

## From The Wonderful Smells

Scene 1

*[Outside the Full Moon Cafe. Li Hua enters, carrying firewood. Li Chang, her brother, follows, but stops outside the cafe and sniffs the air.]*

Li Hua: Hurry up, Li Chang! This firewood's so heavy. Don't you want to get home?

Li Chang: I'm coming.

Li Hua: No you're not; you're just standing there, sniffing the air.

Li Chang: Can you smell what I can?

Li Hua: Mmm! Roast duck!

Li Chang: And bamboo shoots!

Li Hua: There's something else too ... something sweet.

Li Chang: Mangoes! What wonderful smells! Where are they coming from?

Li Hua: The Full Moon Cafe, of course.

Li Chang: Shall we play at being rich people?

Li Hua: All right. Let's pretend we can read the menu.

*[They go right up to the cafe and look at the menu.]*

Li Chang: I'm going to start with fried shrimps.

Li Hua: You're a silly little shrimp yourself. Why have shrimps when there's turtle soup on the menu?

Li Chang: I'll have that too.

Li Hua: I'm going to have steamed goose.

Li Chang: *You're* a goose! Roast duck is much nicer.

Li Hua: Let's have both. And can you smell the moon cakes?  
We'll have some of those too.

Li Chang: We'll eat and eat till we're as fat as Dong Da.

*[Shen Ying comes out of the cafe, looking angry.]*

Shen Ying: Well? Are you coming in or not?

Li Chang: We can't.

Li Hua: We've got no money.

Shen Ying: What do you think you're doing, then?

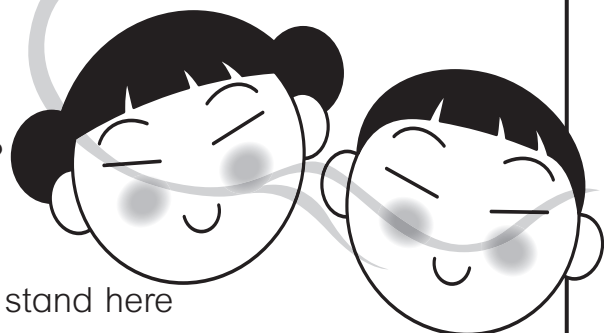
Li Chang: Just looking at the menu.

Li Hua: And smelling the wonderful smells!

Shen Ying: What a cheek! You think you can just stand here smelling our expensive food when you've got no money?

Li Hua: Why not? Smelling is free, isn't it?

Shen Ying: That's what *you* think, is it? Off you go, before I bring out a bill.



**Julia Donaldson**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

Read the text, and then answer the questions.

1. How can you tell this is a play?

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2. Why does Li Hua say 'Let's **pretend** we can read the menu'?

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3. Where do you think their ideas about the food on the menu come from?

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4. Find one clue which tells you that Li Chang and Li Hua are poor.

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5. Why does Li Hua eventually agree to stop and play instead of getting home with the heavy firewood?

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6. What does Shen Ying threaten to do if Li Hua and Li Chang carry on smelling the food? Why do you think Shen Ying does this?

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7. Read the play aloud. How does the author help you know how to speak the lines?

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