The trip to the sea, a Chinese short story for HSK 1

Years ago Wáng Lěi drove his five-year-old daughter to the sea, a three-hour trip. All the way there she asked one question. At the sea, she asked another.

你喜欢开车去玩吗？我有一个开车的故事！
Nǐ xǐhuan kāi chē qù wán ma? Wǒ yǒu yí ge kāi chē de gùshi!
Do you like long car trips? I have a car story!

很多年以前，我女儿五岁。有一个星期六，我们去北戴河看海。
Hěn duō nián yǐqián, wǒ nǚ'ér wǔ suì. Yǒu yí ge xīngqīliù, wǒmen qù Běidàihé kàn hǎi.
Many years ago, my daughter was five. One Saturday we went to see the sea at Běidàihé.

北戴河很远。开车要三个小时。
Běidàihé hěn yuǎn. Kāi chē yào sān ge xiǎoshí.
Běidàihé is far. Three hours in the car.

我太太和女儿坐在车里，我开车。五分钟以后，女儿问："到了吗？"
Wǒ tàitai hé nǚ'ér zuò zài chē li, wǒ kāi chē. Wǔ fēnzhōng yǐhòu, nǚ'ér wèn: "Dào le ma?"
My wife and daughter sat in the car. I drove. Five minutes later, my daughter asked: "Are we there yet?"

我说："没有，还要三个小时。"你猜，这三个小时，她问了几次？
Wǒ shuō: "Méiyǒu, hái yào sān ge xiǎoshí." Nǐ cāi, zhè sān ge xiǎoshí, tā wènle jǐ cì?
I said: "No. Three more hours." How many times did she ask in those three hours? Guess!

又过了五分钟："到了吗？"
Yòu guòle wǔ fēnzhōng: "Dào le ma?"
Five minutes later: "Are we there yet?"

太太说："没到。你看窗外，有牛！"
Tàitai shuō: "Méi dào. Nǐ kàn chuāng wài, yǒu niú!"
My wife said: "Not yet. Look out the window. Look at the cows!"

女儿看了一分钟牛。然后又问："到了吗？"
Nǚ'ér kànle yì fēnzhōng niú. Ránhòu yòu wèn: "Dào le ma?"
My daughter looked at the cows for one minute. Then again: "Are we there yet?"

我们唱歌，吃苹果，数红色的车。
Wǒmen chàng gē, chī píngguǒ, shǔ hóngsè de chē.
We sang songs. We ate apples. We counted red cars.

"到了吗？""没有！""到了吗？""没有！"
"Dào le ma?" "Méiyǒu!" "Dào le ma?" "Méiyǒu!"
"Are we there yet?" "No!" "Are we there yet?" "No!"

一个小时，两个小时，三个小时。我想，她问了一百次。
Yí ge xiǎoshí, liǎng ge xiǎoshí, sān ge xiǎoshí. Wǒ xiǎng, tā wènle yìbǎi cì.
One hour. Two hours. Three hours. I think she asked one hundred times.

然后，我看见海了！
Ránhòu, wǒ kànjiàn hǎi le!
And then I saw the sea!

我说："你看！我们到了！"
Wǒ shuō: "Nǐ kàn! Wǒmen dào le!"
I said: "Look! We are here!"

我们下了车。女儿看着海。
Wǒmen xiàle chē. Nǚ'ér kànzhe hǎi.
We got out of the car. My daughter looked at the sea.

海很大，很蓝。
Hǎi hěn dà, hěn lán.
The sea was big and blue.

我太高兴了。我想：她不会再问了！
Wǒ tài gāoxìng le. Wǒ xiǎng: tā bú huì zài wèn le!
I was so happy. I thought: no more questions!

女儿看了一分钟海。
Nǚ'ér kànle yì fēnzhōng hǎi.
My daughter looked at the sea for one minute.

然后她看着我。你猜，她问什么？
Ránhòu tā kànzhe wǒ. Nǐ cāi, tā wèn shénme?
Then she looked at me. What did she ask? Guess!

她不笑。
Tā bú xiào.
She was not smiling.

她问：“我们可以回家了吗？”
Tā wèn: “Wǒmen kěyǐ huí jiā le ma?”
She asked: “Can we go home now?”

Words in the story

开车 kāi chē *to drive*	北戴河 Běidàihé *Běidàihé (a seaside town about three hours from Běijīng)*	海 hǎi *sea*
远 yuǎn *far*	三个小时 sān ge xiǎoshí *three hours*	你猜 nǐ cāi *guess!*
到了吗? dào le ma? *are we there yet? (to arrive: 到)*	还要三个小时 hái yào sān ge xiǎoshí *three more hours*	窗外 chuāng wài *outside the window*
牛 niú *cow*	唱歌 chàng gē *to sing*	数 shǔ *to count*
一百次 yìbǎi cì *a hundred times*	下了车 xiàle chē *got out of the car*	我们可以回家了吗? wǒmen kěyǐ huí jiā le ma? *can we go home now?*

Hear this story from an AI chatbot: kotokin.com/learn/chinese/stories/the-trip-to-the-sea