

# Three Seasons in the Foggy Town

Story :

Sakunee Nattapoolwat

Illustrations:

Dhepsiri Sooksopa







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.







# Three Seasons in the Foggy Town



Is it foggy because it is cold or rainy?  
Or is it just someone being dreamy?  
There is a lot to see in Mae Hong Son, the Foggy Town:  
Forests, mountains, and the clouds.

Story :

**Sakunee Nattapoolwat**

Illustrations:

**Dhepsiri Sooksopa**



# Summertime

It's orange everywhere.

It's sunny here and there.

That's the Poi Sang Long parade.

Faith in Buddhism never fades.









# Mae Rong, Mae Hong, Mae Hong Son



Mae Hong Son is located in a mountainous area where there was a forest full of elephants. The ruler of Chiang Mai sent his men to capture the elephants. They tamed and trained the elephants for a year before they returned. There was a river nearby where people bathed in and rested beside.



The forest became a classroom where the people learned from each other.

The people and the elephants created a community called Mae Rong Son.

The people settled down and the community has grown to be **Mae Hong Son**, where we live.





# the Forst/ Flower/ Insect



The forest in Mae Hong Son is vast and green. There are lots of flowers, insects, and plants. Mae Hong Son is known for having the largest expanse of forest in Thailand. In the dry season, Mae Hong Son is full of the cream flowers of the varnish wood trees.



There used to be the thunderous sound of cicadas echoing in the forest. Children collected them for fun. The cicadas have light and transparent wings, which make them fly swiftly. The cicadas told us that summer was coming.





# Poi Sang Long

Poi Sang Long is a tradition of the Shan People, whereby boys become novice monks for the summer. Poi Sang Long is also called the ordination of 'Luk Kaew' (novice monks). It lasts for three days.

On the first day is called Ao Sang Long, the novice monks receive blessings. On the second day is Kham Khak, they visit their relatives who welcome the novice monks by dancing to music in a parade.

On the third day is Kham Sang, there is the ordination ceremony and the boys officially become novice monks

Luk Kaew



Kup



It is usually hot during the ceremony. The people of Mae Hong Son like to wear hats called 'Kup.'







Kaoyaku

## The Signature Desserts of Poi Sang Long

During Poi Sang Long, the children get to eat traditional desserts called **Kaotaekpan** and **Kaopongto**.



### Kaopongto

Knead the dough and form it into a thin sheet. Cut the sheet into 1-inch square pieces and left to dry in the sun. After that, they are fried with sugarcane.



Kaopongto

### Kaotaekpan

Kaotaekpan is made of sticky rice husks put in a clay pot, heated and stirred until they pop. Then mixed with sugar cane and formed into sweet little, fist-sized balls.



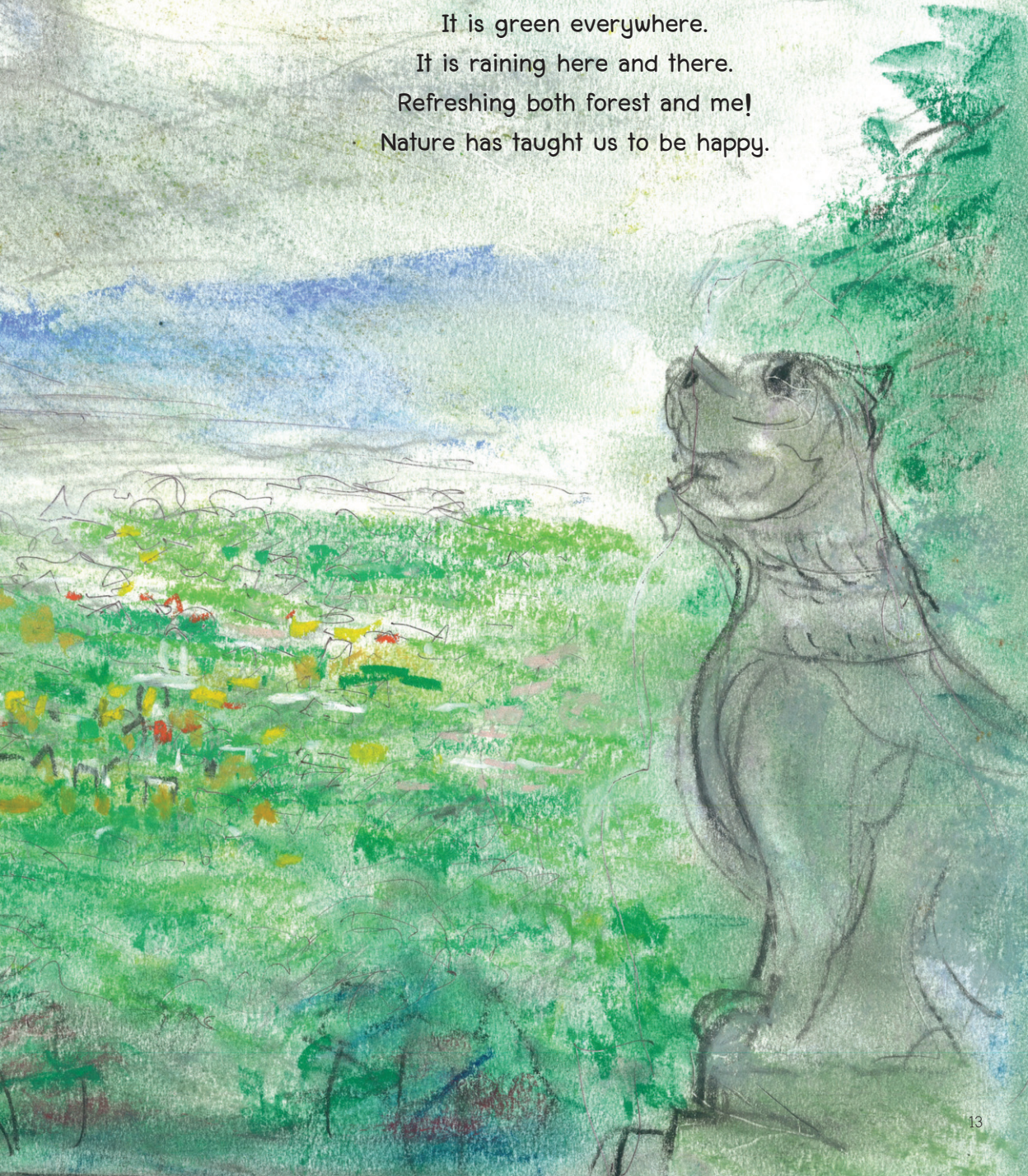






# The Rainy Season

It is green everywhere.  
It is raining here and there.  
Refreshing both forest and me!  
Nature has taught us to be happy.







## The Rain Makes Trees Grow

Children are happy to play in the rain. Farmers are starting to sow. People gather foodstuffs and medicine from the forest. Mae Hong Son is lively in the rainy season.



Look at the green fields  
of Doi Kong Mu!  
We pay respect to the  
sacred relics of Lord  
Buddha and get a  
bird's-eye view of the town.  
What do you see?

The rainy season gets the farmers moving. As they reap and sow, they are smiling. The rainy season makes everyone happy. They reap their crops to sell and support their families.







# The Crops of the Rainy Season

When it rains, the sleeping seeds crack-open and begin to grow.

## Tong Tueng

Tong Tueng trees grow in the forests of Mae Hong Son. They have large green leaves.



Green leaves are used to wrap food at the market. Dry leaves are matted to make thatch for the roof.



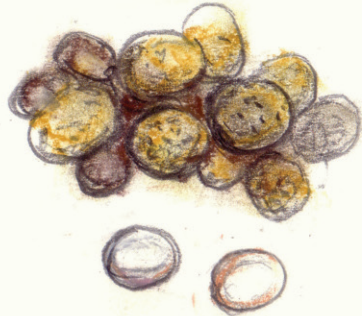
There are a lot of treasures in the forest.

There is always food hidden somewhere. That's a mushroom.

This is a bamboo shoot.

That's fern.

These are Mafais.





# Winter

Here comes winter.

In the mountains there are lots of flowers.

We believe the Buddha will descend.

We welcome him in a line that never ends.









# Mae Hong Son the Foggy City

Mae Hong Son is a cold town.

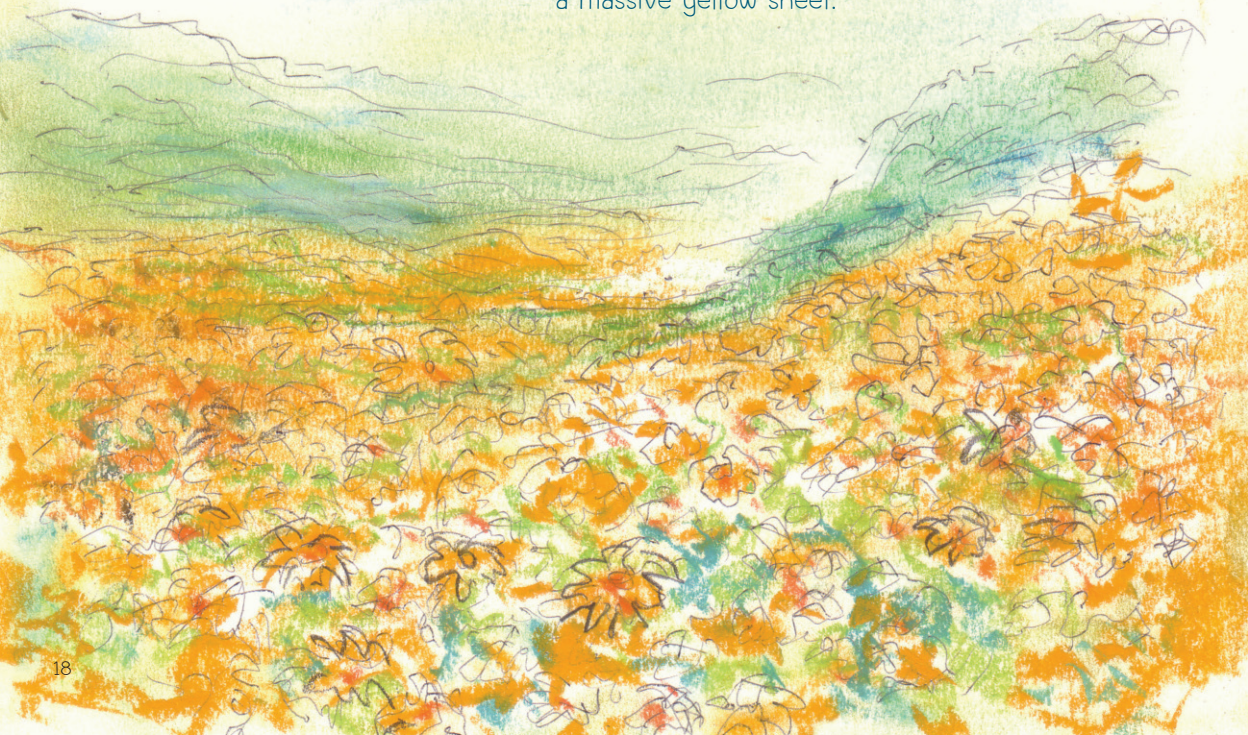
It is foggy year round.

The white fog covers everything.

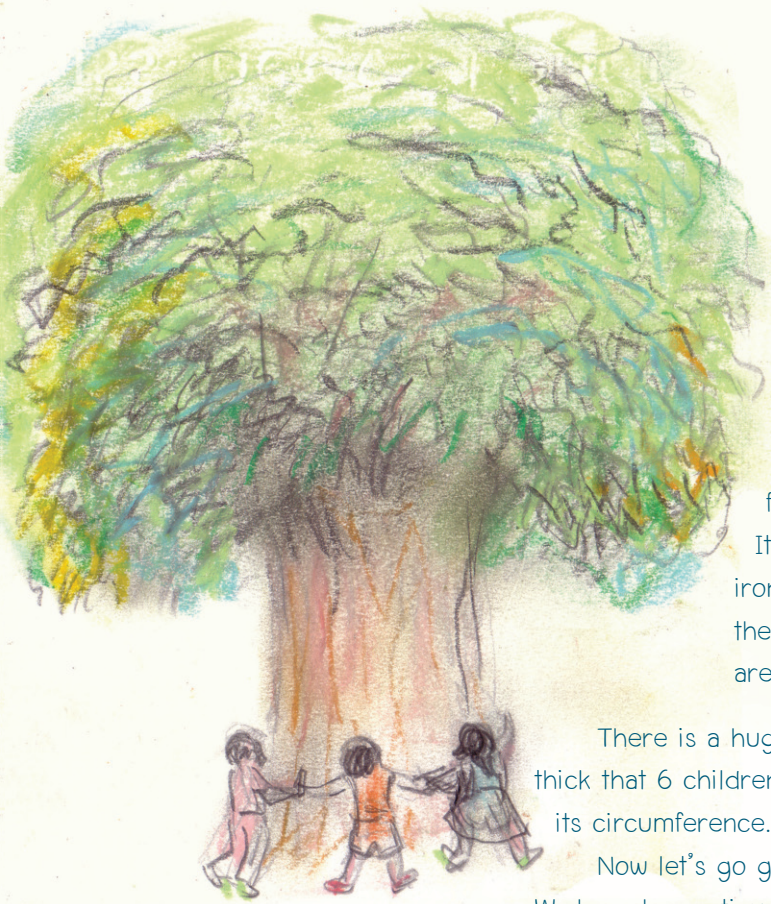


Although it is cold, nature does not freeze.

The tree marigolds are blooming in  
a massive yellow sheet.







## Kamko



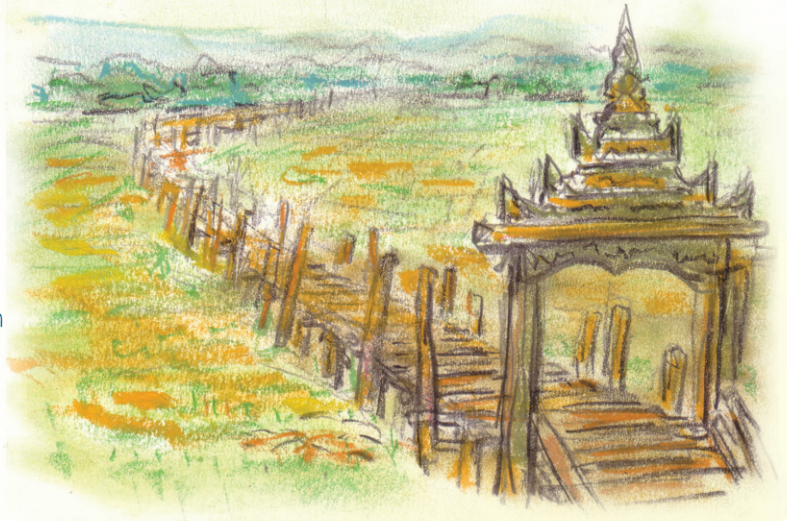
The flower which represents the people of Mae Hong Son's faith in Buddhism is ironwood. It is called Kamko in Thai. The ironwood trees are huge and the white ironwood flowers are everywhere.

There is a huge ironwood tree which is so thick that 6 children holding hands cannot match its circumference. It is almost 200 years old.

Now let's go give "Grandpa Kamko" a hug. We hope he continues to support us for a long time.

## Su Tong Pae

Su Tong Pae Bridge is the bamboo bridge of hope and prayers. People built it to help the monks to go between their temple and the village.



Laew

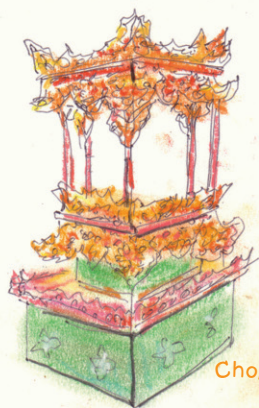
There is a kind of toad called "Laew" which is only found in the forests in Mae Hong Son. Now the number of the toads is decreasing. They have become an endangered species.



# Poi Loen October

## Chong Para (The Buddha's Castle)

There are four types of castles. The first type is called Chong Yot or Phrasat (castles), which are built by experts and are located at temples or villages. The second type is Chong Ko, which are located at temples or at high-ranking persons' homes. The third and the fourth type, Chong Pitan and Chong Phasan, are located at commoners' houses.



In the evening, the people go to the market to buy food to be put in a "Koksomto", which is a basket made of banana leaves. People offer it to the Buddha in the castle. They use candles and incense sticks to pay respect to the Buddha. They believe their Buddha will bless them all.



Kaoyaku is a snack made from sticky rice. The people of Mae Hong Son make kaoyaku during Poi Lu in February.





### Kaking Kala and Kato Dance

The Shan people believe that animals are so happy to welcome the Buddha, they dance! The Kaking Kala and Kato Dances imitate the dancing of the animals in the mythical Himmaphan Forest.

#### Kaking Kala

Kaking kala imitates the Kinnari Dance.



#### Kato Dance

**Ka** means dancing, and **To** is an animal in the mythical Himmaphan Forest. The Kato dance has two people doing the dance.



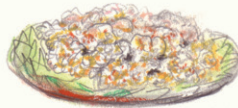




## Traveling in Mae Hong Son



- ✿ Prepare for the sweetness of Kaopongto and Kaotaekpan on Poi Sang Long. Let's try Kaoyaku on Poi Lu in February.



- ✿ Between late February and early March, visit Kamko Temple and see ironwood flowers. The Shan people believe the ironwood flower is a sacred flower, which gives them prosperity.



- ✿ During Poiloen in October, let's go see each castle. We will have a lot of fun.

- ✿ Get a bird's-eye view of the town on Doi Kong Mu. The town looks different in each season.







## How to Use Local Knowledge Documentary Books in an Inquiry-based Classroom

How to Use Three Seasons in the Foggy Town in an Inquiry-based Classroom

Inquiry-based learning encourages students to question, investigate, and experiment to fill in their knowledge gaps and solve problems. They will understand the matter more deeply because they have a chance to analyze and think critically, through observation and investigation.

**1. Engage** The teacher leads a discussion about the weather patterns in students' hometowns and presents the book to students. Then the teacher divides the students into three groups: summertime, rainy season, and winter. Each group studies the traditions & cultures surrounding the change of season in their hometowns.

**2. Explore** The teacher introduces tools students can use to investigate their surroundings. Students may seek out-and-out experts, take notes, draw pictures, record video clips, or take pictures. The teacher should have timelines for each activity.

**3. Explain** When students have gathered enough information, the teacher can have them draw conclusions. They may do individual or group presentations.

**4. Elaborate** In this phase, students link what they have learned to what they already know, and apply the information to new situations. The teacher may encourage students to retell the story from different perspectives. For example, they may write a book or record a video clip.

**5. Evaluate** The final phase provides an opportunity for students to evaluate the extent of what they have learned.



### Sakunee Nattapoolwat

Sakunee Nattapoolwat earned a Bachelor of Science (Agriculture) and a Master of Arts (Human Environmental Management) from Chiang Mai University. She started to write and edit professionally, as an editorial team member at Baan Lae Suan Magazine. Later, she became a research assistant. Her interests are shifting to cultivation, minorities, and highland agricultural systems.

In 1999, she founded a book store called "Ran Lao" in Chiang Mai City. It is one of the first alternative book stores which organizes activities to enhance reading.

#### Books:

- ✱ Everyday Is a Fun Day, Local Knowledge Document Books: Yala Set, by TK park
- ✱ A book about prisoners in the Kamlangchai (willpower) project under the Royal Patronage of HRH Princess Patchara Kitayapha
- ✱ With You Magazine by UNHCR
- ✱ Independent Bookstores, a book by National Health System Reform Office (HSRO)

### Dhepsiri Sooksopa

Dhepsiri Sooksopa is a writer and an illustrator. He was born in Sukhothai Province in 1936. He studied with Silpa Bhirasri at Silpakorn University. Dhepsiri loves drawing or the people he likes. He was born an artist. He has been working with art for more than 50 years.

Dhepsiri is an outstanding impressionist artist of Thailand. He has his own gallery in Chiang Mai.

#### Books:

- Khon Hok Khon (Six People)
- Rian Sin (Studying Arts)
- Khon Wat Phaprakop (An Illustrator)
- Khonglen Doenthang (Traveling Toys)
- Rang Phra Ruang (The Avatar of Phra Ruang)
- Bueng Ya Pa Yai (A Field and a Forest)
- Kwam Khaochao Kiawkap Sinlapa (Understanding Arts)





## Local Knowledge Book Series Mae Hong Son

