# Bāozi for the boy upstairs, a Chinese short story for HSK 2

A thin young man moves in upstairs, lives alone and leaves before five every morning. Sūn Lán decides he needs her bāozi. What will he say?

你喜欢吃包子吗？我有一个包子的故事！
Nǐ xǐhuan chī bāozi ma? Wǒ yǒu yí ge bāozi de gùshi!
*Do you like bāozi? I have a bāozi story!*

上个月，楼上搬来了一个小伙子。他一个人住，很瘦。
Shàng ge yuè, lóushàng bānláile yí ge xiǎohuǒzi. Tā yí ge rén zhù, hěn shòu.
*Last month a young man moved in upstairs. He lives alone, and he is very thin.*

他每天早上不到五点就出门，天还没亮。回来的时候，他特别累。
Tā měi tiān zǎoshang bú dào wǔ diǎn jiù chūmén, tiān hái méi liàng. Huílai de shíhou, tā tèbié lèi.
*Every morning he goes out before five, when it is still dark. When he comes home, he is very tired.*

我想：这孩子真可怜，没人给他做饭。我就做了包子，给他送了十个。
Wǒ xiǎng: zhè háizi zhēn kělián, méi rén gěi tā zuò fàn. Wǒ jiù zuòle bāozi, gěi tā sòngle shí ge.
*I thought: poor boy, nobody cooks for him. So I made bāozi and took him ten.*

他开了门，看着包子看了很久。你猜，他说了什么？
Tā kāile mén, kànzhe bāozi kànle hěn jiǔ. Nǐ cāi, tā shuōle shénme?
*He opened the door and looked at the bāozi for a long time. Guess what he said?*

他说：“哦……包子。谢谢阿姨。”他看起来不太高兴。我想：这孩子不好意思。
Tā shuō: “Ò…… bāozi. Xièxie āyí.” Tā kàn qǐlai bú tài gāoxìng. Wǒ xiǎng: zhè háizi bù hǎoyìsi.
*He said: “Oh... bāozi. Thank you, āyí.” He didn't look very happy. I thought: the boy is shy.*

第二天我问：“好吃吗？”他说：“很好吃。”我就又做了十个。
Dì èr tiān wǒ wèn: “Hǎochī ma?” Tā shuō: “Hěn hǎochī.” Wǒ jiù yòu zuòle shí ge.
*The next day I asked: “Were they good?” He said: “Very good.” So I made ten more.*

后来，我每天都给他送包子。他每天都说：“谢谢阿姨。真的，不用了。”
Hòulái, wǒ měi tiān dōu gěi tā sòng bāozi. Tā měi tiān dōu shuō: “Xièxie āyí. Zhēn de, bú yòng le.”
*After that I took him bāozi every day. Every day he said: “Thank you, āyí. Really, you don't have to.”*

我说：“要的！你看你，太瘦了！”
Wǒ shuō: “Yào de! Nǐ kàn nǐ, tài shòu le!”
*I said: “Oh yes I do! Look at you, you're too thin!”*

我老伴儿说：“他可能不喜欢吃包子。”我说：“大家都喜欢我的包子。”
Wǒ lǎobànr shuō: “Tā kěnéng bù xǐhuan chī bāozi.” Wǒ shuō: “Dàjiā dōu xǐhuan wǒ de bāozi.”
*My husband said: “Maybe he doesn't like bāozi.” I said: “Everyone likes my bāozi.”*

两个星期以后，我和老伴儿去了公园旁边一个新开的包子店。大家都说那儿的包子特别好吃。
Liǎng ge xīngqī yǐhòu, wǒ hé lǎobànr qùle gōngyuán pángbiān yí ge xīn kāi de bāozi diàn. Dàjiā dōu shuō nàr de bāozi tèbié hǎochī.
*Two weeks later, my husband and I went to a new bāozi shop next to the park. Everyone says its bāozi are very good.*

很多人在排队。我们也排了半个小时。
Hěn duō rén zài páiduì. Wǒmen yě páile bàn ge xiǎoshí.
*Lots of people were standing in line. We stood in line too, for half an hour.*

坐下以后，我往厨房里看了看。你猜，我看见了什么？
Zuòxià yǐhòu, wǒ wǎng chúfáng li kànle kàn. Nǐ cāi, wǒ kànjiànle shénme?
*When we sat down, I looked into the kitchen. Guess what I saw?*

楼上的小伙子！他穿着白衣服，在做包子，做得特别快。
Lóushàng de xiǎohuǒzi! Tā chuānzhe bái yīfu, zài zuò bāozi, zuò de tèbié kuài.
*The young man from upstairs! He was dressed in white, making bāozi, very fast.*

他也看见了我。他的脸一下子红了。他走了过来。
Tā yě kànjiànle wǒ. Tā de liǎn yíxiàzi hóng le. Tā zǒule guòlai.
*He saw me too. His face turned red. He came over to us.*

他说：“阿姨，我在这儿每天做两千个包子。早上五点就开始。”
Tā shuō: “Āyí, wǒ zài zhèr měi tiān zuò liǎng qiān ge bāozi. Zǎoshang wǔ diǎn jiù kāishǐ.”
*He said: “Āyí, I make two thousand bāozi here every day. I start at five in the morning.”*

我问：“那你为什么每天都要我的包子？”他说：“您每次都那么高兴，我不好意思说不要。”
Wǒ wèn: “Nà nǐ wèi shénme měi tiān dōu yào wǒ de bāozi?” Tā shuō: “Nín měi cì dōu nàme gāoxìng, wǒ bù hǎoyìsi shuō bú yào.”
*I asked: “Then why did you take my bāozi every day?” He said: “You always looked so happy. I couldn't say no.”*

我真不好意思！两个星期的包子，送给一个每天做包子的人！
Wǒ zhēn bù hǎoyìsi! Liǎng ge xīngqī de bāozi, sòng gěi yí ge měi tiān zuò bāozi de rén!
*I felt so embarrassed! Two weeks of bāozi, for a boy who makes bāozi all day!*

可是，他还是太瘦了，还是一个人住。
Kěshì, tā háishi tài shòu le, háishi yí ge rén zhù.
*But he is still too thin, and he still lives alone.*

所以，我现在不给他送包子了。我给他送饺子。
Suǒyǐ, wǒ xiànzài bù gěi tā sòng bāozi le. Wǒ gěi tā sòng jiǎozi.
*So now I don't take him bāozi anymore. I take him dumplings.*

## Words in the story

包子
bāozi
*bāozi, steamed buns with a filling*

楼上
lóushàng
*upstairs*

搬来
bānlái
*to move in*

小伙子
xiǎohuǒzi
*young man*

瘦
shòu
*thin*

不到五点
bú dào wǔ diǎn
*before five*

天还没亮
tiān hái méi liàng
*it isn't light yet*

可怜
kělián
*poor (to be pitied)*

阿姨
āyí
*auntie: how young people call an older woman*

不好意思
bù hǎoyìsi
*shy, embarrassed; too shy to*

送
sòng
*to take (something to someone), to give*

不用了
bú yòng le
*you don't have to, no need*

老伴儿
lǎobànr
*husband or wife (how older people say it)*

排队
páiduì
*to stand in line*

厨房
chúfáng
*kitchen*

一下子
yíxiàzi
*all at once*

饺子
jiǎozi
*dumplings*

**Hear this story from an AI chatbot:** kotokin.com/learn/chinese/stories/baozi-for-the-boy-upstairs