QUA, TÚ AND THE GOLDEN DRAGON

By Ana Galan

It was a rainy day at the Leaf Pagoda. Qua was sitting on the cement bench near the mimosa tree, with a sad look in his face.

“What’s wrong, Qua?” asked his friend Tú.

“I don’t know. I feel a little sad today”, said Qua.

“I know what you need! You need an adventure!” said Tú. “Follow me!”

Tú ran toward the golden dragons on either side of the bridge. Qua followed him closely. The dragons were magnificent. They shone like fire.

“Golden Dragons,” said Tú. “Can you take us on an adventure?”

Qua and Tú waited for an answer. But the dragons didn’t move.

“Please?” insisted Tú.

Suddenly, one of the dragons moved his head and roared! He extended his neck to take a closer look at the boys. Qua and Tú were a little scared! Was the dragon going to hurt them?

The dragon opened his mouth, and smiled.

“And where would you like to go?” asked the dragon.

“To the Mekong Delta!” answered Qua and Tú at the same time.

“Then get on my back. We have a long way to go!”

Qua and Tú got on the dragon’s back. And before they knew it, they were up in the air.

They flew over the temple. They flew over Ho Chi Minh City. They flew over the clouds!

Soon the Mekong River appeared under the clouds. They saw fishing boats rocking gently on the brown waters of the river. They saw water coconuts and honey making bees.

Then, they heard a noise

EEEK EEEK EKKK!

“What was that?” asked Tú.

“Look! It’s a snake! It’s about to eat that little mouse!” said Qua pointing at a big python.
“We need to rescue the mouse!” yelled Tú. “Let’s go!”

Tú pointed and the dragon swooped right over the snake. Tú reached out and grabbed the poor little mouse by the tail.

“Got you!” said Tú.

The dragon continued his flight. Now they were flying over the market. There were boats full of fruits and vegetables.

A little kid was crawling up and down his boat, over the bananas. And then he slipped and fell in the water!

“Oh, no! My baby!” cried his mom.

“Coming to the rescue!” said Qua. Once again, the dragon flew down until he was almost touching the water. Qua grabbed the little baby’s hand and put him back on the boat.

“Thank you!” said the baby’s mother. “Here is something for you!”

The woman gave them bananas, litchi, mangoes, and dragon fruit. Qua and Tú were having such a great time! But then, they heard another noise.

BONG BONG BONG

“It’s the call for lunch!” said Qua. “We need to go back to the Leaf Pagoda!”

“Hold on tight!” said the dragon. “We’ll be there in no time.”

The dragon zoomed through the sky all the way back to the Leaf Pagoda. When they landed, everybody was already sitting at the table. The monk was ringing the bell. Qua and Tú carried the fruit and ran to join their friends.

“Dragon fruit! Bananas! Where did you get all that fruit?” asked their friend Hoá.

Qua and Tú looked at each other and smiled.

“We got it from the Mekong Delta”, said Tú.

“Yeah, sure,” said Hoá.

After lunch, it was time for a nap.

Qua and Tú went to the house and got in their comfortable beds. They were so tired!

“That was a great adventure, Tú”, said Qua.
“It sure was!” said Tú.

“Tú,” said Qua closing his eyes. “Will you always be my friend?”

“Yes, Qua, always”.