How old are you? A Chinese short story for HSK 1

One evening the six-year-old grandson of Lín Fēng's landlady sits down next to him, looks at him for a long time, and asks a question.

小朋友会问你问题吗？我有一个小朋友的故事！
Xiǎopéngyou huì wèn nǐ wèntí ma? Wǒ yǒu yí ge xiǎopéngyou de gùshi!
Do children ask you questions? I have a story about a little boy and his questions!

我在广州租了一个小房间。房东奶奶有一个孙子，叫东东，六岁。
Wǒ zài Guǎngzhōu zūle yí ge xiǎo fángjiān. Fángdōng nǎinai yǒu yí ge sūnzi, jiào Dōngdong, liù suì.
I rented a small room in Guǎngzhōu. My landlady has a grandson. His name is Dōngdong. He is six.

一天晚上，我坐在门口。东东走过来，坐在我旁边。
Yì tiān wǎnshang, wǒ zuò zài ménkǒu. Dōngdong zǒu guòlai, zuò zài wǒ pángbiān.
One evening I sat at the door. Dōngdong came and sat next to me.

他看了我很久，然后问：“哥哥，你几岁了？”
Tā kànle wǒ hěn jiǔ, ránhòu wèn: “Gēge, nǐ jǐ suì le?”
He looked at me for a long time. Then he asked: “Big brother, how old are you?”

我说：“我二十五岁。”你猜，他说什么？
Wǒ shuō: “Wǒ èrshíwǔ suì.” Nǐ cāi, tā shuō shénme?
I said: “I am twenty-five.” What did he say? Guess!

他说：“二十五？好老！”
Tā shuō: “Èrshíwǔ? Hǎo lǎo!”
He said: “Twenty-five! That's old.”

我说：“不老！”他说：“我爸爸三十岁，很老很老！”
Wǒ shuō: “Bù lǎo!” Tā shuō: “Wǒ bàba sānshí suì, hěn lǎo hěn lǎo!”
I said: “It's not old!” He said: “My dad is thirty. He is very, very old!”

然后他问：“你有女朋友吗？”
Ránhòu tā wèn: “Nǐ yǒu nǚpéngyou ma?”
Then he asked: “Do you have a girlfriend?”

我说：“没有。”
Wǒ shuō: “Méiyǒu.”
I said no.

他问：“你有房子吗？”
Tā wèn: “Nǐ yǒu fángzi ma?”
He asked: “Do you have a house?”

我说：“没有，我租房子。”
Wǒ shuō: “Méiyǒu, wǒ zū fángzi.”
I said no. I rent.

他问：“你有车吗？”
Tā wèn: “Nǐ yǒu chē ma?”
He asked: “Do you have a car?”

我说：“车？没有！我有一辆自行车。”
Wǒ shuō: “Chē? Méiyǒu! Wǒ yǒu yí liàng zìxíngchē.”
I said: “A car? No! I have a bicycle.”

东东说：“哦。”他很难过。
Dōngdong shuō: “Ò.” Tā hěn nánguò.
He said: “Oh.” He looked very sad.

他慢慢说：“没有女朋友。没有房子。没有车。”
Tā mànmàn shuō: “Méiyǒu nǚpéngyou. Méiyǒu fángzi. Méiyǒu chē.”
He said, very slowly: “No girlfriend. No house. No car.”

我说：“东东，我很高兴！我过得很好！”
Wǒ shuō: “Dōngdong, wǒ hěn gāoxìng! Wǒ guò de hěn hǎo!”
I said: “Dōngdong, I am happy! I have a good life!”

他没说话。他想了想。你猜，他做了什么？
Tā méi shuōhuà. Tā xiǎngle xiǎng. Nǐ cāi, tā zuòle shénme?
He did not say anything. He thought. Then what did he do? Guess!

他拉着我的手。
Tā lāzhe wǒ de shǒu.
He took my hand.

他看着我。
Tā kànzhe wǒ.
He looked at me.

他说：“别担心，我奶奶也很老。”
Tā shuō: “Bié dānxīn, wǒ nǎinai yě hěn lǎo.”
He said: “Don't worry. My grandma is old too.”

Words in the story

租
zū
to rent

房东
fángdōng
landlord, landlady

孙子
sūnzi
grandson (son's son)

奶奶
nǎinai
grandma (father's mother)

哥哥，你几岁了？
gēge, nǐ jǐ suì le?
big brother, how old are you? (what a child asks a young man)

你猜
nǐ cāi
guess!

老
lǎo
old

好老
hǎo lǎo
so old (好 before an adjective means very)

女朋友
nǚpéngyou
girlfriend

房子
fángzi
house, flat

门口
ménkǒu
doorway, in front of the door

我过得很好
wǒ guò de hěn hǎo
I have a good life, I'm doing well

车
chē
car

自行车
zìxíngchē
bicycle (一辆: one, for vehicles)

难过
nánguò
sad

拉
lā
to pull, to hold (a hand)

别担心
bié dānxīn
don't worry

Hear this story from an AI chatbot: kotokin.com/learn/chinese/stories/how-old-are-you