

William's family

William Zhang had found something exciting. As he pulled the chest out from under the spare bed, he wondered what was inside. He carefully lifted the lid and saw lots of different photographs.

William looked at the photographs. Some were of people he knew and loved. There were photographs of Sophie, Mum, Dad, Auntie Jane, Grandad Joe, Granny Eileen, Grandad Shen and Grandma Mei. Some of the photos were taken a long time ago so everyone looked younger. Others were only taken a few years ago. Some of the photographs looked very old. They were of people William didn't know. One was of a lady with curly hair and the other was a man in an army uniform.

William looked at the different photographs and felt confused. He wanted to know how all of the members of his family were related to each other. He also wanted to know why he had never met the lady with the curly hair or the man in the army uniform.

At that moment, Mum came into the room. William showed her the photographs and explained that he felt confused. Mum thought for a moment and then smiled. She had an idea that would help him find the answers to his questions.

Mum drew a picture of a tree on a large piece of paper and explained that they were going to make a family tree together. She found a photograph of William and one of his sister Sophie. She put them side by side on the trunk of the tree. She then drew a line up the tree trunk.

Mum put photos of Dad and herself above the photographs of William and his sister. Dad's photograph was on the left-hand side of the family tree and Mum's photograph was on the right-hand side. She then put Auntie Jane next to her because Auntie Jane was her sister. William could see his family tree growing before his eyes.



Next, Mum placed pictures of Grandad Joe and Granny Eileen above her because they were her mum and dad. She then put photographs of Grandpa Shen and Grandma Mei above Dad's picture because they were his mum and dad.

The photographs of the man in the uniform and the lady with the curly hair were put on last. They went above Grandad Joe. Mum explained that the lady was Great Grandma Connie who had died 10 years ago. The man was Great Grandad Peter who had died a long time ago in the Second World War. William now realised why he had never met them. They had died before he was born.

William looked at his family tree in wonder. He could see how the people in his family were linked together. He understood why he hadn't met Great Grandad Peter and Great Grandma Connie. He knew that his family tree was unique and stretched back into the past.

William wrapped his mum in a huge thank you hug and made a promise to himself. When he was all grown up, he would show the family tree to his children and add them underneath his own picture.

