another learning tool to help encourage Thai people to read more and maximize their learning. TK park aims to make the books fun and easy to read. Readers can enjoy them and appreciate their own hometowns, regions, and country.

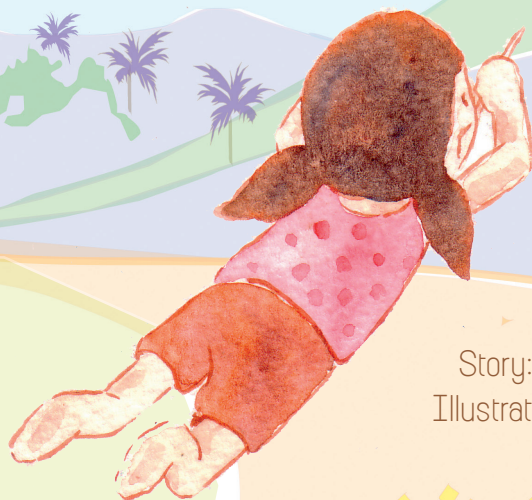
Thailand Knowledge Park







# Our Home Is in the Hills



Story: Khanittha Sakduang  
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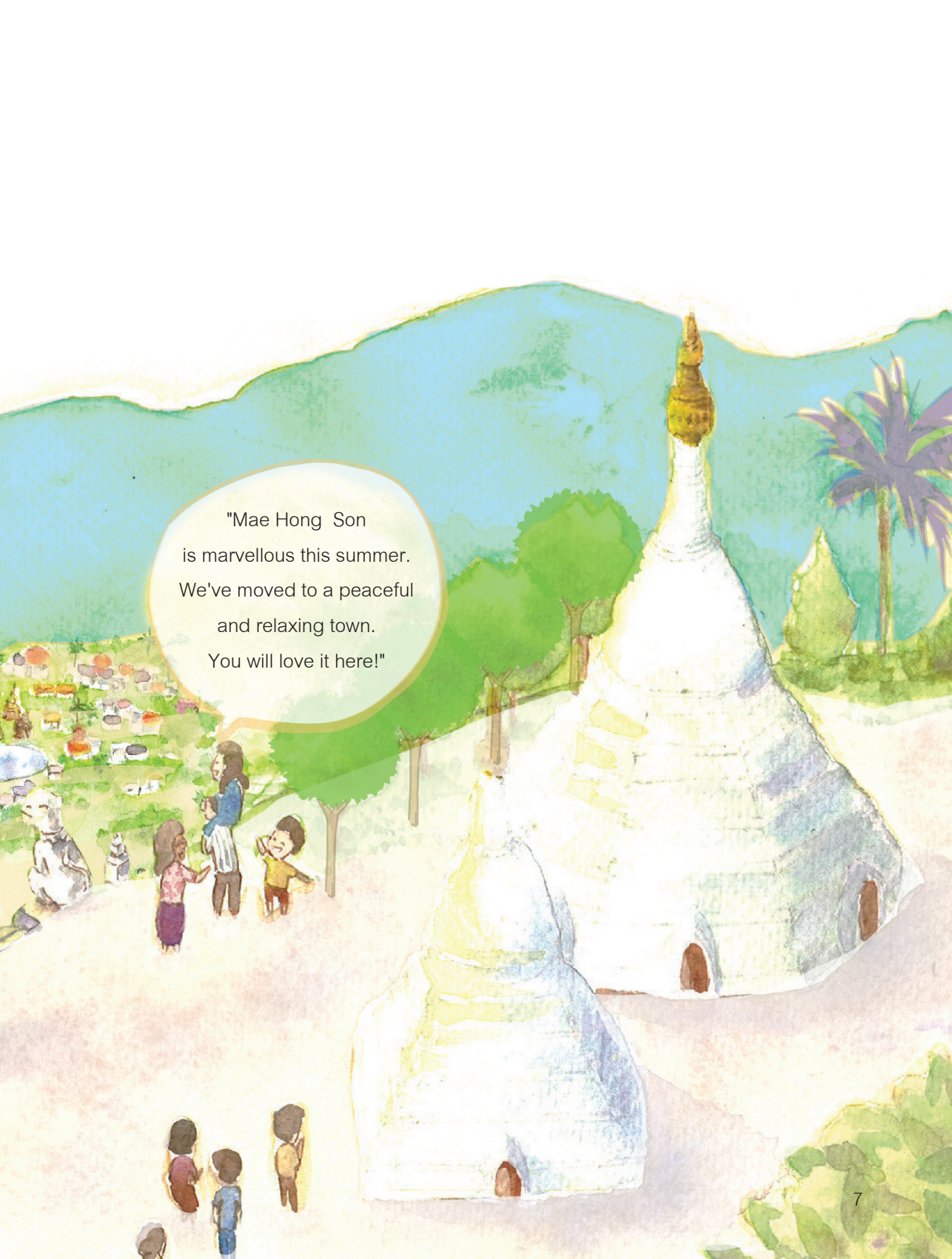
## Mae Hong Son

was full of the cream flowers of the varnish wood trees.

Birds were chirping and cicadas were singing  
as a father was talking to his children.





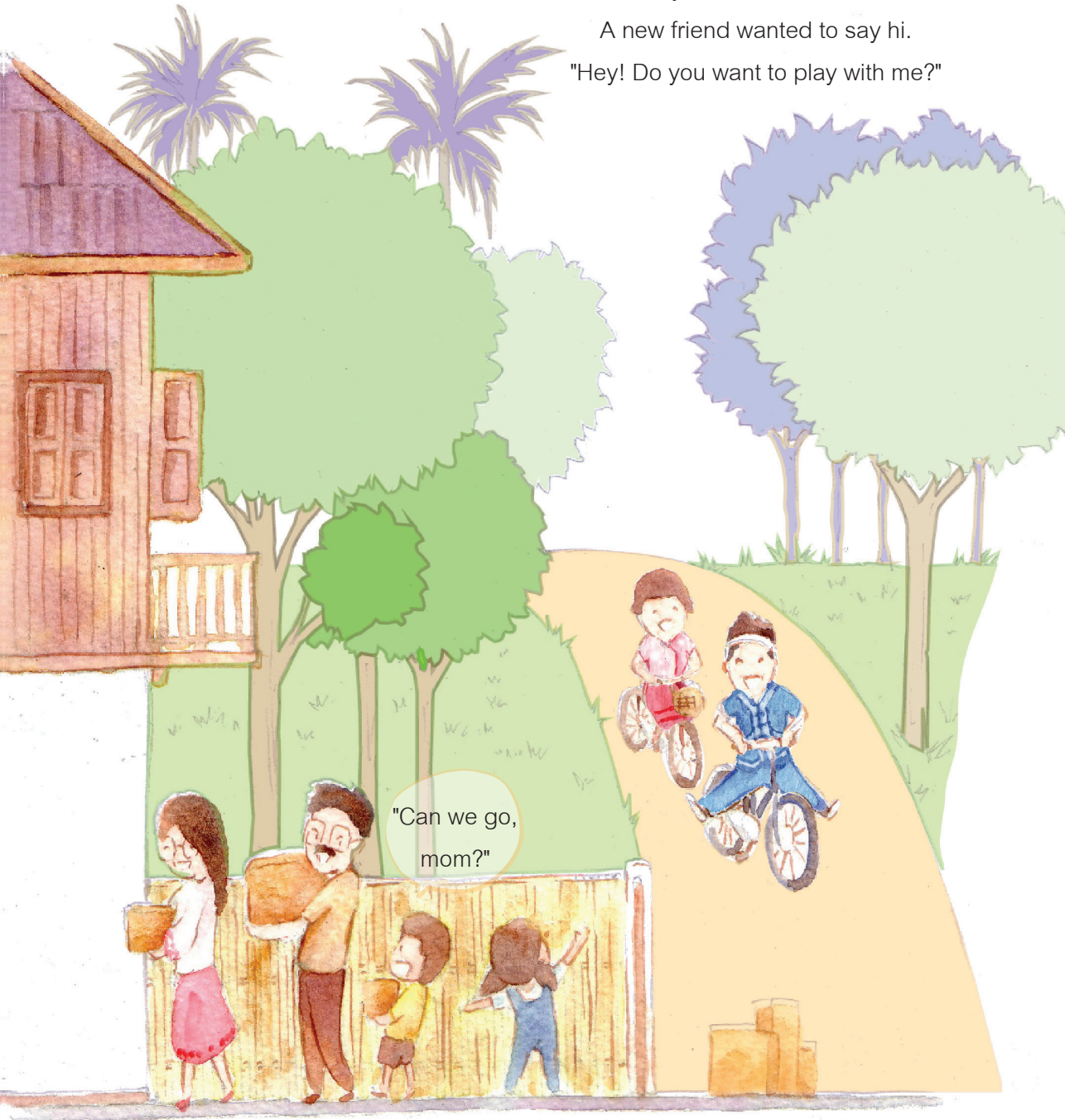


"Mae Hong Son  
is marvellous this summer.  
We've moved to a peaceful  
and relaxing town.  
You will love it here!"

Kaew and Kwan just moved in to their new house.

A new friend wanted to say hi.

"Hey! Do you want to play with me?"





"Yes. But don't  
come back  
late."



"My name is  
Chai Ka Kham.  
This is my sister,  
Nang Saeng Ngoen."



Chai Ka Kham led the group to a beautiful wooden house.

They stopped at Uncle Sang Kham Chang Yot's house.

"There are lots of must-see places.

Chai Ka Kham, you should take them around.

Let's make the most of your one-day trip."

Uncle Sang Kham wished them good luck  
as they said goodbye.









Uncle Rong was the best dressmaker in town,  
Nang Saeng Ngoen's mom confirmed.  
When the children stopped by his place,  
he gave them a special gift.



"These are pins for the new comers.  
And these are for you, the little tour guides."  
The pins Uncle Rong gave them were made  
from cloth he collected.





The children kept biking to Pang Lor Temple.  
They parked their bikes and walked in.



"Good morning Uncle Sang Long!",

Chai Ka Kham and Kwan said.

"What are you doing?", Kwan was curious.

"I'm making Phra Bua Khem. Do you know what it is?",

Uncle Sang Long said to Kwan in his loud voice.



"Phra Bua Khem or Phra Uppakhut was one of the first Buddha images made by human hands.

It was believed that on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the waxing moon, the Shan people call it Peng Put Day, was the day that Phra Uppakhut disguised himself as a novice asking for alms."

The children were excited to hear about Phra Uppakhut.



Mosque



Church



Pang Lor Temple



The children stopped to have snacks and ice cream. On a hot day like this, having ice cream was bliss.

"Oh! There are lots of hats!", Kwan was excited to see the sharp-pointed hats on the wall of the ice cream seller's place.

"Hahaha! They are not just hats! They are Kup!", Chai Ka Kham said to show off a bit.





Flower-patterned  
Kup hat

A La Wa, Tai sweets  
It is made of rice flour  
mixed with coconut milk,  
sugar, little salt, and baked  
until the surface is dark.

"Oh! This is  
so yummy!"





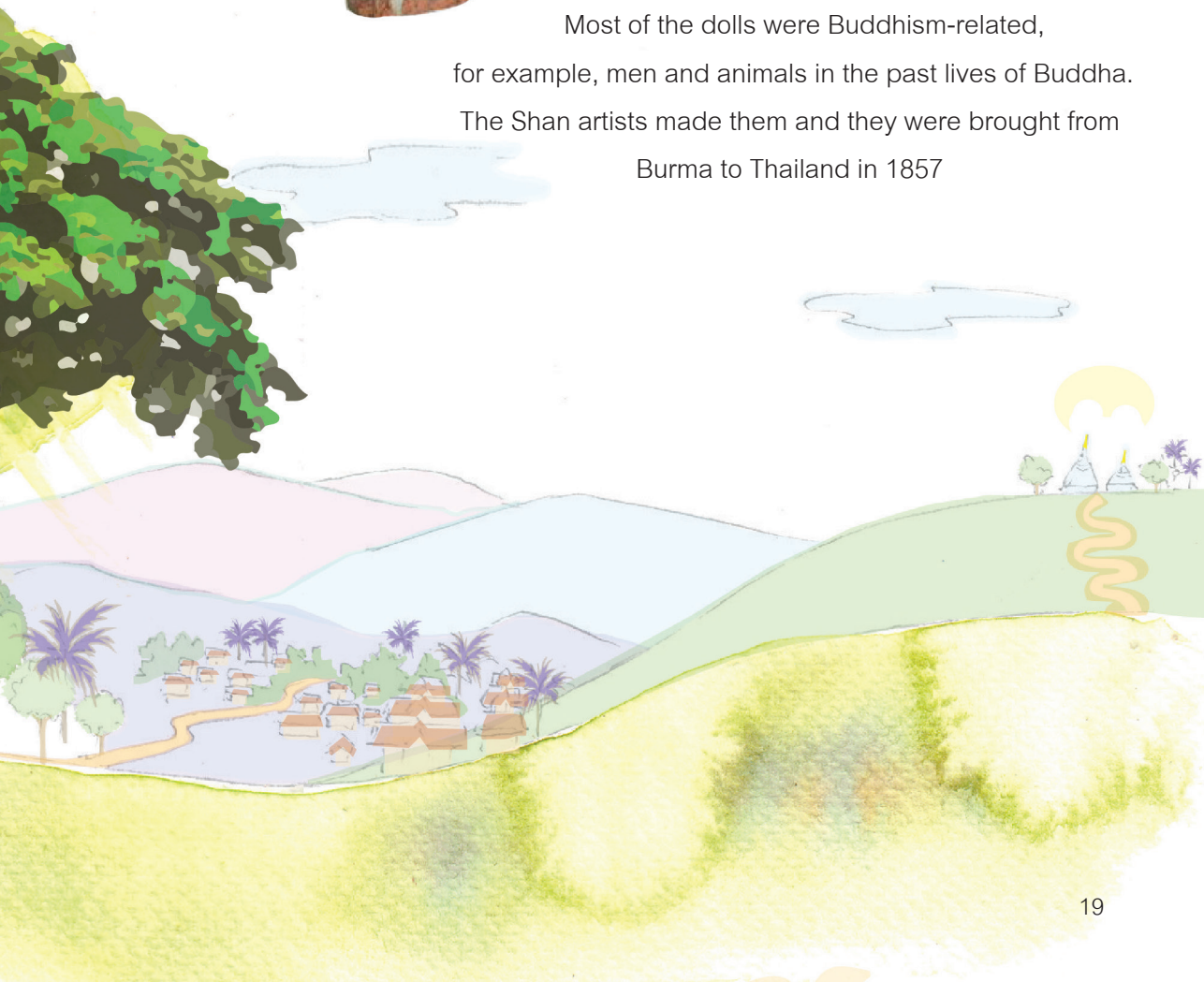
The children regained their energy after having ice cream and snacks. They rushed to the wooden doll museum.

The dolls there were meticulously decorated.

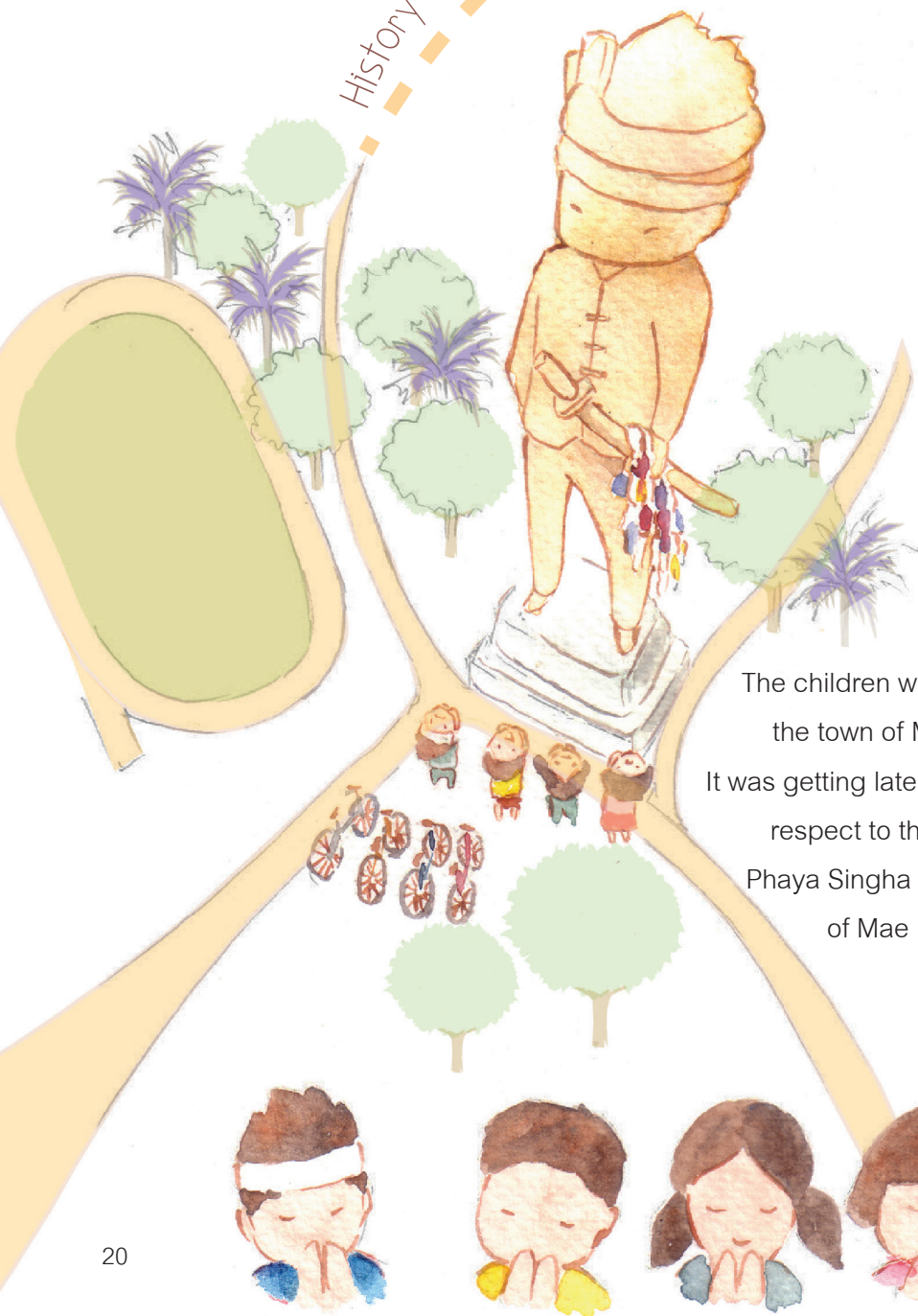




Most of the dolls were Buddhism-related,  
for example, men and animals in the past lives of Buddha.  
The Shan artists made them and they were brought from  
Burma to Thailand in 1857



## History of Our Hometown



The children were biking around the town of Mae Hong Son. It was getting late, so they went to pay respect to the monument of Phaya Singha Nat, the first ruler of Mae Hong Son.







Before going home,

the children stopped to rest at Nong Chong Kham.

The sun was going down--shining its last light on the top of

Phra That Doi Kong Mu, which is highly respected

by the people of Mae Hong Son.





start

To Amphoe  
Pang Mapha  
1095

Pang Lor  
Temple

The Rain Tree  
Tunnel

Mae Hong Son  
Airport

Sai Yut  
Market

The Old  
Market

Hua Wiang  
Temple

The National  
Forest Reserve

Phra That Doi  
Kong Mu Temple

Muay To  
Temple

Phra Non  
Temple

Kam Ko  
Temple

Nong  
Chong Kam

Walking Street

Chong Kam Temple  
Chong Klang Temple

Rubber Trees

Klong Thung  
Temple

Mae Hong Son

King Sihanat  
Monument

Bus Station

The Rain Trees

The Map of  
Mae Hong Son

N.

To Amphoe  
Mae La Noi  
108

## How to Relive "Mae Hong Son Is in the Hills"

After the teacher asks students to read "Mae Hong Son Is in the Hills" on their own, or has them read it together in class, the teacher should encourage students to make connections between what they have read and their daily life. For example, the teacher and students may draft a map of the Shan people's market together.

### Making a Map of the Shan People's Market

The teachers bring pictures of the Shan dishes to class. The teacher may even cook some. Then the teachers ask their students to research about Shan food and diet. Students may interview relatives about it. Students should learn some recipes and how to make some dishes. The teacher may divide the students into groups. The first group explores the Shan people's market near school and maps it. The second group follows the map and asks the sellers about the ingredients of the food and how to make it. Students can brainstorm to make a mind map, a brochure, or a poster, and present it to class.

The activities provide students with hands-on experience. Students get to research, explore, plan, and work together to answer to their questions. Students remember and understand the lessons better when they have hands-on experience.

## Writer: Khanittha Sakduang

Khanittha Sakduang was born in Nakhon Si Thammarat. She went to study at the Faculty of Architecture, Chiang Mai University – after which, she started her career as a community architect. Later she was interested in community service and became an architecture community service group. She is deeply interested in the relationship between humans and nature. Recently, Khanittha founded the 'Little Hum' in Chiang Mai where she is involved in real estate appraisal. She is also an illustrator and a writer.

## Illustrator: Ekkasit Chuwong

Ekkasit Chuwong got his Bachelor degree from the Faculty of Architecture, Chiang Mai University, after which, he started his career as a community architect. Later he got the chance to explore the old communities in Chiang Mai. He is interested in drawing the relationship between humans and community. Recently, Ekkasit, together with Khanittha Sakduang, founded the 'Little Hum Studio' in Chiang Mai where he is involved in real estate appraisal. He is also an illustrator and a graphic designer.



# Local Knowledge Book Series

## Mae Hong Son

