Grandma, why? A Chinese short story for HSK 1

“Grandma, why?” Sūn Lán's granddaughter asks it all day long. Can her grandma make it stop?

你喜欢问问题吗？我给你讲一个我孙女的故事！
Nǐ xǐhuan wèn wèntí ma? Wǒ gěi nǐ jiǎng yí ge wǒ sūnnǚ de gùshi!
Do you like asking questions? Let me tell you a story about my granddaughter!

我的孙女叫朵朵。她六岁。
Wǒ de sūnnǚ jiào Duǒduo. Tā liù suì.
My granddaughter's name is Duǒduo. She is six.

朵朵知道很多词。她最喜欢的词是：“为什么？”
Duǒduo zhīdào hěn duō cí. Tā zuì xǐhuan de cí shì: “Wèi shénme?”
Duǒduo knows many words. Her favorite word is: “Why?”

每天她都问我：“奶奶，为什么？为什么？为什么？”
Měi tiān tā dōu wèn wǒ: “Nǎinai, wèi shénme? Wèi shénme? Wèi shénme?”
Every day she asks me: “Grandma, why? Why? Why?”

有一天，我数了数她的问题。多少个？你猜！
Yǒu yì tiān, wǒ shǔle shǔ tā de wèntí. Duōshao ge? Nǐ cāi!
One day I counted her questions. How many? Guess!

一百二十个。午饭以前！
Yìbǎi èrshí ge. Wǔfàn yǐqián!
One hundred and twenty. Before lunch!

她问：“奶奶，鱼为什么住在水里？”我说：“鱼喜欢水。”
Tā wèn: “Nǎinai, yú wèi shénme zhù zài shuǐ li?” Wǒ shuō: “Yú xǐhuan shuǐ.”
She asks: “Grandma, why do fish live in water?” I say: “Fish like water.”

她问：“鱼为什么喜欢水？”我说：“我不知道。你问鱼吧。”
Tā wèn: “Yú wèi shénme xǐhuan shuǐ?” Wǒ shuō: “Wǒ bù zhīdào. Nǐ wèn yú ba.”
She asks: “Why do fish like water?” I say: “I don't know. Ask the fish.”

她问：“奶奶为什么这么老？”我说：“奶奶过了很多生日。”
Tā wèn: “Nǎinai wèi shénme zhème lǎo?” Wǒ shuō: “Nǎinai guòle hěn duō shēngrì.”
She asks: “Why is Grandma so old?” I say: “Grandma has had many birthdays.”

她问：“爷爷的头为什么这么大？”我说：“你问爷爷吧。”
Tā wèn: “Yéye de tóu wèi shénme zhème dà?” Wǒ shuō: “Nǐ wèn yéye ba.”
She asks: “Why is Grandpa's head so big?” I say: “Ask Grandpa.”

晚上，我很累。朵朵不累。
Wǎnshang, wǒ hěn lèi. Duǒduo bú lèi.
In the evening I am very tired. Duǒduo is not tired.

怎么让她不问了？你会怎么做？
Zěnme ràng tā bú wèn le? Nǐ huì zěnme zuò?
How can I stop her questions? What would you do?

一天早上，我有了一个主意。朵朵说：“奶奶，我想吃苹果。”
Yì tiān zǎoshang, wǒ yǒule yí ge zhǔyi. Duǒduo shuō: “Nǎinai, wǒ xiǎng chī píngguǒ.”
One morning I had an idea. Duǒduo said: “Grandma, I want an apple.”

我说：“为什么？”
Wǒ shuō: “Wèi shénme?”
I said: “Why?”

她说：“我饿了。”我说：“为什么？”她说：“我没吃早饭。”我说：“为什么？”
Tā shuō: “Wǒ è le.” Wǒ shuō: “Wèi shénme?” Tā shuō: “Wǒ méi chī zǎofàn.” Wǒ shuō: “Wèi shénme?”
She said: “I am hungry.” I said: “Why?” She said: “I didn't eat breakfast.” I said: “Why?”

她看着我。她不喜欢这样。
Tā kànzhe wǒ. Tā bù xǐhuan zhèyàng.
She looked at me. She did not like this.

她说：“奶奶，我想看电视。”我说：“为什么？”
Tā shuō: “Nǎinai, wǒ xiǎng kàn diànshì.” Wǒ shuō: “Wèi shénme?”
She said: “Grandma, I want to watch TV.” I said: “Why?”

五分钟以后，朵朵坐下了。
Wǔ fēnzhōng yǐhòu, Duǒduo zuò xià le.
After five minutes Duǒduo sat down.

我问："朵朵，你为什么坐下了？"
Wǒ wèn: "Duǒduo, nǐ wèi shénme zuò xià le?"
I asked: "Duǒduo, why are you sitting down?"

她说："奶奶，不要问了。我累了。"
Tā shuō: "Nǎinai, bú yào wèn le. Wǒ lèi le."
She said: "Grandma, no more questions. I'm tired."

Words in the story

为什么 wèi shénme *why*	问题 wèntí *a question*	讲 jiǎng *to tell (a story)*
孙女 sūnnǚ *granddaughter (a son's daughter)*	奶奶 nǎinai *grandma (a father's mother)*	爷爷 yéye *grandpa (a father's father)*
词 cí *a word*	数 shǔ *to count*	多少 duōshao *how many*
午饭 wǔfàn *lunch*	以前 yǐqián *before*	生日 shēngrì *birthday*
头 tóu *head*	累 lèi *tired*	主意 zhǔyi *an idea, a plan*
饿 è *hungry*	不要问了 bú yào wèn le *stop asking, no more questions*	

Hear this story from an AI chatbot: kotokin.com/learn/chinese/stories/why