The sour plum drink, a Chinese short story for HSK 1

Sūn Lán buys a one-kuài drink from a little girl on her street, and all she has is a five-kuài note. What does she get back?

你喜欢喝酸梅汤吗？我有一个酸梅汤的故事！
Nǐ xǐhuan hē suānméitāng ma? Wǒ yǒu yí ge suānméitāng de gùshi!
Do you like sour plum drink? I have a sour plum drink story!

我家楼下有一个小女孩，叫乐乐。她七岁。
Wǒ jiā lóuxià yǒu yí ge xiǎo nǚhái, jiào Lèle. Tā qī suì.
A little girl lives downstairs from me. Her name is Lèle. She is seven.

星期六，天很热。乐乐有一张小桌子。她在卖酸梅汤，一块钱一杯。
Xīngqīliù, tiān hěn rè. Lèle yǒu yì zhāng xiǎo zhuōzi. Tā zài mài suānméitāng, yí kuài qián yì bēi.
On Saturday it was hot. Lèle had a small table. She was selling sour plum drink: one kuài a cup.

我想喝一杯。我说："请给我一杯。"我只有一张五块的，就给了她。
Wǒ xiǎng hē yì bēi. Wǒ shuō: "Qǐng gěi wǒ yì bēi." Wǒ zhǐ yǒu yì zhāng wǔ kuài de, jiù gěile tā.
I wanted a cup. I said: "One, please." I only had a five-kuài note, so I gave it to her.

她说："谢谢奶奶！"你猜，她把我的五块钱放在哪儿了？
Tā shuō: "Xièxie nǎinai!" Nǐ cāi, tā bǎ wǒ de wǔ kuài qián fàng zài nǎr le?
She said: "Thank you, Grandma!" Where did she put my five kuài? Guess!

她把五块钱放在一个小盒子里，关上了盒子。
Tā bǎ wǔ kuài qián fàng zài yí ge xiǎo hézi li, guānshàngle hézi.
She put the five kuài in a small box. She closed the box.

我等着。她看着我。我看着她。
Wǒ děngzhe. Tā kànzhe wǒ. Wǒ kànzhe tā.
I waited. She looked at me. I looked at her.

我说："乐乐，酸梅汤一块钱。我给了你五块。"
Wǒ shuō: "Lèle, suānméitāng yí kuài qián. Wǒ gěile nǐ wǔ kuài."
I said: "Lèle, the drink is one kuài. I gave you five."

她说："对，谢谢奶奶！"
Tā shuō: "Duì, xièxie nǎinai!"
She said: "Yes. Thank you, Grandma!"

我说："那我的四块钱呢？"
Wǒ shuō: "Nà wǒ de sì kuài qián ne?"
I said: "And my four kuài?"

她说："对不起，没有零钱。"
Tā shuō: "Duìbuqǐ, méiyǒu língqián."
She said: "Sorry. No change."

我看着盒子。她把手放在盒子上。
Wǒ kànzhe hézi. Tā bǎ shǒu fàng zài hézi shang.
I looked at the box. She put her hand on the box.

我就喝了酸梅汤。很好喝。可是，我的五块钱！
Wǒ jiù hēle suānméitāng. Hěn hǎohē. Kěshì, wǒ de wǔ kuài qián!
So I drank my drink. It was good. But my five kuài!

那天晚上我想：明天我要聪明一点儿。
Nà tiān wǎnshang wǒ xiǎng: míngtiān wǒ yào cōngming yìdiǎnr.
That night I thought: tomorrow I will be smart.

第二天，我又去找乐乐了。我手里有什么？你猜！
Dì èr tiān, wǒ yòu qù zhǎo Lèle le. Wǒ shǒu li yǒu shénme? Nǐ cāi!
The next day I went to see Lèle again. What did I have in my hand? Guess!

一块钱。只有一块钱。
Yí kuài qián. Zhǐ yǒu yí kuài qián.
One kuài. Only one kuài.

我说：“早上好，乐乐。请给我一杯酸梅汤。”我把一块钱放在桌子上。
Wǒ shuō: “Zǎoshang hǎo, Lèle. Qǐng gěi wǒ yì bēi suānméitāng.” Wǒ bǎ yí kuài qián fàng zài zhuōzi shang.
I said: “Good morning, Lèle. One sour plum drink, please.” I put my one kuài on the table.

乐乐看着那一块钱，又看着我。
Lèle kànzhe nà yí kuài qián, yòu kànzhe wǒ.
Lèle looked at the one kuài. She looked at me.

她笑了。
Tā xiào le.
She smiled.

她说：“今天两块。”
Tā shuō: “Jīntiān liǎng kuài.”
She said: “Today it's two kuài.”

Words in the story

酸梅汤 suānméitāng *sour plum drink (a cold summer drink)*	卖 mài *to sell*	一块钱 yí kuài qián *one kuài (kuài is how people say yuan)*
两块 liǎng kuài *two kuài (say 两, not 二, before kuài)*	一杯 yì bēi *a cup, a glass*	小桌子 xiǎo zhuōzi *a small table*
你猜 nǐ cāi *guess!*	盒子 hézi *box*	放 fàng *to put, to place*
关上 guānshàng *to close*	手 shǒu *hand*	没有零钱 méiyǒu língqián *I have no small change (and so can't give you your change)*
聪明 cōngming *smart*	又 yòu *again*	笑 xiào *to smile, to laugh*

Hear this story from an AI chatbot: kotokin.com/learn/chinese/stories/sour-plum-drink