The Snail and His House
The Snail and His House
— A Fairy Tale of the Zhuang Nationality

Edited and illustrated by Zhan Tong
The snail, with his shell house on his back, is a slow walker.
A dragonfly, looking for shelter, goes to the snail's house and asks, "Brother Snail, please let me in!"
“Go away! This house is for my own use. Don’t disturb me when I’m sleeping!”
An ant, gasping for breath in the rain, goes up to the snail’s house. “Brother Snail, please let me in out of the rain for a while!” he begs.
“Don’t bother me! No one is to step into my house!”
A butterfly, a bee, a caterpillar and a beetle all ask the snail for help.
“Get out of here, all of you! I don’t care what happens to you!”
The rain stops. “Everyone wants my house,” the snail says to himself. “I’ll have to carry it on my back to be safe.”
And that is why the snail moves so slowly—that load of selfishness on his back is just too heavy.
The Stuck-Up Golden Fish
— A Fairy Tale of the Bouyei Nationality

Edited and illustrated by Zhan Tong
In a pond swam a beautiful golden fish with a fan-like tail.
The frog said to the golden fish, “You swim very fast; a deer can’t run as fast as you go.”
The crab said to the golden fish, "Your swimming skill is very good; a phoenix can't fly as gracefully as you."
Hearing these flatteries, the golden fish wagged her tail and held her head high. She regarded herself as far superior to others.
So the golden fish said to the frog, “Go away! I’m a deer, I don’t like talking to an ugly creature like you.”
To the crab the golden fish said, “Go away! I’m a phoenix, I don’t want to speak to you little sillies.”
And then the golden fish said to the pond, “I can’t live with you any longer.” So she jumped out of the water.
The golden fish said proudly, "Look! I'm going to fly..." But before she finished her words, she fell down on the ground and died soon because fish can only live in water.
The Snail and His House, one of the Chinese Fairy Tales series of six picture books, is adapted from animal stories popular among Chinese people, who often give birds and animals human attributes and dress them in colourful national costumes.

Also included in this series are Silly Young Billy Goat, The Otter and the Toad, Two Foolish Kittens, Little Pigeon Fights a Fire, and Little Chicken and Her Friends.
In a pouring rain he pulls back his head and goes to sleep inside his house.