My neighbor's fish, a Chinese short story for HSK 2

Měi Líng looks after her neighbor's red fish for one week. What could go wrong?

你家有鱼吗？我有一个鱼的故事！
Nǐ jiā yǒu yú ma? Wǒ yǒu yí ge yú de gùshi!
Do you have a fish at home? I have a story about a fish!

去年夏天，我的邻居张奶奶去上海看她儿子。
Qùnián xiàtiān, wǒ de línjū Zhāng nǎinai qù Shànghǎi kàn tā érzi.
Last summer, my neighbor Grandma Zhang went to Shanghai to see her son.

她要去一个星期。
Tā yào qù yí ge xīngqī.
She was going for one week.

张奶奶有一条红色的鱼，叫小红。
Zhāng nǎinai yǒu yì tiáo hóngsè de yú, jiào Xiǎohóng.
Grandma Zhang has a red fish called Xiǎohóng.

她非常爱小红，每天都跟小红说话。
Tā fēicháng ài Xiǎohóng, měi tiān dōu gēn Xiǎohóng shuōhuà.
She loves Xiǎohóng very much and talks to it every day.

她对我说：“美玲，请你帮我照顾小红。一天一次，给它吃一点儿。”
Tā duì wǒ shuō: “Měi Líng, qǐng nǐ bāng wǒ zhàogù Xiǎohóng. Yì tiān yí cì, gěi tā chī yìdiǎnr.”
She said to me: “Měi Líng, please look after Xiǎohóng for me. Once a day, give it just a little food.”

第一天，小红看起来很饿。
Dì yī tiān, Xiǎohóng kàn qǐlai hěn è.
On the first day, Xiǎohóng looked very hungry.

我想：一点儿太少了吧？我就给了它很多。
Wǒ xiǎng: yìdiǎnr tài shǎo le ba? Wǒ jiù gěile tā hěn duō.
I thought: a little is too little, isn't it? So I gave it a lot.

第二天早上，小红不动了。
Dì èr tiān zǎoshang, Xiǎohóng bú dòng le.
The next morning, Xiǎohóng didn't move.

吃得太多了。我难过极了。
Chī de tài duō le. Wǒ nánguò jí le.
Too much food. I felt terrible.

我不想让张奶奶难过。
Wǒ bù xiǎng ràng Zhāng nǎinai nánguò.
I didn't want to make Grandma Zhang sad.

所以我跑到家旁边一个卖鱼的商店，找一条一样的鱼。
Suǒyǐ wǒ pǎo dào jiā pángbiān yí ge mài yú de shāngdiàn, zhǎo yì tiáo yíyàng de yú.
So I ran to a shop near my home that sells fish, to look for a fish that looked the same.

我找到了一条：一样的颜色，一样大，就是胖一点儿。
Wǒ zhǎodàole yì tiáo: yíyàng de yánsè, yíyàng dà, jiùshì pàng yìdiǎnr.
I found one: the same color, the same size, just a little fatter.

我买了它，也叫它小红。
Wǒ mǎile tā, yě jiào tā Xiǎohóng.
I bought it and called it Xiǎohóng too.

后来，我一天只给新小红吃一次，一次一点儿。
Hòulái, wǒ yì tiān zhǐ gěi xīn Xiǎohóng chī yí cì, yí cì yìdiǎnr.
After that, I fed the new Xiǎohóng only once a day, just a little each time.

我也每天跟它说话，跟张奶奶一样。
Wǒ yě měi tiān gēn tā shuōhuà, gēn Zhāng nǎinai yíyàng.
And I talked to it every day, just like Grandma Zhang.

一个星期以后，张奶奶回来了。
Yí ge xīngqī yǐhòu, Zhāng nǎinai huílai le.
A week later, Grandma Zhang came home.

她看了小红很长时间。我什么都没说。
Tā kànle Xiǎohóng hěn cháng shíjiān. Wǒ shénme dōu méi shuō.
She looked at Xiǎohóng for a long time. I didn't say a word.

然后她笑了，说：
Ránhòu tā xiào le, shuō:
Then she smiled and said:

“小红胖了！它从来没有这么高兴！”
“Xiǎohóng pàng le! Tā cónglái méiyǒu zhème gāoxìng!”
“Xiǎohóng has gotten fat! It has never been this happy!”

Words in the story

邻居 línjū *neighbor*	奶奶 nǎinai *grandma; any older woman*	鱼 yú *fish*
照顾 zhàogù *to look after*	一天一次 yì tiān yí cì *once a day*	饿 è *hungry*
不动了 bú dòng le *doesn't move anymore*	难过 nánguò *sad, upset*	商店 shāngdiàn *shop*
一样 yíyàng *the same*	胖 pàng *fat*	从来没有 cónglái méiyǒu *never (before)*

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