



HAPPY IDIOM

Zhuān xīn zhì zhì

专 心 致 志

cóng qián yǒu yīgè xiàqínéng shǒu míng jiàoyìqiū

从 前 有 一 个 下 棋 能 手 名 叫 弈 秋

Once upon a time, there was a skilled chess player, called Yi Qiu.

tā de qíyì fēicháng gāochāo

他 的 棋 艺 非 常 高 超

His chess skill is superb.

yǒuliǎng gèrén bǎiyìqiū wéishī

有 两 个 人 拜 弈 秋 为 师

Two men come to request him to accept them as his disciples.

yìqǐ gēntā xuéxiàqí

一 起 跟 他 学 习 下 棋

They want to learn chess from him.

yīgè xuéshēng fēicháng zǐxìrènzhēn

一 个 学 生 非 常 仔 细 认 真

One student is very serious

yìxīnyìyì de tīngyìqiū de jiǎngjiě hé fēnxī

一 心 一 意 地 听 弈 秋 的 讲 解 和 分 析

and listens to Yi Qiu's explanation attentively.

duìpángbiān de shìqùán dōubùjiālǐ huì

对 旁 边 的 事 全 都 不 加 理 会

He pays no attention to what's going on around.

érlìngyīgè xuéshēng ne

而 另 一 个 学 生 呢

And the other student?

suīrán yě zuòzài nàlǐ

虽 然 也 坐 在 那 里

Although he is also sitting there,

dàn shí jì shàng què xīn bú zài yān
但实际上却心不在焉
he looks absent-minded all the time,

yǎn jīng zǒng shì wǎng chuāng wài kàn
眼睛总是往窗外看
always looking out the window.

dāng tā fā xiàn yǒu jǐ zhī tiān é fēi guò de shí hòu
当他发现有几只天鹅飞过的时候
When he sees a few swans flying past,

biàn xiǎng, yào shì néng yǒu yì zhāng gōng
便想，要是能有一张弓
he thinks to himself: "If I had a bow

jǐ zhī jiàn shè xià yì zhī tiān é zhǔ lái chī
几支箭射下一只天鹅煮来吃
and a couple of arrows, I might shoot down one swan to cook and eat.

nà gāi yǒu hǎo duō ā
那该有好多啊
That'd be wonderful!"

tā jiù zhè yàng xiǎng ā xiǎng
他就这样想啊想
He just keeps thinking and thinking

zhí dào yì qiū quán dōu jiǎng wán le
直到弈秋全都讲完了
until Yi Qiu finishes the class.

tā yě méi zài yì
他也没在意
He pays no attention to what the teacher says.

zhè shí yì qiū jiào liǎng gè xué shēng duì yì jù
这时弈秋叫两个学生对下一局
Then, Yi Qiu asks the two students to play a chess match.

qǐ xiān
起先
At first,

n à g è k ā i xiǎo chāi de xu é sh ē ng hu án n é ng miǎn qiǎng y ǐ ng f ù
那个开小差的学生 还能勉强应付
that absent-minded student can manage with difficulty.

kě j i àn j i àn de j i ù zhāo j i à b ú zh ù le
可渐渐地就招架不住了
But gradually, he can no longer hold on.

ér n à g è r èn zhēn tīng jiǎng de xu é sh ē ng ne
而那个认真听讲的学生 呢
The student who listened attentively

gōng shǒu cóng róng yǒu xù
攻守从容有序
attacks and defends all in an orderly manner.

hěn ku ài j i ù y í ng xi à le zh è y í p án
很快就赢下了这一盘
Soon he wins the match.

y ì qiū j i àn zhu à ng
弈秋见状
Seeing this, Yi Qiu

yǔ zhòng xīn cháng de duì zhè gè xué shēng shuō
语重心长地对这个学生说
says to his student in earnest:

suī rán xià q í zhǐ sh í y í zhōng xiǎo xiǎo de j ò y í
虽然下棋只是一种小小的技艺
"Playing chess is a small skill.

dàn rú guǒ bù zhuān xīn zhì zhì de xué xí
但如果 不专心致志地学习
But if you don't learn it with heart and soul,

yě shì xué bù hǎo de ya
也是学 不好的呀
you'll never learn it at all."

“zhuān xīn zhì zhì” zhè zé chéng yǔ chū zì 《 m è ng zǐ · gào zǐ shàng 》 zhè běn shū,
“专心致志”这则成语出自《孟子·告子上》这本书,

yì sī shì zhǐ rén zài zuò shì de shí hòu, yì xīn yì yì jù jīng huì shén, gāo dù jí zhōng。

意思是指人在做事的时候，一心一意聚精会神，高度集中。

The set phrase “zhuanxin zhizhi” originates from the book “Mencius-Admonitions”. It means to do something single-mindedly or in a concentrated manner.