## 简介 Introduction

Chinese idioms are set phrases which normally consist of four characters. They have evolved over thousands of years and make the Chinese language richer and more colourful. Most Chinese idioms originate from myths, fables and historical events. As a result, they do not conform to modern Chinese grammatical structure or syntax; normally they are very concise and abbreviated. They aim to convey the moral behind the story instead of narrating the story itself. A Chinese idiom story will not only tell you the meaning of a phrase, but will also help you to learn more about Chinese culture. The example sentences in this book show how idioms are used in context. Have fun!

zhāo sān mù

# 朝三暮四

#### Three at Dawn and Four at Dusk

Meaning

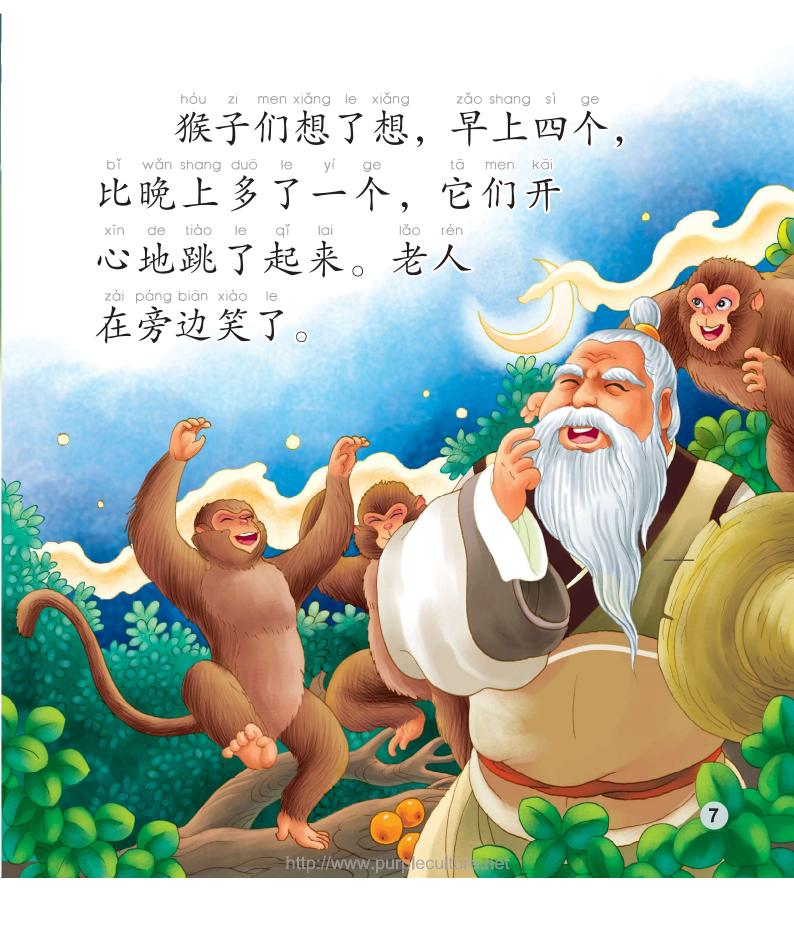
The idiom originally means to fool others by playing tricks. It later extends to mean changing one's mind frequently.

Example 小明这个人朝三暮四,今天想学画 画儿,明天又想学音乐。





lǎo rén xiǎng le xiǎng jiù shuō zhè yàng 老人想了想,就说: "这样 这样 wǒ měi tiān zǎo shang gěi nǐ men sì ge wǎn shang 吧,我每天早上给你们四个,晚上 gěi nǐ men sān ge hǎo bu hǎo 给你们三个,好不好?"



#### 词语表 Vo

### Vocabulary

1. 朝 zhāo dawn, morning

2. 暮 mù dusk, evening

3. 每天 měi tiān every day

4. 果子 guǒzi fruit

5. 却 què but

6. 越来越 yuèláiyuè more and more

7. 张开 zhāngkāi to open

8. 露出 lùchū to show

9. 这样 zhèyàng this way

10. 起来 qǐlai used after a verb to indicate an upward movement



shuľ zhōng lāo yuè

## 水中捞月

### The Monkey Attempts to Scoop up the Moon

Meaning

a fruitless attempt

Example

不读书,却想上好的大学,就等于 水中捞月。



lǎo hóu zi yì tái tóu kàn jiàn yuè liang hái zài 老猴子一抬头,看见月亮还在tiān shang shuō shuō bú yòng le bú yòng le yuè 天上,说:"不用了!不用了!月liang zài tiān shang ne 亮在天上呢!"

jiù zài zhè shí shù zhī duàn le hóu zi men 就在这时,树枝断了,猴子们 dōu diào dào shuǐ li qu le 都掉到水里去了。

