

## CHINESE ANIMAL YEARS

Chinese folklore says that all the animals were invited to visit Buddha, a wise, revered teacher. When only twelve animals arrived, they were honored by having a year named after each one.

My birth year is in the year of the ox, but I wish I were in the year of the rabbit. Have fun matching up your family with the animal that goes with the year they were born.

### WHO IS MEI-MEI?

Stephanie Hsu, a young pianist from Boston inspired the pictures I painted of Mei-Mei. Even though Stephanie has never lived on a farm, she knew just how to communicate with my hen Pansy. She lived in Hong Kong, China when she was little.



### FISHING BIRDS

On the Lijiang River, fishermen glide on thin bamboo rafts, fishing with the help of their trained cormorants. The cormorants swim under water and catch a fish in their beaks. They can't swallow the fish because of a band on their necks. The cormorants give the fish to the fishermen in exchange for a tidbit, perhaps the tail of the fish.

