Dad's fish, a Chinese short story for HSK 1

Every Sunday, Hán Tāo's dad goes fishing and comes home with one big fish. Never two, never none. Why always one?

你喜欢钓鱼吗？我有一个爸爸钓鱼的故事！
Nǐ xǐhuan diào yú ma? Wǒ yǒu yí ge bàba diào yú de gùshi!
Do you like fishing? I have a story about my dad and fishing!

我小时候，爸爸很爱钓鱼。每个星期天早上，他都去河边。
Wǒ xiǎoshíhou, bàba hěn ài diào yú. Měi ge xīngqītiān zǎoshang, tā dōu qù hébiān.
When I was little, my dad loved fishing. Every Sunday morning he went to the river.

每个星期天晚上，他都带回来一条大鱼。
Měi ge xīngqītiān wǎnshang, tā dōu dài huílai yì tiáo dà yú.
Every Sunday evening he brought home one big fish.

他说："看！我钓的！"妈妈做鱼，我们一起吃，非常好吃。
Tā shuō: "Kàn! Wǒ diào de!" Māma zuò yú, wǒmen yìqǐ chī, fēicháng hǎochī.
He said: "Look! I caught it!" Mom cooked the fish and we ate it together. It was very good.

可是有一件事很奇怪：每个星期天都是一条鱼，不多也不少。为什么呢？
Kěshì yǒu yí jiàn shì hěn qíguài: měi ge xīngqītiān dōu shì yì tiáo yú, bù duō yě bù shǎo. Wèi shénme ne?
But one thing was strange: every Sunday it was one fish. Not more, not less. Why?

我问爸爸："为什么每次都是一条？"他说："一条就够了。"
Wǒ wèn bàba: "Wèi shénme měi cì dōu shì yì tiáo?" Tā shuō: "Yì tiáo jiù gòu le."
I asked my dad: "Why is it always one?" He said: "One fish is enough."

我问："我可以跟你去吗？"他说："不行。你话太多，鱼不喜欢。"
Wǒ wèn: "Wǒ kěyǐ gēn nǐ qù ma?" Tā shuō: "Bù xíng. Nǐ huà tài duō, yú bù xǐhuan."
I asked: "Can I go with you?" He said: "No. You talk too much. The fish don't like it."

有一个星期天，我说："爸爸，今天我跟你去。我不说话。"他不太高兴，可是说了："好吧。"
Yǒu yí ge xīngqītiān, wǒ shuō: "Bàba, jīntiān wǒ gēn nǐ qù. Wǒ bù shuōhuà." Tā bú tài gāoxìng, kěshì shuōle: "Hǎo ba."
One Sunday I said: "Dad, today I'm going with you. I won't talk." He wasn't very happy, but he said: "Okay."

我们坐在河边。一个小时，两个小时，三个小时。
Wǒmen zuò zài hébiān. Yí ge xiǎoshí, liǎng ge xiǎoshí, sān ge xiǎoshí.
We sat by the river. One hour. Two hours. Three hours.

没有鱼。一条也没有。
Méiyǒu yú. Yì tiáo yě méiyǒu.
No fish. Not one.

爸爸在睡觉。我没有说话。
Bàba zài shuìjiào. Wǒ méiyǒu shuōhuà.
Dad was sleeping. I was not talking.

下午四点，爸爸起来了，说："走吧。"
Xiàwǔ sì diǎn, bàba qǐlai le, shuō: "Zǒu ba."
At four in the afternoon, Dad got up and said: "Let's go."

我说："可是我们没有鱼！"他说："没事。"
Wǒ shuō: "Kěshì wǒmen méiyǒu yú!" Tā shuō: "Méi shì."
I said: "But we have no fish!" He said: "It's fine."

我们没有回家。我们去了哪儿？你猜！
Wǒmen méiyǒu huí jiā. Wǒmen qùle nǎr? Nǐ cāi!
We didn't go home. Where did we go? Guess!

我们去了一个卖鱼的商店。
Wǒmen qùle yí ge mài yú de shāngdiàn.
We went to a shop that sells fish.

我看着爸爸。爸爸不看我。
Wǒ kànzhe bàba. Bàba bú kàn wǒ.
I looked at my dad. My dad didn't look at me.

他小声说：“别告诉你妈妈。”
Tā xiǎoshēng shuō: “Bié gàosu nǐ māma.”
He said very quietly: “Don't tell your mom.”

我们进了商店。
Wǒmen jìnle shāngdiàn.
We went into the shop.

卖鱼的人看见我爸爸，非常高兴。
Mài yú de rén kànjiàn wǒ bàba, fēicháng gāoxìng.
The man who sells the fish saw my dad, and he was very happy.

他说：“老韩，你好！一条大鱼，跟每个星期天一样？”
Tā shuō: “Lǎo Hán, nǐ hǎo! Yì tiáo dà yú, gēn měi ge xīngqītiān yíyàng?”
He said: “Hello, Old Hán! One big fish, like every Sunday?”

Words in the story

钓鱼 diào yú *to go fishing*	小时候 xiǎoshíhou *when (I was) little*	星期天 xīngqītiān *Sunday*
河边 hébiān *by the river*	带回来 dài huílai *to bring back*	一条鱼 yì tiáo yú *one fish (条 is the measure word for fish)*
奇怪 qíguài *strange*	不多也不少 bù duō yě bù shǎo *not more, not less*	够 gòu *enough*
话太多 huà tài duō *talks too much*	起来 qǐlai *to get up*	卖鱼的商店 mài yú de shāngdiàn *a shop that sells fish*
小声 xiǎoshēng *quietly, in a low voice*	告诉 gàosu *to tell*	老韩 Lǎo Hán *Old Hán: how a friend or a shopkeeper calls a man he knows well*

Hear this story from an AI chatbot: kotokin.com/learn/chinese/stories/dads-fish